1. ABOUT THE CENTRE

The Centre for Applied Ethics (CAE) is an interdisciplinary research, teaching, and service institution of the University of Stellenbosch, based in the Philosophy Department. It reports to the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences. The Centre does work on its own, but also accommodates three units, viz. the Unit for Bioethics, the Unit for Environmental Ethics and the Unit for Business Ethics and Public Integrity. The Tygerberg Division of the Unit for Bioethics ceased to exist from 2012, and was replaced by the Centre for Medical Ethics and Law, fully situated in the Department of Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine at the Tygerberg Campus. There is mutual representation on the governing boards of these two Centres, and the latter came into existence with the consent of the CAE. Their respective activities and commitment to not unduly overlap are circumscribed in a Memorandum of Understanding that will be revised every five years.

The first part of this report deals with the general activities of the Centre as such. The reports of the different Units of the Centre follow this report. The report therefore has the following sub-divisions:

General report of the CAE: pp. 1-4

Report of the Unit for Bio-Ethics pp. 5-9

Report of the Unit for Business Ethics and Public Integrity: pp. 10-12

Report of the Unit for Environmental Ethics: pp. 13-16

2. GOVERNING BODY DURING 2012

Proff. A.J. Leysens (Respresentative of the Centre for International and Comparative Politics, Chair), HJ Kotzé (Dean), A.A. van Niekerk (Director of the Centre and Head: Unit for Bioethics), H-P Müller (Representative of the Centre for Knowledge Management and Decision-making), J.P. Hattingh (Head: Unit for Environmental Ethics), G. Woods (Director of the Anti-corruption Centre), S. van der Berg (Representative of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences), W.P. Pienaar (Representative of the Faculty of Health Sciences), C. Walker (Representative of the Depts. of Psychology, Sociology, Geography and Environmental Studies, and Social Work), K. Moodley (Representative of the Centre for Medical Ethics and Law), Dr. M Woermann (Head: Unit for Business Ethics and Public Integrity), dr. Hannes Loots, representative of the Mediclinic Southern Africa, a key sponsor of the Centre and Mr Daniel Malan, representative of the Centre for Corporate Governance in Africa, situated in the US Business School.

The term of office of non-ex officio members of this governing board expires at the end of 2013.
3. RESEARCH

(Under this heading, only activities are reported that are not dealt with in the reports of the different Units of the Centre. See also the reports of the Units).

3.1 Publications and other research outputs

3.1.1 Book chapters


3.1.2 Other publications (indicative of the community service/interaction of the Centre)


3.1.3 Presentations

1. Van Niekerk, A.A.: PhD training, research and supervision in practical philosophy and ethics, Invited Speaker at Seminar arranged by Ethics Institute, Utrecht University, The Netherlands, 25 June 2012.


3. Van Niekerk, A.A.: Ethical leadership, Course of Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert Centre for Leadership, 15 May 2012 (with Nico Koopman)


4. Community Interaction

Apart from the above popular publications and presentations, the Director participated in a number of radio and television programs on ethically related matters. These programs were broadcast on 8 March (Woordfees Monitor), extended “Praat Saam”, (Neelsie, 26 July), Kruis en Dwars (16 September, Special program about Van Niekerk’s book Gelof sonder sekerhede), and Praat Saam, 18 October.

5. Other general activities of the Centre

5.1 Teaching

In 2012 we saw the first intake of students in the newly created one year Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Ethics. We were forced to replace our traditional two year MPhil (Applied Ethics) with this program, followed by a one year MPhil in Applied Ethics, that will start running in 2013. It is clear that we will have to rethink the admission conditions for the MPhil, since applications for that program, which will start running in 2013, were plentiful and revealed excellent students, but at the same time people who are not interested in first doing a PG Dip, since they already have very advanced degrees. This dispensation which prohibits two year masters degrees is an imprudent one and at the moment a distinct threat to the teaching function of the Centre.

In November 2012, prof. van Niekerk was invited by the Philosophy Faculty and the Centre for Ethics at the Radboud University, Nijmegen, to deliver a number of postgraduate seminars and participate in two conferences, one dealing with a paper that he wrote on enhancement.

The following two ethics-related PhD’s were completed and the degrees bestowed at the end of 2012:


K Hayes: *Individuals’ moral obligations to disadvantaged children*. PhD, 346 pp. December 2012. (Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk)

5.2 Visitors in 2011

The Centre received a number of eminent academic visitors in the course of 2012. Prof. Paul van Tongeren from the Radboud University in Nijmegen, Netherlands, took care of and entire Honours course and delivered a lecture on Nietzsche’s ethics. Prof. Philippe van Haute of Nijmegen also visited and lectured, as did proff. David Spurrett from UKZN, Ernst Wolff from UP and Mark Colyvan from New Zealand.

5.3 Ethics committees and services

Personnel of the Centre serve as members of a variety of ethics committees/institutional review boards at Stellenbosch University and elsewhere.

These committees, and the relevant representatives, are the following:
The Ethics Committee of the Medical Research Council (MRC) (AA van Niekerk)
The Ethics Committee for Research on Animals of the MRC (JP Hattingh)
The Ethics Committee of Subcommittee A (Humanities & Social Sciences) of Stellenbosch University’s Research Committee (JP Hattingh, outgoing chair)
The Research Ethics Committee of the CSIR (JP Hattingh, chair)
Dr Lyn Horn, senior lecture extraordinaire in the Centre, serves as the incoming chair of the Ethics Committee for the Humaniora.

Prof. van Niekerk also serves as chairperson of the Senate Research Ethics Committee (SREC), the body that appoints, accredits and oversees all the ethics committees currently operative in the various faculties of the university.

Prof. van Niekerk also serves as chair of the Board of Directors of the Ethics Institute of SA (EthicsSA), whose former CEO and current Executive Director, prof. Willem Landman, serves as professor extraordinaire in the Centre and Department and renders very valuable services to the Centre. Prof. Deon Rossouw, current CEO of EthicsSA, has also been appointed professor extraordinaire in the department and Centre in the course of 2012.

Prof. van Niekerk also served as member of the Task Team on Human Dignity, created by the Synods of the DRC and the Uniting Reformed Church in SA. In this capacity he wrote a chapter on illness and human dignity for a publication that is in the making and will appear in 2013.

Members of the Centre (Van Niekerk, Woermann, Hattingh and Smit) will from 2013 be involved in a new MPhil in Futures Studies, to be created at the Institute of Futures Studies at the Bellville Park.

Dr Woermann is a member of the Governing Committee for the Anticorruption Centre for Education and Research (ACCERUS); Stellenbosch University.

5.4 Quality Assessment

With the six yearly evaluation of the Philosophy Department that took place from 1 to 4 September 2012, the Centre was also evaluated. A very favourable report about both was produced by the two reviewers, prof. Emma Ruttkamp-Bloem of UP and prof. Marcel Verweij of the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands. The report is available.

6. Sponsorship

Mediclinic has confirmed its generosity towards the Centre by renewing its sponsorship of the Unit for Bioethics for the next two years (R100 000 per year for two years). This sponsorship has been running since 2007, and is highly appreciated by the Centre. We convey our sincere gratitude to Mediclinic Southern Africa.

Prof. S Cornelissen
Chair: Governing Body

Prof. A.A. van Niekerk
Director: Centre for Applied Ethics
UNIT FOR BIOETHICS

Annual Report 2012

1. RESEARCH

1.1 Partially completed and current research projects

1.1.1 Ethical problems related to newer developments in genetic reproductive technologies, with special reference to human enhancement and transhumanism (AA van Niekerk, S Hall, A Palk, C Verster & L Franken). Prof. van Niekerk and these four students are, and have been investigating this problem from a variety of perspectives. The idea is to produce a volume as well as a number of journal articles that will elucidate matters in this regard. One of the angles from which this problematic was approached, is the issue of the relevance of possible enhancements for disabled people. A book chapter in this regard has been accepted for publication. Prof. van Niekerk also delivered the key note address at an international conference in Antwerp on the topic of enhancement and disenchantment, and this has also been published in an accredited journal. Sue Hall’s PhD (which dealt with the problem of harm and enhancement) was also completed and the degree conferred at the end of 2012, as well as Chris Verster’s MPhil, which dealt with the use of stimulants and performance enhancers by health students. (Verster is a psychiatrist at Stikland Hospital).

1.1.2 The history and social functions of bioethics in South Africa. (AA van Niekerk). Prof. van Niekerk was invited to write the chapter on Bioethics in South Africa in the Global Bioethics Ethics Atlas which is due to be published in 2013. This has been completed.

1.1.3 Race as variable in biomedical research. (AA van Niekerk) This is a project related to a recurring phenomenon in the work of research ethics committees in the biomedical field. A couple of presentations have been made and an article published in an accredited journal.

1.1.4 Ownership of biological specimens in biomedical research. (AA van Niekerk) A presentation has been made on this increasingly important topic in research ethics, and the research is ongoing.

1.2 Research outputs

1.2.1 Articles in peer-reviewed, accredited journals


1.2.2 Popular article (as indication of community interaction)

Van Niekerk, A.A.: Op soek na ‘n beter jy, Die Burger (Forum article), 12 June 2012: 13. [In search of an enhanced you]

1.2.3 Paper read at international conferences and meetings


4. Van Niekerk, A.A. Biomedical enhancement. Special Seminar on paper of AA van Niekerk at Health Sciences Faculty, Radboud University, Nijmegen, 14 November 2012.

1.2.4 Papers delivered at national scientific conferences and/or other meetings


2. TEACHING

2.1 The Unit takes, first and foremost, responsibility for the post-graduate teaching of bioethics in the MPhil (Applied Ethics) Program, as well as the doctoral program in bioethics. The MPhil will be offered in 2013.

2.2 Prof. Van Niekerk acts as external examiner for the masters students in the SARETI (South African Research Ethics Training Initiative) program of the Universities of Kwazulu-Natal and Pretoria. This is a Fogarty Foundation funded program that trains potential and current members of research ethics committees in Africa.

2.3 Prof. Van Niekerk annually teaches a module on ethical issues relating to HIV/AIDS in the Postgraduate Diploma and MPhil programmes of the Centre for AIDS Management in the Workplace in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences. The lectures for
this program are currently offered at a summer and/or winter school, as well as via satellite transmission.

2.4 Prof. van Niekerk also teaches and acts as one of the Faculty of the ARESA Program (Advancing Research Ethics Training in Southern Africa), another Fogarty funded training program (postgraduate diploma), offered by the Centre for Medical Ethics and Law at the Medical Faculty of Stellenbosch University.

2.5 Prof. van Niekerk assists with the teaching of Medical Ethics to MB ChB second as well as fifth year students.

3. POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION

Several postgraduate students were involved in, or are still conducting research on topics that are of direct interest to the activities of this Unit. The details are as follows:

3.1 Completed Doctoral Dissertations


3.2 Completed Masters Theses


M Khoromana, M. HIV routine testing as a strategy in the fight against HIV/Aids in Malawi: a proposal. MPhil. Supervisor: Dr S Hall. December 2012.


3.3 Doctoral projects in progress


3. Gerber, B: Identity and discourse: a critical philosophical investigation of the influence of the intellectual self-image of the medical profession on communicatively effective care to patients. PhD. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.


3.4 Masters projects in progress

1. Acton, L. Ethical issues in telemedicine. MPhil. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
2. Baraldi, E. Should HIV patients on ARV’s who develop drug resistance due to non-compliance with treatment regimens be denied further treatment?. Supervisor: Dr. L Horn.
5. Kruger, W. The ethics of HIV vaccinations. MPhil. Supervisor: Dr. L Horn.
7. Ludwick, J. Virtue ethics and psychiatry. MPhil. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
9. Morkel, M. Medical testing in the life insurance industry: bioethical perspectives. MPhil. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
10. Oliphant, C. A philosophical critique of the justification for providing reproductive assistance to HIV infected individuals. MPhil. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
14. Sibiya, S. Ritual male circumcision in South Africa: the right to suffer and die versus the duty to prevent avoidable death and suffering. MPhil. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
17. Van Niekerk, M. Kompleksiteit en moderne geneeskunde. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
4. SERVICE DELIVERY

4.1 Prof. van Niekerk’s term of office as a director (one of 25) of the International Association of Bioethics (IAB) came to an end in 2012.

4.2 Prof. van Niekerk has been appointed as member of the Biosafety and Biosecurity Committee of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), and he is also a member of the panel that is doing a consensus study on the level of biosafety and security in South Africa.

APPOINTMENT

Dr Lyn Horn (MBChB, MPhil, PG Dip and PhD), who attained her MPhil and PhD in Bioethics at Stellenbosch University, and currently serves as the chair of the Research Ethics Committee for the Humaniora at Stellenbosch, was pointed extraordinary senior lecturer in the Department and Centre from 2013.

RECOGNITION

Prof. van Niekerk was again rated by the NRF in the course of 2012, and his rating was improved from a B3 to a B2 from 2013.

AA van Niekerk
(Head: Unit for Bioethics)
1. RESEARCH

1.1 Conferences

1.1.1. Papers presented at international conferences

  - Our paper was selected as one of the best papers delivered at the conference, and was included in a special publication of conference proceedings, in which the top seven conference papers appear. The publication was compiled by the Albert Luthuli Centre for Responsible Leadership.

1.1.2. Attendance at international conferences


1.1.3. Papers presented at national conferences


1.1.4. Attendance of national conferences


1.2. Publications

1.2.1. Journal articles


1.2.2. Books


1.2.3. Review articles


1.2.4. Forthcoming


2. TEACHING

2.1 Postgraduate teaching

The primary task of the Unit’s staff is to assume responsibility for the post-graduate teaching of business ethics in the MPhil (Applied Ethics) Programme. The specialisation programme in Business Ethics resumes in 2013.

2.2. Undergraduate teaching:

Business Ethics 214 (approx. 380 students) (Dr. M. Woermann)

Business Ethics 314 (approx 200 students) (Prof. J.P. Hattingh)

Business Ethics 242 (approx 380 students) (Professional Accounting Ethics) (Dr. M. Woermann)
3. **POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION**

3.1. Completed MPhil projects


4. **SERVICE DELIVERY**

4.2. Business Ethics Network (BEN) Africa

The Unit was again the primary sponsor for the annual BEN-Africa Conference held in Entebbe, Uganda from the 25th to the 27th of October. Prof. Johan Hattingh continued as President of BEN-Africa, and was responsible for organising the conference.

4.2. Appointments

4.2.1. **Appointment of Prof. Deon Rossouw as an extraordinary professor**

As of 2013, Prof. Rossouw will serve as extraordinary professor in the Department of Philosophy and will lecture in the MPhil Applied Ethics (specialisation: business ethics) programme. Prof. Rossouw is CEO of the Ethics Institute of South Africa. He was the founding President of BEN-Africa and served as president of the International Society of Business, Economics and Ethics (ISBEE). He was a member of the research team of the Second King Report on Corporate Governance and is a member of the Sustainability Committee of the Third King Report on Corporate Governance.

4.2.2. **Appointment of Dr. Woermann as the editor at large of the African Journal of Business Ethics**

As of 2013, Dr. Woermann will take over from Prof. van Vuuren as editor at large of the African Journal of Business Ethics (AJoBE). AJoBE was established during 2004 as the official journal of BEN-Africa, and is accredited by the International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (IBSS).

4.2.3. **Appointment of Dr. Woermann to governing committees / boards**

During 2012, Dr. Woermann was appointed as part of the governing committee of the Centre for Corporate Governance in Africa; University of Stellenbosch Business School; and as a board member of Hope Association Cape Town. Hope Cape Town is a non-profit organisation providing outreach, education and counselling at the community level, focusing on HIV/AIDS and TB in the Western Cape Province of South Africa. HOPE Cape Town is co-located and associated with the Ithemba (Hope) Infectious Paediatric Ward at Tygerberg Hospital in Cape Town and is linked to the University of Stellenbosch. Dr. Woermann’s portfolio is to provide ethical guidance in running the organisation.
1. Research

1.1 Research Outputs

1.1.1 Publications


1.1.2 Papers and presentations

1. Hattingh, JP. Adaptation and human flourishing in an era of global climate change. Invited Keynote Address at the 47TH ANNUAL CONGRESS of the GRASSLAND SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, (16-20 JULY 2012), Club Mykonos, Langebaan,
Western Cape on the theme of *Advancing Rangeland Ecology and Pasture Management in Africa.*

2. Hattingh, JP. Humanities and Healing from Perspectives in and around Environmental Ethics. Invited speaker at the 2\textsuperscript{ND} WORLD HUMANITIES FORUM, Busan, Republic of Korea, 1-3 November 2012.


### 1.2 Current Research

Prof. Hattingh is continuing with his research in different areas of environmental ethics, and is continuing his focus on the interface between, and overlap of environmental ethics, climate change ethics, and development ethics.

### 2. OTHER ACTIVITIES

#### 2.1 Short course

The Unit for Environmental Ethics was again approached by the City of Cape Town, as well as the Eden District Council, to tender for the presentation of a short course in *Professional Ethics for Environmental Health Practitioners.* The tender for the City of Cape Town was successful, and the short course was presented in January 2013.

#### 2.2 Ongoing Doctoral Projects

1. BAUGHAN H. Technology and practical reason in technology education policy - a philosophical study. D.Phil. Supervisor: Prof. JP Hattingh. (To be submitted in October 2013 for examination.)
2. LONG SS. The formulation of an environmental ethic for civil engineers in South Africa. D.Phil. Supervisor: Prof. JP Hattingh. (To be submitted in October 2013 for examination.)
2.3 Ongoing Master’s Projects


2.4 M.Phil in Environmental Management

Prof. Hattingh is member of an interfaculty Programme Committee that has launched a Mphil Programme in Environmental Management in January 2001. Departments participating in the programme are Philosophy (Environmental Ethics), Geology, Geography and Environmental Studies, Public and Development Administration, Public Law, and Conservation Ecology. Since December 2002 a steady stream of students graduated from this program.

Within the framework of this programme Prof. Hattingh took responsibility for a module in Environmental Ethics in 2012. He also supervises students doing their research projects on themes in Environmental Ethics. From 2013 his duties in this regard will be taken over by Dr. Sue Hall.

2.5 M.Phil. in Sustainable Development

In February 2003 the Sustainability Institute under the leadership of Prof. Mark Swilling and Ms. Eve Annecke launched an innovative MPhil Programme in Sustainable Development in collaboration with the Department of Public and Development Management of the University of Stellenbosch. Having been part of the team planning the Programme, Prof. Hattingh is currently one of the co-teachers in the module on Leadership and Ethics for Sustainable Development. Prof. Hattingh will continue with his responsibilities in this context from 2013 while serving as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

2.6 Activities around UNESCO’s COMEST

1. At the end of 2011 the second term of Prof Hattingh as member of COMEST (The World Commission on the Ethics of Science and Technology), an advisory body of UNESCO came to an end. COMEST falls under UNESCO’s Division for the Ethics of Science, and consists of 18 members that are selected to be representative of the world community on the one hand, and expertise in the ethics of various fields on the other hand. Members are appointed to COMEST in collaboration with the official delegations of member countries of UNESCO and their countries’ Ministries of Science and Technology. COMEST advises the General Assembly of UNESCO on ethical issues, and conduct, on request, research for the General Assembly on ethical issues. At the beginning of 2004, Prof. Hattingh was appointed as member of COMEST for a period of 4 years. On the recommendation of the South African
Government, Prof. Hattingh has been invited by COMEST to serve for another term of four years, i.e. from 2008 – 2011. During 2005 Prof. Hattingh was appointed as Rapporteur in the Executive Board of COMEST, a position in which he served until the end of 2011. Since May, 2008, Prof. Hattingh was invited to Chair a Working Group on Environmental Ethics to take the lead in preparing a report on The ethical implications of global climate change.

2. During 2012 Prof Hattingh was invited by the Director General of UNESCO to serve as an associate member of COMEST, which means that he can still be invited to support the activities of COMEST.

2.7 Membership of Editorial Boards

Prof. Hattingh currently serves on the Editorial Board of the following journals:

2. *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics* (member of Editorial Board, since 2007).
3. *Journal for Ethics Education* (This is a Springer on-line journal that was recently established by Prof. Henk ten Have, Director of the Center for Healthcare Ethics, Duquesne Universiteit, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was invited to become member of Editorial Board in 2011 – and the Journal was established in 2012.)

2.8 Ethics Committee for Research on Animals (ECRA)

Prof Hattingh is member of the Ethics Committee for Research on Animals of the Medical Research Council (MRC) and helps this committee to review research proposals in which experimental animals are involved. This committee has about four meetings per year. At the end of 2012 Prof Hattingh had to resign as member of ECRA with view to taking up his duties as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of Stellenbosch University.

2.9 Research Ethics Committee of the CSIR

During 2009, Prof Hattingh was invited by the Board of the CSIR to serve as first Chair of its newly established Research Ethics Committee. This appointment as Chair was renewed in the first half of 2012 for another three years. However, towards the end of 2012 Prof Hattingh had to resign from this position with view to taking up his duties as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of Stellenbosch University.

2.10 Awards and recognition

Towards the end of 2012 Prof Hattingh received a B rating from the NRF for his research.