



UNIVERSITEIT
STELLENBOSCH
UNIVERSITY

e-Matieland

WINTER 2015 • #1

FROM THE ALUMNI OFFICE

Welcome to your new quarterly Stellenbosch University (SU) digital newsletter. With new leadership, and new fundraising and alumni teams in our Development Office, we have had an opportunity to rethink how we connect and share both our Stellenbosch experience and our global impact. We have therefore begun an evolution in how we communicate with alumni and other stakeholders.

Besides this digital newsletter, we will also produce a bulkier, juicy and glam annual *Matieland* magazine in print and online, which you will receive in October. The option to choose which format of *Matieland* you would like to receive is available when you update your contact information by clicking here.

But *Matieland* would not be complete without stories about your lives and careers. These anecdotes warm our hearts and help us to feel strengthened as a community. So please share your news through *Matieland* or our social media platforms. Let's keep in touch!



Photo: JUSTIN ALBERTS



Stellenbosch University
Alumni (Maties) and
Friends



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University of Liege honours Matie

Stellenbosch University alumnus, Prof Markus Reuter, received an honorary doctorate from the University of Liege in Belgium on March 28. The University officially conferred a doctorate *honoris causa* on Prof Reuter for his outstanding achievements in the field of mineral processing, metallurgy and recycling.

He holds a D. Eng. degree and a PhD from SU as well as a Dr. habil. degree from RWTH Aachen University in Germany.

Reuter is currently Director of Technology Management at Outotec in Finland. He is also adjunct professor at Aalto University, professorial fellow at

Melbourne University and guest professor at the Central

South University of China.

He has authored more than 400 papers and is the lead author of the report on recycling for the United Nations Environmental Protection (UNEP) for Metal Recycling: Opportunities, Limits, Infrastructure. He is also main author of the book *Metrics of Material and Metal Ecology* and co-editor as well as contributor to the *Handbook of Recycling*, both published by Elsevier.

SU among world's elite institutions

Stellenbosch University now features among the world's elite institutions in 10 of the 36 subjects featured in the QS World University Rankings by Subject for 2015.

The QS World University Rankings by Subject is compiled annually and aims to provide a useful resource for prospective students worldwide, who are seeking to identify the most prestigious and influential institutions in their chosen subject of study.

Institutions are scored according to academic reputation; employer reputation; and research impact. Among the seven South African institutions (UCT, Wits, UP, UKZN, Rhodes and UJ) that took part in the latest rankings, SU consistently remained in the top five.

NEWS in short

statisticians, industrial psychologists and accountants, transport economists and investment managers, as well as leaders in the public sector and business enterprises have graduated here.

He announced that the Faculty will launch a project to assist top students from previously disadvantaged communities who face financial obstacles.

EMS in numbers

4 430

the current number of undergraduate students

3 130

the current number of postgraduate students

Events

25 - 26 July
Harmonic reunion:
110 years old.
Contact Cecilia
Anderson: 072
459 0440

10 - 12 July
Metanoia 10 year
reunion.
Contact Allistair
Border: 083
441 8299

11 June
USB Open Day
09:00 - 19:00
Contact: 021 918
4246 or visit
www.usb.ac.za

90 years old

The Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences (EMS) celebrated its 90th anniversary on 18 April. Prof Stan du Plessis, Dean of the Faculty, said its establishment in 1925 was a bold step in an era when commerce faculties were only just emerging on the university landscape.

According to Du Plessis, many generations of economists and



Oldest alumnus of SU AgriSciences Faculty turns 100

Dr Danie Joubert, the oldest alumnus of Stellenbosch University's Faculty of AgriSciences, celebrated his 100th birthday on 9 April.

In 2013 Dr Joubert still attended a gathering of alumni of the Faculty of AgriSciences in Stellenbosch at the age of 98. He was hands down the oldest attendee at the occasion.

Joubert was for many years a lecturer and head of the Department of Viticulture and Oenology at Elsenburg, where he designed the well-known course in wine

cellar technology. He was honoured as a man with passion for his students, a beloved lecturer and an outstanding role model.

In 2010 he was acknowledged by the South African National Wine Show Association as one of the wine legends of the last 300 years.

Joubert celebrated his birthday with friends and family in his hometown, Rawsonville. He continues to enjoy good health and every Saturday he still enjoys spending time in his extensive garden.

SciMathUS offers second chance

Sometimes all you need is a helping hand on your way to success. And just because you weren't successful on your very first try, does not mean you're a failure.

Just ask former SciMathUS student Matlakala Claudia Ntsapi. She was among the more than 2700 Maties who received their well-earned degrees and diplomas in March 2015. Ntsapi, who obtained her MSc degree in Science also counts among 17 SciMathUS (Science and Mathematics at Stellenbosch University) alumni who graduated at SU this year.

The year-long bridging programme helps students from educationally disadvantaged communities to gain access to higher education and also prepares them for success in their tertiary studies.

Ntsapi is currently busy with her PhD studies and says SciMathUS contributed to her success.



Woordfees 2015 a huge success

The SU Woordfees rewarded its best artists for outstanding and creative performances at a ceremony held in April. The festival celebrated its 16th year with the theme "16 Onse".

Saartjie Botha, who had her first year as festival director, said this year's festival, which was held from 6 to 15 March in Stellenbosch, showed an increase of 34% in ticket sales compared to last year.

SU alumnus Christiaan Olgwen received two awards: one for best director for his play *Dogma* (photo above), *Die*



Seemeeu and *Son.Maan.Sterre*; as well as for best festival production.

Next year, the Woodfees will be held from 4 tot 13 March 2016 in Stellenbosch.

NEWS in short

MPhil in Management Coaching ranked as best Master's degree in Africa

USB's MPhil in Management Coaching has been ranked as best Master's degree in Human Resources Management in Africa by Eduniversal.

Dr Salomé van Coller-Peter, Head: MPhil in Management Coaching, says: "Since the beginning of this programme we have decided to give it a very African-flavour, to bring in diversity and story-telling. Our programme is well-designed to produce professional coaches," she says, and adds: "I have been working with a group of people since the inception of this programme and I believe that you surround yourself with people that know more than you do about certain subjects."



'Forward, Stellenbosch. Siyaya!'

Stellenbosch University (SU) is moving forward into its next century, deeply committed to the community, the country and the values of the Constitution, says our new Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Prof Wim de Villiers, who was inaugurated on 29 April 2015.

In his inauguration address, Prof Wim De Villiers reiterated SU's commitment to transformation, inclusivity and diversity, especially in terms of redressing past injustices and creating a better future.

"We want to create a University that works for all of us – a national asset, in fact a continental and global asset – to help make the world a better place by finding solutions to developmental challenges and societal problems," he said.

"That will be the main thrust of my time as Rector and Vice-Chancellor: Forward, Stellenbosch. *Vorentoe! Siyaya!*"

Addressing the language issue, De Villiers said SU is a world-class multilingual university that works hard to ensure that language is "not a barrier to access, but a tool for success.

"Stellenbosch is not an Afrikaans university, it is not an English University, it is not a Xhosa university; Stellenbosch is a multilingual South African university – one of the few in this category, which is sorely needed in a country with 11 official languages."

De Villiers said although SU is well positioned, there is room for improvement as it strives to be locally relevant and globally competitive. He also highlighted the need for an open

discussion on where SU is at, and where it is heading. "Stellenbosch University should not only be a national gem, but also a national asset. Everything is in place for SU to make a significant contribution – locally, in Africa, and worldwide."

According to De Villiers, SU has the potential to attract reputable international scholars, scientists, researchers and students. "That international flavour and diversity could be very enriching. It is also a very important transformative element."

His hope is that people will one day look back on his time as Rector of SU and say that this University was a place where people took centre stage, not only students, but all role players.

Who is Wim de Villiers?

De Villiers (55) is the 12th SU Rector and Vice-Chancellor. He is a Matie alumnus and medical doctor who also studied and worked in England and America. He was born in Stellenbosch, the youngest child of Prof AB de Villiers, who later became Dean of Law at SU, and Mrs Gera de



[Click to view Prof Wim's video message to alumni.](#)

Villiers (née Klomp). He passed his MB,ChB at SU cum laude, receiving the Francie Van Zijl and Chancellor's medals.

In 1990 he also obtained the MMed degree in Internal Medicine at SU cum laude. He spread his wings and obtained a DPhil in Immunology at Oxford University, England, in 1995. He went to America to gain more experience at the University of Kentucky Medical Centre in Lexington, KY. He later also obtained a master's degree in health-care management at Harvard University.

De Villiers returned to South Africa as Dean of Health Sciences at UCT in July 2013. In April 2015 he entered the next chapter of his career at SU. He is married to Catherine, and they have two daughters, Katusha and Gera; a son and daughter-in-law, Braam and Kelly; and two grandchildren, Eloise and Beatrice.





Prof De Villiers delivers his inaugural address. (Photo: Hennie Rudman, SSFD)

Prof De Villiers on:

Language policy

Prof Wim De Villiers emphasises SU's commitment to multilingualism and points out three elements that have to be managed and evaluated: affordability, implementation and reporting.

Rankings

"They are here to stay. Whether you like it or not, rankings are 'academic currency' and I believe SU can do even better. All the elements are in place for us to go marching up the rankings."

Transformation

De Villiers believes strongly that SU cannot stay the same. Like any other organism it has to transform and adapt in order to survive. "We respect the past, but we cannot cling to it. Traditions must serve us, we should not serve them. And we have to think about and build new traditions."

Students

Students, he believes, are central to everything SU does. Paraphrasing a quote that hangs in the Mayo Clinic in the USA, De Villiers says: "The interest and success of the student is the only interest. Every student that fails is also the system's failure."

Student activism

De Villiers approves of student activism and wants to encourage discussion, but feels strongly that any actions should be conducted with respect and tolerance.



The De Villiers family walks down Victoria Street following the inauguration ceremony. (Photo: SSFD)

favourites

- Chocolate: *Aero*
- Book genre: *Nordic Noir (books by Jo Nesbo, Stieg Larsson, etc.)*
- Break-away place: *Hermanus*
- Relaxation (besides reading): *Running or cycling*
- Movie: *The Big Lebowski, Fargo or anything by the Coen brothers*



CLICK TO WATCH THE VIDEO OF PROF DE VILLIERS'S INAUGURATION



University establishes bursary for descendants of Die Vlakte



The late Prof Russel Botman, SU's former Rector and Vice-Chancellor, with Mr John Abels and Mrs Sybil Kannemeyer, residents of Idas Valley, at the opening of the Memory Room in 2013. (Photo: Anton Jordaan, SSFD)

A bursary fund for descendants of people who were forcibly removed from Die Vlakte, an area close to the town centre of Stellenbosch, in the 1960s, was established in April 2015.

Prof Wim de Villiers, Rector and Vice-Chancellor of Stellenbosch University, announced the bursary at his inauguration on 29 April, after which the University's management met to determine the criteria. "The bursary is in direct response to

students calling for the creation of such a bursary. It also serves as a further sign of redress the University committed itself to at the turn of the century," De Villiers said.

"Last year, Stellenbosch University paid out R588 million in bursaries and loans to the 37% of our students in need of financial assistance. Of this amount, 55% went to black, coloured and Indian students based on merit and financial need."

Among others, academic faculties at

Did you know?

- For decades, the removals from the Die Vlakte and the Battle of An-dringa Street were not part of the official history of Stellenbosch and were only placed on record with the publication of *In ons Bloed* (2006) and *Nog altyd hier gewees: Die storie van 'n Stellenbosse gemeenskap* (2007) – publications on the history of the area and supported by SU.
- In 2013, the University opened a Memory Room in the Wilcocks Building as a gesture of reconciliation between Stellenbosch University and the town's coloured community.
- Forced removals from Die Vlakte also resulted in the Lückhoff School in Banghoek Road being given to the University. The school has since been rededicated to the local community (in 2007) and houses various community organisations in addition to the University's Community Interaction division. In 2008 and 2009 a permanent photo exhibition was installed in the building to give recognition to old boys and girls of the school who had become prominent role players in South Africa.

the University, already earmarked nearly R350 000 for the bursary.

Criteria for the bursary fund are currently being finalised, but bursaries will be made available to undergraduate students for the normal duration of a degree programme up to the maximum of four years. Applicants who are no longer living in the Stellenbosch area but who can give proof of their parents or grandparents being affected by the evictions, will also be considered. Community

leaders will also be requested to form part of the panel that will consider applications.

The bursary creates, apart from the existing recruitment bursaries available to coloured, black and Indian students, new opportunities for local residents to further their studies at Stellenbosch University.

The public can also contribute to the bursary. Contact Lorenza George on +27 21 808 3090 or via e-mail at lcg29@sun.ac.za for more information.

Unlocking a prosperous future through innovation

Prof Eugene Cloete

Almost two decades into the 21st century global crises such as armed conflict, food insecurity, climate change, disease, terrorism, unemployment and growing poverty and inequality continue unabated.

Although these and other challenges may seem daunting, even insurmountable, we dare not become despondent and throw in the towel. More than ever, we need to intensify our search for real and lasting solutions to a plethora of problems if we are to create a better future.

One way to achieve this is through innovation, that is, thinking and doing things differently. One could argue that humanity's survival depends on innovation and creative thinking because they bring something new and connect us with a more peaceful and prosperous future.

Addressing the challenges we face will require more than just the manufacturing or application of new products. While technological innovation is vital, it is not enough to solve all societal problems. We should also focus our attention on social innovation.

We have to look at how forms of social innovation such as carnivals and festivals could help address, among others, rising unemployment and poverty and the spread of diseases, especially in developing countries which often lack the necessary resources to tackle these issues.

In her 2011 book, *Innovation Design: Creating Value for People, Organizations, and Society*, Elke den Ouden makes a similar point. Highlighting the need for social innovation, she argues that tackling today's societal challenges requires a deeper level of innovation than just inventing products that sell well.

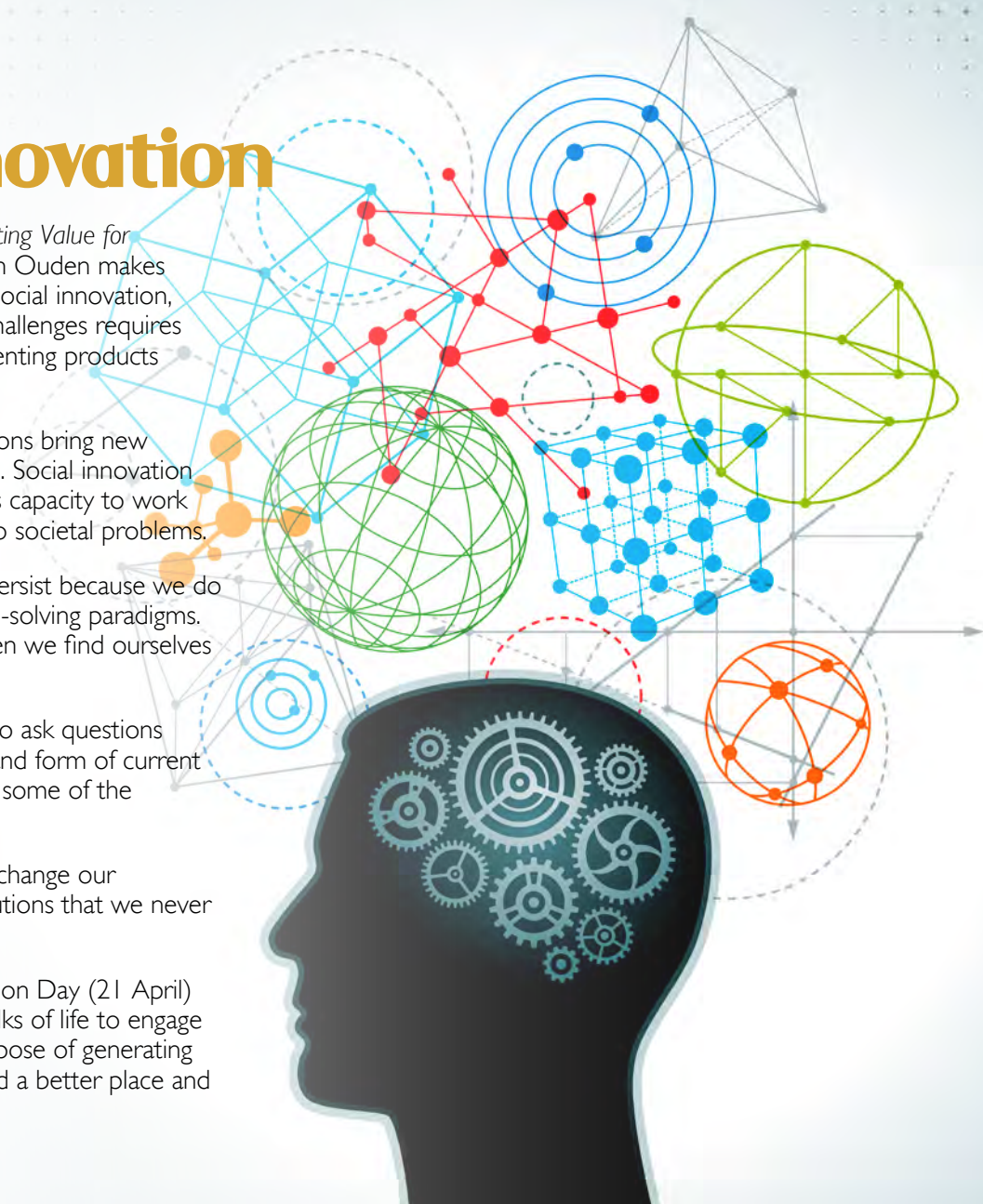
According to Den Ouden, social innovations bring new ideas for improving people's quality of life. Social innovation is important because it enhances people's capacity to work together in finding sustainable solutions to societal problems.

Unfortunately, many societal challenges persist because we do not venture beyond our existing problem-solving paradigms. Our creative juices only start to flow when we find ourselves in a desperate situation.

We lack creative thinking and the ability to ask questions regarding the way in which the use, size and form of current technologies could be enhanced to solve some of the problems we face.

When we start to think deeper and also change our behaviour, we are more likely to find solutions that we never thought existed.

The recent World Creativity and Innovation Day (21 April) celebrations encouraged people of all walks of life to engage in deeper intellectual thought for the purpose of generating new ideas that could help make the world a better place and create a brighter future.





Unlocking a prosperous future through innovation (continued)

Since critical thinking is often the beginning of innovation, universities could do well to heed the message spread on World Creativity and Innovation Day.

As places of knowledge production and innovation, universities play a key role in solving societal problems.

In a recent speech at the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce, the new Rector and Vice-Chancellor of Stellenbosch University, Prof Wim de Villiers, also alluded to this when he said that society expects universities to fulfil this role.

He added that the University environment offers an excellent breeding ground for innovation because it puts forward critical questions.

In this regard, SU is playing its part. Through Innovus – the company that mediates the SU's interaction with the industry and promotes innovation within and outside the University – we registered 59 PCT patents (Patent Cooperation Treaty) from 2009 to 2014 – the most in the country, even more than the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSRI).

Our LaunchLab, the epicentre of entrepreneurship at the University, functions as a business accelerator boosting entrepreneurship on the campus through network opportunities, mentorship and affordable rental rates for

start-up companies by both students and staff, as well as external parties.

The work being done at Innovus and the Launchlab clearly indicates that SU is committed to creating more products, engaging in technology transfer and commercialising intellectual property, and in so doing, enhancing its impact on society.

Central to these endeavours is the need for the University to be socially relevant in continually changing contexts and to focus on extending research innovation and unlocking new knowledge for the express purpose of creating new products and services for the betterment of our society.

This is in line with SU's vision to be a future-oriented, innovative, and inclusive institution where the collective creativity of people from diverse backgrounds and cultures can be harnessed to make the world a better place to live in.

Although the problems we face today are indeed serious, solutions might be just around the corner. Creating and fostering a culture of innovation could prove decisive in this regard.

Prof Eugene Cloete is the Vice-Rector for Research and Innovation at Stellenbosch University.



Making a real difference

Meet Meet Karen Bruns, a trained lawyer with a Master's degree in International Trade Law and Joint Ventures, former marketing director, CEO of a multimedia publishing company, communications consultant – to name but a few. And these days, she is Senior Director of Development at Stellenbosch University (SU). Bruns took up her new position in February 2015.

What impact will your experience have on your new position?

All of my previous roles have been within academe, with my specialisation being on research development, research dissemination and academic publishing, so coming to the University feels a lot like home. It's my previous role, which was to build and foster third stream income success in African universities through resources, tools and networks, which has best prepared me for my new challenge.

Any specific projects that you would like to focus on?

There are a few things that I would like to focus on. I'd like the Development Office to find every opportunity for more corporates, foundations, and individuals to make a difference in our students' lives through bursaries, fellowships and awards. I'd like to improve how we engage with our existing funders. Stewardship is more than diligent monitoring of the way in which a person's donation is invested or used. Donors invest in our university and we are accountable for their "return on investment".

Tell us about your academic journey.

I did my undergraduate studies at UCT, my LLB at Rhodes, and graduated with an LLM from the University of Edinburgh.

Investment expert

The investment expert and business leader, Prof Niel Krige, is to strengthen the fundraising initiatives of Stellenbosch University. Krige, of the Stellenbosch University Business School (USB), has been appointed as Chairperson of SU's Development Office.



Krige will assist Prof Wim de Villiers, SU's new Rector and Vice-Chancellor, with special fundraising initiatives.

He has been involved in the financial services sector for 30 years, among others as Managing Director and Deputy Chairperson of Momentum Life. In 2003, he joined the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences at SU. He was also responsible for the establishment of the Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Planning. At the USB, Krige presents courses in Portfolio Management and International Finance.

How do you see the Development Office's role in the University's 2018 centenary celebrations?

The Centenary presents a great milestone in the life of the university and these celebrations provide us with ample opportunities for co-ordinated and focused campaigns. My initial thoughts turn to the next generation and how we can enable thousands of young people to consider higher education at SU as part of their future. As someone coming into the Development Office now, it is evident that the HOPE Project was an ambitious campaign, and sought to concentrate and increase fundraising for teaching and learning, research and community interaction at the university. Taking on board the lessons learned, the Centenary represents an opportunity to put a large campaign in place that will culminate in 2018. We hope to start this process in August this year.

News in pictures



Division of Urology

In a ground-breaking operation, a team of pioneering surgeons from SU and Tygerberg Hospital performed the first successful penile transplant in the world. The marathon nine-hour operation, led by Prof André van der Merwe, Head of SU's Division of Urology, was performed on 11 December 2014.



Bonzai Photography

Five African records and seven SA records were broken by athletes from the Maties Para-Sport Club at the SASAPD event in Johannesburg recently. Nine Matie athletes were crowned South African champs. Above Ilse Hayes and Anika Pretorius can be seen in action.



Liesel Koch

The Mechanical Engineering class of 1964 celebrated their 50-year reunion on 27 November 2014. The close-knit group of friends have gathered 12 times over the past five decades. They also handed R10 000 to Prof Hansie Knoetze (left) towards the Engineering Deans Fund. Next to him from left are Martin Petrick, Gerard Marais, Niel Möller, Rudi Stolze, Johan Viljoen, Danie Theron, Hanko Nienaber, Jannie Mostert and Rooies Loedolff.



Adrian Baille-Stewart

Family and friends of the late Rector and Vice-Chancellor of Stellenbosch University, Prof Russel Botman, gathered at Huis Russel Botman House on Human Rights Day, 21 March, to officially open this new senior residence on the Stellenbosch campus.



SSFD

The Stellenbosch Libertas Choir gave a surprise performance at the inauguration of Prof Wim de Villiers. The acclaimed choir, led by Prof Johan de Villiers, performed a selection of some of Prof Wim's favourite songs.

SUPPORT THE SU BURSARY FUND

Our alumni and friends are essential to supporting our mission and can help us make a difference in education – the future of our country.

The SU Bursary fund is our annual giving programme geared towards fostering a philanthropic community in support of student success. This forms part of the enduring vision of research, teaching and learning, and community interaction of Stellenbosch University.

By supporting your alma mater you are investing in the continued excellence of Stellenbosch University as a leading institution of higher learning.

You can play an active role in enabling us to make a difference and be relevant. The Stellenbosch experience will not be possible through education alone – many core programmes depend on donations from alumni and friends of SU.

Should you wish to make a donation to the SU Bursary Fund (and you live in South Africa), do it online here. If you do not reside within the borders of SA, you can still donate via the following links:

I live in
the USA

I live in
the UK

I live
elsewhere

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How does it work?

1. Get a free card online or simply phone 0860 100 445. You can also get a card at any Woolworths store.
2. Nominate Stellenbosch University as your beneficiary.
3. Swipe your card whenever you make a purchase at any partner store (these include Woolworths, Engen Quickshops, Toys R Us, Waltons, Reggie's, kalahari.com, Power24 and many more).
4. The partner will donate a percentage of your purchases to your beneficiary!

For more information visit www.myschool.co.za or send an e-mail to Client Services at cs@myschool.co.za or call 0860 100 445.