



UNIVERSITEIT
STELLENBOSCH
UNIVERSITY

e-Matieland

SPRING 2015 • #2

FROM THE ALUMNI OFFICE

Since our last newsletter in June 2015, the University has really featured on the news circuit – albeit not always for the right reasons.

There have been many positive mentions, of course. In this period, we won an array of awards, only some of which we can mention here. Our innovation hub, academics and athletes have all received accolades. And in July, a debt order ruling was granted in favour of an application by our Legal Aid Clinic changing the lives of the poorest of the poor.

Over the last few months, Management has announced the establishment of a Transformation Office; invested R70m in staff diversification; and created task teams to focus on the practical implementation of the language policy.

But on the more critical side, talk has mostly been about the issues of Open Stellenbosch accompanied by the “*Luister*” video. Prof Wim de Villiers has made it clear that Management is not indifferent to the issues raised in the video. Click [here](#) for a video in which he outlines Management’s viewpoints on transformation.

Enjoy this edition of *e-Matieland*.



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Alumni (Maties) and
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Boost for transformation and multilingualism

Stellenbosch University (SU) will focus on the consistent and possible accelerated implementation of the approved Language Policy and Language Plan. This evolutionary process will include monitoring and corrective measures, and give pertinent attention to the needs of students who maintain that language implementation processes adversely affect their academic performance. An Office for Transformation is being established, and a Transformation Committee has been constituted. These are some of the announcements recently made by Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Prof Wim de Villiers.

At the end of the first semester the University Management made a commitment to respond to the proposals received from the campus community on, amongst others, multilingualism, transformation and the reinstatement of the position of Dean of Students by the beginning of the second semester.

A task group is currently giving priority attention to the practical application of multilingualism, and in August student groups were invited to a joint round-table discussion on improvements in the implementation of learning and teaching languages.

In addition to the Office for Transformation and the Transformation Committee, SU will also revisit the statutory role of the Institutional Forum related to transformation, and the establishment of a Research Chair in Reconciliation and Transformation is envisaged.

In August, the University also announced that it will be investing close to R70 million (R68.6 m) in the diversification of its staff corps over the next three years. This amount has been allocated from the Strategic Fund, and will be in addition to the normal staff budget.

NEWS in short

New research chairs

SU and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) have launched two new Research Chairs – one in Quantum, Optical and Atomic Physics and one in Artificial Intelligence.

The Faculty of Science will host the Chair in Quantum, Optical and Atomic Physics, while the Department of Information



Science in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences will be home to the Chair in Artificial Intelligence. Dr Hermann Uys, a physicist at the CSIR and SU, and Prof Arina Britz, CSIR Centre for Artificial Intelligence Research (CAIR) representative at its SU node, will be the holders of the respective chairs.

New generation of academics

Five positions in the government's New Generation of Academics Programme (nGAP) have been allocated to SU. The allocations are in the fields of Economics, Mechanical and Mechatronic Engineering, Anatomy and Histology, Mathematics and in Social Work. The nGAP is one of five programmes of SSAUF (Staffing South Africa's Universities Framework) – focused on the expansion of the size and compilation of academic staff at South African universities. The focus of the programme is the appointment of black and coloured candidates as well as the appointment of women.

Events

22 September
New York alumni
gathering
Contact: alumni@
sun.ac.za

21 October,
Rector in Hong
Kong, Contact:
alumni@sun.ac.za

4 November,
Gauteng,
Engineering
networking event,
Contact: alumni@
sun.ac.za

5 November,
Convocation
Meeting @ 19:00,
Contact: alumni@
sun.ac.za

19 November
AgriScience
Faculty Golf day
Contact:
Carin Bruce:
cbruce@sun.ac.za

'Iconic' Johan Degenaar honoured



"Johan Degenaar was an iconic figure who helped shaped thinking – not only at Stellenbosch University where he taught for many years and did his research, but also further afield." This was how Prof Wim de Villiers responded to news of Prof Degenaar's passing on 22 July 2015.

Degenaar, who was 89, was one of South Africa's most influential philosophers and lectured here for 42 years until his retirement in 1991. He obtained his master's and doctoral degrees from SU and in 2002 Maties bestowed an honorary doctorate on him.

'Keep your eye on the ball'

Work hard and keep your eye on the ball; don't be shy to ask for help and remember that education is a way of uplifting yourself. This was the advice given to 14 PSG Group bursary loan recipients who were invited to the investment holding company's offices in Stellenbosch recently.

The recipients, all studying at SU in fields ranging from Languages, Medicine, Engineering, Actuarial Science to Law, had the opportunity to meet their benefactor and founder of the PSG Group, Mr Jannie Mouton, his wife Deidre, son Piet, who is the CEO of the PSG Group, and Vuyo Mzini, a former bursary holder and now investment analyst at the company.

Nineteen Matie students currently receive financial support from the PSG Group as part of the PSG/Jannie Mouton Bursary Loan Programme at SU. This programme was established in 2007 when Mouton (in his personal capacity) and the PSG Group each donated 100 000 PSG shares to the SU to be used as education assistance to reward merit in the form of loans or bursaries to disadvantaged and/or gifted students.

Bursaries lead to dramatically different future

The Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences has introduced an initiative to reduce to zero the cost of studying at the Faculty and living in Stellenbosch for talented but disadvantaged undergraduate students. The announcement coincides with the Faculty's 90th anniversary this year.

"One of our major challenges has been to improve access to our faculty for students and staff from all communities," said Prof Stan du Plessis, Dean of the Faculty. "Every Project Zero bursary is a special award based on academic merit. Its value is an estimated R90 000 per year for three years."



NEWS in short



Hitting the high notes

The Stellenbosch University Studios at the Conservatorium has created the music for the Afrikaans romantic comedy, *Hollywood in My Huis*. "One would not normally associate pop music with the Music Department, but it was a nice challenge to produce a pop music soundtrack for a film," says Gerhard Roux, who heads up the Studios. These studios are the commercial recording facilities of the Music Department, specialising in the production of music for film, advertisements, as well as commercial classical and popular music albums.

Prestigious honour



Dr Oonsie Biggs, research associate at the Centre for Complex Systems in Transition at Stellenbosch University and research theme leader at the Stockholm Resilience Centre, has received a P-rating from the National Research Foundation (NRF) for her outstanding research on social-ecological regime shifts and their impact on ecosystem services.

Researchers with a P-rating have demonstrated the potential of becoming future international leaders in their field based on exceptional research performance and output early in their careers. SU currently boasts 371 NRF-rated researchers, three of which with a P-rating.

A prolific researcher with a growing international profile, Biggs has published 40 papers, including articles in internationally renowned journals, and 25 invited book chapters. She is also the recipient of numerous international research fellowships and has supervised a number of masters and doctoral students.

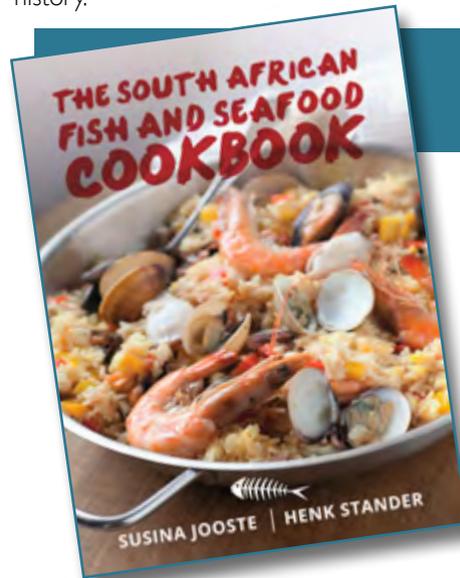
Ramela is going places

When Cape Cobras batsman and Matie Omphile Ramela (27) talks about cricket, he describes it as a vehicle – the conveyor belt that has taken him places he might not have gone otherwise.

And this vehicle recently took him to India – where he represented South Africa as part of the South African A team in a triangular limited-over series against India A and Australia A, as well as in two four-day unofficial test matches against India A.

This Soweto-born cricket player's talent was discovered through the Bakers Mini-cricket programme when he was in primary school and he was offered the opportunity to attend St Peter's Boys School in Johannesburg from Grade 5 to Grade 7. From there he went to St John's College, again thanks to cricket.

In 2008 cricket brought Ramela to Stellenbosch, where he became a member and later captain of Maties Cricket's first team. But his focus wasn't just on cricket. He obtained his BA degree and two honours degrees, one in Philosophy and one in Economics. In 2015 he registered for a master's degree in Economics with a focus on Economic history.



Fish expert launches new recipe book

Henk Stander, general manager of the Aquaculture Division of the Department of Animal Sciences, is a man who can teach you everything you need to know about farming with fish. In addition, this food lover can also give you a recipe or two about how to best prepare fish or seafood. He has combined forces with Stellenbosch food fundi Susina Jooste to publish a new recipe book, *The South African Fish and Seafood Cookbook*. This paperback book of 160 pages is published by LAPA Publishers in English and Afrikaans, and is available in bookstores.

Debt order ruling shows SU's impact on society

The High Court ruling on 8 July 2015 in favour of an application by the Stellenbosch University Legal Aid Clinic about emoluments attachment orders (EAOs, also known as garnishee orders) "is an illustration of SU's endeavour to make a positive impact on society", Prof Wim de Villiers said in reaction to the ruling.

Businesswoman Wendy Appelbaum was the driving force behind the case. She first approached the Legal Aid Clinic in 2012 when she found out EAOs had been obtained against some of the workers on her wine farm, De Morgenzon.

The Legal Aid Clinic was the first applicant in the case, along with 15 of its clients – farmworkers, cleaners and security guards from Stellenbosch and surrounds who had sought help after micro-lenders had obtained EAOs against them, seizing a large portion of their salaries.

Justice Siraj Desai of the High Court in Cape Town declared the EAOs in question "unlawful, invalid and of no force and effect". He also found that sections of the Magistrates' Court Act are "inconsistent with the Constitution".

- [Click here for his full judgment](#)

News in pictures



Alumni and donors help SU to make a difference in society, Prof Wim de Villiers said at a recent gathering in Johannesburg. The event, sponsored by life insurance and asset management company Liberty, gave the Rector the opportunity to meet alumni and potential donors, answer questions and address concerns. (Photo: Supplied)



InnovUS has won the Organisational Award for Excellence in Innovation Management at the annual Department of Science and Technology (DST)/ Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA) Excellence in Research and Innovation Management Awards. Here Anita Nel receives the award from Minister Naledi Pandor. (Photo: Jack La Grange)



Women's Day was celebrated in style this year with great conversation and exceptional wine. The speakers at the event themed "Women of the Vine" were Norma Ratcliffe of Warwick Wine Estate, Rose Jordaan of Bartinney, winemaker Nomonde Kubheka and businesswoman Wendy Applebaum of De Morgenzen Wine Estate. (Photo: Anina Fourie)



Metanoia Residence held a successful 10-year reunion from 10 to 12 July 2015. The Meta Alumni were treated to a house dance, brunch, quad party and a speech by Metanoia's first Residence Head, Dr Jerome Slamati. (PinkDot Photography)



A commemorative plaque honouring HF Verwoerd was removed from the Accounting and Statistics building on the Stellenbosch University campus towards the end of May. The plaque was replaced with a poster of the South African flag, as a symbol of unity, as well as a declaration of unity. Here are student leaders Stefan Laing and Farai Mubaiwa. (Photo: Anton Jordaan)

Biggest festival of its kind *in Africa*

Since its inception in 2004, the annual Stellenbosch International Chamber Music Festival (SICMF) has grown to become the biggest festival of its kind in Africa – and one of SU's largest arts projects.

The SICMF, which was held from 3 to 12 July this year in the Conservatoire, had a humble beginning when two piano lecturers, Profs Nina Schumann and Luis Magalhães, decided to create a festival where music students are trained in the art of chamber music.

In 2004 less than 100 students came to the 10-day long festival, but since then the SICMF has grown, so much so that this year 300 students from across Africa participated. And it is still growing.

Besides master classes and lectures for the students, the festival programme also consists of evening, lunch-time and student concerts. All the concerts draw full houses of music lovers from Stellenbosch and surrounding areas.

The 10 evening concerts are the festival's highlight. It boasts several South African and world premieres of chamber music works, which are performed in the Endler Hall by 30 renowned musicians from across the world.

"Our concerts are special because it introduces the audience to music which has never been performed in this country, as well as music by contemporary composers. In each of the SICMF

concerts you will hear an array of musical styles from different periods," says Schumann, who is now Artistic Director of the SICMF.

Festival Director Peter Martens adds: "This is what makes the SICMF's concert series different to any other concert series in South Africa. We also ensure that new music is created by annually commissioning a work by a South African composer and performing that work during the festival."

This year, as part of its educational component, the SICMF presented its first international bursary competition – the largest single South African bursary for overseas music studies. Pianist Megan-Geoffrey Prins, an SU alumnus, won R200 000 towards his studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music in America.

"It became apparent that we were going to need to be innovative if we wanted to maintain the momentum that the SICMF had built up over the years. We needed to provide a prize that surpassed all other current local competition prizes. And this bursary competition was the answer," says Martens.

It is clear that the SICMF, through its bursary, music education and concert series, not only makes a meaningful contribution to the lives and careers of excellent music students from Africa, but also promotes classical music in South Africa and Africa.



The award-winning Megan-Geoffrey Prins in concert. (Photo: Bakkes Images)

The SICMF is seeking sponsorship and support to sustain this initiative into the future. Should you wish to contribute, please contact Sonia Schoeman at sonia@sun.ac.za.

Manenberg's pride

Randall Ortel grew up in gang-stricken Manenberg on the Cape Flats and his ambition was to become a garbage collector or a taxi-driver. However, thanks to an education policy and a bursary, paired with a healthy dose of hard work, he graduated as a medical doctor from Stellenbosch University in 2010. These days, the 30-year-old is an occupational medical practitioner and making a positive difference in that same community he grew up in.

Why have you chosen to stay and work in Manenberg?

This is a very deserving community and I feel at home here. Most individuals that are academically successful leave the area for various reasons. I feel this is not doing any justice to the people who remain behind because no one then

becomes a voice for them. I'm not saying I'll change the whole of Manenberg, but I can at least contribute to a model of supporting people and not expecting anything in return. I experience joy, when after advocating for people, they then reach their goals or objectives. Doing community work takes up a lot of time but while I have the energy, I want to do as much as I can.

What or who inspires you to make a difference?

My creator gets all the praise. As a spiritual person, doing good brings great reward and blessing. My natural inspiration comes from assisting people to know their rights and also their responsibilities.

When you look around the world, the greatest leaders are found among the people. Change is brought about by the people and for the people and only facilitated by the leader.

My inspiration also comes from seeing people moving forward and improving themselves and obviously the compliments I get from community members. I receive unbelievable respect from the community, which I feel I don't deserve but this is their way of saying thank you.

Tell us about your professional life.

I started out working at GF Jooste Hospital in Manenberg, but subsequent to the closure of that hospital at the end of 2013 I have decided to remain in the state service. I am employed as a medical officer in the Klipfontein-Mitchell's Plain substructure area by the Western Cape Department of Health. In my free time I locum in the private sector for the Mediclinic Group. I also have a private practice in Manenberg but I mainly do home visits.



They say 'once a Matie, always a Matie'. Agree?

Yes of course. I have already returned to SU to start a two-year postgraduate diploma in occupational medicine and will graduate at the end of 2015. I'm definitely considering completing the MMed in occupational medicine but that will depend on funding or sponsorship.

What advice would you give young people who are facing hardships?

The problem you perceive is not as big as you think. There's always someone who is facing bigger challenges, but there's help out there if you ask. Anything in life that's worth it is not easy. You have to put in the hard yards whether it's to study, train or whatever is required for your career path. There are no shortcuts in life and in the end when you have attained your goal it might not always bring you happiness but you'll never forget the journey.

Stay in Touch

Making sure you get the latest news about your alma mater or invitations to not-to-be-missed events and even paving the way for long-lost loves to finally meet up... that's all in a day's work for the Development & Alumni Relations Division's data team.

For over a decade, Malena Fourie, Jill Moses and Junita Isaacs have been finding and collating up-to-date contact details of alumni and following up on incorrect e-mail addresses by phone or through internet searches. The data they gather is organised into relevant data lists that can be used by faculties, departments and residences to communicate with their alumni. This information is held securely and confidentially on the University's alumni database in accordance with data protection legislation.

"If you thought sharing your contact details with us would lead to unsolicited messages flooding your inbox, you should think again. Keeping in touch with us is beneficial to you. Not only will we keep you abreast of developments here, it means we know where you are if your friends are trying to track you down for a class reunion. We can also invite you to networking events in

appropriate geographical areas, especially if you are living or working overseas," says Fourie, who heads up the Data Office.

She admits it's not always an easy task, as contact details change all the time. "But by making phone calls and trawling the internet, we keep alumni connected – which makes all the effort worth it."

Need to update your details? There are several ways to go about it, Fourie says.



Development and Alumni's data team members are Jill Moses, Malena Fourie and Junita Isaacs. (Photo: Stefan Els)



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(You will have to request a username and password at alumni@sun.ac.za)



<http://www.sun.ac.za/matieland/vorm>
(Here you can also choose how to receive your Matieland magazine)



If you prefer, you can e-mail us at alumni@sun.ac.za with your updates and questions. Our team monitors this inbox daily, so your query can be dealt with as quickly as possible.



We are also happy to receive your phone calls. Call us on +27 21 808 2709/10.



Alumni Relations
Stellenbosch University
Private Bag XI
Matieland
7602

GIVE TO YOUR FACULTY

We are proud of our alumni who have made their mark in South African history, and on the international scene – be it in the field of science, politics, sports, economics or arts. Think Sheryll Calder, Riaan Cruywagen, Japie Van Zyl, Edwin Cameron, Ernst van Dyk, Thabo Mbeki (honorary doctorate – 2004), Ruda Landman, Athol Fugard (honorary doctorate – 2006), Marlene Dumas, Helen Suzman (honorary doctorate – 2006) and Naledi Pandor.

You can support your faculty no matter where you are – even if you are on the other side of the globe! If you would like to make a gift – click on the name of the country where you live and follow the easy steps.

Russel Botman Bursary Fund

"Stellenbosch University will continue fulfilling Prof Russel Botman's vision to move this institution from success to significance in order to be of relevance to the people of our country and continent," Prof Wim de Villiers said on the first anniversary of Prof Hayman Russel Botman's death.

Prof Botman was halfway through his second term as Rector and Vice-Chancellor of SU when he unexpectedly passed away in his sleep on 28 June 2014.

The Botman family has encouraged the public, staff, students and alumni to consider donating to the Russel Botman Bursary Fund (RBBF) as a lasting tribute to him. The Bursary Fund was established on his 60th birthday on 18 October 2013.

"Russel was always passionate about giving access to students who would otherwise not have the opportunity to study at a world-class institution. This Bursary Fund is the perfect way to keep Russel's legacy alive and gives us the opportunity to help make his dream of creating a better future for the next generation a reality," says Dr Beryl Botman, widow of Prof Botman.



Online donations can be made **here**.
The details for direct payments are: Standard Bank, account number 07 300 695 5 and branch code 05 0610. Please make sure to add the reference: Botman.

Alumni Office

Murraystreet 12, Stellenbosch 7600



+27 21 808 9266

+27 21 808 8405



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