

# Matieland

S  
100  
1918-2018

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**THEN AND NOW**  
100 YEARS OF MATIES

FORWARD TOGETHER | MASIYE PHAMBILI | SAAM VORENTOE

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# Matieland

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## COMMEMORATING A CENTURY

One hundred years is a long time. But at the same time, it's also fleeting. A century ago, on 2 April 1918, Stellenbosch University (SU) was officially founded and became a full-fledged university. Since then, generations of students have equipped themselves with skills and knowledge, and for the past 100 years they have been making a significant impact on South African society, in a variety of ways.

SU commemorates its Centenary this year with the slogan "100 years of learning, growing and moving forward together". For the University, the past century has indeed been steeped in learning curves and growing pains, but valuable lessons have been learned through successes and hardships.

In this special Centenary issue of *Matieland*, we give you insight into the University's history and future. Over the past 100 years, SU has developed and grown in various fields – in academia and student life – transforming it into the institution it is today.

But 2018 isn't just a chance to look back into the past; more importantly, it creates an opportunity to look ahead, to see how we as Maties – past, present and future – can embark on a journey together.

Stellenbosch University enters this new century with a vision and strategy to become one of the leading research-intensive universities in Africa. It is a place of inclusivity and innovation, where knowledge is used to serve society.

I hope you enjoy this special issue. Let's tackle the next hundred years together!

Wayne

# Matieland

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# FORWARD TOGETHER

Where do we come from? Where are we now? And where are we going? With the commemoration of SU's Centenary in 2018, it is natural for us to ask these questions of ourselves, writes **PROF WIM DE VILLIERS**, Rector and Vice-Chancellor.

**M**aties excel in many spheres. Once again, we awarded a record number of qualifications over the past academic year, are maintaining high research outputs and making a deep impact on society. We are faring well on international rankings and experiencing relative stability despite the turbulence in higher education over the past few years. And, in respect of our sustainability as an institution, it is reassuring that our budget balances and that our facilities are well managed.

For these achievements, the entire Stellenbosch University (SU) community deserves recognition: staff members, students, alumni, donors and friends of SU. Due to the hard work and sacrifices by all, we take pride in being able to say that Maties is a higher education institution to be reckoned with.

## WHERE DO WE COME FROM?

And so it has been over the past century since the official founding of the University in 1918. We thank all those who have helped to shape this institution and to establish its reputation as a world-class academic institution. We are not, however, blind to our mistakes. In the context of our country's divided history, SU acknowledges its complicity in the injustices of the past. This, we deeply regret. We apologise to those whom we disadvantaged and whom we excluded from the privileges that we had enjoyed.

I welcome the fact that, in the year 2000 already, SU admitted to its involvement in these injustices and made a commitment to redress and development. In our Centenary year, we also pay tribute to the critical voices in our own ranks who took a stand and remained true to their principles, no

matter how difficult.

Reference is frequently made to the justifications of apartheid, at the time, and the fundamental contributions to policy documents of the then regime by Stellenbosch academics of those times and to the numerous former political leaders who studied here. This is indeed part of the picture – but there were also progressive voices against apartheid here, such as those of Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert, Beyers Naudé, Johan Degenaar and many others, who questioned the injustices and helped to look for common ground.

## WHERE ARE WE NOW?

SU has grown into a leading higher education institution that makes an essential contribution to human development in our country, Africa and in the rest of the world. This we do by reaching outward inclusively, not by looking inward exclusively.

Maties began as a “university for the people”. This was the idea for which Stellenbosch stood then – upliftment through higher education – but only for some, not for all. It was clearly too narrow a view. In so saying, however, it does not mean that we stand opposed to Afrikaans. It is, after all, one of our languages of instruction – but for substantive reasons of pedagogy, not for inflammatory reasons of ideology or ethnic identity. SU is committed to multilingualism. There is still a great need and demand for teaching in Afrikaans; this is why we continue our offering in Afrikaans. And by also using English as a language of instruction, we ensure that the University is accessible to more people.

We continue to strive for greater diversity in the composition of both our staff complement and our student body. We work hard to ensure that

our institutional culture becomes increasingly welcoming. And we are constantly renewing our academic offering to remain relevant.

## WHERE ARE WE GOING?

SU's current directional framework – our Institutional Intent and Strategy – comes to an end this year and already we are working hard to build a new framework. (Read more about this on page 28.) Final proposals were submitted to Council but there is already a great measure of unanimity in SU about the following points:

- We want to be a world-class university both in and for Africa, an institution with an unimpeachable reputation serving the whole of society with innovative knowledge that is interdisciplinary and cooperative.
- We want to help find solutions to the problems within our society and we want to advance entrepreneurship.
- We want to build strong partnerships, but at the same time we want to safeguard our academic freedom.
- We want to be a place where people want to come and work and study and do not want to leave – because we look after our people.
- We want to work with this earth with care and we want to protect the environment.
- And, because we want to do these things far into the future, we want to remain sustainable yet independent.

Our Centenary year is the ideal opportunity to look back on the journey that has brought us to where we are now and to look ahead to the road we have yet to walk. SU's motto remains relevant: *Pectora roborant cultus recti* – A good education strengthens the spirit. Truly a historic moment – that is what 2018 means to us. Let's seize this and go forward, together.

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**100 YEARS  
OF LEARNING  
AND GROWING**

# BUILDING STELLENBOSCH

The development of buildings over a century on the Stellenbosch campus relates the story of an innovative and future-focused university. This map shows how Stellenbosch University has expanded over the years.

**T**he map on the opposite page illustrates how Stellenbosch University (SU) has developed since the first building was erected in 1886, growing into the modern place it is today.

- |                                                       |                                                              |                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 1886 Ou Hoofgebou                                   | 34 1952 Lydia                                                | 74 1978 Conservatoire                                                |
| 2 1898 Hollandse Saal                                 | 35 1954 Food Sciences                                        | 75 1979 Danie Craven Stadion                                         |
| 3 1900 CL Marais Library                              | 36 1955 Simonsberg                                           | 76 1979 Waldenhof                                                    |
| 4 1903 Wilgenhof                                      | 37 1957 Mike de Vries Building                               | 77 1980 Campus Security                                              |
| 5 1907 Harmonie                                       | 38 1957 JC Smuts – Biological Sciences                       | 78 1980 Arts and Social Sciences Building                            |
| 6 1913 Industrial Psychology – Old Education Building | 39 1958 Chemistry                                            | 79 1980 Sport Science                                                |
| 7 1916 Science                                        | 40 1958 Minerva                                              | 80 1982 Polymer Science                                              |
| 8 1920 Dagbreek                                       | 41 1959 Waldenhuis                                           | 81 1982 Al Perold Building                                           |
| 9 1920 Crozier House                                  | 42 1960 Van der Sterr Building                               | 82 1984 JS Gericke Library                                           |
| 10 1923 De Beers Building                             | 43 1960 Maties Sport                                         | 83 1985 Maties Community Services, SU Vehicle Pool, Legal Aid Clinic |
| 11 1925 JH Neethling Building                         | 44 1961 Eendrag                                              | 84 1985 Heidehof Rugby Field                                         |
| 12 1926 Monica                                        | 45 1963 Inorganic Building                                   | 85 1985 Goldfields                                                   |
| 13 1926 Welgevallen Experimental Farm                 | 46 1963 Chamber of Mines building for Geology and Geophysics | 86 1986 University Museum                                            |
| 14 1928 Residence Tennis Courts                       | 47 1963 Theological Seminary                                 | 87 1986 House MacDonald                                              |
| 15 1931 Coetzenburg Athletics Stadium                 | 48 1963 Irene                                                | 88 1986 Lobelia                                                      |
| 16 1932 Administration Block B                        | 49 1964 Paul Sauer Building for Forestry                     | 89 1998 Concordia                                                    |
| 17 1933 Administration Block C                        | 50 1964 Purchasing and Provision Services                    | 90 2000 Academia                                                     |
| 18 1934 Old Conservatoire                             | 51 1964 Majuba                                               | 91 2000 Mostertsdrift (STIAS)                                        |
| 19 1934 Bureau for Economic Research                  | 52 1965 RW Wilcocks Building                                 | 92 2000 JC Smuts: Postgraduate                                       |
| 20 1937 Huis ten Bosch                                | 53 1965 Campus Health Services                               | 93 2000 JC Smuts: Study Facility                                     |
| 21 1938 Administration Block A                        | 54 1966 Engineering Faculty                                  | 94 2002 Welgevallen Wine Cellar                                      |
| 22 1938 Sonop (House Van Niekerk)                     | 55 1966 HB Thom Theatre                                      | 95 2006 Metanoia                                                     |
| 23 1940 Swimming pool                                 | 56 1966 Crozierhof                                           | 96 2006 Insectarium                                                  |
| 24 1940 Merensky Building for Physics                 | 57 1966 Heemstede                                            | 97 2006 House Neethling                                              |
| 25 1941 Sport Science Building                        | 58 1968 Nerina                                               | 98 2007 Wallenberg Research Centre                                   |
| 26 1941 House De Villiers                             | 59 1969 SU Art Gallery                                       | 99 2010 Engineering Knowledge Centre                                 |
| 27 1946 House Marais                                  | 60 1970 GG Cillié Building for Education                     | 100 2011 Facilities Management                                       |
| 28 1946 Helderberg                                    | 61 1971 Lombardi                                             | 101 2011 Africa Centre for HIV and AIDS Management                   |
| 29 1947 Visual Arts                                   | 62 1971 House Neethling                                      | 102 2012 Stag Stellenbosch                                           |
| 30 1949 Accounting and Stats Building                 | 63 1972 Student Services                                     | 103 2014 New Generation Residence                                    |
| 31 1949 Paul van der Bijl Laboratory                  | 64 1973 Old Mutual Sports Centre                             | 104 2014 Listen, Live and Learn Complex                              |
| 32 1949 House Visser                                  | 65 1973 Helshoogte                                           | 105 2014 Russel Botman House                                         |
| 33 1952 JS Marais building for Agriscience            | 66 1973 Information Technology                               | 106 2014 Information Technology                                      |
|                                                       | 67 1974 IT Student Help Centre                               | 107 2017 Natural Sciences Glass House 2                              |
|                                                       | 68 1974 Coetzenburg Centre                                   |                                                                      |
|                                                       | 69 1975 Langenhoven Student Centre (Neelsie)                 |                                                                      |
|                                                       | 70 1975 Erica                                                |                                                                      |
|                                                       | 71 1976 Nemesia / Nemesia                                    |                                                                      |
|                                                       | 72 1977 CGW Schumann                                         |                                                                      |
|                                                       | 73 1977 Serruria                                             |                                                                      |

Date refers to the year in which SU took ownership of the building.



# SLEUTEL / KEY

Victoria College	1969-1978
1918-1928	1979-1988
1929-1938	1989-1998
1939-1948	1999-2008
1949-1958	2009-2018
1959-1968	



The sports field in front of the Science Building, where the "Rooiplein" is today.

# BEGINNINGS OF A UNIVERSITY

It was a confluence of events that gave rise to the establishment of Stellenbosch University in 1918.

By **FRIEDA LE ROUX**

**W**ith 1 April 1918 falling on an Easter Monday, Stellenbosch University (SU) started its activities on 2 April 1918. Although the University Act at the time provided for the establishment of six faculties or

divisions, it was the faculties of Arts, Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Agriculture and Education that started teaching activities on that day. Law and Music would only come later.

Stellenbosch Gymnasium had been teaching students since 1866,

undergoing a name change in 1887 to Victoria College, in honour of the queen of England. Over time, a need for an educational university had developed and there was initial talk of Victoria College foregoing its matriculants to the University of the Cape of Good

## 1918

As previously determined by government, SU commenced its operations as a university with four faculties on the "determined date" of Tuesday 2 April 1918.

**\*This timeline, which goes up to page 29, consists only of some highlights in SU's history. For more highlights, visit [www.sun.ac.za/100](http://www.sun.ac.za/100).**

## 1919

A lecturer in Education, Prof GG Cillié, became the first rector. As is still the case today, the rector of SU is also chairman of the SU Senate.

## 1919

SU's first graduation ceremony took place in April – the first time ever for Stellenbosch students to be awarded their qualifications here. Previously, the qualifications of everyone who finished their studies at Victoria College were awarded by the University of the Cape of Good Hope.

Hope. (The University of the Cape of Good Hope was the precursor to the University of South Africa, and should not be confused with the University of Cape Town, the precursor to which was the South African College, and which came into being in the same year as SU).

By 1900, it had become clear that Victoria College had grown beyond its initial mandate and the need for an institution where research and practical and theoretical teaching could be offered was acknowledged.

Round about 1908, Sir Julius Wernher and Mr Otto Beit made a sizeable donation to the Department of Education to bring about an educational university. Prof J Edgar of the South African College proposed that students of both English and Afrikaans/Dutch heritage be taught alongside one another, which would, according to him, also teach them to work together.

Victoria College opposed this proposal and expressed its opposition in a memorandum, which argued, in short, that equal or even better opportunities for the Afrikaner were non-negotiable. Strong support for the memorandum led the government of the day to appoint the Laurence Commission in November 1913 to investigate the issue.

Under the leadership of Sir Percival Laurence, various colleges in the Union were visited and studied. Despite a



The "Rooiplein" as it looks today, with the Science Building in the background.

very convincing submission by the Council and Senate of Victoria College, however, the Laurence Commission proposed that the University of the Cape of Good Hope be recognised as the university for the south of the country and that Victoria College serve as a source of students for this university. A similar proposal was made for the north of the country.

Again, voices of dissent arose but, especially with the outbreak of World War I, these were drowned out and the issue was moved to the back burner.

In February 1915, the Council of Victoria College accepted a proposal to demand a charter from the "competent authorities" in terms of which the College could reach its "natural destination as a dedicated Dutch-Afrikaans university". A month later, the Council of the South African College too drew up a manifesto to

become a university. At more or less the same time, Jannie Marais of Coetzenburg bequeathed £100 000 to Victoria College.

The issue of two southern universities was again raised with the Minister of Education. Eventually, in 1916, Act 13 of 1916 was enacted, which opened the way for Victoria College to become what is now known as Stellenbosch University.

Subsequently the university acts, statutes and regulations were drawn up and, on the Tuesday morning of 2 April 1918, Stellenbosch University – together with the University of Cape Town and the University of South Africa – came into being.

"Victoria College is no more, but in its stead is the University of Stellenbosch," read an announcement in the *Universiteitsblad/University Magazine* of 1918.

## 1920

A Faculty of Theology was established, bringing the total number of SU faculties to six. The Seminary (established in 1859) still existed separately from this faculty, but in close collaboration with SU. In 1963, the Seminary in its entirety joined this SU faculty in its entirety.

## 1922

Dr Lydia van Niekerk became the first woman to be appointed as professor at SU, in Dutch. No woman had ever before, even at Victoria College and its predecessors, held such a position. The women's residence Lydia was named after her.

## 1925

The Faculty of Commerce (now Economic and Management Sciences) was established with CGW Schumann already appointed as lecturer in commercial sciences in 1924. With more than 8 500 students, this is the largest SU faculty today.

# MOUNTING ADMIN...

From five staff members in a single office to three buildings filled with staff – this is how the administration of Stellenbosch University has grown over 100 years.

By **FRIEDA LE ROUX**



The first administration building.

Only two residential universities in the country, Stellenbosch and Natal, initially had an electronic computer that was used for accountancy. This big investment in technology was made by Stellenbosch University (SU) in 1965, with the realisation that numbers at the University would continue to grow for the foreseeable future.

It was a big step for an institution that, barely 50 years previously, had only five administrative staff members – with a single accountancy clerk. Together with the registrar, assistant

registrar, a typist and an additional clerk, they worked in a single room, left of the entrance hall in the CL Marais Library. Soon, however, this space became too small and, in 1921, with the purchase of a property in Crozier Street, the administrative office moved to these new premises.

Now there was an office for the chairperson of the Senate (right of the entrance), the registrar and assistant registrar (both left of the entrance), a big general office, as well as offices for the typist and the clerk of the registrar.

Barely five years later, however, the administrative corps again threatened

to burst at the seams and, in 1929, work on a dedicated building in Victoria Street was started.

The administrative staff of the Stellenbosch-Elsenburg Agricultural College was also housed here.

In 1965, the SU's current expenditure ran to about R2,75 million. Of this amount, the State contributed about R2 million, while the rest came from, among others, class fees, interest on investments and annual allocations from external bodies.

The State also contributed to the erection of new buildings by paying 40% of the interest and the

## 1932

**SU's first fully fledged administration building was commissioned – a building of two storeys in Victoria Street, now the Admin B Building, which has since been accommodating among others the Rector's Office. More storeys were added by 1960.**

## 1933

The new Domestic Sciences Building (now the Admin C Building) was formally opened, after the SU women's society had also been raising funds for this since 1921.

## 1934

Prof RW Wilcocks, a lecturer in Psychology, became rector after the position of Rector (which was abolished in 1926) was re-introduced. As chairman of the Senate he held the position of SU head of management from 1933.

amortisation on the loan.

About 50 years later, in 2016, the University's current expenditure ran to R4 570 000 000! The State contributed about R1 788 000 000, while it no longer contributes to building projects.

Together with the budget, the functions undertaken by the administrative staff have also increased considerably. In addition to the administrative staff in every academic department who ensure the smooth running of day-to-day management, there are now also functions and tasks that did not exist a century – even 50 years – ago. Information technology, for example, is but one of these.

Today's academic institutions furthermore have to be much more proactive in marketing, the management of alumni and intellectual property, human resources, campus security and much more.

The heart of Stellenbosch University's administration now extends over three buildings – Admin A, B and C – located in Victoria Street and Ryneveld Street.



## CONSERVATORY

In terms of the University Act (Act No. 13 of 1916), provision was made for a faculty or department of music at a university, possibly because Stellenbosch already had an established tradition of music.

The origin of this tradition can be traced back to 1884, when Prof FW Jannasch, the first “strong musical personality”, arrived from Germany. In 1900, he established the Greylock Music Academy.

A year after Prof Hans Endler moved to Stellenbosch, he and Jannasch established the South African Conservatory of Music.

After the establishment of

University, Endler motivated for the Conservatory to form part of the University and negotiations to this end formally started in 1932. Two years later, the University Council and Senate recorded the purchase of the South African Conservatory of Music. The price: £6 500 for the site, the building and the furniture.

Jannasch was no longer very active but Endler remained involved full time until his death in 1947.

In 1939, Prof Maria Fismer, part of the staff since 1935, became the first principal of the fully fledged Department of Music.

## 1934

SU took over the SA Conservatorium for music, established in 1905 as a private institution. Over time, this became the current Department of Music. The purchase price of £6 500 included the premises in Neethling Street, the building itself (now known as the Old Conservatory) as well as the furniture.

## 1937

The Department of Physical Education (now Sports Science, Faculty of Education) was established with one lecturer, Dr Ernst Jokl from Germany. This popular field of study (offered at Coetzenburg) quickly attracted hundreds of students and contributed to the recognised Afrikaans word “jokkel” for this field of study.

## 1938

The building for the new Carnegie library was completed at the site where the Pavillion rugby fields were located. This was made possible with donations from former students and the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Since then, this building had been expanded a few times and was the home of the SU library for nearly half a century.



# A NEWSPAPER FOR AND BY STUDENTS

Since its inception in 1941, *Die Matie* has asked the questions that no one else had wanted to ask.

By JACOLETTE KLOPPERS

**D**ie Matie's first edition of 1 August 1941 was headlined, "Student newspaper welcomed".

However, how welcome this new student newspaper of Stellenbosch University (SU) would in fact be, only time would tell. There was indeed a period when the then Rector, Dr RW Wilcocks, was said to have kept his diary free on the Wednesday mornings that *Die Matie* came out because he never knew which fires he would have

to put out once the newspaper hit the streets. One thing he did know, however: sparks would fly.

*Die Matie* has indeed been fearless, creative, challenging, interesting and always in search of the truth – whether the University liked it or not.

*Die Matie* actually started out as a mouthpiece of the Stellenbosch branch of the Afrikaner Nasionale Studentebond (ANS) (Afrikaner National Student League). The Rector, in fact, wrote in an article published on

the front page of the first edition that "the intention is to bring matters in which the ANS has an interest to the attention of the student body" and "to exchange ideas, for and against".

From 1947 to the late 80s, *Die Matie* was published by the Students' Representative Council (SRC), with the words "Under the guardianship of the Students' Representative Council" appearing underneath the masthead. From 1987, those words were replaced by "Independent

1939

The new chancellor was Dr JD Kestell, a clergyman, leader of the people and Bible translator who, among others, had been rector of the Grey University College (later the Free State University).

1941

Dr DF Malan, a former clergyman and newspaper editor who was to become head of state in 1948, became chancellor after the death of Dr Kestell.

1941

A Department of Engineering was established in the then Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (now Sciences), which would culminate in the establishment of the fully fledged Faculty of Engineering in 1942.



mouthpiece of Stellenbosch students” and, since 1998, the words have read “Independent student newspaper of the University of Stellenbosch since 1941”.

It has been said that Stellenbosch has always been way ahead of South Africa but it is *Die Matie* that has always been one step ahead of Stellenbosch. *Die Matie* has been anti-establishment, stubborn, opinionated, fun and different.

*Die Matie* has asked the questions that no one else wanted to ask and insisted on being answered.

From the time that the SRC has had sway over *Die Matie*, feathers have flown and heads have regularly rolled. Editors and senior editorial staff have been fired and expelled; disciplinary hearings and motions of no confidence have been the order of the day. (And there have been groupings that have burned *Die Matie* or stolen editions thinking that this would break the spirit of the editorial team. Which it turns out didn't.)

All this mayhem and mishap have, of course, hit the headlines of the mainstream media. The big newspapers regularly reported on the wrangles between the University fathers and the much-loved and controversial student newspaper. But has the newspaper really been so controversial? No, it has not. But it was indeed deemed to be so in those unsavoury days of repression, censorship, toe the line and shut your mouth – everything that went hand-in-hand with apartheid and Afrikaner nationalism.

Fortunately, the winds of change also blew through Stellenbosch after the democratic transition of 1994. In 1995, in an unprecedented move, the University Council approved the official code of conduct of *Die Matie* – a redoubtable document that still stands today and that still acknowledges and protects *Die Matie* in a very special way.

Apart from journalistic integrity and quality, other values and principles

have characterised *Die Matie* over the 77 years of its existence: a sense of humour, critical thinking, the recording of student life and of history, accountability, challenge to authority, youthful drive, the shifting of boundaries, rebelliousness, no sparing of holy cows, pulling on petticoats that show, democracy, human rights, equality and the seriousness of being not only the best student newspaper in the country but also the best newspaper.

The biggest compliment has surely come from SU staff members. They have been heard to say that when they really want to know what's happening at their employer, they read *Die Matie*. No story within the SU sphere has been too big or too small for *Die Matie*.

May the torch of freedom and justice burn always. Long live *Die Matie*!

• *Jacquette Kloppers, editor of Die Matie in 2001, obtained an MPhil in journalism from SU in 2009, with Die Matie as research topic.*

## 1941

The student newspaper, *Die Matie*, was established. Since its inception, the newspaper had reported on student issues at SU. All the staff members of *Die Matie* are full-time students.

## 1944

The Bureau for Economic Research, SU's oldest research institution, was established.

## 1946

Having been temporarily accommodated in the then “Fysikagebou” (Physics Building) adjacent to the Ou Hoofgebou in Victoria Street, the Faculty of Engineering moved to its new building, the former school building of the current Paul Roos Gimnasium.

# GEARED FOR STUDENT LIFE

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The establishment of the Bureau for Student Guidance in 1958 paved the way for extended services to help students adjust to university life.

By **FRIEDA LE ROUX**



Often, university life is more challenging than new students have thought. For this reason, Stellenbosch University (SU) initiated its first-year system in 1954 to assist first-year students with any problems that they might experience, whether these were study methods, study direction, subject choices or personal adjustment. This highly responsible task was entrusted to the Department of Psychology, under the leadership of Prof JM du Toit.

Within just a few years, however, the need for the service had grown to such an extent that the Bureau for Student Guidance was established in 1958. In 1965, the practice of lecturers from the Department of Psychology also fulfilling tasks related to the Bureau was replaced by a dedicated full-time staff corps of four people.

Today, the Centre for Student Counselling and Development

(CSCD), as it is now known, boasts a complement of 46 full-time staff members.

The Centre focuses on five areas, each managed as a specific unit:

- The Equality Unit works towards collective action against social injustice, which includes discrimination related to HIV/Aids, gender, sexuality and other kinds of anti-discrimination.

- The Unit for Psychotherapeutic and Support Services offers psychotherapy, group intervention and social services to students with psychological, emotional, personal or social needs. The services are free and are available at both the Stellenbosch and Tygerberg campuses. Where necessary, students are referred to a psychiatrist with whom a pro bono agreement has been concluded.

- The Unit for Graduated Career Services supports students in entering the labour market. Their services

include individual career sessions and sessions on how to draw up a CV, how to explore networking opportunities and job hunting methods.

- The Unit for Academic Counselling and Development focuses on academic skills with a view to helping students to develop their full potential.

- The Disability Unit helps with, among others, the development of accessible texts and provides information on and access to technological and academic support.

In 2016, the CSCD introduced the Health One Clinical Database. By collating all information relevant to a specific student at one central point, a more integrated service is envisaged. The database used by SU Campus Health Services is included in the CSCD's health database, which allows these two entities to provide a more streamlined service.

A further goal that the CSCD has set

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## 1955

Historian Prof HB Thom, head of the Department of History, succeeded Prof Wilcocks as rector.

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## 1956

The Faculty of Medicine (now Medicine and Health Sciences) was established, with training initially at the Karl Bremer Hospital in Bellville.

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## 1957

The Bureau for Information was established, among others for fundraising and liaison with former students. In time, it led to the establishment of the Department of Development, as well as the Stellenbosch Foundation.



A photo dating from the 1990s of the staff of the Centre for Student Counselling and Development.

for itself is to wean itself from paper records. Therefore, all the relevant information for a student using the Centre's services for the first time is now collated via a tablet that is linked to the database.

Also, paper files are scanned and loaded onto the database.

The Centre also encompasses a 24/7 crisis centre that provides medical and psychological assistance, with ER24 as the service provider. SU has its own emergency number: 010 205 3032. When students call, identifying themselves as registered SU students,

a profile of their information on the SU system appears on the ER system. Thus the operator can help students much faster, because the relevant addresses (e.g. the student's residence and faculty) and important contact numbers are available immediately.

The Centre then receives a report within 24 hours, which enables it to follow up on incidents where necessary. Statistics gathered in this way are also very useful in decision-making on the support services that SU students require.

The SU Council approved the Policy on Disability Access in March 2018. This coincided with the approval of the Disability Policy Framework for the Post-School Education and Training System, as approved by the Department of Higher Education.

A portfolio for guarding against gender violence was initiated recently. Its primary function is to ensure that proposals set out in the 2017 SU EndRapeCulture report are implemented and that strategic relations are built with all partners within the University.

## 1957

The Bureau for Information published the first edition of *Matieland*, a publication for alumni, a decade after the termination of *Die Stellenbosse Oudstudent* (The Stellenbosch Old Student) produced by the Old Students' Union for 16 years.

## 1958

**The Bureau for Student Counselling was established. Since then it has been providing comprehensive support and psychological development services to registered students.**

## 1958

Lectures started for the first students in the new Extramural Division, initially in classrooms at the Bellville High School and from 1964 in the Division's new building near the Karl Bremer Hospital. The MBA courses, and over time the SU Business School, originated from this.



# EYE ON THE BALL

Stellenbosch University has produced superb student athletes over the past 100 years. With the purchase of Coetzenburg Farm, sport at Maties began to bloom and flourish.

By **FRIEDA LE ROUX**

**S**port is an integral part of Stellenbosch student life, with Maties Sport managing all the sporting codes offered at Stellenbosch University (SU), whether at residence level or in the international arena. The Maties Sport division is situated at Coetzenburg and it is from here that it provides strong leadership and support for all campus sporting codes, from rugby and netball to swimming and athletics.

Coetzenburg Farm was bought in 1919 – for R12 000 – with the express purpose of it being used for sports activities. By 1923, the rugby and cricket teams had moved

to Coetzenburg, and a new sports ground was completed in 1929. Shortly afterwards, a sports pavilion was inaugurated that could accommodate 2 000 spectators, and a modern gymnasium and a swimming pool were built in 1940.

In 1960, the University also acquired the old Coetzenburg farmhouse, which still stands today and is preserved as a historical national monument. Vergenoeg Farm, which lies above and to the east of Coetzenburg, was purchased shortly thereafter, also for sports purposes.

SU's first Director: Sport and Recreation was Doc Danie Craven, who

## 1959

Dr TE Dönges, Minister of Finance, became chancellor. He was later elected as South Africa's second state president, but died before his inauguration in 1968.

## 1960

**The historical farm Coetzenburg was purchased to accommodate sport after a small portion of it, adjacent to the Welgevallen experimental farm, had already been bought in 1919 and was gradually developed as sports grounds.**

## 1961

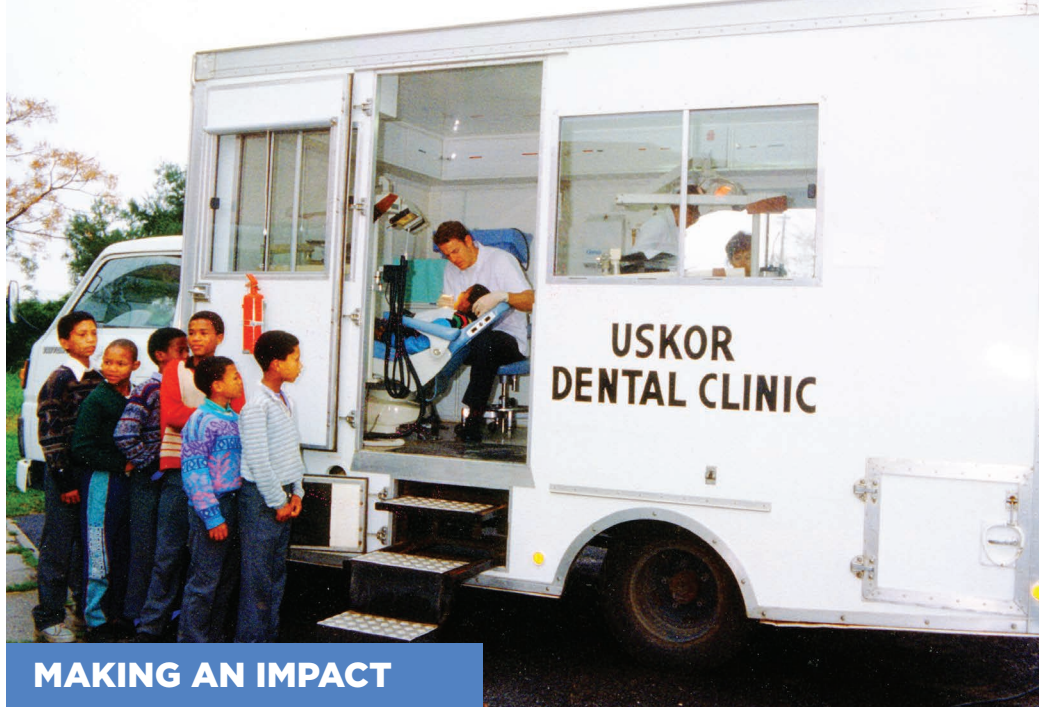
The Faculty of Military Science was established to award B, M en DMil degrees. The district of Vredenburg, home to the faculty at Saldanha, was proclaimed an SU seat.

filled the position until 1981 and was well known – possibly better known – as a rugby player and later as rugby coach.

In the first 100 years of the existence of the Maties Athletics Club, 45 members obtained national colours either before studying at SU, or during or just after their studies at SU. Early athletes who stood out were sprinter Danie Joubert, who represented the country at the Olympic Games in the early 1930s, and De Villiers Lamprecht, who ran the first barefoot dream mile in 1964. Since South Africa's re-entry into international sport, athletes who have made a name for themselves internationally include Elana Meyer, Okkert Brits, Janus Robberts, Janice Josephs, Wilhelm van der Vyver, Robert Oosthuizen, Justine Palframan and Victor Hogan – to name but a few.

In 2000, Coetzenburg was used as the training ground for the athletics team who participated in the Paralympic Games in Sydney that year. They won 38 medals – 13 gold, 12 silver, 13 bronze – and set seven world records. Ernst van Dyk, wheelchair athlete and member of that team, was the Operational Manager of the SU Gymnasium at the time.

Sport at Maties is going from strength to strength, and to crown it all, the Varsity Cup rugby team won the 2018 tournament – the year of SU's Centenary.



## MAKING AN IMPACT

The first medical students at Stellenbosch University reported for class in 1958 at Karl Bremer Hospital, the academic hospital at the time. It did not take the students long to become aware of the needs among the poor communities, mostly coloured people, around the hospital; volunteers started regular clinics to meet some of those needs.

This led to negotiations with the District Council of Cape Town and the Director of Hospital Services for the establishment of a permanent clinic at Kasselsvlei in Bellville South. Here, third-year students were put to work in the pharmacy, while sixth-year students worked as doctors, assisted by fourth and fifth years. With the establishment of the SU Clinical Organisation (USKOR) in 1964, Management requested the SU Rector at the

time, Prof HB Thom, to allocate all the funds collected during the annual Carnival to USKOR for use at the clinics.

In the meantime, the Community Organisation of Stellenbosch University (GOUS) was established on the main campus. While USKOR focused on providing basic medical services, the idea behind GOUS was to make students more aware of social issues. Its work stretched as far as Cloetesville, Macassar, Wallacedene and, later, even Grabouw and Frasersburg.

In 1997, USKOR's name was changed to Maties Community Services (MCS). Its activities, too, changed.

Today, the MCS is proud of the 100-hour challenge that it initiated, which entails a student putting in 100 hours of service within one year to the benefit of an MCS-facilitated project.

## 1964

On 14 November a Matie athlete, De Villiers Lamprecht, became the first South African to run a dream mile (1 609,344 metres) in less than four minutes at an athletics event at Coetzenburg.

## 1964

**Medicial students established USKOR (SU Clinical Organisation) as a voluntary medical outreach service in Bellville South, which was later expanded even to neighbouring countries and from which the campus-wide Maties Community Service developed over time.**

## 1966

SU celebrated "100 years of higher education" – commemorating the existence of Stellenbosch Gymnasium which, over time, offered college training and eventually led to the establishment of Stellenbosch University in 1918.



The entrance to the original Neelsie Student Centre.

# STUDENT LIFE AT ITS BEST

Memories of student life at Stellenbosch is what remains with most alumni, and life on campus revolves around the Neelsie and student societies.

By **FRIEDA LE ROUX**

## 1969

The General Engineering Building in Banghoek Road, east of the main campus, was occupied. The building was the first portion of a building complex that was largely established by 1979 and has since been expanded further.

## 1971

Training commenced at the new Faculty of Dentistry at Tygerberg campus. This faculty would later become a school in the Faculty of Health Sciences, but ceased to exist at SU from 2004 after amalgamation with the University of Western Cape's Faculty of Dentistry.

## 1973

Tygerberg Hospital's first in-patients were admitted and the Faculty of Medicine started relocating from Karl Bremer Hospital to a new faculty building at Tygerberg campus, which was inaugurated in 1975.

**F**or many people, the years that they spend at university and on campus are more about student life than the actual reason that they came for: their studies. Indeed, the social aspect of a student's life is just as important as the academic aspect in developing a fully rounded person.

Societies that focus on an interest or activity have always been a way for students to socialise. The first student society to be established at Stellenbosch University (SU) was the Stellenbosch Gymnasium Debating Society, in 1869 – and, although the name has been changed a few times, it is still thriving. These days, however, there are more than 55 student societies to choose from. They cover anything from religious societies to a film club, a dance society and societies for students from other countries, such as Namibia and Zimbabwe.

The second-oldest student society is the Berg- en Toerklub (BTK) ("Mountain and Touring Club"), which was established in 1928. It offers hikers opportunities to live their love for the outdoors. Activities include hikes of various distances and degrees of difficulty and rock climbing. "Hike now, work later," the members believe. Since the BTK is already 90 years old, there just might be a grain of truth in there!

The pulse of student activities on the Matie campus is probably the Neelsie, the student centre that was opened in 1975 after a fundraising campaign of more than 50 years. The name Neelsie soon became student-speak to bypass the considerably longer official name: the Langenhoven Student Centre ("Neelsie" being a shortened form of



Langenhoven's first name). The Centre is located in the heart of the campus, right next to the paved square where the University Library was erected about 10 years later.

Building costs for the Neelsie amounted to nearly R2 million at the time. A cafeteria with self-service facilities for about 1 200 people formed the core of the Centre.

Room was made for a dance hall for up to 350 couples and seating for more than 600 people. There were also two banquet halls, where up to 600 people could attend sit-down dinners, and a snooker venue.

The first level was dedicated to the offices of the Students' Representative Council, the Private Student Organisation, student societies, the University Choir and the editorial staff of the student newspaper *Die Matie*. There were rooms for listening to music, a darkroom for the Film Society, a reading room and a number of recreational and guest rooms.

In a *Matieland* article from 1975, special mention is made of the role played by Mrs Renate Coetzee, a senior dietician at SU, in the design of the Neelsie. She was tasked with the layout of a kitchen, where food for more than one function could be prepared at the same time – including up to 2000 diners at a time. For this, Coetzee not only undertook a research tour in America but even participated in a course in restaurant management at the Cornell School of Hotel and Restaurant Administration.

During the early years of the Neelsie, a tasty hot meal consisting of a meat dish, a starch dish and two types of vegetables was served for about 60 cents. Of course, lighter meals and sandwiches were also on offer.

And, while the big-screen TVs meet the recreational needs of many of the Neelsie's regular visitors today, there is still a group of *klawerjas* players who test their skills in this card game over lunchtime.

## 1974

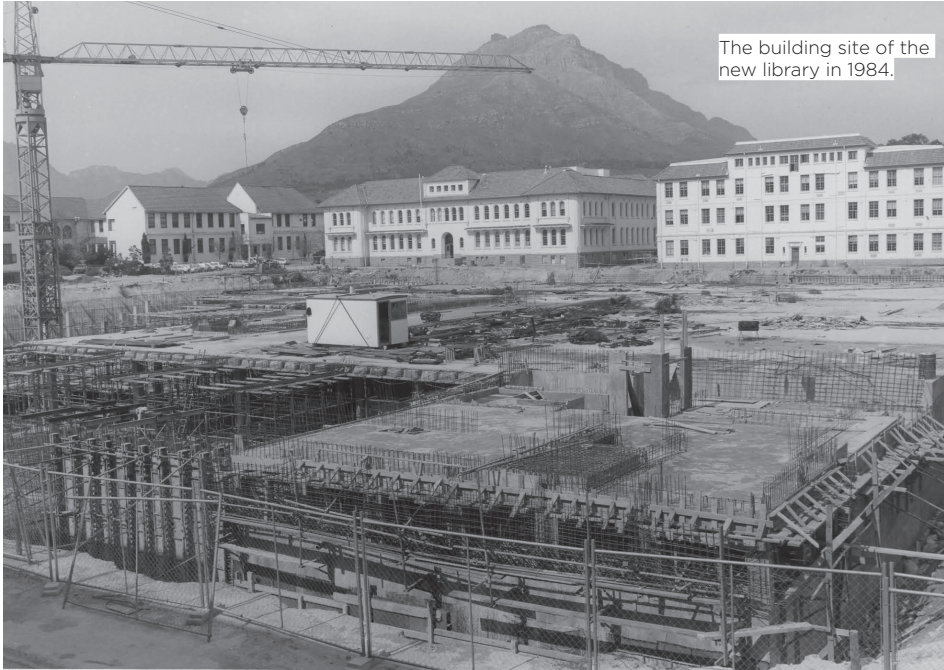
The DF Malan Memorial Centre (now Coetzenburg Centre) at Coetzenburg was inaugurated as a multisport centre for indoor events, boasting a large meeting hall where, for instance, graduation ceremonies are held.

## 1975

**The Langenhoven Student Centre was opened 55 years after fundraising was started for a gathering place for students. It was named in memory of former student CJ Langenhoven, and students nicknamed it Neelsie. In 1995 it was reconstructed to become a shopping centre.**

## 1978

The SU council approved the (partial) opening of SU to "non-white" students for the first time, but only for graduate students in courses that were not available to them elsewhere in the Western Cape.



The building site of the new library in 1984.

# FROM BOOKSHELF TO LIBRARY

Stellenbosch University's unique underground library, built in 1984, is an exceptional landmark and central to the campus.

By **FRIEDA LE ROUX**

**F**rom a "small little bookshelf in the Council Chamber" to a library that can accommodate approximately one million volumes, the history of Stellenbosch University

(SU) over the past century or more is also the story of a world in which the availability of information has changed irrevocably.

It started in 1888, when two former students, JBM Hertzog and W

Neethling, asked the Senate to provide a suitable library for the existing collection. Also becoming involved in the issue were the Junior Debating Society, the Victoria College Volunteer Corps and the Cadets.

Eventually, in 1895, a "reading and reference library" was established (as it was called in the University Calendar of the time).

The need for larger premises to house the growing collection of 1 000 books led to the erection of the CL Marais Library in 1904.

Then, in 1938, the Carnegie Library was erected with the help of a donation by the philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. SU's core book collection was held there until the JS Gericke Library opened its doors in 1984.

## 1979

The Danie Craven Stadium at Coetzenburg was completed, named after former rugby legend and chairman of World Rugby, Dr Danie Craven. For many years he was head of the Department of Physical Education and later the Sports Office (now Maties Sport).

## 1981

After the death of the vice-chancellor, Dr JS Gericke, earlier in the year, the rector, Prof Mike de Vries, became the first academic to also hold the ceremonial position of vice-chancellor, in addition to the position of rector.

## 1984

**The new SU library building was commissioned as one of the largest and best equipped university libraries in the country, and South Africa's only library that is located completely underground.**



The entrance to the underground SU Library.

Although it can accommodate one million volumes, about 80% of the Library's resources are virtual.

The Library building encompasses storage space, computer rooms, study areas in the learning and research commons, and cooperative and discussion venues such as the auditorium.

Core services include information and reference services; research support; teaching, learning and literacy skills development; document provision and interlibrary loans; digital library services; and collection management. The Library staff corps comprises 102 permanent employees and 40 student assistants.

The most characteristic feature of the JS Gericke Library is its location:

underground. The lack of other suitable spaces and the need for the library to be kept as central as possible to SU's academic activities are what led the planners to come up with this idea. For two years, the heart of the campus was transformed into a hole nearly two floors deep.

The statue of Jannie Marais, SU's first benefactor and one of its most generous, was replaced on the newly landscaped square, as was a special sundial made by CJ Langenhoven.

In addition to the JS Gericke Library on Stellenbosch Campus, SU has five branch libraries; one each at the University of Stellenbosch Business School, Medicine and Health Sciences, Engineering and Forestry, Music, and Theology.

## BELLVILLE PARK CAMPUS OPENS

Even though Bellville Park Campus became the permanent address of Stellenbosch University in Bellville only in 1986, commercial subjects had been offered at Bellville High School as early as 1958, with 22 students enrolling for evening classes that year.

Six years later, in 1964, the University of Stellenbosch Business School (USB) was founded. The USB had its temporary offices near Karl Bremer Hospital and a first intake of 14 students.

In 1982, SU acquired almost 70 hectare of land near Tyger Valley. Building started the next year and, in 1985, the USB moved to the new premises, from where it still operates today. By this time, the USB boasted the biggest student number of any business school in the country.

The USB enjoyed the international recognition it needed from early on, being underwritten by the European Foundation for Management Development and the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business.

Today, the USB offers diploma, master's and doctoral degree courses in business management, futures studies, leadership development and development finance.

## 1984

The first test-tube baby in Africa was born, a breakthrough by a research team under guidance of Prof Thinus Kruger (Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology). He was the founder of a fertility clinic at Tygerberg Hospital.

## 1986

**SU's new Bellville Park campus came into operation when the SU Business School relocated from temporary lecture rooms behind Karl Bremer Hospital to a four-storey building on this new satellite campus.**

## 1988

Dr Jan van der Horst, a well-known businessman, became the 11th chancellor. As a law student he had been the chairman of the student representative council, and since 1982 the first elected SU council chairman.



# MADIBA'S 'MAGIC'

Former President Nelson Mandela paid a historic visit to Stellenbosch University in 1991 and, in 1996, he was awarded an honorary doctorate.

By **FRIEDA LE ROUX**

**1991**

Nelson Mandela visited SU for a meeting at the invitation of the (then) Contextual Hermeneutics Centre. In his speech, the first on an Afrikaans campus, he expressed his encouraging view of the role of Afrikaans in a new SA government dispensation. In 1996, SU bestowed an honorary doctorate on him.

**1991**

The Sasol Art Museum and SU Museum were opened, located in the former school building of the Bloemhof Girls School, which was built in 1907, declared a national monument in 1979 and extensively refurbished with a donation by Sasol.

**1992**

Matie athlete Elana Meyer won a silver medal in the 10 000 metres at the Olympic Summer Games in Barcelona, Spain.

In May 1991, about a year after his release, Nelson Mandela visited Stellenbosch University (SU) at the invitation of the former Centre for Contextual Hermeneutics. Mandela, released in 1990 after 27 years of imprisonment, used the opportunity to address students at the Neelsie about, among other things, the role of Afrikaans in a democratic South Africa.

His presence elicited strong reaction among the students, with representatives from both the left and the right making their voices heard. Nearly an hour after the appointed time, he was able to start his address, which he did in Afrikaans.

A few months after Mandela's inauguration as the first president of a democratic South Africa, he paid SU another visit, this time at the invitation of the SU Africa-Political Society for a special address in the HB Thom Theatre.

On that occasion, he encouraged the University to use its resources for the

benefit of society at large.

Two years later, in 1996, Mandela returned to SU to be awarded an honorary doctorate.

In his acceptance speech, delivered in Afrikaans, Mandela pointed out the irony of the occasion: "From the ranks of the students of this University came each of the prime ministers who ruled white-dominated South Africa in the period between the two Bothas. This University was the leading intellectual home of Afrikaner nationalism."

In characteristically forgiving Mandela style, however, he also presented the other side: "Also from this University came courageous voices of warning and resistance against the apartheid doctrine, such as those of BB Keet, Ben Marais, Johan Degenaar, André Hugo and André du Toit. It is in the affirmation of that stream of your history that the greatest hope lies, not only for you but also for South Africa."

In 2008, SU also conferred an honorary doctorate on Graça Machel, Mandela's wife.



## FIRST FEMALE CHANCELLOR

Prof Elize Botha became the first female Chancellor of SU in 1998, exactly half a century after she was a Matie in her first year. Elize Lindes, as she was then, was head student of Huis ten Bosch, served on the Students' Representative Council and was on the editorial staff of *Die Stellenbosse Student* ("The Stellenbosch Student"). She obtained the degrees BA and MA from SU, followed by a doctorate from the University of Amsterdam.

Elize was a woman of firsts: the first female chair of the *Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns* (Academy for Science and Art) and the first woman on the board of Nasionale Pers. She also chaired the Commission on National Symbols, which had to decide on the new national flag and anthem in 1993. In the next year, she served on the committee for former President Nelson Mandela's inauguration.

## 1995

After a year's construction, the Langenhoven Student Centre, now called the Neelsie Centre, opened its doors as a shopping centre containing a variety of businesses. The concept of a student centre such as this is described as unique in South Africa. The original building dates from 1975.

## 1995

Radio Matie (later MFM) became a fully fledged community radio station with modern studios and offices in the Neelsie Student Centre, broadcasting as far as 20 km to approximately 35 000 listeners, including the general public as well.

## 1998

Prof Elize Botha, doyenne of the Afrikaans literary world, became the first woman to hold the position of SU chancellor. She was, inter alia, the first female board chairperson of the SA Academy for Arts and Science and first female board chairperson of the National Library's council.



# INTO OUTER SPACE

The launch of the Stellenbosch University's satellite, SunSat, drew worldwide attention and placed the institution firmly on a course of innovation.

By **FRIEDA LE ROUX**

**G**reater interdisciplinary cooperation among students was one of the driving forces behind the design and building of Africa's first satellite. Two lecturers at the Stellenbosch University (SU) Faculty of Engineering, Profs Garth Milne and Arnold Schoonwinkel, began the project around 1991. By the time that the microsatellite was launched from the Vandenberg air force base in California in 1999, 72 students had obtained degrees based on their research related to the project.

## 1999

The Faculty of Engineering made news headlines with SunSat, the first satellite developed and built in Africa. This microsatellite, a low earth orbit (Leo) satellite, was launched in California. In 2009, a second microsatellite, SumbandilaSat, which the faculty had designed and built in collaboration with SunSpace as well as the CSIR, was launched in Kazakhstan from the world's largest launching pad.

## 1999

SU Council dissolved the 63-year old Stellenbosch University Choir. After tremendous criticism by former members of the choir and the public, Council was forced to recall this decision at a special Council meeting. During the period 2004 to 2016 the choir was chosen on various occasions as the best youth or non-professional choir in the world.

## 2000

As part of a community interaction, the Woordfees was launched, which in time would become the most sustainable Afrikaans arts festival, also hosting the Words Open Worlds (WOW) project to promote Afrikaans among young people countrywide. Both initiatives were so successful that they were later managed independently (each with its own staff component) at SU.

SunSat – short for Stellenbosch University Satellite – was used to take photos for agricultural and environmental research. In 2009, another satellite, built in collaboration with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), was sent into space from the world's largest launch site, in Kazakhstan.

This initiative ultimately led to the establishment of InnovUS, an SU company aimed at assisting researchers, students and staff towards commercialising their research outputs. Assistance includes licensing an idea with a suitable partner and establishing a start-up company.

Some of the outputs already patented and available for further use include a natural preservation agent obtained from the honey bush, a software model for managing workflow in the operating theatre, a special heart valve and a process for removing lactose from milk.

Another consequence of the initiative is LaunchLab, through which the development and implementation of ideas is accelerated by making available infrastructure, mentors (including academics and business leaders) and an entrepreneur-friendly environment.

LaunchLab is situated in Hammanshand Road.



## WOORDFEES BEGINS

From the “Night of Passion” in 2000, where 60 poets and writers raised their voices, to a fully fledged arts festival with about 600 productions and offerings in 2018, the Stellenbosch University Woordfees (Word Festival) is one of the highlights on the annual cultural agenda.

This initiative by Prof Dorothea van Zyl saw writers such as Gert Vlok-Nel, Dianne Ferrus, Johan Esterhuizen, Kobus Rossouw, Ronnie Belcher, Etienne van Heerden, Joan Hambidge and Willem Fransman present readings from their work. Even the Rector at the time, Prof Andreas van Wyk, read “with poetic passion” about “the secrets of patent rights” from his own law book.

The 2018 programme included

a dizzying choice of 600 events, from classical music and discussions on topical issues to theatre, book talks and films. The current festival director, dramatist Saartjie Botha, has been at the helm since 2015 and feels most strongly about the festival's inclusive and investigative nature.

The Words Open Worlds (WOW) project offers many presentations for learners during the festival. These include a school newspaper course, talks with writers about prescribed works and paint-and-poetry workshops for younger learners.

The SU Woordfees is also responsible for the Buya Project, a schools theatre initiative aimed at Xhosa speakers, and for the SU Choir (photo above).

## 2007

Prof Russel Botman, an internationally recognised theologian who had advised the World Alliance of Reformed Churches in Geneva and was president of the SA Council of Churches, became the first coloured Rector and Vice-chancellor. He had been a lecturer in practical theology and missiology at SU from 2002.

## 2007

The former Lückhoff School Building in Banghoek Road, Stellenbosch, was commissioned and refurbished as a “beacon of hope” and rededicated to a neighbourhood community that had been relocated in the sixties due to the then Group Areas Act. The building houses SU's Social Impact Division and Matie Community Service.

## 2007

The modern building of the Wallenberg Research Centre was commissioned, adjacent to the historic former Mostertsdrift farm house where the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Research (STIAS) is located. The new building was made possible through a donation from Sweden.

# A STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE

In July 2016, a task group embarked on the process of reviewing the vision and strategy of Stellenbosch University. The chair of the task team, Prof Hester Klopper, Vice-Rector: Strategy and Internationalisation, talks about this process.

By **BARBARA POOL**

**Y**our position as Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Strategy and Internationalisation is a new one for Stellenbosch University (SU). Why is SU focusing on these areas now?

SU's renewed focus on strategy and internationalisation recognises the fact that universities do not remain static, but rather change over time and play a crucial role as change agents in society. In 2015, internationalisation was added as strategic theme to the Institutional Intent and Strategy (IIS) and the creation of the new portfolio was part of the vision of our current Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Prof Wim de Villiers.

This focus enables us to be intentionally global in reach. The specific focus on strategy underlines the importance of strategy development, strategy implementation and monitoring and evaluation of the strategy as a cross-cutting activity. SU's

vision and strategy statements should be comprehensive enough to provide a stable platform on which we can build the University for a period of time.

However, they should also be flexible enough to allow us to adapt and change along with trends – both locally and regionally, as well as globally. In the fast-changing higher education sector, such a position has therefore become of critical importance.

## What statements and policies govern the ethos and decision-making of the University?

There are three core documents (see the diagram on page 30) that relate to the University's vision and strategy:

- SU's vision indicates the type of organisation SU aims to become and what distinguishes us from other universities. It therefore provides a futuristic perspective. The current vision is contained in Vision 2030.

- SU's strategic framework has a shorter timespan and defines the framework in which SU aligns its activities for a specific period. The current strategy is known as *The Institutional Intent and Strategy 2013–2018*, while the strategy that preceded it was known as *A Strategic Framework for the Turn of the Century and Beyond*.

- The Institutional Plan (IP) comprises the plans of each environment within SU for the six-year framework period, including the environment plans of the responsibility centres (RCs) and faculties. The plans are reviewed and updated annually and submitted by 15 December to the Department of Higher Education and Training.

## Why is the University re-examining its vision and strategy now?

SU's existing strategic document, *The Institutional Intent and Strategy 2013–2018*, draws to a close in 2018.

## 2010

SU's HOPE Project was launched as a strategic long-term plan for the next decade – with SU focusing on five of the international Millennium Development Goals, thereby creating synergy between higher education on the one hand and development and economic growth on the other.

## 2014

Prof Russel Botman, Rector and Vice-Chancellor, whose term was extended for another five years in 2012, died of a heart attack in June. He was SU's only head of management since 1918 who died while still rector.

## 2014

A member of the Maties-Helderberg sport club for people with disabilities and former manager of the SU gymnasium at Coetzenburg, former Matie Ernst van Dyk, won the Boston marathon for the 10th time as a wheelchair athlete and hand cyclist.

A strategic revision is therefore needed. As the strategy is the operationalisation of a vision, the vision (where we see ourselves in a specific timeframe) is revised at the same time.

#### **What process is followed to define the University's vision, strategy and values?**

The overarching strategy process is structured in three phases.

During the first phase (strategy development, from July 2016 to May 2018), the new vision had been compiled, as well as the strategic framework that defines the core strategic themes and the institutional goals for every strategic theme. It was also during this phase that we reviewed the University's values.

The second phase follows the SU Council's approval of the new vision and strategy, *Vision 2040*, and the *Strategic Framework 2019–2024*. During this

phase (strategy uptake, from July 2018 to June 2019) the core strategic themes and goals are operationalised by defining context specific objectives – in essence a period of sense-making. This implies interaction with all faculties and professional and administrative support environments in order to create alignment between the strategic framework and environment plans.

Phase Three (strategy alignment,

from July 2018 to June 2020) overlaps with this – to close the gap between the planning and formulation of strategy and the execution of the strategy by means of the alignment of structures and processes. It therefore entails a new approach of integrated planning and execution to ensure an agile and adaptable organisation where monitoring and evaluation is a continuous process.



Prof Hester Klopper, Vice-Rector: Strategy and Internationalisation.

## 2015

During a marathon operation of nine hours, a transplant team under direction of Prof André van der Merwe made world history with the first ever penis transplant. This was of major importance since hundreds of young men in Southern Africa lose their penises every year due to traditional circumcision practices.

## 2016

The SU Choir under the leadership of André van der Merwe was selected as the overall winner at the eighth international choir games in Russia, thereby remaining the world's best non-professional choir on the Interkultur list since 2012.

## 2018

**A task group, established in July 2016, is currently working on a process to develop and implement a new vision and strategy for Stellenbosch University.**

### How have the most recent developments differed from the vision and strategy procedures of the past?

It is my understanding that this is the first time that the process has been divided into the three phases mentioned above. The Strategic Framework 2019-2024 now forms the basis for continuous dialogue, refinement and alignment in the relevant period. It is envisaged that this process will allow for uptake of the strategic framework, where the core strategic themes drive our activities (goals) for the next six years.

### What has been achieved thus far?

In February 2017, an online questionnaire was circulated to members of the University's Institutional Planning Forum (IPF) regarding their thoughts on the character of SU in 2040 and the elements required for the University's ongoing success. The questionnaire was well received – there was a 60% participation rate, which included executive management, deans, vice-deans, and chief and senior directors.

The executive management and deans subsequently discussed the input received by the IPF in July 2017, and vision and mission statements were drawn up inclusive of the SU aspirations and mission elements. In addition, five task teams worked on specific aspects. One of the task teams focused on the review of the SU values.

In September 2017, the faculty management, professional administrative support services and the SU Council provided their input on these values. Students and staff provided their input on the proposed values through online questionnaires in October and November 2017.

In January 2018, the vision and



mission elements, as well as the values, were finalised by the Rectorate and the proposed core strategic themes for the Strategic Framework were discussed. The vision, mission, values and the core strategic themes and goals were presented to the IPF at the February 2018 planning meeting. The core strategic themes and institutional goals were refined, and specific objectives and key performance indicators identified.

The proposed core strategic themes and institutional goals were subsequently presented to the SU Council in March 2018. *Vision 2040 and the Strategic Framework 2019-2024* served at the following structures for discussion – Social and Business Ethics Committee of Council (14 May 2018), Institutional Forum (14 May 2018), Executive Committee of Senate (22 May 2018), Executive Committee of Council (29 May 2018), Senate (1 June

2018) and final approval at Council (18 June 2018).

### What happens next?

In July 2018, a 12-month period commenced to allow for strategy uptake, during which the Strategic Framework 2019-2024 will be operationalised by defining context specific objectives. As stated earlier, this implies interaction with faculties and professional and support environments in order to achieve alignment between the strategic framework and environment plans.

Exciting times indeed, as we close the gap between strategy development and strategy implementation, and the monitoring and evaluation through several dashboards of key performance indicators.

• *Dr Barbara Pool is the Senior Director: Strategic Initiatives at Stellenbosch University.*

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## CENTENARY IN PICTURES



# A CENTENARY TO REMEMBER

Stellenbosch University has commemorated its Centenary in style with various events – from a Centenary Concert to the awarding of special honorary doctorates. Experience the Centenary through these images.

**MUSIC SPECTACULAR:** The trumpeter Mo-T, or Moshe Kgasoane, from the popular South African band Mi Casa, performed at Stellenbosch University's (SU) Centenary Concert. Photo: STEFAN ELS







**FUN AT COETZENBURG:** The highlight of SU's Centenary activities was the weekend of the Friday, 2 March, with two special Centenary commemoration events held in partnership with the SU Woodfees: on Friday the Centenary Concert and on Saturday the Family Day. Artists like Brandon October, Gloria Bosman, Tim Moloj, Laurika Rauch and Valiant Swart (photo left) performed. During Family Day, the Military Academy paraded through the streets with Stellenbosch communities (photo left above), while families could set up camp at Coetzenburg during a performance of *Peter and the Wolf* (photo above). Photos: STEFAN ELS



**WELCOME:** New SU students were welcomed by the Rector, faculty and student representatives during the official welcoming ceremony in the Danie Craven Stadium at Coetzenburg. More than 5000 new students, their parents and guardians attended the event. With the focus on the SU's Centenary, the three main speakers encouraged new students to celebrate this important milestone with everyone at the University. Students gathered on the sports field where they formed a giant number 100 on the grass. Photos: STEFAN ELS

## PHOTO STORY

**HISTORY:** An exhibition (right) detailing SU's history can currently be seen at the SU Archive. The photos used for the wall collages span the era from 1918 to 2018. The Centenary exhibition celebrates the people, buildings, happenings and growth in education at Stellenbosch, all of which contributed to the institution SU has become. Photos: STEFAN ELS



**BOOK:** A Centenary Book (left) with 536 full-colour pages about SU history was launched this year. The editors are Prof Albert Grundling (Part 1) and Hans Oosthuizen (Part 2). In Part 1, seven authors share their thoughts on the SU history of the past 100 years, among others of SU's political and financial histories, as well as academic, sport and student life. Part 2 focuses on the academic operations of the past century, seen from the perspective of the 10 faculties. For more information, contact Carin Erasmus at [ccerasmus@sun.ac.za](mailto:ccerasmus@sun.ac.za).

**BIRTHDAY CAKE:** To celebrate SU's Centenary, the Senate were treated to cupcakes.





**BRAVE BIKERS:** The team of cyclists (above) from SU alumni Chris Norton's BMT bike shop in Dorp Street, Stellenbosch, braved the winding and windy roads of the Cape Town Cycle Tour with SU Rector, Prof Wim de Villiers (middle). As part of the Centenary, 63 bikers set out over the 109 km course, the longest bike rally in the world, with #Maties100 and "Forward Together" as slogans. All donations from the public were used for bursaries. Photo: STEFAN ELS



**GLAMMED UP:** A gala dinner (above) was held in March for special guests of the University. These included funders, government officials and other stakeholders. The event was held at the Paul Roos Gimnasium. Photo: NICOLE DU TOIT



**100% THEATRE:** As part of the Centenary, *100% Stellenbosch*, an interactive theatre piece, was presented at SU's Woodfees. Questions about Stellenbosch and the town's inhabitants were answered in the play. The piece was produced by the SU Woodfees, in collaboration with the Berlin Theatre group Rimini Protokoll. A hundred participants were chosen. They represented 1% of the Stellenbosch population and demographics. During the performance, the 100 participants gathered on a circular stage that reflected a circular graph. With clever lighting, the stage was split into different segments. A variety of questions were asked, and the participants had to move to the sections of the stage that best suited their own personal views. The result was a fascinating look into the hearts and minds of the people who live in Stellenbosch. Photo: STEFAN ELS



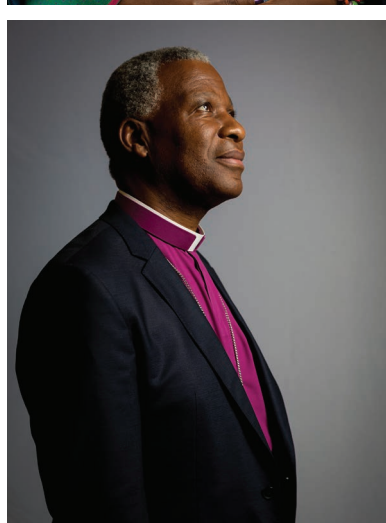
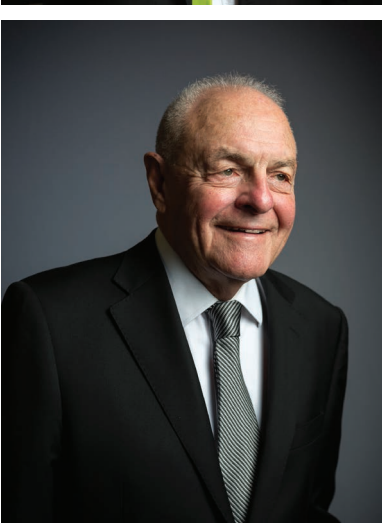
**FORMER SPRINGBOKS:** Approximately 40 former Springbok rugby players, who also played for Maties, were witnesses to the current SU rugby team's victory over the Ikey Tigers of the University of Cape Town during their Varsity Cup Derby on 5 March. The old Boks were guests at a special event. Jan Boland Coetzee, Morné du Plessis, Dawie de Villiers, Carel du Plessis, Mannetjies Roux, Rob Louw, Tiaan Strauss, Pieter Rossouw, Breyton Paulse and Corné Krige were among those present. Maties beat Ikeys 33-14. It was at least the 106th time that these two teams have done battle. Photos: STEFAN ELS



**VICTORY:** The Maties Rugby Club could not have thought of a better gift to give the SU for its Centenary than to bring home the Varsity Cup trophy. Maties Rugby won the Varsity Cup on 16 April for the first time since 2010. It was Maties' fourth victory in the Varsity Cup series. The team also played in the final in 2016 and 2017. But during this historic final, Maties beat Pukke 40-7 – the biggest points difference ever in a final. As an extra bonus, a week earlier, the Maties Young Guns won the Varsity Cup for under 20s for the first time ever.



**POKKEL:** The University's mascot, Pokkel, kept spirits high during the Centenary match between Maties and Ikeys on 5 March.



**HONORARY DEGREES:** SU awarded honorary degrees to 13 progressive thinkers and influencers during its March graduation ceremony. They were (from left, top row) Max du Preez, Prof Musa Dube, Trueman Goba, Jannie Mouton; (middle row) Prof Mervyn King, Archbishop Thabo Cecil Makgoba, Baroness Christine van den Wyngaert, Prof Peter Jones; (bottom row) Prof Brian O'Connell, Sandra Prinsloo, Dr Imtiaz Sooliman, Patrice Motsepe; and (left) Prof Andre Nel. Photos: STEFAN ELS

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# THE JOY OF HEALING

As a leading scientist in the field of paediatric HIV, Prof Mark Cotton has pioneered many research studies that have turned disasters into opportunities.

By **OLIVIA ROSE-INNES**

**P**rofessor Mark Cotton is an NRF A-rated scientist, he is an international authority on paediatric infectious diseases, and a pioneer in the field of HIV – he was one of the first doctors in the world to treat children with anti-retroviral treatment (ART).

Yet, you would be hard pressed to find a more humble person. Mark, who is head of Infectious Diseases in the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at Tygerberg Hospital and Director of Stellenbosch University's (SU) Family Clinical Research Unit (FAMCRU), is more likely to pay warm tribute to his family, staff and mentors, acknowledging their role in his successes.

His twin passions are working with children and finding pragmatic solutions to the ravages of infectious diseases. He first treated children at the Somerset Hospital and Red Cross Children's Hospital. "The challenge for me was mastering the procedures, especially those involving needles!" he smiles. But the area suited him perfectly. "I enjoy interacting with children and families – looking for strengths, seeing where you can help them, and applying something clinical and scientific to that combination."

Always, the goal was to find real-world applications for research. "I'm a clinician," he says. "My focus is on people – how do you apply all the advances in the lab, how do you frame the questions if you don't know what's going on with patients?"

This impulse led him to infectious diseases. In the army, he had worked in a learning disability clinic – "and I really struggled with understanding the early

research I attempted in that area! But with infectious diseases, it's simple: there's a pathogen and you can work it out precisely, you can apply clinical skills, you can talk to people. It seems perplexing, but it's solvable."

As a registrar, Mark was involved in a pioneering study of hospital-acquired infections in children (still one of his research concerns). "If HIV hadn't come along, I probably would have stayed in that field," he says.

But HIV did arrive – with a vengeance – and it would become "80% of what I've done".

## TOWARDS A CURE

Mark's career direction was also guided by a fellowship he completed at the University of Colorado-Denver in the early 1990s, where he researched programmed cell death (apoptosis) in HIV. On returning to Stellenbosch, he did a PhD in this area. "It hadn't really been looked at in the context of HIV, certainly not in children."

He recalls the grim early days of the HIV epidemic in the 1980s, when awareness of the disease was starting to grow. "Everyone felt it was coming and it was going to be a big issue; we just didn't know much about it or what to do about it. I didn't realise there would be such a huge need for clinical studies." Such studies are exactly where Mark excels.

A career highlight has been the Children with HIV Early Antiretroviral (CHER) clinical study, which demonstrated the benefits of the early treatment of HIV-positive babies. "CHER framed a question at a time it really needed to be framed – before the wider HIV world was even aware there was a question."

Mark's team still tracks those children – making headlines recently with the revelation that one nine-year-old has lived symptom-free without antiretroviral treatment for years.

The study holds out the promise that treatment need not be long term, and many believe it is a step towards a cure. It also illustrated the importance of early diagnosis.

In the early years of the battle against HIV, this wasn't understood – what Mark calls "a slow dance towards disaster". Now, it's accepted that swift intervention is vital.

"It's so obvious, looking back, but ours was the first study that established what was needed."

Characteristically, Mark attributes CHER's success to "collaborating with really good people, from Stellenbosch, UCT, Wits – an eclectic bunch, but it worked".

This collaborative ethos continues in FAMCRU (originally KIDCRU), which Mark started at Tygerberg in the mid-1990s. "We now have 100 staff members. A core group of people have been here some 15 to 20 years. Everyone is really committed to what we do. We mentor people to become investigators and ask clinical questions; we motivate people to do their work professionally and with passion; and we bring in people with new ideas."

And it is not just about the doctors and scientists, he stresses.

"For example, we don't have enough space and we're always trying to negotiate with the hospital for more. Well, the cleaners came up with a solution – they found a store room that wasn't being used. We make sure all voices are heard."

It's this spirit that has served Mark well over the years in what is a demanding, often emotionally draining field – especially, he admits, back when there was no treatment, and little political will in South Africa to combat HIV.

"The good part was that it unified clinicians, scientists and civil society. Now HIV science is accepted as mainstream. What has happened is that the thrust has changed from saving lives, to improving quality of life and also prevention – developing vaccines."

## DISASTER TO OPPORTUNITY

He does worry that now, with HIV less of a livewire political issue, support may drop. "Internationally, there are moves to divert funding elsewhere, so that could affect us. Nonetheless, we hope to continue and expand."

This combination of pragmatism and optimism is reflected in a famous Mark anecdote: In 1996, the 20-year-old vinyl in Tygerberg Hospital was peeling off the walls. "It was a haven for cockroaches. They were in the wards, running all over the babies. Most of the infants had a terrible, often fatal condition, necrotising enterocolitis. On investigation, we found the cockroach organisms were identical to those harming the babies."

A horrific situation – which brought a lifesaving lesson. "In a tragic way, losing these babies was a stimulus to science. Disasters are research opportunities and the way to improve a situation is to document what is happening to the best of your ability," Mark says thoughtfully. "Something negative becomes something positive."

The Nedbank US LaunchLab's modern space houses several start-up businesses.



# NURTURING BIG IDEAS

Ideas, to paraphrase Robin Williams, can change the world. But it is not only about having ideas, but rather making sure that the really good ones go on to fulfil their potential. This is where Stellenbosch University's Innovus and LaunchLab come in.

If there is one thing we have all learned in this new, exciting epoch of entrepreneurs, start-ups, “disruption” and “innovation”, and “agile thinking”, it is that there are many decent ideas that will never see the light of day in any other way than through the grimy window of dad’s garage.

If there is another thing that we have learned, it is that you can significantly reduce the rate of failure and exponentially increase the amount of sustainable, stand-alone businesses that coalesce around their ideas if you surround them with like-minded yet differently skilled individuals. Communities create connections.

One such community is Stellenbosch. The region is known for its agricultural fertility, prolific wine farms, lush farmlands. But, with companies like Mediclinic, Distell and Capitec all having their roots in the same soil, and Technopark, which is growing world-changing technology companies like Entersekt and Praelexis, it is proving to be just as fertile for the imagination.

At the heart of all of this is Stellenbosch University (SU), which, understandably, is brimming with superlative talents in the fields of engineering, technology, medical, natural and food sciences, mathematics and physics, and is thus also the genesis of some incredibly valuable ideas. In only the last decade we have seen an escalation of entrepreneurial activity coming out of the University that far outstrips most of our local counterparts and even many of the “first world” ones.

Many years ago a decision was made to capitalise on the number of influential ideas that our students and faculty generate, and a new, focused entity, Innovus, was formed. As the SU’s technology transfer office, it is Innovus’s responsibility to ensure that any grand

concepts coming out of the University, that are feasible as businesses, are firstly able to reach their markets (either through licensing or starting new companies) and then, secondly, to make sure they reach their potential.

To do so, they handle specialist tasks like patenting the intellectual property (IP), product development support, connecting the founders to investors and providing the missing business skills to grow them to the level where they are no longer just an idea, gathering dust in an old garage, but fully fledged, self-sustaining, profit-generating entities. From start-ups, to stand-alones, so to speak.

Over the last decade, Innovus has lodged more PCT applications (international patent families) than any other local universities. Perhaps more impressively, they have also lodged more PCT applications than any other company. It is for this reason that it has the reputation for being the “most innovative entity in South Africa”. But, something was still missing...

### INSPIRING ENTREPRENEURS

To build the momentum of this innovation movement, to further help start-ups reach their commercial potential, as well as to amplify entrepreneurial activity with students, faculties and the broader Stellenbosch community, Innovus decided to establish the Nedbank SU LaunchLab in 2015 with the help of Nedbank and the Department of Trade and Industry. It is a community inside a community, which amplifies the effects of both.

Within its walls, you’ll find some very driven people using the resources the LaunchLab provides – access to market through corporate clients (Nedbank, Santam, ATTACQ and Mercedes-Benz South Africa), access to funding, free internet, tools, skills workshops and functional space – to digitally change the face of transport or farming, put

satellite components together and into space, create nutritious consumables and even consolidate debt for agricultural labourers.

Most importantly, they use each other as resources to solve unsolvable problems, by tackling them from multiple angles.

“We call it facilitating valuable connections. This is the heart of what we do at LaunchLab. Entrepreneurship is a contact sport,” says LaunchLab CEO, Philip Marais.

“If you don’t have connections to help you build and grow your business, you are going to struggle. And Stellenbosch, the University and LaunchLab form a rich community for valuable connections.”

The examples below are paragons of this way of working: Stellietech is a student-founded company that has built their own custom software training system; Sxuirrel is a marketplace for space, first for storing goods for when students are required to vacate residences during holidays and, more recently, for parking and event venues; MySmartFarm is a dashboard and automation solution for farmers, which uses new algorithms to improve yield; Leap.ly is a platform for graduate recruitment that uses artificial intelligence to match candidates with opportunities; and Mellowcabs manufactures electric mini-cars that operate through the Uber platform.

Those are merely a few examples of the scale of young industry that the LaunchLab nurtures and, in fact, by the end of 2017, LaunchLab had supported over 120 businesses which, in turn, have supported 340 direct jobs.

Stellenbosch University has earned its reputation as “the most innovative” and the LaunchLab as the “top university incubator in Africa”. It is all because of the proven fact that when good people come together, good things can happen faster.

# PLANT BREEDING LEADS THE WAY

The seed for Stellenbosch University's Plant Breeding Laboratory was planted a century ago on the outskirts of Stellenbosch. Today, this institution is at the forefront of excellence in agricultural research.

By **JORISNA BONTHUYS**

**A**lmost a hundred years ago, researchers involved in plant breeding at the old Victoria College wanted to support agricultural producers by establishing future-orientated crops. Since then, plant breeding at Stellenbosch University (SU) has continued to evolve, with technological advances and other developments leading to significant changes in the agricultural landscape.

Now, 100 years later, the researchers working in the field of plant breeding at SU's Faculty of AgriSciences are doing cutting-edge research on cultivar development for the grain sector, among others. Scientists working in this field of study within the Department of Genetics are playing a pivotal role to help ensure food security in our region.

SU plant breeders have had a significant impact on the local agricultural sector and related industries. One can hardly look at grain production without considering the legacy and impact they have had in this regard.

Consider, for instance, the ground-breaking work on genetics and the breeding of grains completed by Prof JH Neethling, who was the head of plant breeding at the very beginning and after whom the JH Neethling Building on campus is named. Since then, many other scientists have followed in his footsteps to establish the University as a centre of breeding excellence.

Today, the department is considered

a leader in breeding grain crops. The University's Plant Breeding Laboratory (SU-PBL) is a key partner in a national initiative that has set its sights on increasing yields and boosting the profitability of wheat production. The DST-Grain SA National Wheat Breeding Platform supports existing plant-breeding programmes focused on improving crops.

It was officially launched in October 2017 by former Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor.

Since its inception, those involved in plant breeding in the department have been committed to building strong relationships with role-players in the agricultural sector. As such, the partners in the national platform include all wheat-breeding programmes, the Agricultural Research Council, Winter Cereal Trust, the Department of Science and Technology, and GrainSA.

Willem Botes, the SU-PBL research leader, explains it as follows: "Research on plant breeding has always provided new wheat cultivars, for example, and supported changes in the industry. We are also involved in basic research, the training of plant breeders, pre-breeding programmes that support national wheat-breeding programmes, as well as developing and commercialising new triticale and durum wheat cultivars."

Plant breeding in the department is also leading the way in the use of new technologies to help revitalise

agriculture locally and elsewhere on the continent. Willem elaborates: "Within the context of climate change and the current rate of population growth, this research is critically important from an economic and development perspective to help ensure food security."

Willem considers pre-breeding programmes as perhaps one of the most effective ways to introduce existing or novel genes and traits into breeding programmes. Plant geneticists at the SU-PBL are sifting through promising germplasm that could help improve wheat production. They are also searching for qualities that can make plants more resistant to specific fungi, such as wheat rust, and ones that can withstand the onslaught of certain insects.

## PLANT GENETICS

In addition to the SU-PBL, three other research groups, as well as the Institute of Plant Biotechnology (IPB), are involved in plant genetics in the department, with a focus on the wine industry, grain genomics and molecular breeding of fruit crops.

New cultivars and genetic resources are of key importance to ensure that the agricultural sector remains vibrant, Willem continues. "We play a small yet important role to ensure this. One of the most important aspects of our research is that it facilitates farming. All the hard work we do in our laboratories benefits producers directly and also unlocks



In October 2017, SU launched its Plant Breeding Laboratory (SU-PBL). Naledi Pandor (middle), then Minister of Science and Technology, attended the event. Here she is with Prof Eugene Cloete (left), Vice-Rector: Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Studies, and Willem Botes, research leader at the SU-PBL.

value for us all.” During the past decade alone, seed sales of more than R50 million were achieved by licence holders of new cultivars developed at the SU-PBL and a similar amount was earned in contract research.

Willem says the future of plant breeding remains very exciting. “My long-term plans include establishing a centre for crop improvement at SU in order to focus on more crops and explore opportunities on the continent. At the same time, this research can help to improve people’s quality of life through training or by developing new cultivars.

“The technologies at our disposal are also very exciting. Already we are using the best available technologies in our conventional (plant) breeding activities. With regard to modern technology, plant breeding globally is on the verge of using genome sequencing routinely for genome selection, among others. Genome editing is also already being done. This holds immense promise for the future.”

## Timeline

- 1917** Department of Plant Breeding founded as part of the Victoria College (which later became Stellenbosch University).
- 1925** Department is renamed as the Department of Genetics. The focus remains on traditional plant and animal breeding..
- 1949** The JH Neethling Greenhouse Complex is established at the Welgevallen experimental farm.
- 1950–1968** Departmental research focus broadens to include genetics and biometrics.
- 1974** A triticale breeding programme is established.
- 1976** The Department of Heredity Studies is renamed as the Department of Genetics.
- 1991** Research focus broadens to include human genetics (in addition to plant and animal genetics).
- 1998** The Institute for Plant Biotechnology is founded. The focus is on plant biotechnology (“genetic engineering” of plants).
- 2007** The Plant Breeding Laboratory is re-established at the Welgevallen experimental farm.
- 2010** Increased focus on genomics research.
- 2015** The Plant Breeding Laboratory (SU-PBL) becomes the research anchor of the DST-Grain SA Wheat Breeding Platform.

# RIDING THE WAVE OF TECHNOLOGY

In September 2018, Stellenbosch University will host the second Deep Learning Indaba – a unique pan-African teaching event supported by Google DeepMind. But what is deep learning, and are African universities keeping pace with the rest of the world?

By **WIIDA FOURIE-BASSON**

**A**rtificial intelligence, machine learning and deep neural networks – are these still the stuff of science fiction, or will advances in these new technologies and techniques enable Africa to leapfrog right into the Fourth Industrial Revolution?

More than five decades after the development of the first artificial intelligence machine, Perceptron, the world is still a long way off from a walking, talking, seeing and writing electronic computer, conscious of its own existence. But from the 1950s a number of advances, such as faster computing power and the availability of vast amounts of data, led to the development of machine learning in the 1990s, defined as a field of study that gives computers the ability to learn without being explicitly programmed.

In other words, machine learning programs adjust themselves in response to the data they are exposed to. This kind of learning made headlines when IBM's Deep Blue defeated Garry Kasparov in 1997. By 2005, the concept of deep learning took hold, a way of processing inspired by the human brain. This is how the artificial intelligence program named AlphaZero recently

taught itself to play chess in only four hours, thereafter defeating one of the world's strongest chess computers, Stockfish 8.

According to Dr Shakir Mohamed, a South African research scientist with Google's DeepMind in the United Kingdom and one of the Indaba organisers, Africa's attendance and participation in the world's leading machine learning conferences, have to date been virtually non-existent.

"It is critical for the future trajectory of machine learning and artificial intelligence that this imbalance and lack of representation is addressed. Africans must be contributors, shapers and owners of the coming advances in machine learning," he says.

## MACHINE LEARNING IN AFRICA

Dr Willie Brink, from the Applied Mathematics Division at Stellenbosch University (SU) and one of the organisers, says the aim of the Indaba is to strengthen the foundations of machine learning in Africa, and to increase the participation of African researchers in the field. Participation in this year's indaba is already at 600 delegates – double the number of

participants at last year's indaba.

At SU, Brink and electronic engineer Dr Herman Kamper have started a cross-disciplinary interest group on campus called Maties Machine Learning, which meets every two weeks for seminars and discussions.

They also recently oversaw satellite events in 13 African countries – from Algeria to Zimbabwe – all focusing on machine learning.

## IN PRACTICE

One individual who is already riding the machine learning wave into the Fourth Industrial Revolution, is SU alumnus Dr McElory Hoffmann. He is the co-founder and chief executive officer of Praelexis, a company that uses machine learning techniques to help clients make business decisions based on massive amounts of data. In 2016, Praelexis was named one of the most innovative businesses by the Western Cape government.

"Nothing we do at Praelexis can be bought from a shelf," McElory explains from their high-tech offices in TechnoPark, outside Stellenbosch. "We are continuously innovating, because data is changing in form and nature all the time. While making sense of



Dr McElory Hoffmann of Praelexis.

data is all about mathematics, we stay up to date by attending international workshops and conferences.”

Praelexis employs mostly postgraduate students with degrees in Applied Mathematics, Engineering, Computer Science and Mathematics. And while there is more than enough work out there, the bigger challenge is finding the people able to do the work.

He warns that academic experts are more and more being employed by the big internet companies such as Google, Microsoft and Baidu. This means the expertise is not within universities any more, impacting on the training of the next generation of computer scientists and software engineers.

He is deeply concerned that Africa may miss the opportunity to leapfrog into the Fourth Industrial Age: “We’ve done it before, when Africa jumped the entire landline era, embracing mobile technologies within less than a decade. But then we need to take machine

learning seriously, with serious investment and training. If we miss this opportunity, we stand the chance of being left so far behind that we may never close the digital divide again.”

### NEW GENERATION

Machine learning is also impacting on other fields. In biological sciences, says Prof Hugh Patterton, a new generation of biological data scientists is being trained in developing computer code, applying machine learning approaches, and applying the fundamentals of mathematics and statistics within a biological framework.

Hugh is director of the newly-established Centre for Bioinformatics at SU, an inter-faculty initiative to consolidate the research taking place in various research groups across a range of disciplines.

But one has to steer clear of the hype surrounding machine learning and artificial intelligence. Prof Willem

Visser, a computer scientist in SU’s Faculty of Science, warns that people should be more concerned about the ethical implications of machine learning than speculating about when and how the technological singularity is going to take place. The idea that artificial superintelligence will abruptly trigger runaway technological growth, resulting in unfathomable changes to human civilisation, is not going to happen in our life time, if ever, he says.

Emeritus Professor in Applied Mathematics and machine learning engineer at Praelexis, Ben Herbst, agrees: “In the 1980s, when the Internet really took off, no-one could have predicted where we would be today. It will be the same with machine learning. There is a lot of hype and people are scared of automated robots taking over their jobs. We simply don’t know. But that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t be ready to take on the challenges and opportunities awaiting us.”



# OFF TO A RUNNING START

The legacy of a Stellenbosch University alumna and athlete lives on in a scholarship that gives two athletes a significant boost in both their sports and academic careers.

By **PIA NÄNNY**

**B**ettie Harmsen, born Buitendag, was a keen athlete and Stellenbosch University (SU) graduate who received her BSc Honours in Medical Biochemistry in 1989. After graduating from SU, Bettie had a successful career in the pharmaceutical industry, first in South Africa and later in America, where she lived with her husband and two children. On 21 December 2016, she passed away at the age of 50 after a fierce battle with cancer.

Days before her death, Bettie and her husband Hans decided to award a scholarship to promising SU track and field athletes. The family has committed to donating \$10 000 per year for a minimum of 10 years – significant monetary boost for a student who aspires to be a professional athlete.

This year, track athletes and Maties students Justine Palframan (24) and Gardeo Isaacs (19) were named the first recipients of this scholarship.

The four pillars of the scholarship are aligned with the focus areas of the Maties Sport High Performance (HP) Unit, namely athletic performance, academic performance, personal empowerment and development, and community involvement.

“Our wish for the scholarship is that Bettie’s passions and beliefs may live on. She was an inspiration to many around her: family and friends, her colleagues and our church community. Bettie was always energetic, dedicated, determined, passionate, and guided by integrity and empathy. With a never-ending smile and positive, ‘can-do’ attitude, she gave her best at everything. Driven by her strong faith, Bettie impacted and was a blessing to many others. With the scholarship, we hope that she may continue to positively influence other people’s lives,” says Hans.

“As a family we love South Africa. We were so excited when we watched Wayde van Niekerk win the 400 m at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, and we would love to contribute to local athletes’ success so that they can be

an inspiration and example to others as Bettie was.”

Bettie’s sister, Louisa Hall, deputy principal at The Settler’s High School, emphasised this sentiment: “We are looking for students who are more than just athletes – students who dream of making a contribution to society. My message to the bursary recipients is to develop their sport and pay it forward by giving back to the community.”

The scholarship recipients are expected to participate in outreach programmes and be ambassadors for the Maties Sport HP Unit, as well as the PACER empowerment programme, which focuses on persistence, authenticity, commitment, empathy and resilience.

## IMPROVING PERFORMANCE

Justine, who is currently busy with her BSc Honours in Biokinetics, is the reigning SA champion in the 200 m and 400 m. She represented South Africa at the Olympic Games in Rio in 2016 and has won two medals at the World Student Games – gold in the 400 m in 2015 and silver in the 400 m in 2017.

“I’m very excited and grateful to be one of the two athletes picked for this scholarship. It will enable me to stay focused on my training while working towards earning my honours degree and becoming a biokineticist.”

Gardeo, a second-year BCom Management Science student, also specialises in the 200 m and 400 m. He progressed to the final of the 400 m at the recent ASA Senior and Combined Events Championships and also represented Maties at the two Varsity Athletics events held in March.

“This bursary will assist me by improving my performance on the track and I believe that it will also boost my chances of competing at an international level.”

After speaking to Hans and Louisa and paging through a picture book of Bettie’s life, Gardeo learned that family was the most important thing to her and that she was modest no matter how successful she was.

“I would like to honour her legacy by helping a less fortunate sportsperson in the same way that she helped me.”

Justine noted that Bettie was an amazing woman who loved to travel and experience new things. “I would like to have the same impact she had, always smiling and helping out in any way possible, giving back where I can and putting my family first.”

Sean Surmon, Head of the HP Unit, says the Bettie Harmsen Scholarship has brought a great energy to Maties Athletics. “We really support the holistic aspect of the expectations of the scholarship. The scholarship is also of such a nature that it can financially support a student-athlete to utilise the incredible opportunity of competing overseas.”

Ilhaam Groenewald, Chief Director of Maties Sport, emphasises the importance of strategic partnerships to support the Maties HP programme and students. “We are honoured to continue Bettie Harmsen’s legacy on behalf of her family. Their guidelines and goals for the scholarship fit in perfectly with Maties Sport and the HP programme’s objectives. The commitment of our two athletes to focus on community engagement through sport is an important ingredient of our holistic development programme.

“The family’s dream for this scholarship aligns with several of Maties Sport’s strategic objectives, such as developing world-class sportsmen and women; achieving a dominant position within focus sports at tertiary, regional and national level; increasing the percentage of competitive sportsmen and women who achieve academic success; building social capital; and delivering an excellent university experience.

“We are grateful that an SU alumna has decided to invest in the dreams and goals of young student-athletes and we are sure that we will see the benefits of the Bettie Harmsen Scholarship in years to come.”



# MUSICAL ROOTS

In an attempt to make music education more accessible, Stellenbosch University's Music Department launched Roots – an umbrella initiative that encompasses all this department's social impact projects.

By **ASIPHE NOMBEWU**

**T**he story of the Stellenbosch University (SU) Music Department's Certificate Programme, a social impact project that takes music education to the community, has gone full circle – Ash-Lee Louwskierer can attest to this. This 33-year-old trombone player

and music teacher started his journey with music education as a student in the Certificate Programme in 2009. And since 2017 he's been using this knowledge to run a similar programme for primary school kids in Mamre, his hometown on the West Coast.

At the Mamre Music School, pupils

from Mamre Primary School receive lessons in music theory, piano, guitar, drums and trumpet every Wednesday and Saturday. "Music education in Mamre is running on empty, that's why my wife and I started this music school," says Ash-Lee, who is also a manager for the Cape Town

Philharmonic Orchestra's music education project, Masidlale.

The hunger for music education is evident. With 45 pupils and four teachers, the Mamre Music School is already a success. "We get a lot of kids who are interested in playing a musical instrument. One of our teachers also received his training through the SU's Certificate Programme, and in this way we keep our connection with Stellenbosch's Music Department."

Ash-Lee has a vision for his school. He hopes that it will branch out to farm schools along the West Coast and that the collaboration with SU's Music Department will grow.

"Eventually we want to create jobs for music teachers, but in the future we want to build a big music centre for the West Coast, similar to the Hugo Lambrechts Music Centre in Cape Town. I can already smell that moment when we start to unearth the soil for the foundation," he says.

But the Certificate Programme is just one of the Music Department's long list of social impact projects. Over the course of 15 years, this department has actively widened its reach to take music education to communities throughout the Western Cape. The many projects — from Caledon to Saldanha — have grown to such an extent that the Roots initiative was launched in May 2018.

All the Music Department's social impact projects will fall under the name Roots from here on out. Fiona Grayer, Artistic Manager at the Music Department, says the word "roots" is indicative of community organisations because they usually operate on a grassroots level.

"The Music Department is committed

to a comprehensive social impact strategy that is realised through interconnected initiatives encompassing alternative delivery strategies in teaching such as the Certificate Programme and diplomas. But also curricular requirements in service learning and experiential training in degree programmes, performance ensembles, festivals, symposia, and social impact through engaged citizenship," Fiona explains.

Over many years, the Music Department has established long-term partnerships in various communities like Khayelitsha, Michells Plain, Ceres, Kayamandi, Mamre and many more. The image of "roots" is fitting to describe the work that has already been achieved by the Community Music Division over more than 15 years.

## LESSONS AND WORKSHOPS

For many years the Music Department has also been committed to educational initiatives with social value. For example, music students give lessons to beginners and more advanced students as part of their training.

And SU students who don't study music, can enrol for tuition in a variety of instruments. Music lecturers also engage with the community and local music teachers through regular workshops and concerts.

Because of the Music Department's continued community involvement, statistics show that 106 students, who have been involved in the programmes, have gone on to engage with music on a tertiary level.

"One of the department's biggest programmes is the Stellenbosch

International Chamber Music Festival that was launched in 2004. And every year since, the festival has grown in stature. It's accessible to anyone and produces chamber music of international quality. Many participants have been given the opportunity to gain experience overseas," says Fiona.

Through music making and concerts, the Music Department also makes an impact in communities.

The SU Jazz Band is a great example of this. Felicia Lesch, head of the Certificate Programme and director of the Jazz Band, says she has always believed in the medium of big bands as a good way for people to learn about rhythm, melody and about themselves.

Many of the students who enrol in the Certificate Programme, are members of the Jazz Band.

They have won numerous prizes and have shared the stage with some of SA's foremost jazz musicians — people like Judith Sephuma, Gloria Bosman, Amanda Strydom, Sibongile Khumalo and Timothy Moloi.

The SU Jazz Band is also a regular fixture at the Woordfees.

"I think the individual stories from the students about how their lives have changed since their involvement in the programme deserve this recognition," says Felicia.

These are only a few elements of Roots. The Nightingale Project, where old age homes around Stellenbosch are treated to concerts, and the Canticum Novum student choir that regularly gives concerts in rural areas, and have performed in prisons and children's homes, are other examples.

And with this, music takes root in various communities.

# PROJECTS WITH AN IMPACT

Year after year, Stellenbosch University produces cutting-edge research. Here are a few projects that caught our eye.

By **ALEC BASSON**

## WINE SNOBS

Black and white South African wine consumers, especially those in urban areas, share similar perceptions about wine, says **Dr Carla Weightman**, who did doctoral research on local consumers' perceptions towards wine.

Although black consumers had a relatively delayed start to their wine consumption, their motivations for drinking wine and perceptions about it don't seem to differ significantly from

those of their white counterparts. Carla says the most significant influences on wine consumption for both groups are the context in which it is consumed, the venue, whether a meal is involved, and their budget.

Wine seems to be associated with status and sophistication, appearance, celebration, relaxation, and food. Red wine is considered superior to white wine and people are willing to spend

more money on red wine.

Carla points out that approximately 56% of wine drinkers are females and around 43% male. Females from both cultural groups generally prefer wine and males choose beer or whiskey but do drink wine when it accompanies a meal. Females often drink wine to help relieve stress while for males, wine consumption is strongly linked to social occasions.



## FOOD LABELS

Consumers in Cape Town have poor knowledge about food and nutritional labels and information on food labels does not have a major influence on what they buy, says **Dr Nelene Koen (photo left)** from the Division of Human Nutrition.

Her doctoral study found that only a small number of consumers frequently or always read nutritional information on food labels. The main reasons many consumers do not read nutritional information on food labels included always buying the same type of product, a lack of interest and time to study the information, price concerns and lack of trust in food labelling information.

They also struggled to locate and understand the complex nutritional information on food labels and found the nutritional information table too busy, misleading, and the font-size too small. Some felt that manufacturers were trying to deceive them. When buying a product, consumers would consider its price, taste, sell-by date, whether it's on promotion, brand loyalty, marketing, and convenience.

## DAIRY FARMING

South Africa's dairy farmers can reduce their impact on the environment and still maximise their profits. This is the main finding of **Dr Craig Galloway's** doctoral research on sustainable agriculture on dairy farms in the Eastern Cape – the largest milk-producing province.

His study showed that farmers do not have to sacrifice anything in terms of financial profitability when they lower

the environmental impact of their practices. To have more sustainable dairy farm systems, farmers should ensure the farm is stocked according to the correct stocking density to maximise milk production without relying on excessive external inputs of fertiliser and feed.

Craig says addressing the significant environmental impacts associated with the production of milk on dairy farms

cannot be done at the expense of the farming business and the people who rely on this industry. He adds that the long-term success of agriculture depends on the implementation of sustainable practices.

According to Craig, farmers are very positive and open to the idea of sustainable agriculture, but the challenge lies in the implementation of sustainable practices.



## DISASTER RISK

Shack fires continue to increase despite the availability of electricity in informal settlements, according to **Alberto Francioli (photo left)**, who completed the first-ever Master's degree in Disaster Risk Science and Development at SU.

He found that approximately 67.2% of low-income households in three informal settlements in Somerset West and Strand alternate between electricity and paraffin to meet their energy needs.

Alberto says while electricity is the predominant energy source, financial constraints or issues regarding physical accessibility to and quality of electrical connections prevent households from using it. Some households continue to use paraffin and firewood because electricity is too expensive.

A potential consequence is the continued risk of a dwelling fire caused by non-electric energy sources.

According to Alberto, it's no surprise that fires in these areas have been attributed to the usage of candles, paraffin and firewood. Many households do implement a number of measures to reduce their exposure and mitigate the risk of experiencing a dwelling fire.

## LEGAL INDUSTRY

People with dyslexia struggle to find jobs in the legal industry because employers draft advertisements in a way that excludes them, says **Monja Posthumus-Meyjes (photo right)**, an attorney at SU's Law Clinic. Her Master's degree in Law addressed the exclusion of people with dyslexia who apply for jobs in the legal industry.

Her study found that the wording in advertisements amounts to indirect discrimination and that such discrimination was not rational, fair or justifiable. The wording in advertisements also greatly impairs or nullifies their chances of obtaining positions and indirectly excludes them from being considered for jobs.

Monja says people with dyslexia are routinely discriminated against in job advertisements for the legal industry despite the protection offered by the Constitution and the Employment Equity Act. She says advertisements need to reflect the real inherent requirements. She says the stigma that people with dyslexia cannot work in the white-collar sector can only be overcome by legally protecting them and by promoting access to jobs.





Stellenbosch University is on a road of continual transformation in many spheres. The unique story of its Faculty of Theology is an example of transformative leadership that is showing the way forward.

By **MARIEKE BRAND**  
and **LEN HANSEN**

# CONSTANT CHANGE

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**T**he former Theological Seminary – or, the “Kweekskool” – was established in 1859 and became the Faculty of Theology at Stellenbosch University (SU) in 1963. To many, it was a prominent example of an institution that reflected the exclusionary nature of the previous political dispensation in South Africa, even in the religious sphere.

For two thirds of the Seminary’s existence, lecturers and students were restricted to white male members of the Dutch Reformed Church. The Church itself had close links with the National Party of that era; numerous church and political leaders, such as DF Malan, were trained here. A few courageous voices did rise from within the faculty, questioning the apartheid system – such as BB Keet and, later, Willie Jonker. Nonetheless, in the “new South Africa”, the faculty had to confess to and address its role in upholding the apartheid system, particularly through the theological legitimisation and justification of the system in its very own lecture halls.

The way forward has not always been easy. The exclusionary nature of theological training on the basis of gender, for example, was addressed only after more than a century since the Seminary’s foundation: the first female student enrolled in 1963. However, for years afterwards, women in the Dutch Reformed Church – as in many other denominations at the time – could still not be ordained as ministers. The number of female students in the Faculty, even in the 1990s, remained low: seldom more than five per year.

The first female lecturer was appointed only in 1999. Elna Mouton was the first female professor at the faculty, from 2005 to 2010, and one of the most beloved of its deans. Today, both the student body and the lecturing staff are a mix of women and men. In 2017, virtually half of all undergraduates were women. The current environmental head of the Department of Old and New Testament is Prof Julie Claassens, while Prof Anita Cloete is the former head of Practical Theology and Missiology.

The road to a more ethnically and ecumenically inclusive faculty has

been an even longer one than the journey with gender. Apart from two black students in the very early years of the Seminary – Nicholas Goezaar in 1867 and Daniel Gezani in 1881 – the percentage of black students and staff at the faculty became significant only after training for the ministry in the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa (URCSA) moved from the University of the Western Cape to Stellenbosch in 2000.

This move – inconvenient to some and questioned by others – not only literally opened the faculty’s doors to black students, but also brought together theologians and leaders who would serve the faculty, the University and the church in later years with great success – some still do. Among the well-known systematic theologians are Prof Dirkie Smit, the late Prof Russel Botman (first black SU Rector and Vice-Chancellor), Prof Nico Koopman (first black Dean of the Faculty) and Mary-Anne Plaatjies-Van Huffel (first female Moderator of the URCSA and currently a vice-president of the World Council of Churches).

### THEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Another impetus for the increase in black students and lecturing staff is more recent agreements on the training of ministers with the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (in 2002), the Anglican Church of Southern Africa (in 2012) and the Volkskerk van Afrika (People’s Church of Africa) (in 2016). In a remarkable combination of events, the current Dean of the faculty, Prof Reggie Nel, was the first black undergraduate to graduate from the faculty.

In spite of a frequently sad and divisive past, the faculty also has a past and a present that speak of theological research and teaching of the highest quality. Over the past two years, the faculty has been one of the top 100 tertiary theological training institutions in Africa; more than half of the students are postgraduate and nearly half of them come from elsewhere in Africa.

The postgraduate student body is a sign of the faculty’s growing footprint in Africa. Serious work is being done in revising the curriculum, which includes objectives such as the decolonisation

of theology, in creating new degree programmes and in focusing on the promotion of human dignity. The faculty is also the administrative home and a founder member of the Network for African Congregational Theology (NetACT), a network of 41 theological training institutions in Africa from various Christian traditions and denominations that represent about 18 000 students and lecturers in 13 African countries.

Among the students and alumni of the faculty today are citizens from Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Cameroon, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, among others. African ties have also been strengthened also through closer cooperation with top African universities such as the universities of Botswana, Kenyatta, Makerere, Nairobi, and Namibia. An internet portal has furthermore been developed to enable joint research projects between the faculty at SU and these partners. The Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology is one of the faculty’s recent partners.

The faculty is giving renewed attention to programme options that encompass more than training students for the ministry, such as part-time training programmes and limited distance teaching. There has been a notable increase in prospective students who, considering the background of the social and moral crisis in our country, want to play a role specifically in faith and other communities. By 2017, the faculty had to introduce a waiting list for prospective students.

Both students and staff at the faculty fully support the necessity of transformation, even though it has proved to be uncomfortable, even painful, at times. A transformation task team that includes representatives from staff and students has been established to take the lead in this process.

To walk through the corridors of the impressive old building that houses the faculty today is indeed to be faced with an exciting, energising jumble of languages, nationalities, age groups, denominations and even religions. On campus, the Faculty of Theology may well be one of the smallest faculties but it is also one of the most diverse.



# A FOOTPRINT ACROSS AFRICA

With its strong emphasis on Africa, the establishment of the Africa Centre for Scholarship is a milestone in strengthening Stellenbosch University's international partnerships.

By **SARAH HOWIE**

**T**o establish Stellenbosch University (SU) as a leading African university – that is one of the goals of SU International, formerly known as the University's International Office. In order to achieve this goal, the African Centre for Scholarship (ACS), which was established in November 2017, plays an integral role.

The development of scholarship in Africa is widely seen as a significant

priority, given the continent's developing status globally and the current challenges facing her.

Although Africa has the fastest growing population of youth internationally and massification of higher education is at an unprecedented level, there is also a shortage of funding and expertise, leading to under-developed or dilapidated infrastructure and a shortage of staff. The impact of this

is visible in the continent's higher education indicators, revealing that there are only 800 public universities, with 6 million students, of whom 39% are female.

The graduate enrolment ratio in Africa is 30% lower than the rest of the world. On average, only 0.4% of the gross domestic product (GDP) is spent on research and development – therefore it is not surprising that a mere 0.7% of the world's scientific

research is undertaken in Africa. In academic journals, 1.1% of the content is generated by African universities, while 0.1% of global patents are produced in Africa.

Africa has a substantial diaspora, but two-thirds of Africa's sub-Saharan diaspora remains in the same region. For example, South Africa is the biggest recipient of mobile African students, according to UNESCO figures from 2011 and 2017.

The ACS aims to promote, develop, support and enhance SU scholarship across Africa. Efforts are made to support the trajectory of scholarship internally and externally for emerging scholars through digital media and coordinating research on internationalisation and global engagement in higher education.

## DIASPORA

Scholars in Africa face considerable challenges, resulting in an academic skills exodus and the broadening of the diaspora over the past few decades. Scholarship has an implicit emphasis on quality. Although the traits of a scholar necessitate them to be inquisitive, reflective, a risk taker, entrepreneurial, persistent, wise, having integrity, having the courage of their convictions, daring to be different – these traits may be seen as threatening in undemocratic and vulnerable academic environments.

So how can Africa continue to produce excellent scholars, and increase the number of scholars, who embody the core values of integrity, perseverance and courage, while also achieving excellent academic standards comparable to those at the

best institutions internationally? This is the challenge that the ACS seeks to address with the assistance of its partners internally and externally.

The Centre hosts the African Doctoral Academy (ADA), which already has its own longer history, but has been with SU International for the past five years. Since 2015, the ADA has had nearly 3000 participants in its Summer and Winter schools. These two-week-long programmes are held in January and July each year.

Using the excellent facilities and support at SU, the programme is run with the assistance of Stellenbosch, South African and international lecturers and professors.

In the Summer School of January 2018, scholars from Belgium, Germany, Switzerland and America joined their Stellenbosch peers in offering 18 workshops, the largest offering to date, attracting more than 300 participants to the workshops.

The bilateral and multilateral partnerships that SU has with top-rated universities internationally enable the ACS and ADA to access the support of some eminent scholars internationally. And the strong internal partnerships with faculties and other support centres within the University provide the ADA with access to some of Stellenbosch's own renowned scholars.

The ADA offers excellent support programmes related to research designs and methods at the doctoral and postdoctoral levels. In addition to core specialist research methodology training, other essential programmes aimed at enhancing scholarly skills such as digital scholarship, writing for publication, and supervision of

postgraduate students are presented. In 2018, for the first time, short grant writing and project management options were also offered.

For the Winter School in July 2018, the 18 courses were inundated with applications and scholars from Belgium, Ireland and America participated alongside colleagues from Stellenbosch and South Africa. The ACS provides a number of scholarships to applicants from all over Africa wishing to participate in the ADA schools, carrying on a tradition initially made possible by the Carnegie grant.

## TAILOR-MADE COURSES

In addition to the ADA schools based in Stellenbosch, joint schools with other African universities are also presented. To date these have been held in Malawi, Namibia and Uganda.

In May 2018, a joint school was held at Makerere University in Uganda, whilst negotiations are underway to present such schools in Kenya and Tanzania later in 2018. In particular, the ACS has been asked to tailor-make courses to develop and enhance staff in Kenya who are currently registered for their PhDs.

The ACS is also investigating a new e-learning platform.

A new research programme focusing on internationalisation and global education is being conceptualised that will further develop and enhance the work of SU International as a whole.

In these ways, SU is establishing itself as a leading African university, and expanding its footprint across the continent.

• *Prof Sarah Howie is the Director of SU's Africa Centre for Scholarship.*

# KEEPING HEAD ABOVE WATER

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Preparing for a water-scare future has become a harsh reality for those who reside in one of South Africa's drought-stricken provinces. Stellenbosch University has put measures in place to save water sustainably.

By **CANDES KEATING**

**F**or the past three years, the Western Cape region has experienced a significant drop in rainfall, forcing authorities to impose Level 6B water restrictions and limiting residents to 50 litres of water per day. A Day Zero was announced for when taps would run dry and punitive tariffs were introduced for households who consumed more than 6 000 litres of water per month.

While Day Zero has been put on hold for now, the reality is that Cape Town has officially joined an international list of cities which, owing to climate, environmental and economic factors, have had to reimagine the use of water and secure alternative water sources.

Mandated by the Stellenbosch Municipality to decrease its water consumption by 45%, Stellenbosch University (SU) has successfully mitigated the impact of the severe water restrictions and put in place measures to meet its commitment to the enhancement of systemic sustainability. John De Wet, Manager of Environmental Sustainability at SU, says the University's actions are guided by the SU Green Business Plan (2018–2022).

"Our environmental sustainability vision for SU is that by 2030 it must be transformed and operating in the greenest sustainable way possible in providing infrastructure, systems

and within its daily operations. This will result in minimal impact on the environment and on the resources needed," says John.

Guided by this vision, SU, under the leadership of Chief Director of Facilities Management, Nicolette van den Eijkel, established a Drought Response Contingency Workgroup, which was tasked with coordinating and overseeing the implementation of the SU Drought Response Plan. This detailed plan is based on three points of departure: to reduce water consumption by changing people's behaviour and through other interventions, re-using grey water, and identifying alternative water sources.

## **WATER PLANS**

Implemented in 2017, the SU Drought Response Plan has proved to be an overwhelming success, and has seen SU successfully achieve its target of reducing water consumption by 45%. Several other initiatives will be introduced during the next few months, and are expected to reduce SU's potable water consumption up to 63%.

John says that their first line of intervention was quick fixes, which saw SU launch the "War on leaks" project. Toilets tend to be the most common culprit implicated in water leaks, and to address this a permanent team has been set up and tasked with identifying and fixing leaks.

The project saw the establishment of a permanent team that identifies and fixes leaks across the SU campuses. Part of the project entailed replacing toilet cisterns with water-wise ones and fitting flush buddies in cisterns, which drastically reduced the amount of water used per flush.

The roll-out of large-scale grey water systems in residences also contributed drastically to the University's water savings, while the fitment of efficient equipment installed in kitchens and residences contributed to between 20% and 30% of savings in potable water use.

## **BOREHOLES**

SU also opened and renewed six existing boreholes, with each earmarked for a specific purpose. Water meters were installed in buildings across the Stellenbosch campus, providing John and his team with accurate water measurements at 15-minute intervals. For example, the water from the borehole at House McDonald is used for the cooling system at the Information Technology and Facilities buildings, while other borehole water resources are used to maintain historical gardens.

Although SU has reached its water-saving target, the University will roll out several additional projects this year, which will further enhance the sustainability of SU. This includes the construction of two state-of-the-art

## SU initiatives for saving water

purification plants and one reverse osmosis plant.

The first purification plant is earmarked for Tygerberg campus and will allow water to be extracted from five boreholes and filtered in the plant before being injected into the main reservoir, supplying up to 50% of the campus's water needs.

At Bellville Park, the reverse osmosis plant will allow SU to extract water from the adjacent lake, filter and then use it for consumption and other water needs, including the facility's cooling system. Once fully functional, the system, which will be the only of its kind in South Africa, will supply 100% of the Bellville Park campus's water needs.

Another ambitious project is a toilet grey water system that will see grey water from residences run through a single central purification system on the Stellenbosch campus and return to residences and administration buildings for flushing of hundreds of toilets. "This is a massive system that will see us place most of the toilets on the Stellenbosch campus on its own plumbing and grey water system," says John.

"This system along with the other water-saving measures will increase the resilience of SU, so that we can continue with our normal business if the municipalities even further reduce our water supply."



## DESALINATION

Stellenbosch University is one of the key partners in a project to establish South Africa's first solar-powered desalination plant at Witsand in the Southern Cape. The project was initiated by Prof Erwin Schwella from the School for Public Leadership at SU. It is co-funded by the Western Cape Government's drought relief fund and the French Treasury.

The plant is expected to come online by the end of October 2018. It will produce 100 kilolitres of fresh water per day to address the normal local water requirement and will only be powered by solar energy. The plant will also be able to supply drinking water outside of sunlight hours through a connection to the local electricity grid.

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# MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

In commemorating Stellenbosch University's Centenary, we asked 100 Maties what impact student life in Stellenbosch had on their future. Here are a few of them – for more Matie Voices, visit [www.sun.ac.za/100](http://www.sun.ac.za/100).



**FATIMA JAKOET**

alumna of SU Business School

As a pilot, Fatima Jakoet's favourite part of flying is that moment when she pulls back the sidestick and the aircraft lifts off the ground and heads for the sky. As the founder of the Sakhikamva Foundation (isiXhosa for "building a future"), Fatima's purpose is to give wings to the dreams of others. She started the foundation in 2010, shortly after she graduated with an MBA degree from the SU Business School in 2009. The aim of the Sakhikamva Foundation is to expose learners to the aerospace industry and to date, approximately 90 000 learners have been reached. "The Foundation addresses two main barriers to the aerospace industry: One is a lack of exposure to the industry which leads to ignorance about available opportunities, and the other is financial constraints."



**JOHAN VAN LILL**

alumnus of the Faculty  
of Arts and Social Sciences

Education specialist, connoisseur of the arts, radio presenter, writer, entrepreneur – there are few professional hats that Johan van Lill does not don with style. "I have a restless mind. Just like some people read five books at the same time, I like to have five projects on the go at the same time. I'm always looking for stimulation and I'm attracted to a wide variety of subjects. This is why, for example, my radio documentaries are so diverse, ranging from the arts and history to parenthood and religion." Today, Johan is one of few men in South Africa with foundation-phase teaching qualifications. He is also the author of several educational series and a developer of curriculum material for both primary and secondary schools. "I'm planning on becoming a Matie again next year! I had wonderful lecturers in the History Department and it's always been a dream of mine to come back to complete my honours degree."



## LIESL FICHARD

alumnus of the Faculty of Law

As chair of SU's Law Society in 1989, she was one of 18 Stellenbosch University (SU) students who travelled to Lusaka to meet with the ANC, an organisation that was still banned in South Africa. It was a decision that made her unpopular with many people, but one that had a profound influence on her life and career. Today, Liesl is a partner at top-ranking international law firm Quinn Emanuel Urquhart Sullivan LLP, specialising in complex international and cross-border tax investigations, tax disputes and arbitration. After graduating from SU and having obtained an LLM in the United States, she became a member of the Cape Bar. She moved to London in 2005 and now serves as a trustee of the UK SU Trust. "I had wonderful years as a student at Stellenbosch and can maintain my connection with SU as an alumnus through the UK SU Trust. It is one way of making a small contribution and giving something back to SU."



## JO-ANN STRAUSS

alumnus of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

As a little girl, Jo-Ann Strauss dreamt of ruling the world and being a queen. Today she is a successful businesswoman, television presenter, former Miss South Africa, spouse and mother of two (three soon)... her childhood dreams have come true to a large extent. "I don't eat chocolate every day and don't get fat, even though I dreamt about it as a little girl," she jokes. But there were many highlights and dreams that were realised. On the board of Media24, she crossed paths again with Prof Rachel Jafta and on the advisory board of the SU Business School, with Prof Stan du Plessis. She attended class with both as Matie student and never thought she would work with them. "Being a student was an incredible experience for me. At Stellenbosch I learnt what it meant to *sê*, and I'm very glad that I could also experience residence life (in Minerva)."



## OMPHILE RAMELA

alumnus of the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences, and Economic and Management Sciences

When Highveld Lions batsman and SU alumnus Omphile Ramela talks about cricket, he describes it as a vehicle – the conveyor belt that has taken him places he might not have gone otherwise and provided a career path in sport. In 2008 cricket brought Omphile to Stellenbosch, where he became a member and later captain of Maties Cricket's first team. He obtained his BA degree and two honours degrees, one in Philosophy and one in Economics, from SU. In 2015 he registered for a Master's degree in Economics with a focus on economic history. "If you haven't played at the pinnacle of your sporting code for at least five to 10 years you simply won't make enough to live off after playing. A quality education bridges the gap." He specifically remembers the hospitality he received from the bursary office, cricket manager André du Toit and the cricket community within his first month at SU, as well as the opportunity to travel to Spain during his postgraduate studies.



## DR MOLEEN ZUNZA

alumnus of the Faculties of Medicine and Health Sciences, and Economic and Management Sciences

Dr Moleen Zunza is the epitome of perseverance, dedication and hard work. Raised alongside 19 other siblings in Zimbabwe's Wedza district by her grandmother, she became a nurse after school, initially believing that to be the best option available to her. By 2008 Moleen was 37, married, had two children and worked at the Parirenyatwa General Hospital in Harare. It was at this stage, however, when things started to change drastically. "My husband received a postdoctoral position at Stellenbosch University, and we decided to move the family to South Africa." Facing tough times financially and unable to register at the South African Nursing Council, 2011 saw Moleen — in the hope of widening her career options — graduate from SU with a Master's degree in Clinical Epidemiology. Next, she set her sights on pursuing two further postgraduate qualifications—a PhD in Paediatrics, and a BCom Honours in Applied Statistics. She graduated with both degrees on the same day in 2016. Not surprisingly, she is also in her final year of her fifth degree — this time an MSc in Biostatistics.



## STUART TAYLOR

alumnus of the Faculty of Science

Best known for presenting SABC 3's hit travel show *Going nowhere slowly*, comedian Stuart Taylor spent his days as a Matie student studying BSc. "I loved studying a BSc degree. I'm still a massive fan of the natural sciences. Even while I was studying, I was pretty sure it wasn't the career I was heading towards but still, I loved learning about physiology and zoology." He was flexible and open to new opportunities, and in January this year he celebrated his 18th anniversary doing only comedy on stage. He says that he has nothing but fond memories of his days as a student. This is where he met his wife, Elisca, and he remembers throwing stones against her residence's window to get her attention. "In my humble opinion, if you didn't do Stellenbosch in res, you only got half of the experience. It was a really great sense of community."



## JACOB PETRUS COETSEE

alumnus of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Jacob Petrus Coetsee is just five years younger than SU. He did his Master's degree in Afrikaans/Dutch at Stellenbosch, followed by an SED and MEd-I course. Meals at Dagbreek men's residence were, for him, not always something to write home about. "We boycotted the food more than once: we'd pour everything standing on the table – salt, pepper, mustard, tomato sauce – into the dishes and onto the table, mix it all up so that it couldn't be used again, walk out and go and eat at Suikerbossie." After his studies, Jacob taught in Kirkwood. When he started to lose his hearing, he left teaching and went onto a specialist division at the then Department of Education, Arts and Science in Pretoria – the Language Service Bureau. "Seventeen years later, I came and did in Stellenbosch what I'd actually initially wanted to do as a student – I became co-editor at the *Woordeboek van die Afrikaanse Taal*, the WAT." He retired from the WAT in 1985. With Part 14 of the dictionary in his hand, he says, "I'll have you know that a lot of sweat went into this book".



## JUDGE EDWIN CAMERON

alumnus of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

More than 40 years after he graduated from Stellenbosch University, Constitutional Court Judge Edwin Cameron describes his time on campus as years of intense questioning, challenges and discomfort despite his beautiful surroundings. He questioned himself about his political commitment, as well as about his career choice, where he had to decide between literature and law, and his sexual orientation. He graduated from SU in 1975 with a BA Honours degree. After this, he went to Oxford University and switched to law. Back in South Africa he also obtained a LLB degree from UNISA. The choices he made in his student days paved the way for the direction of the rest of his career. He wants to encourage law students to be inspired, empowered, courageous and active. "I'm inspired daily by the idea that each of us can, practically and beneficially, make a difference to our own lives and the lives of others. Life offers us no excuse for inaction, and no excuse for complaining without doing something positive."



## DR RONALDA BENJAMIN

alumnus of the Faculties of Science, and Economic and Management Sciences

Being born with the odds against her was not an equation that was ever going to stump Dr Ronald Benjamin, originally from Worcester's Riverview flats. Today she holds no fewer than four degrees (all completed *cum laude*), has received two Rector's Awards, and is well on track to obtaining full professorship. All before even turning 30. "My secret has always been working on my attitude. Whatever the goal or challenge was, if I had the right attitude, I managed to achieve it or get through it," says the former Breede River High student. She discovered her love and talent for mathematics early on in her life, and recalls always being fascinated by the different types of shapes and patterns that she saw all around her. "My advice to any young girl from Riverview flats today would be exactly what I told myself many years ago: do not look at the circumstances that you are in, look at the circumstances you would like to be in."



## PHEPHELAPHI DUBE

alumnus of the Faculty of Law

Growing up during the early 1990s, the world felt like a tumultuous place for Phephelaphi Dube. "The nightly news would broadcast wars in Kuwait, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Rwanda," she recalls. "Then they'd move on to the violence that gripped our townships and in rural KwaZulu-Natal. It made me want to understand conflict and how best to maintain a peaceful society." It was through following the CODESA talks that she began to grasp the important quest for a national blueprint that both represents and protects everyone's interests. "I firstly understood our Constitution to be a peace treaty, but also a document that allowed every South African to achieve their fullest potential." Today, Phephelaphi is about to reach her two-year milestone mark as Director of the Centre for Constitutional Rights, a unit of the FW de Klerk Foundation. "The opportunities I have had so far in my life – for example, my ability to access higher education through an institution such as Stellenbosch University where, in the past, I would not have been permitted – are largely as a result of the constitution."



## DR MOHAMMED DALWAI

alumnus of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences

After playing a pivotal role in convincing the international humanitarian organisation Medecins sans Frontières (MSF)/Doctors Without Borders to implement the South African Triage Scale, Dr Mohammed Dalwai realised something important: that individuals do have the ability to make an impact on the world. While working for MSF in places such as Northern Pakistan, Syria, Libya and Sierra Leone, this SU alumnus also learned that doctors are more than just healthcare practitioners – they are advocates for their patients. Five years ago, Mohammed and another Stellenbosch alumnus, Dr Yaseen Khan, founded The Open Medicine Project South Africa, a non-profit organisation aimed at capacitating healthcare workers in the developing world using mobile technology. “I would come back from a mission and discuss the challenges I faced, which were often similar to the challenges faced by Yaseen in the lower socio-economic areas of Cape Town,” Mohammed explains. They decided to use mobile technology and the reach it granted them to disseminate information to where it’s needed the most, empowering healthcare workers to make better decisions.



## ANTONNETTE BOTHA

alumnus of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Antonnette Botha, blind from birth, studied for a teaching diploma in music at SU from 1954 to 1956. “I did music at the Conservatory, although that wasn’t my first choice. I’d always wanted to teach but I didn’t know where I’d find work as a blind person. Careers for blind people were few and far between in those days,” she recalls. After matric, Antonnette did a two-year course in Braille shorthand with commercial subjects at the School for the Blind (today the Pioneer School) in Worcester. At the beginning of her second year into the course, the school principal offered her the music teaching post at the school with the understanding that she would first qualify as a teacher. After her studies, Antonnette returned to the School for the Blind where she taught music and shorthand. Victor Vaughan, who drew up a Braille shorthand for Afrikaans and who happened to be vice-principal of the school, later asked her to consolidate the Afrikaans Braille shorthand system with the expanded English shorthand. “That was my first major work in Braille. I didn’t know then that it would chart the course of the rest of my life.” Later, a need also arose internationally to renew the entire English Braille system and Antonnette did a lot of work on this.



## GRETA GERICKE

alumnus of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Greta Gericke was born in the year that SU was established, 1918. She is the longest-living SU choir member, and became the first student to obtain a degree in Physical Education at Stellenbosch, being the 1940 captain of the SU women’s hockey team. And to top it all, she went on to receive a Master’s degree at the age of 80. She remembers her student days at SU fondly. “In those days, we designed our own sports uniforms. I remember how we rode our bicycles from Coetzenburg, where we received our practical training, to the main campus. It was a completely different town from the Stellenbosch we know today. For instance, there were no buildings at Coetzenburg. The only built structure was the pavilion.”



## PROF MZUKISI QOBO

alumnus of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

The highlight of his academic career - this is how Prof Mzukisi Qobo, Deputy Director at the NRF Research Chair on African Diplomacy and Foreign Policy at the University of Johannesburg, describes the Master's degree in International Studies he completed at SU in 2000. "It took me to a higher level in my academic development, offered a bridge to find employment in government and gave me confidence to register for a PhD a few years later." After working for government for three years, Mzukisi received a scholarship to do his PhD at the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom. His supervisor there had been a visiting scholar at SU while Mzukisi was a Master's student. "The Master's programme at Stellenbosch definitely equipped me for the rigours of intellectual life in the UK," he adds. Since leaving Stellenbosch, Mzukisi has fulfilled leadership roles that span government, policy think tanks, and academia. As an author, columnist, thought leader and public speaker on themes such as leadership, governance and political economy, he believes South Africa needs transformational and ethical leaders - leaders that are able to inspire confidence and energise South Africans to pull their weight.



## DR RAZEEN GOPAL

alumnus of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences

Dr Razeen Gopal recently returned from a humanitarian mission in Dakar where he successfully performed cryoballoon catheter ablations on 18 patients in a remarkable four days. This revolutionary procedure has been performed by him and his team at the Cape Town Atrial Fibrillation (AF) Centre nearly 600 times to date. Razeen made news in 2016 when he implanted the first subcutaneous shock device - also known as a Subcutaneous Cardioverter Defibrillator (S-ICD) - into a patient in Africa. Earlier this year, he again made news when he performed the first proctor-guided series of implants - a newly accepted technique or modality of pacing the heart artificially, but in the most physiological manner to date - in Africa. "I grew to love cardiology specifically during my residency as an internist. Aside from the fact that the heart lent itself to fascinating analysis, whether physical or metaphysical, another aspect of cardiac management which I feel attracts so many to this line of work, is often the ability to affect patients' prognosis and outcomes, mostly for the better, in a very short space of time."



## NTSIKI BIYELA

alumnus of the Faculty of AgriSciences

As a girl, Ntsiki Biyela looked after cows near her village of Mahlabathini in rural KwaZulu-Natal. Today she is the country's first black, female winemaker who exports to America, Germany and China. A remarkable achievement in itself - there are fewer than 10 professional black winemakers in South Africa today - but one made even more impressive by the fact that she only got to taste wine for the first time as a student. "Truth be told, I initially disliked the taste," recalls Ntsiki, who first came to Stellenbosch in 1999 to pursue a BSc in oenology and viticulture. "But of course, as my studies progressed and I was able to submerge myself more in wine and wine culture, I learned to appreciate both the product and the craft behind it." She is a former SA Woman Winemaker of the Year and worked as a winemaker for boutique wine producer Stellekaya - a position she held for 13 years - and now as owner of Aslina Wines. Founded in 2017, the company is named after Ntsiki's late grandmother, and produces four signature brands. Its aim is to produce around 18000 bottles by the end of this year.



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The historic front foyer with its double-volume ceiling and dramatic woodwork accommodates 150 guests in comfort and style. It is the ideal function room for a book launch, new product release or important media briefing. Seating can be arranged to suit the function and number of guests.

The Lecture Theatre seats 40 attendees in classic lecture room style, with fixed desks and upright chairs, a podium, a lectern, a retractable projection screen and a data projector. The room is wired for stereo sound and cable microphone at the lectern. Internet is also available for clients from within the university. The Museum Courtyard is a novel venue idea. Perfect for all fresco functions such as a cocktail event, a traditional braai or a wine tasting. Can host up to 200 guests.

The back Foyer is a functional, elongated space, highly recommended as a food preparation space or serving area for functions taking place in one of the other venues. It could also be put to great use as a mini-exhibition room.

All of the venues offer a choice of audio-visual equipment, tables, chairs, podium and sound. The University Museum does not offer catering but recommends catering companies contracted to the University.



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# NETWORKING AROUND THE WORLD

Maties across the world have created hubs where alumni can connect and network, while reminiscing about student life on campus.

By ILSE ARENDSE

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**T**o bring Maties together wherever they may find themselves in the world – this is the reason behind Stellenbosch University's (SU) alumni hubs that have been established across the globe, says Shaun Stuart, Alumni Relations Manager at SU.

"Wouldn't it be amazing to go anywhere in the world and know that there is a Matie nearby or a Maties network with whom you could connect? We have hubs in London, Washington DC, New York, Southern California, Hong Kong, Namibia and Canada, but there is always room for more," says Shaun.

Recently, the Alumni Relations Office also launched hubs in Luxembourg, Brussels and Amsterdam, where alumnus Alison April is spearheading outreach to alumni in the Benelux region. "Our alumni are great ambassadors for SU internationally and we are looking forward to the continued growth of our hubs over the next 100 years!"

According to Shaun, these hubs are part of SU's strategic engagement with alumni. "We want to link the past, the present and the future by creating,

nurturing, supporting and managing an inclusive and strongly united global community of Maties," he adds.

In the United Kingdom, regional alumni hub co-ordinator, Darryn Havenga, says the hub has been a hive of activity thus far and they are planning more get-togethers in the coming months.

"We have hosted a few gatherings, among them a rugby evening to watch the Centenary Varsity Cup match between Maties and Ikeys, as well as a coffee-and-croissant luncheon. As SU graduates, we will always feel part of the institution and having a hub where alumni can connect with each other allows for an important sense of belonging," Darryn says.

"Our hubs also open doors to networks on a business level, help build lasting friendships with other alumni in your specific area and create a platform where any new alumni coming to the UK can find friendly faces and sound advice on setting up in a new country," he adds.

For Reanne Olivier, USA regional alumni hub co-ordinator, meeting up with Maties in a foreign country can give you a sense of familiarity and

belonging. "It is always great to be in spaces with people who have a similar lived experience as you. As much as Stellenbosch has grown throughout the years, Maties from various generations will always have this mutual understanding," she says.

Reanne believes the importance of having a hub is to ensure a connection to SU and to one another.

"I have met many alumni here who love their alma mater, but haven't even set foot in South Africa or on campus in years.

"The hub essentially becomes the home away from home."

She says it gets lonely from time to time once you emigrate and integrate into a new culture.

"To know that there is a community of people who understand certain elements of you because they attended the same university, studied in the same faculty or stayed at the same residence. This allows alumni to never feel detached.

"It is also positioned as a great networking community – many people who are in similar fields are easily connected for opportunities for jobs, projects, research or friendship."



**Right:** The women alumni of the London Hub gathered in May 2018 at the Garden Café of the V&A Museum.



**Right:** Norman Slinger, Izak Redelinghuys, Hanru Hermanus Redelinghuys and Thuthuka Sibisi attended the New York alumni event in March 2018.



**Left:** New York-based Maties had the opportunity to rekindle old friendships and establish new relationships with fellow alumni in the nearby areas at a cocktail event held in March 2018. Here are Hanru Hermanus Redelinghuys, Roshan Chakane and Ian Fraser Gordon at the event.

**Left:** At the New York alumni event in March 2018, Maties played an introductions game – with Shaun Stuart (middle), SU Alumni Relations Manager, are (clockwise from right) Heidi Theunissen, Stacey Galloway, Thuthuka Sibisi, Izak Redelinghuys, Norman Slinger, Ian Fraser Gordon, Hanru Hermanus Redelinghuys and Roshan Chakane.

## CREATE A HUB

Would you like to establish or join a hub in your area? The Alumni Relations team at Stellenbosch University is ready to help and support you every step of the way. Send an e-mail to [alumni@sun.ac.za](mailto:alumni@sun.ac.za) or connect with us on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram or Twitter.

The Alumni Relations team can

assist you in these activities:

- Identifying and approaching active alumni in regions and countries.
- Setting up a local group on social media and relevant alumni engagement platforms, through which the hub can communicate.
- Notifying all alumni in the region of the hub, and provide them with

the coordinator's contact details.

- Assisting in coordinating local events by sending out invitations to alumni in the region and assisting to set up a hub committee.
- Managing RSVPs and boosting interest through social media.
- Providing alumni pins and related marketing collateral.



# MAKING THE CIRCLE BIGGER

Internationally, how do we reach out to a broader pool of philanthropists and potential donors to Stellenbosch University? **KAREN BRUNS**, Director: Development and Alumni Relations, introduces you to their “foot soldiers”.



If you're in the USA, you may well have already met **Reanne Olivier**. She is the USA Director for the Development & Alumni Relations Division at Stellenbosch University (SU), focused on reconnecting and strengthening SU's relationship with its US-based alumni and donors from her home base in New York. She started working with us in 2017 and has already established eight Matie Hubs across the USA, with a further two to come online before the end of 2018. She also produces a regular USA Maties newsletter. If you would like to get special messages out there, you can reach her at [reanne@sun.ac.za](mailto:reanne@sun.ac.za).

Reanne holds a BA (Hons) in Political Science and History from SU, and served on the Student Representative Council (SRC) in 2015/16. Of Haitian origin and a US citizen, Reanne lived in South Africa for five years.



Up until July 2017, **Darryn Havenga** was the Head of Contact and Client Services at the University, prior to moving with his family to the United Kingdom. In his current role of UK Director for the Development and Alumni Relations Division, Darryn aims to connect our UK-based alumni with each other and their alma mater, as well as to raise the international profile of the University with prospective donors.

Darryn has always understood and felt that improving people's lives and/or experiences was a core requirement in being true to himself and is passionate about creating opportunities for students who cannot afford to study here, to be fully funded and become successful graduates. He and the UK trustees have some great ideas as to how we can commemorate our Centenary with our UK donors and alumni. If you have any ideas, share them with Darryn at [darrynh@sun.ac.za](mailto:darrynh@sun.ac.za).



Most recently, we've appointed **Alison April** as our representative in the Benelux countries, together with the International Office. Alison was the Deputy Head of the International Office at Stellenbosch University from 1995 to 1999, and holds an MA in Political Science from the University, where she also served on the SRC.

Alison has worked as a Corporate Social Responsibility Consultant in Brussels for a number of years. Based in Brussels, Alison is assisting in the founding of alumni hubs in Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, and aims to create opportunities for fundraising amongst European philanthropists, foundations and companies, and assists in raising the University's profile at the EU, in our embassies and among other strategic partner universities and organisations. You can reach Alison at [alisonapril@sun.ac.za](mailto:alisonapril@sun.ac.za).

## NEW TRUSTEES

In 2017, new trustees were appointed to the United Kingdom SU Trust. These trustees, a mix of alumni and donors, bring to the UK fundraising and alumni activities new support, ideas and multiple opportunities to grow our SU presence in the region. They are William (Bill) Frankel OBE, Chairman of the Claude Leon Foundation in South Africa as Chair; Prof Wim de Villiers, Rector and Vice-Chancellor of SU; Dalton Odendaal, consultant at Harbottle & Lewis; Liesl Fichardt, partner at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP in London; Philip Lochner, founder and Chief Executive Officer of Pedalsure in the UK; and Andrew Wigley, senior partner at the Cape Partnership.

## HOW TO GIVE

Once you have decided which aspect of Stellenbosch University's groundbreaking work you would like to support, you can make a donation by cheque, direct deposit, credit card, debt order, electronic funds transfer (EFT) or online. Our easy-to-use online giving platform (<http://t2000-05.sun.ac.za/donorPay/faces/formAlumniMain.jsp>) makes donating safe and secure.

## MYSCHOOL

Swipe your MySchool card whenever you shop at any of the participating retailers nationwide and a percentage of the transaction will be donated to Stellenbosch University.

## SNAPSCAN

Scan the QR code below with your phone to make a contribution to a fellow Matie. Donations received through SnapScan go to our Maties4Maties Bursary Fund. 18A tax certificates will be issued on request.



Snap here to pay



## TAX BENEFITS

Individual and corporate donors to Stellenbosch University receive tax benefits under South African income tax law. In the USA and UK there are options for donating to Stellenbosch University in a tax-efficient way. The full Rand value of a gift in your will is also deductible in determining your net estate duty liability. Contact Hugo Steyn on +27(0)21808 3615 or e-mail [hugos@sun.ac.za](mailto:hugos@sun.ac.za).

## TYPES OF SUPPORT

You can determine when and how your gift to the University should be used. It could be provided for current projects or invested to provide a lasting legacy for generations to come. Current-use gifts of any size can be made to the academic initiative, strategic objective, research programme, faculty, student residence or society of your choice.

Endowments are permanent funds that are invested to create a lasting resource that grows in perpetuity. The fund may be established in your name or in honour or memory of another. These include:

- Stellenbosch Trust
- Named research chairs
- Endowed bursaries or scholarship funds
- Endowed Deans' Funds

## CONTACT

Please contact our Development and Alumni Relations Division for further information on the various projects that you can support. Phone +27(0)21808 4020 or e-mail [development@sun.ac.za](mailto:development@sun.ac.za).

# A VIRTUAL HOME ESPECIALLY FOR YOU

Stellenbosch University will soon launch a new digital platform where alumni from across the globe can connect, writes **SHAUN STUART**, Alumni Relations Manager.

**G**raduating from university is a big step in your life's journey. Once you have obtained your degree, you form part of a very special alumni community and your alma mater remains your intellectual home.

As Stellenbosch University's (SU) Alumni Relations Office, we strive to keep you engaged with and connected to your alma mater long after the euphoria of obtaining your qualification(s) has died down.

This is usually easier said than done, right? Life has a way of happening – with new responsibilities taking centre stage. Because SU alumni is so sought after, many of you find yourselves based around the globe and staying connected to your alma mater is perhaps the last thing on your mind.

Although having an engaged alumni corps is beneficial to us – you are our best ambassadors after all – it is also beneficial to you. You get to build business networks that could lead to an even better professional position and you get to be reminded of what was (in most cases) the best time in your lives.

So, in an effort to harness our mutually beneficial connection, we've come up with an innovative solution...

In the University's special Centenary year, where we salute those who have helped to mould this institution and cement its reputation as a world-class academic institution, our gift to you, our alumni, as our loyal supporters and our best ambassadors, is a brand new online engagement platform.

It will be a one-stop shop where you can network with each other, and us, in the digital space.

Whether you are far or near, your alumni home will be only a click away – a virtual home, especially for you. There you can "meet up" with old friends, get to see what your former classmates are up to and connect with like-minded people.

This platform is more than just about reminiscing – we have created something of value to you, both professionally and socially. Professionally, it will be the place where you can build on your professional profile, volunteer as a mentor, access a willing and exclusive network of support, share your wealth of experience and skills, find selected job opportunities or shop for Maties memorabilia, including our award-winning Die Laan wines.

Socially, it will be the place where you can get news, stories and triumphs from your faculty, residence or classmates, and get exclusive invitations to a full range of global alumni events and opportunities.

We can't wait to start to catch up. Keep an eye on your inbox for more details to reconnect as we roll out this new platform in the latter half of 2018.

Thank you for being worthy ambassadors, for ploughing back, for ensuring that Stellenbosch University can continue to honour its reputation as a world-class academic institution.

Forward together. *Masiye Phambili. Saam vorentoe.*

Here's to you.



## Homecoming 2019

Our 2019 Maties Alumni Homecoming Weekend will take place from 1 to 4 March 2019 on our Stellenbosch campus.

Be sure to keep in touch with us via our social media platforms as we are putting together a variety of tailor-made activities, specially selected for our alumni who wish to come and visit their alma mater next year.

You can expect a music extravaganza, class and/or residence reunions, a family fun day, a mountain-biking experience, our increasingly popular Homecoming Fun Run / Veldtrap met Woordfees and other sport and recreational activities, as well as a host of exciting social activities.

We will once again be partnering with the SU Woordfees, and a special alumni discount will be available for selected Woordfees shows, so be sure to look out for our Maties Homecoming promotion in 2019.

Our Homecoming Weekend is your chance to reconnect with old friends, to relive those wonderful student days and to learn more about the exciting research, innovation and discourse activities taking place at your alma mater. Come and see how much has changed and how much is still the same. It's always great to come home to Matieland, and we can't wait to see you again soon!

# IN MEMORIAM

*Matieland* would like to honour alumni who have passed away. The University has noted with regret the passing of the following alumni.

**Mrs TA (Therese) Armstrong (née Benade) (75)** from Ipswich, America. BA (1963). Teacher in several countries, like Zimbabwe, Canada and Pakistan.

**Dr JP (Johann) Beyers (74)** of Stellenbosch. BA (1965), HonsBA (1967), MA (1968).

**Ds CPF (Corrie) Brits (83)** of Kroonstad. LisTeol (1966).



**Dr CW (Cees) Bruggemans (64)** of Sloane Park. BCom (1973), HonsBCom (1976), MCom (1979), DCom (1984). Former Helshoogte resident.

Respected economist and writer of financial newspaper and magazine articles. Formerly employed by Standard Bank and Senbank, lecturer at Wits University, as well as honorary professor in Economics at SU.

**Dr TM (Thomas) Brummer (87)** of Constantia. NDT (2001).

**Mr K (Krit) Coetsee (83)** of the Strand. BCom (1958).

**Ds JC (Japie) Cronje (89)** of Albertinia. BA (1949).

**Mr J (Jan) de Klerk (81)** of Die Wilgers, Pretoria. BA (1956).

**Dr R (Raymond) Dusabe (41)** of Bellville. MMed (2015). Staff member at SU's Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.

**Mr IR (Ian) Garden (68)** of Mbombela. BScBosb (1970). Former Majuba resident. Sports enthusiast who died during the 2018 Cape Town Cycle Tour.

**Dr JWL (Johan) Gebhardt (32)** of Centurion. MBChB (2011).

**Mr AJ (Al) Germishuys (81)** of Die Wilgers, Pretoria. BSc BIng (1960). Former Dagbreek resident. As student actively involved as, among others, journalist at *Die Matie* and member of the Intervarsity committee.

**Mr JM (John) Harris (81)** of West Buclar in the United Kingdom. BScBosb (1959).

**Mr LJ (Lwazi) Jozana (58)** of Parow. HonsBB&A (2000).

**Ms RM (Raesetje) Kupa (24)** of Stellenbosch. BScBosb Houtwet (2015). Former Nemesia resident. Worked from July 2016 at SAFCOL Research in Sabie, and was primarily responsible for the controlled pollination programme.

**Mr EG (Ernst) le Roux (73)** of Paarl. BSc Agric (1965), MScAgric (1974). Former Huis Marais resident.

**Mr P (Piet) Lloyd (82)** of George. BSc (1953). Former Dagbreek resident.

**Dr B (Bartholomeus) Lombard (51)** of East London. MBChB (1989).

**Prof RS (Raimund) Loubser (90)** of Menlo Park. BSc (1947), BSc Ing (1948), PhD (1965).

**Prof JA (Jacobus) Louw (69)** of Bellville. MPA (1969), BEcon (1974), HonsBPA (1980), PhD (1995). Former SU staff member. Worked until December 2007 as Manager: Research Development and Support.

**Mr DJ (Dave) Lundie (82)** of Hermanus. BScBosb (1957).

**Dr WW (Wela) Manona (59)** of Parow. MPA (2000), PhD (2004).

**Mrs S (Suzette) Manthe (née Els) (64)** of Port Elizabeth. BHuish (1975). Former Minerva and Harmonie resident.



**Prof BA (Bethel) Muller (86)** of Stellenbosch. Religious minister and academic at the Seminary of the Dutch Reformed Church; later SU's Faculty of Theology. Former BTK member.

**Dr H (Hilgard) Muller (35)** of Paarl. MBChB (2006). Staff member at

SU's Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.

**Dr C (Charl) Nortjé (62)** of Somerset West. BA (1976), HonsBA (1977), HOD (1978), MA (1982, 1988), DPhil (2000). Former Huis Marais resident.



**Mr MN (Michael) Penman (58)** of Johannesburg. BA (1984). Wildlife ambassador in African tourism. Known as "Mad Mike" in the Animal Planet TV documentary series, *Mad Mike and Mark*.

**Dr J (Josef) Raubenheimer (93)** of Clanwilliam. HonsB(MW) (1969), MA(MW) (1970).

**Mrs L (Lize) Rossouw (née Olivier) (44)** of Stellenbosch. BCom (1994), HOD (1995). Former Monica resident. She was head of department and subject head of Economics at Paul Roos Gimnasium in Stellenbosch.

**Ms JJ (Stienie) Spies (née Bam) (70)** of Somerset West. BA (1967), SOD (1968). Former Sonop resident. Former SU staff member.

**Mrs MA (Marie-Adele) Steyn (née Naudé) (90)** of Bloemfontein. BCom (1948). Former Sonop resident. Former accounting teacher at Oranje Girls High School in Bloemfontein.

**Dr W (Wilna) van der Linde (née Dorfling) (64)** of Port Elizabeth. BA (1973), SOD (1974), Dipl Spes Onderwys (1975), MA (1997), DPhil (2000). Former Monica resident.

**Ms LC (Lettie) van der Merwe (née Visser) (61)** of Utrecht, Netherlands. HOD (1979).

**Mrs E (Erika) van Papendorp (62)** of Bellville. Staff member at SU's Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.



Send information to [alumni@sun.ac.za](mailto:alumni@sun.ac.za) or phone +27 (0)21 808 2709/10



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## EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE

The young thought leaders produced by Stellenbosch University should reflect on how they can empower other young people who are less privileged than they, writes  
**LWANDO NKAMISA**, SRC Chairperson.

**T**his year marks the 42nd commemoration of the student uprising on 16 June 1976; a pivotal moment in our country's political history and one that helped bring an end to Apartheid.

Youth Day, which South Africans celebrate each year on 16 June to commemorate the 1976 student uprising, reminds us of the continued struggle of many young South Africans who still languish in poverty because they can't find decent employment.

It's quite shocking that 24 years into our democracy the unemployment rate among young people under the age of 35 is close to 50%. What's even more worrying is that they make up 60% of our population. More than 3 million of these young people are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) and are sitting hopelessly at home.

As a result, many end up engaging in some illegal activities such as gangsterism and crime just to survive. For some, the situation is so dire that they have to sleep under bridges, not knowing when the next meal is coming.

To them, the dream of a rainbow nation and a new dawn is nothing but a dream. I have spoken to many of these young people in my capacity as a DA youth regional chairperson, and through my interactions with them, I have become acutely aware of their continued plight and daily struggle to improve their lives.

Studying at Stellenbosch University (SU), one of South Africa's top academic institutions, made me aware of how privileged I am compared to so many young people who find it hard to make ends meet. As students, we can study in a relatively peaceful environment with state-of-the-art academic and recreational facilities.

Race relations are slowly but surely improving and access to funding has increased drastically thanks to the "free education" movement. After completing our degrees we have less anxiety about finding employment as SU is one of the universities with the highest graduate employment rate in South Africa.

However, the same cannot be said of the country as a

whole, because those young people with little or no formal education struggle to enter the job market.

It is important that those of us who are in a privileged position help our fellow young people who don't have the same privileges.

We have to reflect on the struggles they face on, for example, farms and in townships and cities. But, we should go further than just reflect; we should take action to alleviate their plight and, in so doing, uplift our communities.

Even though I realise that we can do more, it warms my heart that SU, through its legal and social impact projects, is already empowering communities and encouraging its students to become involved in many different ways.

Some students are offering tutoring services to school learners in surrounding communities such as Kayamandi, Cloetesville and Idas Valley. Others are involved with initiatives aimed at providing sanitary towels to those who can't afford these, while some offer training to members of the community.

Since our fellow young South Africans are looking for access to opportunities, we can use the social capital we have to create these opportunities.

We can achieve this by volunteering at non-governmental and non-profit organisations during holidays or when we have spare time. We can also base our researchers and projects in communities to find innovative ways of solving pressing problems and empowering young people.

What does it help for us to live in the land of milk and honey while our young brothers and sisters are languishing in poverty? Just like any of us, they dream of a fairer South Africa where their access to opportunities is not determined by their parents' economic status, language, race or sexual orientation. Working together we can create a just and fairer society not just for the struggling youth but for all of our people.

• *Lwando Nkamisa is a Master's student in Agricultural Economics and Chairperson of the SU Student Representative Council for 2017/2018.*

**STUDYING AT  
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**Congratulations on an existence of  
100 years to the University of Stellenbosch.  
Anna Basson Properties is looking forward  
to the next 100 wonderful years.**



*“Funny thing  
about something  
that’s larger  
than yourself.  
It’s not yours to own.  
It’s theirs to pass on.  
40 years later, I know  
that nothing worth  
having is ever  
made alone.”*

*Pam Golding*

As proud as we are  
of our 40-year legacy  
of skilfully selling  
homes and building  
lasting relationships,  
we would like to take  
this opportunity to  
pay tribute to the  
exceptional and  
ongoing achievements  
of the **University of  
Stellenbosch** in this  
their centenary year.

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