



UNIVERSITEIT  
STELLENBOSCH  
UNIVERSITY

# e-Matieland

SUMMER 2015 • #3

## FROM THE ALUMNI OFFICE

In Stellenbosch, as the academic year ends, we look forward to a highlight of the Matieland year; graduation. It's when we celebrate the addition of thousands of new alumni; for the University, it brings to a close the development of a cadre of young people who will spread their career wings and begin a whole new journey.

We know that Maties do well in the world. In this issue, we reflect on the successes of some Maties, among them Jan du Plessis, Chairman of SABMiller and Rio Tinto; Maties Parasport athlete Ilse Hayes, whose incredible achievements in 2015 earned her the title of Sportswoman of the Year with a disability; and our own Prof Mohammad Karaan who has been reappointed to the National Planning Commission.

The holidays are near, so we wish you all the best with the last few weeks of work, and a happy, healthy and safe festive season. We'll speak again in 2016. May it be a brilliant year for us all.



Stellenbosch University  
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# NEWS in short

## Prof Botman 'lived for tomorrow's children'

The late Prof Russel Botman, our former Rector and Vice-Chancellor, cared about the future of the coming generation, about the challenge what we should do now so that "the generation to whom the future belongs" would be able to live – in a better world. These were the words of Prof Dirkie Smit, distinguished professor in SU's Faculty of Theology, at the first public lecture presented in honour of Prof Botman's birthday on 18 October.



This annual Memorial lecture was presented by the Faculty of Theology, the Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology and the curatoria of the Dutch Reformed Church and the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa. Prof Smit delivered the keynote address with the title: "Making History for the Coming Generation – On the Theological Logic of Russel Botman's Commitment to Transformation". Prof Smit said that Prof Botman showed an often surprising appreciation and respect for the complexity of life – among others the complexity of people, their biographies, personalities,

Thanks to generous contributions from donors, the Russel Botman Bursary Fund has gone from strength to strength since 2013. This Fund, which was established on his 60th birthday on 18 October 2013, is the ideal way to keep Prof Botman's legacy alive and gives each one of us the opportunity to help make his dream of creating a better future for the next generation, a reality. To make a contribution, 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.

backgrounds, motivations, and actions; the complexity of conversations, meetings, encounters, occasions, and their tensions and possibilities; the complexity of groups and interactions, of social and public life, of politics and power; the complexity of reality, of the world in which we live with its opportunities and challenges.

## SU to honour foremost thought leaders

The academic, poet and playwright, Prof Adam Small, and the space scientist, Dr Japie van Zyl, who played a leadership role in the successful Curiosity mission to Mars in 2012, are among the latest group of recipients of honorary degrees from Stellenbosch University. The other recipients are the award-winning psychologist and Nobel prize recipient, Prof Daniel Kahneman; the statistician-general, Mr Pali Lehohla; the veteran political economist and legendary academic, Prof Sampie Terreblanche; the academic, jurist, campaigner for human rights and judge of the Constitutional Court, Judge Edwin Cameron; and the internationally renowned jurist, campaigner for women's rights and gender equality and also judge of the Constitutional Court, Judge Kate O'Regan. Every year, SU awards honorary degrees.



## Events

10 December  
Alumni Class Day  
(13:00 to 16:00)  
Contact:  
Ronel Beukes on  
021 808 3404

26 January 2016  
Convocation meeting  
Contact:  
alumni@sun.ac.za

5-7 February 2016  
Stellenbosch Wine  
Festival  
www.stellenboschwinefestival.co.za

4-7 March 2016  
Maties Homecoming and  
Family Weekend  
Contact:  
alumni@sun.ac.za





## First MOOC for SU

Stellenbosch University will present its first free and open online course (also known as a MOOC – Massive Open Online Course) in 2016. An announcement of a partnership with FutureLearn, one of the world's foremost social learning platforms, was made at the 26th International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE) World Conference.

The four week course, around the theme of the African Philosophy of Education, is expected to go live in early 2016. Conversations will be sparked by short pre-recorded videos, articles, activities, course readings and assessments which make up the course. The course

will also be characterised by FutureLearn's distinctive approach to learning through conversation, with learners around the world able to interact with each other and the experts leading the course. "The partnership with FutureLearn will strengthen SU's standing as a world renowned research institution and will afford the University the opportunity to enhance teaching and learning initiatives by sharing courses on a worldwide platform and expand its footprint internationally by offering a free MOOC that will be accessible to all," says Dr Antoinette van der Merwe, Senior Director: Learning and Teaching Enhancement at SU.

## Bursary fund to honour Prof Ron Sanderson



The late Prof Ron Sanderson's legacy will be honoured in the form of a bursary fund for honours students in polymer science.

Prof Sanderson was appointed in the Department of Chemistry in 1970. At the time he was the only polymer scientist in South Africa and the discipline was virtually non-existent as an academic field in Africa.

Over the next 40 years he did ground-breaking work to establish polymer science as a research and teaching discipline at SU. Prof Sanderson passed away in August.

• If you would like to contribute to this fund, contact Prof AJ van Reenen (ajvr@sun.ac.za) or Prof PE Mallon (pemallon@sun.ac.za) for more information.

# NEWS in short

## SRC picks outstanding alumnus

### Prof Jimmy Volmink reappointed as Dean



Prof Jimmy Volmink has been reappointed for a further five year term as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine

and Health Sciences (FMHS). Prof Volmink's second term will commence on 1 January 2016. "My vision is that Stellenbosch University's FMHS will become the leading health sciences institution on the African continent, in terms of the quality of graduates it produces and the impact these graduates have on science and society. It is a singular honour for me to lead the FMHS as Dean for a second term, and to contribute to the realisation of this vision," Prof Volmink says.



The Student Representative Council has bestowed its yearly Award for Outstanding Alumni on Dr Clarence Tshitereke. He is Director in the Office of the Vice Chancellor and Principal at the University of Venda. Dr Tshitereke also worked for the South African Government in senior management in The Presidency as Director: International Relations and Trade.

[Click here to watch the video](#)



## USB ranked in Top 3 in Africa

For the eighth consecutive year, the University of Stellenbosch Business School (USB) was ranked as one of the top three excellent business schools in Africa. This was as part of the 2015 Eduniversal global survey. The rankings are the result of voting by deans of business schools around the world, based on a list of criteria.

"The fact that such a large proportion of business school deans around the globe rated USB so highly fills us with humility

and gratitude," USB director Piet Naudé said.



# Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert's legacy accessible to all

A collection of over 4000 items belonging to the late Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, giving tremendous insight into the mind of a man that is often described as one of the creators of our democracy, is now accessible to the public at the JS Gericke Library. The collection, which includes correspondence, parliamentary and extra-parliamentary speeches, lectures, articles and documents reflecting Dr Slabbert's involvement with government legislation and

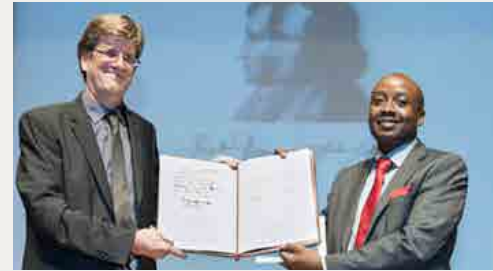
resistance movements, both as leader of the opposition and personally, was donated to Stellenbosch University by the Slabbert family in 2014 and has been catalogued by Ms Hanna Botha, former head of special collections at SU.



[Click here to watch the video](#)



## Top honour for PhD graduate



Dr James Meja Ikobwa, a doctoral graduate of the Graduate School of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, has become the first academic in Africa to receive the Jacob und Wilhelm-Grimm-Förderpreis from the German Academic Exchange Service (better known as DAAD). The award is the "highest recognition in international German Studies" for young academics.

"Winning the Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm Incentive Prize just two years after receiving my PhD from Stellenbosch University is by far the highest point of my young career and at the same time a humbling experience knowing that whatever one does and does well, counts and has a profound impact that one may not be aware of," said an excited Ikobwa.

Ikobwa won the prize based on the quality and relevance of his PhD thesis, academic publications and his promotion of the German language in Kenya and East Africa.

## Excellence in TB research rewarded

Dr Adrie Bekker, a neonatologist and TB researcher, has been recognised for her innovative research, which has provided the first ever pharmacokinetic data to inform dosing guidelines for a specific antituberculosis drug in young infants. Bekker was awarded the HD Brede Award for Tuberculosis Research 2015 at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences' (FMHS) Annual Academic Day. She has been a consultant in the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health since 2007 and enrolled for her PhD in 2013. Her research is focused on the prevention and treatment of perinatal and infant tuberculosis within the context of HIV, with a special interest in pharmacokinetic studies.



Dr Adrie Bekker (right)



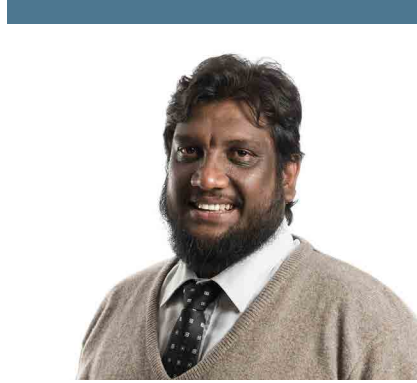
# News in pictures



The feasibility of concentrated solar power (CSP) as a realistic, cost-effective and clean alternative to fossil fuels has received a major boost with the launch of a pilot CSP facility, demonstrating a new solar collector system.  
(Photo: Stefan Els)



On the eve of Heritage Day, Stellenbosch University's Division for Social Impact celebrated the 80th anniversary of Lückhoff Senior Secondary School along with learners as well as current and former teachers. The original school building in Banhoek Road currently houses the Division of Social Impact and other community projects.  
(Photo: Stefan Els)



President Jacob Zuma has reappointed SU's Prof Mohammad Karaan as a member of the National Planning Commission in the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. His appointment is for a period of five years.  
(Photo: Werner Roux)



Dr Trevor Manuel delivered a prestige lecture at the Stellenbosch University Museum. The lecture, titled *Youth employment and entrepreneurship: Moulding our Heritage*, formed part of the Stellenbosch Heritage project's 2015 programme.  
(Photo: Anton Jordaan)



SU's Botanical Garden has launched the multilingual Garden Explorer-webpage. This explorer enables visitors to use their mobile devices to locate plants in the garden and get more information about those species.  
(Photo: Justin Alberts)

[Click here for the Garden Explorer](#)



[Click here to watch the video](#)





# At the forefront

*Over the years, many alumni of Stellenbosch University have used their skills and expertise to rise to the top and to become leaders in their respective fields.*

Among them is Jan du Plessis, Chairman of major brewing and beverage multinational company, SABMiller, and Rio Tinto, the second biggest mining group in the world. A world-renowned business leader, Du Plessis was instrumental in the recent SABMiller/AB InBev deal which made international headlines and was described as the beer merger of the decade and one of the largest deals in history.

While being involved in such major transactions may be quite daunting for some, Du Plessis took it all in his stride.

"When a company receives a takeover approach like the one we had to deal with, it is almost certainly the most demanding challenge a chairman will ever face," says Du Plessis.



"However, my training and professional experience have given me the confidence to lead the commercial negotiations in relation to the proposed transaction and I believe shareholders are very pleased with the outcome."

Having mastered the art of traversing two senior positions, Du Plessis manages to offer leadership and support to the board of

## Jan du Plessis

directors and the Chief Executive. He pays tribute to the team of smart and dedicated people who support him as he deals with the challenges of being Chairman of two major multinational companies.

Du Plessis loves his work and says it exposes him to challenging problems on a regular basis and allows him to meet interesting people from whom he continues to learn new things all the time.

Leading two major companies is challenging but that doesn't mean that it's just all hard work and no play for Du Plessis. He does find time to relax and says the secret is to leave your worries at work.

"I have always been disciplined in taking regular holidays, and the highlight of my

year is spending up to three weeks over Christmas with my family at our holiday home in the Garden Route. I also try to get regular exercise and am a great rugby follower – for example finding time to go to many of the games during the recent World Cup."

Asked about his fondest memories of his days as a Matie, Du Plessis mentions falling in love and dating, going to "koshuis" rugby on a Friday afternoon, organising "Karnival" as Chairman of the 1977 Carnival Committee, and arguing about politics until the early hours of the morning.

Now in his early sixties, Du Plessis says he would like to work for another 10 years, or at least for as long as he thinks he can be useful to organisations.



# All along the wine route

Stellenbosch University's Welgevallen Wine Cellar is hidden between Coetzenburg and Paul Roos Gymnasium. It is a professional wine cellar that can compete with the best in the region and that produces prize-winning wines.

## WELCOME TO WELGEVALLEN:

Welgevallen Wine Cellar was opened in 2001. Before 2008 it was decided to produce a University wine, since SU is the only university that offers Viticulture and Oenology as subjects. The first vintage Pinotage produced specifically for this purpose was in 2008, and the wine was released in 2009. It was made, among others, from SU's own show Pinotage vineyard that produces sought-after grapes of a high quality. Since then the list of wines has grown to nine. The cellar was initially built as a training and research cellar, but as a result of the scale of its equipment now produces wine on a commercial scale. Students are given exposure through demonstrations and practical work at harvest time.

## CELLAR MASTER AND WINEMAKER:

Riaan Wassüing is the head of the cellar. He has been involved in the Welgevallen Cellar since 2004 and studied Viticulture and Oenology at SU.



## THE VINEYARDS:

The vineyards are located in the area of the Welgevallen Experimental Farm, and also close to Paul Roos Gymnasium. Christopher Williams (back) and Hendrik September are busy with summer pruning in the Sauvignon Blanc vineyard. September says it is important to remove the unnecessary shoots and leaves so that the vineyard can get enough sun to grow correctly. This has an influence on the quality of the grapes and that of the wine. There also is a student vineyard that contains all the different cultivars that are cultivated in South Africa, as well as the Pinotage wagon-wheel research vineyard.



## THE CELLAR:

William Smith is the general cellar assistant and is involved in all the processes in the cellar. Harvest is the most important and busiest time of the year and is when the grapes are processed into wine (January to April). After harvesting, post-fermentation activities take place, such as racking, blending, fining and preparing for bottling. Bottling, labelling and sales take place throughout the year.



## VATS FULL OF WINE:

The cellar contains more than 100 vats that vary in size from 225 to 300 litres. It receives a number of sponsored vats, valued at R10 000 each, from a variety of coopers every year. In order to expose the students to the influence of different types of wooden vats on the sensory effect of wine, wine is made from the University's show Pinotage vineyard every year and aged in different vats for a period of 12 to 16 months. After this period the wines from the different vats are tasted against one another in a blind tasting in the presence of the providers of the vats. Because vats are very expensive, this would not have been possible without the donations. After the tasting, the wines from the different vats are blended to become *Die Laan Pinotage*.



• **WINE TASTING:** The wines can be tasted and bought by SU staff and members of the public at the cellar. The cellar's tasting venue is open on weekdays from 08:30 to 16:30.

• Click here for orders

• A class of 2015 wine is being produced especially for this year's graduation ceremonies. If you would like to order a bottle or two in memory of your years of study, please contact the cellar manager, Riaan Wassüing, in advance at [winesales@sun.ac.za](mailto:winesales@sun.ac.za). The wine will also be on sale at the cellar during graduation week.



(Photos: Stefan Els)



# **MATIES** crowned *world champs* in Doha

Three Maties Parasport Club members were crowned world champions at the IPC Athletics World Championships in Doha in October and the group returned home with 13 medals – four gold, six silver and three bronze.

For athlete Ilse Hayes it was a huge privilege to stand on the winners' podium and sing the national anthem twice. She won the 100m and 200m events in class T13.

"I feel very blessed and unbelievably grateful, especially given the fact that I picked up an injury two months ago." She had to withdraw from the Africa Games in September as a result of this injury. Anruné Liebenberg, Ilse's roommate in Doha, was overwhelmed when she won her first gold medal at a world championship with a victory in the 400m (T47). She followed this performance with a bronze medal in the 200m and fourth place in the 100m. On the field Maties Parasport's Reinhardt Hamman held South Africa's name high with gold in the javelin event (T38) and silver in shot put.



Ilse Hayes celebrates winning gold in the women's 200m T13 final at the IPC Athletics World Championships. (Photo: Francois Nel/Getty Images)

Five other Maties also came away with medals.

Arnu Fourie achieved second place and set an African record in one of the showcase events of the competition: the 100m in class T44. This race was won by the American Richard Browne in a world record time of 10.61.

Dyan Buis ended his season with two silver medals in the long jump and 200m (T38) respectively while Fanie van der Merwe had to wait until the last day of the competition to win his silver medal in the 100m (T37). He also won a bronze medal in the 200m.

Other medal winners were Charl du Toit (silver in the 400m (T37) and Zanele Situ (bronze in the javelin (F54). Dr Suzanne Ferreira, coach

of the track athletes, said she is very proud of how the athletes adjusted to conditions (it was very hot), their professional approach and the character they exhibited. "They are unbelievable ambassadors. Their frame of mind was positive and they supported and motivated each other.



Maties Parasport's Arnu Fourie took silver in the men's 100m T44 final at the IPC Athletics World Championships. Richard Browne of the United States won gold while Alan Oliveira of Brazil won bronze. (Photo: Francois Nel/Getty Images)

It was a privilege to be part of this team spirit. "Personally I am very positive about Rio 2016 after Doha. However, we cannot rest on our laurels and will have to think about what worked and what still needs to be worked on." Field coach Karin le Roux also commented on the positive team spirit.

"We can be proud of every athlete that took part. They gave their all. "We are going to try and hold on to the positive energy and use it as a foundation for our preparation for Rio 2016."





# Celebrate **graduation day** in the heart of Stellenbosch



Graduation Day has almost arrived. It's hard to imagine that in a few short weeks another group of Maties will be closing this chapter of their lives and moving on into their chosen future. It's an auspicious occasion.

Oude Werf is as much a part of the heart of Stellenbosch as the university itself. As the oldest hotel in South Africa it has stood in watchful silence for over four centuries and is the ideal place to enjoy your own historic moment.

To celebrate the end of one journey and the beginning of another, Oude Werf Hotel – right in the heart of Stellenbosch – is offering a special graduation dinner and lunch, specifically designed for university families and their hero of the hour.

Enjoy a mouth-watering lunch at either R245 per person for the three-course menu, or R215 for the two-course. Or take your celebrations into the evening with a three-course dinner at R315 per person.

Please do take a look at the delicious menus



[Click here to tour Oude Werf Hotel](#)







# #MatiesMustNotFall

**P**ectora roborant cultus recti is the Stellenbosch University motto. 'n Goeie opvoeding versterk die karakter. A sound education strengthens the spirit. We know from experience that education transforms, exalts, empowers; we know this from the collective wisdom of humankind through the ages. There isn't another way out. If we care about this country and all of its people, then education is the answer. The budget constraint on the University is, however, a reality that we cannot wish away. It is a challenge faced by universities across the country and the world. But the recent #FeesMustFall nationwide campaign served to highlight how our students struggle to achieve their goals and dream of higher education, and all that a degree promises. We experience the need every day here at Stellenbosch University:

- The young woman from Limpopo who carries on with her studies even though she only sees her family, who survive on state subsidies, once a year;
- The young man from Bonteheuwel who lives with his

parents, who are unemployed, and only eats once a day, but who spends four hours commuting to university each day by train because he really wants a better future;

- The young woman from Randburg whose father abandoned their family years ago and doesn't pay maintenance, but she promised her mother, who is the caretaker at an apartment block, that she'd create a better future for them all.

These are the young South Africans who benefit from your gift to the University. There are many reasons you may choose to help our students. Perhaps you're a proud alumnus who wants to give back to your alma mater, Matie to Matie; or perhaps you're a Matie parent who wants to donate the 11.5% discount on 2016 fees that this campaign afforded you. Many students are calling for the reduction or total abolishment of fees across the board, but the real need is among our poor students. It is ironic that reducing student fees will benefit wealthy South Africans more than poor South Africans.

Your donation, no matter how small can change a life. You can help current students receive an excellent education at Stellenbosch University. A gift of any size to the SU Bursary Fund goes directly to support students. Your gift is a vote of confidence that demonstrates your belief in the work that we do and the students who now study here. And you get a tax certificate to offset your donation against your tax.

**No matter how big or small, your participation is what matters!**  
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