ALUMNItydskrif

NWU&U

as alumni

NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY
YUNIBESITI YA BOKONE-BOPHIRIMA
NOORDWES-UNIVERSITEIT

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Vroegoggend-koffie met **Katlego**

Kom ons ry weer **fiets**

Mooi, mooier, **mooiste**

Johann Coetzee: Verskeidenheid is ‘n leefwyse vir hom

Voorblad
Mnr Katlego Maboe, 'n alumnus van die Potchefstroomkampus, is die aanbieder van 'n TV-oggend-program, Expresso, en lid van die a capella-sanggroep, Flip a Coin. Lees meer oor sy aktiwiteite in die vermaaklikheidsbedryf op p26.

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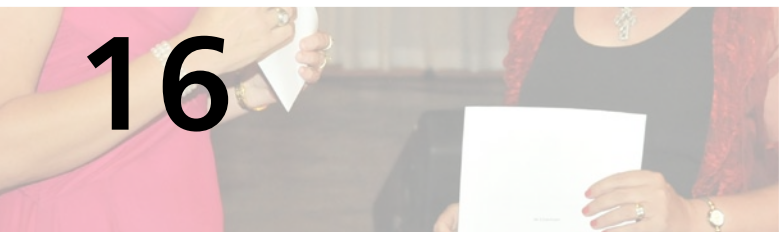


Boodskap van die visekanselier

Beste alumni

Ons is reeds in die vierde jaar van uitgawe van die NWU & U alumni-tydskrif en is dankbaar dat ons vanuit die oudstudent-geledere soveel positiewe kommentaar op die publikasie kry.

Hierdie tyd van die jaar is gewoonlik bestekopneemtyd. In hierdie uitgawe kan u lees hoe personeel en alumni van al drie NWU-kampusse hul merk maak in die gemeenskap. Ons kyk ook na die afgelope jaar se suksesse ten opsigte van die sleutelprestasieareas, wat aantoon dat die NWU steeds 'n sterk groeikurwe handhaaf.

- Die onderrig-leer-telkaart by die NWU wys dat studentegetalle van 2005 tot in 2011 met meer as 46% gestyg het. Terwyl die groei in kontakstudente ongeveer 17% beloop het, was die toename in afstandstudente vir dieselfde tydperk 116%. Dit wys duidelik dat die NWU, wat naas UNISA die tweedegrootste voorsiener van afstandsonderrig in Suid-Afrika is, ernstig is om 'n tasbare bydrae te lewer tot die voortgaande opleiding en bemagtiging van mensekapitaal in Suid-Afrika.

- 2011 was ook die jaar waarin die NWU 'n 85% slaagkoers in alle voorgraadse modules (vir kontak- en afstandstudente) behaal het – 'n 6%-styging in die slaagkoers sedert 2005.

- Die graadverwerwingskoers van 27% in 2011 (vergeleke met die nasionale graadverwerwingskoers van ongeveer 16%), bring die NWU weereens onder die toppresterende universiteite in hierdie verband in Suid-Afrika.

- 'n Totaal van 15 093 grade en diplomas is in 2011 op die verskillende kampusse van die NWU toegeken. As dit vergelyk word met die 7 764 wat in 2005 toegeken is, dui dit op 'n toename van 94% en plaas dit ons onder die top-drie universiteite in Suid-Afrika wat graad- en diplomatoekennings betref.

- Hierdie prestasie sou nie moontlik wees sonder toegewyde personeel by al die kampusse en die Institusionele Kantoor nie. Ek is baie trots op almal en bedank hulle vir hulle besondere toewyding en harde werk.

- Met betrekking tot die navorsingsuitsette wat in 2011 op al die kampusse behaal is, is dit duidelik dat dié jaar 'n hoogtepunt op navorsingsterrein vir die NWU was:
  - Danksy die sterk groei in gesubsidieerde publikasie-uitset, het die NWU se totale navorsingsuitset van 1 318 in 2010 tot 1 785 in 2011 gestyg (m.a.w. 'n styging van 33%). Indien hierdie uitset vergelyk word met die 865 eenhede wat 2005 se totale navorsingsuitset uitgemaak het, dui dit op 'n volle 103%-toename.

  - Artikelekwivalente het gegroei van 511 in 2010 tot 635 in 2011. Hierdie toename van 21% in net één jaar is merkwaardig.

  - Die gesubsidieerde publikasie-uitset het met 'n volle 35% toegeneem tot 781 eenhede, in vergelyking met die vorige jaar se 578 eenhede.

- Ons neem egter kennis van die konsolidering wat tans op nagraadse vlak blyk. Ten spyte van die marginale verbetering van 639 meestersgraadtoekennings in 2011 (in vergelyking met 633 in 2010), was die 339 PhD's wat in 2011 toegeken is 'n volle 12% minder as 2010 se 387. Hoewel hierdie tendens ook by ander Suid-Afrikaanse universiteite waarneembaar is, kan u seker wees dat ons besig is om te soek na kreatiewe oplossings.

- Die NWU is dit aan sy belanghebbendes verskuldig om effektief en doeltreffend te wees. Juis daarom is ek dankbaar om te berig dat dit goed gaan met die universiteit se finansies. Hoewel dit algaande moeiliker word om alle studenteskuld ingevorder te kry, stel ons effektiewe finansiële bestuur ons in staat om die fisiese infrastruktuur voortdurend te verbeter, om die selfgegenereerde inkomste te bly verhoog en om 'n gesonde surplus te bou.

Ten slotte is dit belangrik om te noem dat die NWU, soos alle Suid-Afrikaanse universiteite, opwindende en uitdagende tye beleef. Die universiteitsbestuur is daarvan oortuig dat die NWU goed geposisioneer is om 'n tasbare bydrae tot die kennisekonomie in Suid-Afrika te lewer.

Lees volgende keer nog meer oor die vordering wat ons in hierdie verband maak!

Groete

Dit gaan oor **geleenthede**

Wanneer 'n mens kyk na die lewens van die alumni oor wie ons in hierdie uitgawe skryf, is dit keer op keer duidelik dat die NWU vir hulle die plek was waar hul drome gebore is en hul toekomstige sukses ontwikkel het.

Vir hulle was die NWU ook die plek waar 'wat as' verander het na 'wat is' en 'dalk' na 'kan'. Gewapen met hierdie agtergrond, het hulle die wêreld ingegaan en hul ontluikende drome waar gemaak.

Wanneer 'n mens kyk na hoe hul lewens steeds ontwikkel, is daar twee dinge wat uitstaan. Die eerste is dat hulle met oorgawe lewe, en die tweede is dat hulle nie net vir hulself lewe nie – hulle ploeg dit wat hulle ontvang het, weer terug in die gemeenskap.

Op p17 lees ons hoe mnr Monnapula Motlogelwa sy kennis en ervaring aanwend om van mense huiseienaars te maak en op p18 lees ons hoe mnr Johan Cloete gesorg het dat Suid-Afrika se krieketskeidsregters op die wêreldkaart kom.

Me Tumi Hatla is 'n leier wat die korporatiewe leer wil bestyg, maar terselfdertyd wil verseker dat sy die lewens van ander positief beïnvloed – meer oor haar op p20.

Lees op p21 hoe mnr Johan Booyens deur sy joernalistieke loopbaan duisende mense ingelig en vermaak het. Nog iemand wat mense inlig en vermaak, is mnr Katlego Maboe. Op p26 vertel hy meer oor sy loopbaan as sanger en TV-aanbieder.

Prof Sipho Seepe lewer 'n reusebydrae tot die ontwikkeling van die gemeenskap. Lees op p22 hoe hy hom op politieke en opvoedkundige terrein beywer om mense se lewenskwaliteit te verbeter.

Prof Johann Coetzee (p24) is nog 'n voorbeeld van iemand wat deur sy vol lewe as bedryfsielkundige, professor, lewensredder, skrywer en postdoktorale navorser teruggeploeg het wat hy self ontvang het.

Hierdie alumni het een saak in gemeen: hul verbintenis met die NWU of sy voormalige instellings. Dit lyk dus of die inhoud van die NWU se nuwe handelsmerk-manifes – soos weergegee op die agterblad van hierdie uitgawe – in die kol is: By die NWU gaan dit nie net oor onderrig nie, maar oor die geleenthede wat onderrig bring.

Dit blyk ook uit die artikels dat die alumni hierdie geleenthede met geesdrif aangegryp het om waardevolle bydraes in die gemeenskap te lewer.

Voorwaar: dit is 'n instansie en alumni om op trots te wees.

Lekker lees,

Nelia en Marelize

NWU-kundiges ken hul storie

Die NWU se kundiges word dikwels in die media aangehaal, wat die openbare beeld van die universiteit uitbou as 'n instelling wat streef na kennis en innovasie om ander in staat stel om hul lewenskwaliteit te verbeter. In hierdie artikel deel ons van ons kundiges se kommentaar wat die afgelope tyd in die media gepubliseer is.

"Geen persoon of entiteit kan weens nalatigheid of andersins aanspreeklik gehou word vir die dood van Thabang Makhoang nie. Die verdrinking was 'n frats-ongeluk te midde van elke denkbare voorsorgmaatreël. Dit het plaasgevind tydens 'n gebeurtenis wat uitsluitlik vir pret en spanbou georganiseer is, en nie tydens enige vorm van ontgroeningspraktyk nie."

Mnr Peet van der Walt, Voorsitter: NWU-Raad
Beeld, 3 April 2012

"Omgewingsvriendelike metodes moet geïmplementeer word om die kwaliteit van mynwater te verbeter, want, as die waterkwaliteit goed is, kan mynwater gebruik word as 'n alternatiewe waterbron."

Prof Ingrid Dennis, Navorsingseenheid vir Omgewingswetenskappe en –bestuur, Fakulteit Natuurwetenskappe, Potchefstroomkampus
Mining Weekly.com, 4 Mei 2012

Redaksionele span: Nelia Engelbrecht en Marelize Santana, Louis Jacobs, Phenyo Mokgothu, Kiewiet Scheppel, Annette Willemse, Elmarie Cronje, Ronel Beukes van Zyl. **Bladuitleg:** Graphikos. **Drukwerk:** The Platinum Press. **Fotografie:** Maclez Studios, Nelia Engelbrecht, Phenyo Mokgothu, Kiewiet Scheppel, Annette Willemse. **Vir verdere navrae/korrespondensie:** Nelia Engelbrecht - Tel 018 299 4937, faks 018 299 4938. NWU & U word deur die Korporatiewe Sake en Verhoudinge-departement van die NWU in Engels en Afrikaans voorberei en uitgegee. Indien u nog kopieë wil hê, skakel gerus vir Nelia Engelbrecht. Om die NWU & U in elektroniese formaat te ontvang, stuur asseblief 'n e-pos aan marelize.santana@nwu.ac.za.

Dit kom

Die NWU & U het weer 'n hele klomp briewe van alumni ontvang. Ons deel graag die briefskrywers se menings, nostalgie en wyshede met die lesers.

Goeiedag daar in die ouland,

Wat 'n verassing! Sedert die bekende en geliefde PU vir CHO van die landkaart verdwyn het, is hierdie die eerste kontak van die nuwe NWU wat my bereik het. Baie dankie.

Ek was van 1969 tot 1973 'n student in Hombré, toe nog die opslaan-koshuis aan die eindpunt van die kampus.

Mense soos prof Dekker, prof Tiedt, prof Stoker, prof Reinecke en prof Offermeier het ons kennis bygebring en ds D'Assenville die Calvinisme, en deur alles heen het ons staande gebly.

Na jare se wêreldomswerwing het ek my in die privaat-aptekerspraktyk gevestig; eers van 1980 tot 1994 in Bonnievale en tans in Mosselbaai.

Graag verneem ek van mede-oudstudente uit ons era waar hulle hulself bevind – miskien kan ons op 'n reünie weer ontmoet.

Met tuinroete-groete,
Cornelis-(Rattles) Cornelissen, Mosselbaai

Beste redaksie,

Dis my eerste oggend op kantoor na die reses; e-posse, gewone pos, boodskappe wat uiteindelik 'n woeste, deurmekaar lessenaar tot gevolg het. Met die oopmaak van die pos kom ek ook af op die ALUMNI-tydskrif Volume 3 nr 2 van 2011.

Met die deurblaai sien ek op p4 die foto van Theuns Eloff – dit laat my opkyk, want sien, teen een van my kantoormure hang twee kleinnode.

Dis die SR-foto's van 1975/76 en 1976/77 en daar sien ek Theuns ook, sowel as ander maters soos Div Lessing, Petrus Coetzee en al die ander. Ek het egter ook met skok besef dat van ons groep van destyds 'n paar nie meer met ons is nie. Ek blaai verder en sien toe die artikel (p20) van Davidson Mazibuko waarin hy die lewe as 'n reis ervaar. Stof tot nadenke.

Snaaks hoedat 'n foto van 'n bekende, 'n artikel wat jou interesseer en ander bekende dinge jou laat voel asof jyself nog gister op die PUK was. Ek en 'n vriend, Frik Snyman – ook 'n oud-Puk – boer ten minste een maal per week saam en dit word afgesluit met 'n braai onder die Kameelboom.

Dis dan wanneer ons studentelewe weer herlewe en rugbywedstryde teen oom Jan Tromp oorgespeel word. Dan moet mens inderwaarheid die lewe as 'n reis ervaar.

Dankie vir 'n puik tydskrif wat mens met nuwe onderneming 'n dag en jaar laat begin.

Hartlike groete vanuit 'n gulhartige Noord-Kaap en Upington.

Peet Badenhorst,
Hoof: Upingtonkampus, Vaal Universiteit van Tegnologie

Geagte redaksie,

Ek het die behoefte om die skrywe aan u te rig om dankie te sê vir 'n puik tydskrif wat aan ons alumni uitgestuur word.

Net ten aanvang, kortliks, wie ek is:

Hansie Coetzee, voorheen verbonde aan die Interne Oudit-afdeling in die Institusionele Kantoor, maar ek het steeds 'n blywende belangstelling in die universiteit, en daarom my groot dankie vir hierdie tydskrif wat geskep is.

Ek het my verbintenis met die PU vir CHO/ NWU op 1 November 1967 begin met 'n aanstelling in Finansiële Administrasie: Studente-debiteure.

In 2002 tree ek uit as adjunkdirekteur en senior interne ouditeur van die universiteit.

Daarna was ek tydelik betrokke in dieselfde departement tot einde 2010.

Verder was ons ook van die eerste studente wat vir die BCom na-uurs ingeskryf het in 1962, en vanaf Klerksdorp op Dinsdae en Donderdagaande hier kom klas loop het.

Die uitgawe Volume 3 nr2/2011 verwys.

Die artikels en die aanbieding daarvan is puik, asook die wonderlike nuus wat van al die alumni verskaf word.

Dit is veral wonderlik om van die prestasies van sovele oudstudente te kan verneem, en dit kan dan ook dien as aanmoediging vir alle ander geledinge van die NWU.

Hier is 'n duidelike bewys dat daar in ons land ook goeie dinge gebeur, wat nie altyd die nuus haal nie, en dat die NWU vir seker 'n groot bydrae op al die lewensterreine in ons land, Suid-Afrika, maak.

Op bladsy 32 regs bo word van Jurie Venter melding gemaak en ek meen dit is ds Jurie Venter wat in 1976 op Vryheid predikant was en ook my pa daar begrawe het.

Ek sou graag met ds Venter wat later die bediening verlaat het, wou kontak maak. Sou enigeen daarmee behulpsaam kon wees?

Die artikel op bladsy 32 het my veral laat terugdink aan ons aandklasse op Donderdagaande en die laaste drie periodes Ekonomiese Geskiedenis by prof Willie Venter (Kajafas), wat sy volle tyd gebruik het, al was die ouens in die bus al haastig, veral hier in die winteraande, heerlike dae!

JC Coetzee
Krugerstraat 143 / Beyers Naude, Potchefstroom

van ver af

1949 – Die biblioteek brand!

My pa, prof JF (Lappies) Labuschagne het die onderstaande stuk oor die biblioteek-brand in 1949, ongeveer 'n maand ná die gebeurtenis, geskryf.

Ek het die artikel van my pa onlangs tussen sy papiere en boeke gevind, en het gewonder of julle daarin sou belangstel.

Hy was sedert 1931 verbonde aan die Departement Afrikaans-Nederlands en het in 1965 as professor daar afgetree. (In sy brief in die laaste Alumni-tydskrif verwys Pieter Stümpfer ook na my pa.)

Ek was ook 'n student in Maatskaplike Werk (1946 tot 1949) aan die NWU en was hoofdame van die destydse Thaba N'kulu in die jaar van die brand.

Ons as dames was byderhand en was behulpsaam om te probeer red en meubels of toerusting uit die gebou te dra. Ek het selfs nog foto's wat van ons dames voor die brandende biblioteek geneem is.

Met beste wense vir julle met hierdie insiggewende en puik tydskrif,

Cilna van Wijk (née Labuschagne)
Pretoria Groenkloof

Hier volg 'n verkorte weergawe van die dokument wat Cilna se pa, prof FJ Labuschagne oor die biblioteekbrand in 1949 aan die voormalige PU vir CHO geskryf het:

'n Mens besef eers goed die betekenis van 'n universiteitsbiblioteek as bedink word dat dit alleen opgebou kan word deur jarelange toewyding, sorgvuldige keuse en moeisame versameling. Die verlies kan nie bloot in geldwaarde bereken word nie – daar het onherstelbare geesteswaardes verlore gegaan.

Die PUK sou Woensdag, 23 Februarie heropen vir die studiejaar 1949. Toe, effens voor agtuur, merk enkele studente van ver af iets wat soos rook bo die dak van die hoofgebou opstyg. Ondersoek bring die ontsettende ontdekking: die dak van die hoofgebou in die biblioteekvleuel is aan die brand!

Hoe rampspoedig: die vernaamste toegange na die biblioteek word eerste deur rookdampe, hitte en spoedig deur vlamme versper, en enige onderneming tot redding word lewensgevaarlik. 'n Aantal boeke word van die balkon af gegooi en in komberse opgevang. Die studente werk en veg soos besetenes ... die munisipale brandweer daag op ... wat hande het, help .... maar om die ramp te vererger: die waterslange pas nie op die krane nie!

Die referensie-afdeling word met 'n leer deur 'n venster bereik, maar rook en damp en hitte maak redding onmoontlik. Die militêre brandweer en dié van Witrand-inrigting kom byspring, maar 'n gedeelte van die dak stort reeds in. Al die tydskrifreekse en naslaanwerke word deur vlamme verteer ... die lokaal is een rooi gloed van binne ... vensterglas spat in flenters, die mure maak barste ... die dak stort met 'n gekraak neer!

Soos 'n hero veg 'n student, Victor D'Assonville, met 'n bestendige waterstraaltjie om die vuur daar te stuit. En eindelik word die bedreiging van vernietiging van die saal en verdere deel van die hoofgebou ook gestuit ...

En by alles ... die geloof is behou; die oortuiging gee maar weer krag en moed ... en blymoedigheid van hart ...

Prof FJ Labuschagne, 1949

Skryf gerus en vertel vir ons waar in die wêreld julle jul bevind en hoe dit met jul loopbane en gesinne gaan. Stuur julle briewe na *nelia.engelbrecht@nwu.ac.za* of faks dit na (018) 299 4938 of pos dit na Nelia Engelbrecht, Institusionele Kantoor, Noordwes-Universiteit, Privaatsak X1290, Potchefstroom, 2520.

ONS HOOR GRAAG VAN JULLE!

Moedige musikante ontvang kanseliersmedaljes

Twee gesiggestremde musikante, adv Stephen Kekana en mnr Babsy Mlangeni, se moed en passie vir musiek is beloon toe die Mafikengkampus op 10 Mei 2012 kanseliersmedaljes tydens die herfs-gradeplegtigheid aan hulle oorhandig het.

Die kanseliersmedaljes word toegeken aan mense wat besondere nie-akademiese prestasies behaal of uitsonderlike bydraes op enige lewensterrein lewer.

Geen wonder dus dat Babsy en adv Stephen vereer is vir hul voortgesette bydrae tot die nasionale én internasionale musiekbedryf nie.

Wat verder gelei het tot die toekennings, is hul bydraes op die terrein van menseregte, gelykheid en versoening, en tot die bevordering van sosiale geregtigheid en opvoeding deur musiek.

Daarby dien hulle ook as rolmodelle wat talle hindernisse met volharding oorkom het.

Aanhouer wen

Albei se lewens getuig inderdaad van talent en deursettingsvermoë.

Adv Stephen, 'n arbeidskonsultant by Legal Smart, is in 1958 naby Zebediela in die Limpopoprovinsie gebore en het reeds 43 albums en meer as 70 goue plate op sy kerfstok.

In 1979 en 1980 was hy die wenner van die SAUK se Swart Musiek-toekenning vir beste manlike sanger. Hy het ook al Radio Zulu se toekenning gekry vir beste manlike sanger en was naaswenner op die Tswana- en Sotho-radiostasies. Sedert 2001 het hy al verskeie CD's saam met ander bekende sangers opgeneem.

Ander toekennings wat hy ontvang het, is die Four Outstanding Young South Africans Award (1984), die Ten Outstanding Young People of the World Award (1985), and the Mama Beka Community Award (2010).

Gesoute musikant

Ook Babsy is 'n gesoute musikant – daarvan getuig die meer as vier dekades se ondervinding in die musiekbedryf.

Hy is in Soweto gebore en het by die Athlone Skool vir Blindes in Kaapstad skoolgegaan. Hy is 'n bekende sanger, kitaarspeler, komponis en entrepreneur en was die eerste swart persoon wat 'n platemaatskappy besit het.

Nadat hulle die kanseliersmedaljes ontvang het, het adv Stephen Kekana en mnr Babsy Mlangeni die gehoor vermaak. Hier maak adv Stephen sy buiging.

Musikant van formaat: Mnr Babsy Mlangeni (regs) ontvang sy kanseliersmedalje van prof Dan Kgwadi, die rektor van die Mafikengkampus.

Net maanskyn en rose was sy musiekloopbaan egter nie – daar was baie kreatiewe, emosionele en fiansiële uitdagings, onder meer in die gestalte van 'n gewetenlose talentsoeker en 'n onetiese platemaatskappy.

Ten spyte hiervan het sy loopbaan tot baie treffers en kommersiële sukses gelei, byvoorbeeld meer as 25 goue plate en verskeie musiektoekennings.

Albei hierdie legendes het duidelik bewys dat daar 'n groot verskil is tussen gestremdheid en onvermoë. Hul lewens getuig ook daarvan dat gestremdheid nie 'n hindernis hoef te wees wat 'n mens die geleentheid ontneem om 'n bydrae te maak tot die samelewing nie.

Borgskap erken weer **uitnemende joernalistiek**

Met kommunikasiekunde as studierigting en puik kommunikasiekundiges op al drie kampusse, is dit geen wonder dat die NWU weereens die Nasionale Persklub – Noordwes-Universiteit se Joernalis van die Jaar-toekennings geborg het nie.

Dr Theuns Eloff, die visekanselier van die NWU, het die pryse op 23 Maart 2012 by 'n prestige-funksie in Pretoria aan die room van die joernalistieke bedryf oorhandig.

Met persvryheid deesdae hoog op die openbare agenda het hy die NWU se mening oor die onderwerp so verwoord: "Die universiteit deel joernaliste se kommer dat die Wetsontwerp op die Beskerming van Staatsinligting ernstige implikasies kan inhou vir die vryheid van inligting en vir joernalistieke vryheid."

Hy het ook gesê die toekennings dien hul doel as dit kan help om die gehalte van joernalistiek in die land nóg verder te verbeter.

Wenners word aangewys

Die inskrywings is beoordeel deur 'n paneel onafhanklike kundiges, soos onder meer me Cornia Pretorius, 'n senior lektor in joernalistiek aan die Skool vir Kommunikasiestudies op die Potchefstroomkampus.

Mnr Barry Bateman van *Eyewitness News* is aangewys as 2011 se Joernalis van die Jaar ter erkenning van sy feitelik korrekte verslaglewering en vir sy werk onder ontsaglike sperdatumdruk.

Sy vasberadenheid met die storie oor die Tshwane-metropolisie se gebruik van voertuie met vals nommerplate is 'n uitstekende voorbeeld van joernalistieke uitnemendheid.

Mnr Nic Dawes, Redakteur van die *Mail & Guardian* is aangewys as Redakteur van die Jaar vir sy onwrikbare standpunt oor uitnemendheid en sy verbintenis tot die stryd vir persvryheid.

Die Nasionale Persklub – Noordwes-Universiteit se Joernalis van die Jaar het met R10 000 weggestap, terwyl elke kategoriewenner R5 000 ontvang het, geborg deur die NWU.

As wenner bekroon: Mnr Nic Dawes (regs), Redakteur van die Mail & Guardian *en dr Theuns Eloff, die visekanselier van die NWU, by die toekenningseremonie. Nic is as Redakteur van die Jaar-aangewys en sy prys is 'n luukse wegbreeknaweek.*

Dié nuusmakers domineer die media

Die Openbare Beskermer, me Thuli Madonsela, en die geskorste leier van die ANC-jeugliga, mnr Julius Malema, is aangewys as die Nasionale Persklub – Aon Suid-Afrika se Nuusmakers van die Jaar 2011.

Mnr Yusuf Abramjee, die voorsitter van die Nasionale Persklub, het tydens die oorhandigingseremonie gesê dié wenners het dag in en dag uit gesorg vir hoofopskrifte. "Hulle het ons koerantblaaie en die luggolwe gedomineer. Hulle het ons aan die praat, skryf en debatteer gekry."

Lede van die nuwe advieskomitee is agter van links me Sindy Thutubalang (Bemarking en Kommunikasie) mnr Corrie Botha, prof Marius Stander, mnr Vuyisile Gubuza, mnr Heinrich Kriel en mnr Dawie Erasmus. Voor van links is me Pat Matla, me Lindokuhle Matla, dr John Maloma (Direkteur: Bemarking en Kommunikasie) mnr Ramosebi Morabe, dr Brendah Sekatane, me Alwine Naude (alumni-koördineerder) en meTumi Hatla. Afwesig: mnr Chris Schwartz.

Ekonoom en **nuwe komitee** gee advies

Die Vaaldriehoekkampus se alumni het in die eerste helfte van 2012 'n advieskomitee tot stand gebring en tydens 'n gesellige ontbytgeleentheid meer geleer oor die ekonomie.

Die eerste almuni-advieskomitee is op 16 Februarie 2012 saamgestel. Die 14 lede van die komitee is almal alumni van die kampus en speel sleutelrolle in die korporatiewe omgewing, industrie, regering en gemeenskap.

Me Alwine Naude, die alumni-koördineerder, sê die doel van die komitee is om vir graduandi 'n sterk en betekenisvolle netwerk daar te stel wat 'n reeks dienste en voordele aan alumni kan lewer.

Daardeur word lewenslange verhoudinge gebou en professionele netwerk-geleenthede geskep wat wedersyds voordele inhou.

Die advieskomitee gaan met die verskillende groepe alumni skakel om proaktief goeie verhoudinge te kweek. Dié groepe sluit in onder meer nagraadse studente, alumni van verskillende vakgroepe en koshuise, en alumni met verskillende kwalifikasies.

Ontbyt met Ettiene

Advies oor die ekonomie het aan die beurt gekom tydens 'n ontbytgeleentheid wat op 27 Februarie 2012 vir alumni van die Vaaldriehoekkampus gehou is.

Die kollig het geval op globale ekonomiese markte en alumnus Ettiene le Roux, hoofekonoom by Rand Merchant Bank het ook in sy kristalbal gekyk wat die jaar vir Suid-Afrika inhou.

Van die feite wat Ettienne met die alumni gedeel het, sluit die volgende in:

- Die wêreldekonomie se groeipotensiaal vir die toekoms is nie soseer in die hande van die ontwikkelde wêreld nie, maar eerder in dié van die opkomende markte. Die jaarlikse groei van die bruto binnelandse produk (BBP) van ontwikkelde lande is byvoorbeeld 1% teenoor die 5% van opkomende markte.

  Markte soos Indië (6% BBP) en Brasilië (2% BBP) word as die 'nuwe normale' beskou, omdat hulle soveel beter geposisioneer is vir groei.

- Dit neem sowat 12 maande om die verliese wat deur die wêreldwye resessie veroorsaak is, te verhaal, en alle aanduidings is dat Suid-Afrika 'n ekonomiese oplewing beleef. Die grootste uitdaging vir die Suid-Afrikaanse ekonomie is die oorspandering wat die regering se lonerekening betref, wat met 8,2% vir die 2012/2013 finansiële jaar gestyg het.

Volgens Alwine word verskeie sulke ontbytgeleenthede vir die res van 2012 beplan. Kontak haar gerus by 016 9103250 of *alwine.naude@nwu.ac.za.*

Mafikeng-alumni byeen in Botswana

Tydens 'n alumni-byeenkoms by Cresta Lodge in Gaberone, Botswana, is alumni op 9 Maart 2012 opnuut op hoogte gebring van die prestasies van die Mafikengkampus.

Volgens me Susan van Rooyen, die alumni-koördineerder op dié kampus, was die alumni veral beïndruk met die akademiese en sportprestasies en die vordering wat gemaak is met die ontwikkeling van infrastuktuur op die kampus.

Van die feite wat sy met die alumni gedeel het, is die volgende:

- Die hoeveelheid akademiese publikasies deur akademici het byna verdriedubbel van 5,5 eenhede in 2010 tot 15,32 eenhede in 2011.
- In 2011 het 36 sportsterre die Noordwes-provinsie in verskeie sportsoorte verteenwoordig, ses is vir nasionale spanne gekies en 13 vir Universiteitesport Suid-Afrika-spanne.
- Infrastruktuur-ontwikkelinge in 2011 sluit die volgende in: 'n Opvoedkunde-gebou, behuising vir nagraadse studente en 'n lesingsaal-kompleks. Dieregesondheid het ook twee laboratoriums gekry en nuwe geriewe is op hul Molelwane-plaas opgerig.

Van die ander sake wat tydens die byeenkoms in Gaberone bespreek is, is die ontwikkeling van die alumni-databasis, en die moontlikheid dat 'n alumni-trustfonds vir studente begin kan word. Susan beoog om deur die loop van die jaar soortgelyke byeenkomste dwarsoor Suid-Afrika te hou. Vir meer inligting, kontak haar by 018 389 2509 of *susanvanrooyen@nwu.ac.za.*

Data hersien

Die departement Korporatiewe Sake en Verhoudinge is besig om die data van derduisende NWU-alumni by te werk. Mnr Stef van der Linde of me Magda van der Linde het jou dalk al in hierdie verband gekontak. Indien nie, sal jy binnekort van hulle hoor. Baie dankie vir jou vriendelike samewerking in dié verband. Die inligting wat so ingesamel word, word deur me Louisa Vermeulen in die NWU-databasis vasgelê.

Op 5 Maart 2012, terwyl 'n woeste Kaapse wind buite woed, kuier hierdie NWU-leiers en alumni gesellig saam in die Old Mutual-huis in Constantia. Hulle is van links Prof Herman van Schalkwyk, rektor van die Potchefstroomkampus, me Elbie Webber, mnr Corneel Pelser, en dr Theuns Eloff, die visekanselier van die NWU.

Lekker kuier – van die Kaap tot in Namibië

Smee die yster terwyl hy warm is. Dit was waarskynlik die motivering toe die alumnikantoor van die Potchefstroomkampus die 2012-eerstejaars sommer met die intrapslag in Januarie 2012 al as "toekomstige alumni" verwelkom het.

"Dit was deel van die eerstejaars se amptelike verwelkomingsprogram," sê me Yolandi Yssel, alumni-koördineerder op dié kampus. "Ons wil hulle van die begin af gewoond maak aan die idee dat die NWU hul alma mater van die toekoms is – die instansie waaraan hulle lewenslank verbind sal bly."

Sedertdien het die "ouer" alumni van dié kampus 'n hele paar saamkuier-geleenthede geniet.

Behalwe die talle wynproegeleenthede en gholfdae wat gehou is, het 75 Kaapse alumni ook op 5 Maart 2012 heerlik saam gekuier.

Dié geleentheid is met 'n bittersoet oomblik begin, toe die alumni tydens 'n minuut van stilte hulde gebring het aan die bekende fietsryer en NWU-alumnus, Ertjies Bezuidenhout, wat onlangs oorlede is.

Daarna het lekker kos en nog lekkerder geselskap gevolg.

Tussen die aanwesiges was onder meer 'n voormalige sjampanjenooi, me Elbie Webber – lees gerus meer op p32 oor die studenteskoonhede uit die verlede.

Ander bekendes was dr Pieter Bingle, destyds die voormalige staatspresident, mnr FW de Klerk, se predikant, en mnr Corneel Pelser, wat as SR-voorsitter gedien het.

"Om soveel alumni in die Kaap saam te sien, was voorwaar 'n wonderlike ervaring en ons kon nie vir 'n aangenamer aand gevra het nie," het mnr Frik Prinsloo van die Alumnikantoor, wat as seremoniemeester opgetree het, gesê.

In die tweede helfte van 2012 wag daar nog menige makieties vir die Potchefstroomkampus se alumni. Van die koshuis-reünies wat voorlê, sluit in dié van Patria, De Wilgers en Over de Voor. Dan is daar ook 'n SR-reünie van die afgelope 10 jaar en saamtrekke vir Biokinetika, 1962-eerstejaars en vir die alumni in Namibië.

Die gholf-ghoeroes slaan in September, Oktober en November af op onderskeidelik die Lost City-, Parys- en Goldfields-baan. En vir dié wat glo aan die lafenis van die "negentiende putjie" is daar heelwat wynproefunksies beplan. Vir meer inligting hieroor, kontak Yolandi Yssel by 018 299 2768 of *yolandi.yssel@nwu.ac.za.*

Dr Karabo Mabe van die Landbou-ekonomie- en Voorligtingsprogram op die Mafikengkampus is een van min vroue in die land wat 'n PhD in Landbouvoorligting verwerf het.

NWU-dosent is een van **die eerstes in SA** op haar gebied

'n NWU-dosent, dr Karabo Mabe, is een van min vroue in die land om 'n PhD in Landbouvoorligting te verwerf.

Dr Karabo het haar PhD tydens die onlangse herfsgradeplegtigheid ontvang.

Sy is 'n dosent, navorsingsleier en programkoördineerder vir die Landbou-ekonomie- en Voorligtingsprogram op die Mafikengkampus en is ook waarnemende bestuurder van die Sentrum vir Agribesigheid en Entrepreneursopleiding (SAEO).

Sy is opgewonde oor haar prestasie, en sê: "Ek is dankbaar, oorstelp en voel baie beskeie oor die eer wat my aangedoen is. Ek dra hierdie prestasie op aan die bestuur, personeel en studente van die NWU, asook my gesin wat dit moontlik gemaak het."

Dr Karabo sê een van haar doelwitte is om 'n kultuur van "teruggee aan die universiteit" te vestig. Sy wil ook die vlak van deelname van swart alumni verhoog en 'n groter betrokkenheid by gemeenskapsuitreikprogramme aanmoedig.

"Ek beplan om my ervaring as 'n opvoeder en navorser met kundigheid in landbouvoorligting en -ekonomie te benut om gegradueerdes en plaaslike sakeondernemings aan te moedig om steun aan gemeenskappe om die universiteit te verleen."

Unieke **toestelle vir wetenskap** vul groot leemte

Chemici van die Fakulteit Natuurwetenskappe op die Potchefstroomkampus het unieke laboratorium-toestelle ontwerp om leerders op laer- en hoërskool met die praktiese sy van wetenskaplike vakke te help. Dié toestelle is ook uitgevoer na Noorweë en Ethiopië en word met groot sukses daar gebruik.

Prof Corrie du Toit, en sy kollega, me Marié du Toit, het in 2011 'n kompakte en bruikbare chemie- en natuurwetenskappe-toestel – genoem MyLab – ontwikkel vir wetenskaponderrig in graad 4 tot 12. Dié stelle kan volgens prof Corrie 'n reusebydrae lewer tot suksesvolle wetenskaponderrig in skole – selfs dié wat geen laboratoriums het nie.

Volgens die navorsers is praktiese werk 'n baie belangrike komponent van wetenskaponderrig en daarom het hulle die MyLab-toestel ontwikkel om onderwysers daarmee te help. Hulle het tot die slotsom gekom dat onderwysers chemikalieë, apparaat, voldoende werkkaarte, memorandums en voorbereidingsmateriaal benodig en nie noodwendig laboratoriums, elektrisiteit en lopende water nie.

Die MyLabtoestelle is teen 'n billike bedrag te koop en die inkomste wat daarmee gegenereer word, word weer in navorsing teruggeploeg. Besoek gerus die webtuiste (www.mylab.co.za) vir meer inligting. Prof Corrie kan geskakel word by 076 377 8989 en Marié by 082 392 0883.

Reg vir wetenskap: Prof Corrie du Toit en sy kollega, me Marié du Toit, van die Fakulteit Natuurwetenskappe met die kompakte wetenskaptoestel wat hulle ontwikkel het.

Papiervliegtuigies **vir vryheid**

Die vakgroep Politieke Wetenskappe binne die Fakulteit Geesteswetenskappe op die Vaaldriehoekkampus het onlangs deel geword van die internasionale inisiatief om 'n einde te maak aan slawerny. Die CNN-vryheidsprojek – 'n geesteskind van die internasionale nuusagentskap CNN – is daarop gemik om die lot van hedendaagse slawe onder die wêreld se aandag te bring.

As deel van die bewusmakingsveldtog het CNN individue gevra om papiervliegtuigies te maak, boodskappe van hoop daarop te skryf, en dan die vliegtuigies vir iemand anders te gee ten einde die projek wyer bekend te stel.

Dr Ina Gouws van die vakgroep Politieke Wetenskappe bestempel die papiervliegtuigies as 'n simbool van die pad na vryheid. Dit is verbasend dat daar vandag meer mense is wat dwangarbeid verrig as ooit vantevore," sê sy, en voeg by dat die meeste lede van die publiek salig onbewus is van hierdie globale krisis.

Volgens die statistiek word tussen 600 000 en 800 000 mense per jaar "gevang" en oor landsgrense heen weggevoer. Daar is vandag na raming minstens 10 miljoen slawe in die wêreld – meer as op enige ander tydstip in die geskiedenis van die mensdom. "Ons deelname aan die projek beteken dat ons eienaarskap neem van hierdie globale gruwel," sê dr Ina.

Ry-'n-fiets-projek skop af op kampus

Menige alumnus dink seker met nostalgie terug aan die dae toe baie studente nog fiets gery het.

Dit is ook met die gedagte om weer 'n "groener" kampus te skep, dat die Fakulteit Opvoedingswetenskappe 'n Ry-'n-fiets-projek op die Potchefstroomkampus bekendgestel het.

'n Aantal fietse is aangekoop en word gratis aan studente en personeel beskikbaar gestel om vinnig van een punt na 'n ander op die kampus te beweeg. Die fietse is naby die Fakulteit Opvoedingswetenskappe se hoofgebou (die ou POK-hoofgebou) geparkeer.

Dr Schalk Raath van die Skool vir Kurrikulumgebaseerde Studies sê al wat nodig is indien iemand 'n fiets wil gebruik, is om 'n sleutel by die onderwysraad se kantoor op die grondvloer van die gebou af te haal, die fiets te gebruik en dit weer terug te besorg.

Die vindingryke idee is deel van 'n projek, Mobiliteit en die Omgewing, wat deur die Vlaamse Stigting vir Verkeerskunde (VSV) geborg word. Die projek het twee bene: die gratis beskikbaarstelling van fietse vir mense om op kampus te beweeg en 'n navorsingsprojek oor die fisiese impak wat fietsry op die menslike liggaam het.

Ry-'n-fiets-projek skop af: Mnr Louis Jacobs, Institusionele Direkteur: Korporatiewe Kommunikasie en sy vrou, Triens, sekretaresse in die Departement Finansiële Steundienste, ondersteun die ry-'n-fiets-projek.

Foto: *Noordwes Beeld*

Die projek van die VSV fokus op die oordeelkundige gebruik van vervoermiddels wat die laagste impak op die omgewing sal hê.

Mafikengstudent speel vir **Suid-Afrika**

Om vir die nasionale span te speel, is vir die meeste van ons net 'n droom. Vir me Lebohang Monyatsi, 'n finalejaar-sielkundestudent aan die Mafikengkampus, het hierdie droom 'n werklikheid geword toe sy gekies is vir die Suid-Afrikaanse rolstoelbasketbalspan.

Die Suid-Afrikaanse span het vroeër vanjaar aan 'n toernooi in Guadalajara, Mexiko, deelgeneem om vir 2012 se Paralimpiese Spele in Londen te kwalifiseer. Hoewel die span nie gekwalifiseer het nie, hoop Lebohang – wat as haar span se beste doelskieter aangewys is – dat hulle steeds vir die volgende gebeurtenis sal kwalifiseer. Lebohang, wat van Vryburg af kom, maar die grootste gedeelte van haar lewe in die koshuis by Gelukspan deurgebring het, het sewe jaar gelede begin basketbal speel. Sy speel tans vir die provinsiale sowel as die nasionale rolstoelbasketbalspanne.

"My familie en vriende was baie ondersteunend, veral my ouma. Sy het my gehelp om deur te druk." Haar deursettingsvermoë het haar gehelp om in haar sport én in haar studies sukses te behaal. Sy wil graag 'n kliniese sielkundige word, en sê: "Ek wil mense help om hulleself te help, om hul probleme op te los."

Haar lewensleuse is: As jy speel, speel hard, maar moenie speel terwyl jy werk nie. Haar boodskap van motivering aan ander sportlui is: "Moet nooit moed opgee nie! Of jy nou plaaslik of provinsiaal speel, jy sal sukses behaal as jy volhard."

Storie: Faith Botele

Me Lebohang Monyatsi se lewensleuse is: As jy speel, speel hard, maar moenie speel terwyl jy werk nie.

Nuwe eenheid gaan nagraadse opleiding in risikobestuur aanbied

Die belangrikheid van risikobestuuropleiding kan moeilik oorbeklemtoon word.

Nuusberigte beskryf daagliks die impak van risiko's wat nie na behore geïdentifiseer of verreken is nie. Risikoverwante nuusgebeure wissel van die wêreldwye finansiële krisis tot die kernramp in Japan, vloede in Mpumalanga, stakings deur vakbonde, selfs die huidige debakel oor die e-tolstelsel in Gauteng. Ongeïdentifiseerde en onopgeloste risiko's het 'n uitwerking op alle aspekte van ons lewens.

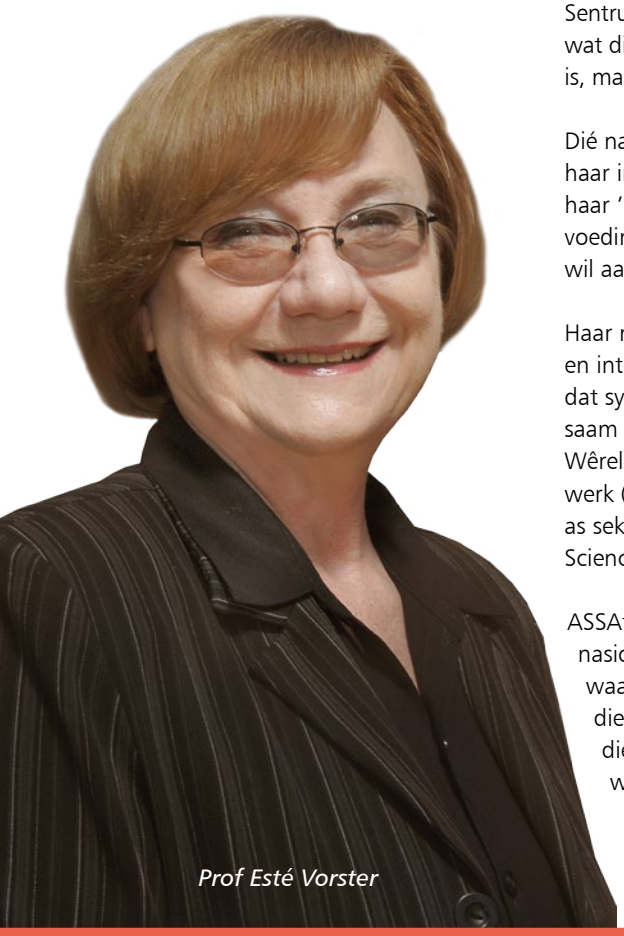
In die lig hiervan het die Fakulteit Ekonomiese Wetenskappe en Inligtingstegnologie op die Vaaldriehoekkampus onlangs 'n nuwe Eenheid vir Toegepaste Risikobestuur (ETRB) bekendgestel om risikobestuur-opleiding op nagraadse vlak – en gemik op ervare werknemers in alle sektore – aan te bied. Die doel van hierdie eenheid is om 'n belangrike rol te speel om werknemers te bemagtig om risiko's beter te verstaan en te bestuur, en om terselfdertyd te dien as die NWU se sentrum vir toegepaste navorsing in risikobestuur.

Volgens prof Hermien Zaaiman, hoof van die eenheid, is risikobestuur nie net vir risikobestuurders van belang nie. Die wêreldwye finansiële krisis het dit duidelik gemaak dat die fokus op risiko-kwantifisering en -modellering nie voldoende is om die risiko's te bestuur waarvoor organisasies (insluitende regerings- en openbare instansies) te staan kom nie. Elke lid van 'n bestuurspan moet hul individuele rolle in die toepassing van risikobestuursbeginsels verstaan ten einde hulle in staat te stel om die organisasie te bestuur en uit te brei.

Die eenheid is in Junie formeel geopen by sy nuwe ligging by die Quest-konferensiesentrum in Vanderbijlpark. Gedurende hierdie geleentheid is 'n simposium getiteld 'Risiko en Jy' aangebied oor onderwerpe met betrekking tot mense en risiko. Die aanbieders was ervare risikoprofessors van die Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam. Prof Hermien sê die simposium het as 'n platform gedien om insette te kry oor wat uitvoerende en senior bestuurders in die privaat- en openbare sektor van die nuwe eenheid verwag en vereis.

Voeding-foendi wêreldwyd vereer

Die navorsing wat prof Esté Vorster in 1987 begin het toe sy haar doktorsgraad met 'n studie oor die invloed van hoëvesel-dieet op bloedstollingsvermoë behaal het, word vandag nog by die NWU voortgesit en word as die voorste in die wêreld beskou.



Prof Esté Vorster

Noem die naam prof Esté Vorster en almal wat wêreldwyd iets te doen het met voedingnavorsing sit regop en luister. Google haar en jy kry duisende resultate.

Prof Esté was voorheen die direkteur van die Fakulteit Gesondheidswetenskappe se Sentrum van Uitnemendheid vir Voeding, wat die enigste sentrum van sy soort in Afrika is, maar lê haar tans net op navorsing toe.

Dié navorsing doen sy nie net omdat dit haar interesseer nie, maar omdat dit vir haar 'n lewenstaak is en omdat sy werklike voedingsprobleme met praktiese oplossings wil aanspreek.

Haar navorsing word nasionaal en internasionaal erken: Behalwe dat sy al die afgelope 14 jaar nou saam met die Verenigde Nasies se Wêreldgesondheidsorganisasie (WGO) werk (sien tekskassie), is sy ook verlede jaar as sekretarisgeneraal van die Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) benoem.

ASSAf, wat Suid-Afrika se amptelike nasionale akademie vir wetenskap is waarop net uitgesoekte akademici dien, verteenwoordig die land in die internasionale gemeenskap van wetenskapakademies.

As kenner van voedsel- en voedingsekuriteit in Suid-Afrika is prof Esté ook genader deur die Nasionale Beplanningskommissie van die Staatspresident se kantoor om advies te gee oor die langtermynbeplanning van voedingbeleid.

Wêreldreisiger

Deur die jare het prof Esté baie gereis. Sy was nog net nie in China nie, en dit net omdat sy reeds twee uitnodigings van die hand moes wys weens ander verpligtinge.

Daar gaan altyd werk saam wat sy doen wanneer sy op lughawens moet wag. Die vlug self word gewy aan 'n heerlike boek, een van haar passies.

Sy tree aan die einde van die jaar af, maar al gaan sy amptelik nie meer werk nie, sal haar betrokkenheid by die WGO nog 'n hele rukkie duur. Iets waarna sy wel uitsien is om meer saam met haar man in Afrika te reis.

Prof Esté is met prof Ig Vorster getroud. Prof Ig was voorheen die dekaan van die Fakulteit Regte op die Potchefstroomkampus en is tans verbonde aan die Institusionele Regsdienste van die NWU.

"Daar is tans sowat sewe miljard mense in die wêreld, waarvan 900 miljoen honger is."

World Hunger Education Service

Wêreldgesondheid is haar passie

Deur haar jarelange betrokkenheid by die Wêreldgesondheidsorganisasie (WGO), lewer prof Esté 'n betekenisvolle bydrae om voeding-verwante uitdagings wêreldwyd aan te spreek.

"Die WGO se doel is om die voedingstatus van die wêreld te optimaliseer," verduidelik prof Esté, "hetsy deur mense wat verkeerd of te veel eet te adviseer, of om honger-snood te verlig".

Op die vraag hoe 'n mens by 'n situasie uitkom waar die WGO jou raad vra oor beleidsake, antwoord sy so: "Dit het baie te doen met kennis van die literatuur en hoe 'n mens moet netwerk dat die 'regte mense' besef die kennis en ervaring is daar om op sulke panele te dien."

Prof Esté dien tans op die WGO se voedings-adviesgroep wat riglyne moet saamstel vir die voorkoming van voedingsverwante kroniese siektes. Daarby het sy ook vir die WGO die handleiding geskryf wat tans wêreldwyd gebruik word om dieetriglyne in verskillende lande te ontwikkel.

Nadat die handleiding ontwikkel is, het sy werkswinkels in verskeie wêrelddele aangebied om plaaslike kundiges op te lei om dit te implementeer.

Passie laat hulle presteer

Soos ons in die vorige uitgawe van die NWU & U onderneem het, vertel ons die lesers graag van die kreatiewe uitsette wat NWU-personeellede tydens die Navorser van die Jaar-geleentheid aan die einde van verlede jaar toekennings in die sak gebring het.

Om waarlik kreatief te wees, vereis besondere passie en hieraan ontbreek dit skynbaar nie by die NWU nie.

Hierdie passie het gelei tot kreatiewe uitsette soos 'n aangrypende radiodrama, pragtige musiek en besondere grafiese kunswerke.

In verskeie dissiplines – onder meer tale, musiek en grafiese ontwerp – word van personeel verwag om kreatiewe uitsette te lewer.

Om uit hierdie uitsette die bestes aan te wys, is geen maklike taak nie, maar ná beoordeling deur 'n paneel van eksterne keurders, is toekennings aan 'n paar akademici, almal op die Potchefstroomkampus, gemaak.

- Dr Hannes Taljaard van die Skool vir Musiek het 'n toekenning gekry vir sy musiekstuk, Les Sarabandes, wat deur een van die beoordelaars beskryf word as "..a highly intelligent composition, meticulously crafted, beautifully structured and almost technically flawless".

- Prof Piet Koornhof, ook van die Skool vir Musiek, is vereer vir sy bydrae tot die CD-opname van werke van Babadjanian en Vasks. Dit word beskryf as "of the highest quality, demonstrating superb and well informed musical artistry..."

- Prof Franci Greyling van die Skool vir Tale het 'n toekenning gekry vir haar radiodrama, "Die vye is nou ryp" wat in April 2011 op RSG uitgesaai is. Daarmee het sy ook 'n prys in die RSG/Sanlam- radiodrama-skryfkompetisie van 2010 losgeslaan.

- Mnr Richardt Strydom van Grafiese Ontwerp se kunswerke, bestaande uit foto's, het vir hom 'n toekenning besorg. In dié foto's word die psigologiese geweld wat die mens homself aandoen op grond van die ideologie wat hy aanhang, as littekens uitgebeeld.

- Mnr Wessie van der Westhuizen, ook van Grafiese Ontwerp, het erkenning gekry vir die kort animasiefilm wat hy gemaak het aan die hand van Ngano-Venda-stories wat vroue in die Limpopo-vallei met borduurwerk uitbeeld.

Prof Piet Koornhof van die Skool vir Musiek op die Potchefstroomkampus was een van die akademici wat 'n toekenning vir sy kreatiewe uitsette ontvang het.

Die beste onder die bestes: Algehele ITOU-wenner is me Stefanie-Marié (Stef) Esterhuizen (middel) van die Fakulteit Geesteswetenskappe op die Vaaldriehoekkampus. By haar tydens die gala-aand in Potchefstroom is prof Thanyani Mariba, die rektor van die Vaaldriehoekkampus en prof Linda du Plessis, die Viserektor: Akademie, Kwaliteit en Beplanning op dieselfde kampus.

NWU vier voortreflike **onderrigvaardighede**

Me Stefanie-Marié (Stef) Esterhuizen van die Skool vir Opvoedkundige Wetenskappe in die Fakulteit Geesteswetenskappe op die Vaaldriehoek-kampus het in 2011 die beste gevaar in die uitdagende Institusionele Toekennings vir Onderriguitnemendheid-proses (ITOU-proses).

Vir hierdie prestasie het sy die Visekanse-lier-prestigetoekenning ontvang tydens 'n gala-geleentheid wat op 2 Maart 2012 in Potchefstroom gehou is. Dr Theuns Eloff, die visekanselier van die NWU, het 'n wisseltrofee aan haar oorhandig.

Stef is die algehele wenner vir 2011, en uiter-aard ook een van die drie kampuswenners. Die ander twee is dr Ralph Manyane van die Fakul-teit Geestes- en Sosiale Wetenskappe op die Mafikengkampus en mnr Pieter van der Zwan van die Fakulteit Ekonomiese en Bestuurs-wetenskappe op die Potchefstroomkampus.

In 2011 het 49 dosente ITOU-toekennings ontvang, vergeleke met 46 in 2010. Die Mafikengkampus het die grootste toename getoon. 'n Rekordgetal van 18 Mafikeng-dosente het toekennings ontvang in 2011, vergeleke met slegs agt in 2010 en drie in 2009. Op die Potchefstroomkampus het 20 personeellede toekennings ontvang en op die Vaaldriehoekkampus 11. Laasgenoemde is vyf meer as in die voorafgaande jaar.

"Dosente speel 'n baie belangrike rol in die lewens van studente en vanaand bring ons hulde aan diegene wat uitblink in hul toewyd-ing aan hul vakgebiede en hul passievolle invloed op hul studente," het dr Theuns tydens die seremonie gesê.

Veels geluk: Prof Dan Kgwadi, die rektor van die Mafikengkampus (links), oorhandig die toekenning aan die kampuswenner, dr Ralph Manyane van die Fakulteit Geestes- en Sosiale Wetenskappe.

Beloon vir sy onderrigvaardighede: Potchef-stroomkampus se wenner, mnr Pieter Van der Zwan (links) van die Fakulteit Ekono-miese en Bestuurswetenskappe, ontvang sy toekenning van prof Herman van Schalkwyk, die rektor van daardie kampus.

Waaroor gaan dit presies?

ITOU erken en beloon dosente wat uit-blink in onderrig-leer. As deel van die streng ITOU-evalueringsproses beoordeel panele die dosente se portefeuljes, stu-denteterugvoer, innovasie en uitnemend-heid in kontaksessies en die gebruik van tegnologie in onderrig-leer.

Fakulteite presteer

Die NWU-fakulteit wat die meeste toeken-nings ontvang het, naamlik ses, is die Fakulteit Ekonomiese Wetenskappe en Inligtingstegnologie op die Vaaldriehoek-kampus.

Gesamentlik in die tweede plek was Eko-nomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe op die Potchefstroomkampus; Geestes- en So-siale Wetenskappe asook Landbou, We-tenskap en Tegnologie op die Mafikeng-kampus; en Geesteswetenskappe op die Vaaldriehoekkampus. Hierdie fakulteite spog met vyf toekennings elk.

Ontsluit moontlikhede vir huiseienaars

Vir mnr Monnapula Motlogelwa, alumnus van die Mafikengkampus, is dit 'n groot lekkerte om die sleutels van 'n huis aan die trotse nuwe eienaar te oorhandig.

Hierdie voorreg spruit voort uit sy huidige posisie as die Noordwes-provinsie se Uitvoerende Bestuurder/Hoofdirekteur vir Behuisingsbehoeftes, Beplanning, Beleidsnavorsing en Tegniese Dienste by Menslike Nedersettings.

As een van die besluitnemers oor plaaslike behuisingsbeleid in Noordwes het Monnapula eerstehandse kennis van die omvang van behuisingsbehoeftes in die provinsie en ook landswyd.

Hy het in 2007 'n referaat met die titel "The implementation of socio-economic rights in South Africa" by die Raad vir Regstudente se konferensie op die Mafikengkampus gelewer.

"Die gevolgtrekking van die aanbieding was dat dit feitlik onmoontlik is om oor die kort tot medium termyn in die vraag na behuising te voorsien," sê hy.

Die aanbieding het ook die behoefte aan ander oplossings buiten projekte vir laekostebehuising beklemtoon. "Fiskale beperkings en ander mededingende sosio-ekonomiese behoeftes is 'n werklikheid," sê Monnapula.

Dit maak hom hartseer om te dink dat daar altyd landsburgers sal wees wat nooit hulle 'n huis sal hê nie. Om in die behuisingsbehoeftes van so veel as moontlik mense te voldoen, gee vir hom egter steeds 'n gevoel dat iets bereik word.

Produktiewe studentedae

Dis nie vir Monnapula iets nuuts om die samelewing te dien en in die lewens van mense belang te stel nie.

Hy was reeds as student aktief by talle aktiwiteite en strukture op die kampus betrokke.

"Jy kon my feitlik oral aantref – die dramavereniging, kultuurvereniging, universiteitskoor, Regstudenteraad, Verteenwoordigende Studenteraad en die South African Students' Congress," sê hy. "My deelname aan hierdie strukture het gemaak dat ek 'n gebalanseerde leefstyl het, en het bygedra tot dit wat ek vandag is."

'n Besondere hoogtepunt, onthou hy, was toe hy in 1998 saam met 21 ander studente landswyd gekies is om Suid-Afrika op 'n akademiese toer na die Verenigde Koninkryk te verteenwoordig. Hulle het verskeie regeringsinstellings besoek, asook akademiese en regsinstellings soos die Britse howe.

Monnapula se belangstelling in die reg en politiek het op hoërskool begin toe hy aan debatskompetisies deelgeneem en 'n liefde vir geskiedenis ontwikkel het.

Op universiteit het sy ervaring as studenteleier hom goed vir die toekoms voorberei. "My leierskapsrol het my geleer om logies te leer dink en my persoonlike integriteit te bevestig," sê hy. "Dit het my geleer om ander mense se sienings te respekteer in my strewe om te bereik wat ek glo bereik moet word."

Politiek is na aan mnr Monnapula Motlogelwa se hart en hy glo dat demokrasie soos goeie wyn is: dit verbeter met verloop van tyd.

Mnr Monnapula Motlogelwa was op 10 Mei hierdie jaar die hoofspreker tydens die gradeplegtigheid van die fakulteite Opvoedkunde en Regte op die Mafikengkampus.

Trotse alumnus

Monnapula is vandag onbeskaamd trots om 'n alumnus van die Mafikengkampus te wees. Hy is 12 jaar nadat hy gegradueer het steeds by kampusaktiwiteite betrokke.

"Ek was van 1994 tot 1999 'n voltydse en deeltydse student, en ek besoek die kampus nog gereeld."

Na aan sy hart

Politiek is natuurlik baie na aan Monnapula se hart en hy kan lank oor die voor- en nadele daarvan praat.

"Demokrasie is, wel ... soos goeie wyn – dit verbeter met verloop van tyd.

"Waarvan ek die minste hou in die huidige politieke situasie, is dat daar 'n klompie selfsugtige individue is wat voorgee dat hulle die massas dien, terwyl hulle weet dat hulle bloot mense met 'n oordrewe sin van selfbelang en opgeblaasde ego's is. Ek hoop die geskiedenis sal hulle eendag beoordeel," sê hy.

Monnapula woon tans saam met sy vrou, Nontutuzelo, in Reveira Park, Mafikeng, te midde van die ondersteuning van 'n menigte familielede en vriende.

Nie sommer **been voor paaltjie** nie

Alumnus Johan Cloete laat hom nie sommer been voor paaltjie vang nie. Daarvan getuig sy blink loopbaan as internasionale krieketskeidsregter en sy bekroning as Suid-Afrika se Skeidsregter van die Jaar.

Vóór 2010 het min mense buite die krieketwêreld van Johannes Daniël Cloete kennis geneem, maar deesdae spits mense plaaslik én wêreldwyd hul ore wanneer hulle sy naam hoor.

Trouens, dit gons behoorlik in die skeidsregterswêreld nadat dié alumnus van die Potchefstroomkampus aan die einde van verlede jaar se krieketseisoen vir die tweede keer as Krieket Suid-Afrika (KSA) se Skeidsregter van die Jaar én die Skeidsregters se Skeidsregter van die Jaar aangewys is.

Johan, wat die afgelope 13 jaar Direkteur: Sport by die Hoërskool Centurion in Pretoria is, het reeds as internasionale krieketskeidsregter in 18 internasionale eendagwedstryde en vyf T20s* gestaan. Dit alles op die relatief jeugdige ouderdom van 40 jaar.

Nie dat die sukses en roem sedertdien na sy kop toe gegaan het nie. Inteendeel. Hy is nog net so beskeie, hardwerkend en gewoon soos wat hy was toe hy in 1990 as groentjie op die Potchefstroomkampus beland het.

Eerstejaar op kampus

"Aaa!," sug hy met genoegdoening toe hy oor sy studentedae gepols word. "Ek het ongelooflik baie én goeie herinneringe, aangesien ek vier jaar lank studeer het en by baie verskillende sportsoorte en ander aktiwiteite betrokke was," vertel hy.

Johan het nooit in 'n kampuskoshuis gebly nie, maar saam met vriende in 'n huis in die studentegebied bekend as die Bult.

Daar is talle oomblikke tydens sy studentejare wat vir ewig in sy geheue gegrafeer is, onder meer die drie jaar wat hy op die Wapadredaksie gedien het.

"Ek onthou al daardie ure wat ek in die kantore van die Wapad deurgebring het om my berigte met drie vingers te sit en tik en die Woensdagnagte wat ek deur gesit het om die bladuitleg te doen," sê hy.

Sy dae op die Joolkomitee sorg ook vir kosbare herinneringe.

"Die komitee het hard agter die skerms gewerk om fondse vir liefdadigheid in te samel," vertel hy. "Die gemiddelde student het Jool altyd beskou as partytjie-, blommetjie-vou- en sosiale tyd, maar vir ons as komiteelede was daar 'n veel dieper betekenis, omdat ons 'n verskil in minderbevoorregte mense se lewens kon maak.

Van jool tot krieket

"In 1990/1991, toe ek verantwoordelik was vir Joolsport, het ek die aand-krieketliga tussen die koshuise begin, asook sokker vir die dameskoshuise.

"Die volgende jaar het ek die universiteit R40 000 gespaar ten opsigte van die staal vir die vlotte, omdat ons skrootstaal gebruik het en dit nie aangekoop het nie."

Maar hoe help 'n BCom-graad met 'n loopbaan in krieket?

"Al die vakke wat ek geneem het vir my BCom-studies het my lewensuitkyk help vorm," verduidelik Johan.

"Bedryfs- en personeelsielkunde, bedryfsosiologie en bedryfsetiek is lewensverrykende vakke wat 'n mens help om met ander mense oor die weg te kom, die beste uit ander na vore te bring en aanvaarding en begrip te kweek. "Uit die aard van die saak help dit skeidsregters ook om 'n syferagtergrond te hê, want daar is heelwat berekeninge wat van kardinale belang is wat tydens wedstryde gemaak moet word. My graad help dus baie meer as wat enigeen ooit sal besef.

"Onderrig en kennis is in elk geval iets wat niemand enigeen kan ontneem nie en ondervinding word nie by afdelingswinkels verkoop nie!"

Tussen tasse en hotelle

Om 'n internasionele krieketskeidsregter te wees is darem nie altyd net maanskyn en rose nie. Sedert September verlede jaar reis Johan baie en het hy al gewoond geraak daaraan om uit tasse te leef.

"Dis nogal erg! Ek was in September Nederland toe vir drie wedstryde en slegs twee dae by die huis voordat ek weer my tasse vir Indië moes pak om vir drie weke in die Kampioenskapstrofee diens te doen.

"Direk daarna was ek betrokke by Australië se toer in Suid-Afrika en einde November moes ek Bangladesh toe vir die reeks teen Pakistan," vertel hy.

Tydens hierdie onderhoud was Johan in Dubai waarna hy slegs vir vyf aande by die huis was voordat hy weer Indië toe is vir die Indiese Premierliga (IPL).

"In Junie neem ek my skoolspanne Engeland toe vir 'n kriekettoer en vroeg in Augustus gaan ek na die o/19 Wêreldbekertoernooi in Australië. My skedule is dus redelik vol!"

Koes!

Die lewe van 'n krieketskeidsregter kan maar vol gevare ook wees, hoewel dit nie net op die krieketveld is waar hy vir "handgedrewe missiele" moet koes nie.

Mnr Johan Cloete is in Maart 2011 aangewys as die beste skeidsregter tydens die T20 World Cup Qualifiers in Dubai. Die twee topspanne, Ierland en Afghanistan, het daar gekwalifiseer vir die T20 World Cup in Sri Lanka in September.

Tydens die eendagreeks in Chittagong, Bangladesh, het Johan en 'n kollega groot geskrik toe 'n klip die venster getref het van die bussie waarin hulle onderweg was na die hotel.

"Ek het 'n goeie reeks beleef en dit was die laaste wedstryd," vertel Johan.

"Ongelukkig het ek 'n fout gemaak met 'n been voor paaltjie-beslissing teen een van die Bangladesh-spelers. Pakistan het die reeks met 3-0 gewen en die toeskouers was nie gelukkig nie. En op wie word hul frustrasie toe uitgehaal? Die skeidsregters!

"Gelukkig is niemand beseer nie en is die sekuriteit daarna opgeknap. Ek het darem nie werklik bedreig gevoel deur die insident nie en het dit onmiddellik agtergelaat en voortgegaan met dit wat ek altyd doen."

Behalwe dat hy soms met woedende krieketondersteuners te doen kry, reken Johan die grootste uitdaging vir skeidsregters is om met alle beslissings konsekwent op te tree.

"Dis ook belangrik dat ons alle individue én die wedstryde moet beheer en bestuur," sê hy. "Dit stel natuurlik baie fisiese en intellektuele eise, maar die sleutel tot sukses is om goed voorbereid te wees vir die wedstryd en toernooie."

Johan woon saam met sy vrou, Martie, en seun, Jean (3), in Pretoria. Klein Jean is reeds 'n kranige krieketspelertjie wat linkshandig kolf en sy pa al op 'n hele paar reise oorsee vergesel het.

** Die T20 is die korter eendag-weergawe van twintig boulbeurte vir elke span. Dit word ook beskryf as" Twintig20-wedstryd".*

Niks kom vanself nie

Die enigste plek waar "sukses" voor "werk" kom, is in die woordeboek. Dit, sê Johan Cloete, het die lewe hom geleer.

"Om sukses te bereik, is harde werk – wat gepaard gaan met dissipline en opofferinge – nodig. Niks kom vanself nie en die lewe is nie normaalweg regverdig nie.

"Boonop bestaan daar nie so iets soos probleme nie – slegs uitdagings wat oplossings het. Vind daardie oplossings! As jy die regte ingesteldheid het, sal jy altyd bo jou omstandighede en die gemiddelde mense om jou uitstyg."

Johan se storie: van kaptein tot skeidsregter

Dit was klaarblyklik van kleins af vir Johan bestem om professioneel by krieket betrokke te raak. Hy was immers altyd kaptein van al die spanne waarin hy gespeel het.

Johan se krieketloopbaan het begin toe hy vir die o/10-span by Laerskool Stilfontein begin krieket speel het.

"Later, as eerstespan-kaptein van Hoërskool Stilfontein in 1989, het ek gedink dis nodig om die reëls van die spel te ken en te verstaan. Daarom het ek 'n skeidsregterskursus gedoen en die eksamen met lof geslaag.

"Tydens my eerste jaar op universiteit het ek my skouerligamente tydens 'n rugbywedstryd geskeur en kon ek vir ses maande nie boul nie.

"Aangesien daar in daardie spesifieke seisoen 'n tekort aan skeidsregters was, is ek gevra om as een diens te doen," vertel hy. Daardie seisoen het hy nie net sy buiging as skeidsregter gemaak nie, maar dit só goed gedoen dat hy sommer toe al as die beste skeidsregter in die provinsie aangewys is.

Van toe af het die hoogtepunte sommer vinnig op mekaar gevolg en in 1993 het Johan die finaal van die Nasionale Klubkampioenskappe behartig en sommer ook sy Eersteklas-debuut gemaak tydens die wedstryd tussen Wes-Transvaal en die Griekwas.

’n **Leier** met ’n groot **hart**

Op die jeugdige ouderdom van 28 het me Tumi (Boitumelo) Hatla, alumna van die Vaaldriehoekkampus, reeds tot by die posisie van senior analis by African Bank gevorder.

Tog, ten spyte van haar sukses, het sy nooit vergeet waar sy vandaan kom nie.

“Toe die land destyds politieke vryheid gekry het, het dit vir my as jong meisie beteken dat ek enigiets kon word waarvan ek kon droom. Tog, te midde van al die geleenthede, probeer ek om nooit te vergeet waar ek vandaan kom nie. Dis hartseer dat baie jongmense dit wél vandag uit die oog verloor het.”

Me Tumi Hatla streef na groot hoogtes in die korporatiewe wêreld, maar mense is net so belangrik vir haar.

“Een van my doelwitte in die lewe is om die korporatiewe leer tot heel bo te klim,” sê sy. Maar, voeg sy by, in die proses wil sy ander mense se lewens positief raak.

Prestasies in ’n neutedop

Tumi het haar eerste graad, BCom Ekonomie en Informatika, in 2005 behaal, en was lid van Golden Key, ’n internasionale ereverenigging vir akademiese presteerders.

Sy het haar BComHons in Risikobestuur in 2006 voltooi. In dieselfde jaar was sy ondervoorsitter van vier subkomitees van die “Student Christian Fellowship” én studente-assistent vir Ekonomiestudente.

In 2007 het sy in Noorweë by die Molde-Universiteitskollege studeer, waar sy ’n sertifikaat in Internasionale Verskaffingsketting-bestuur verwerf het. In 2011 het sy haar meestersgraad in Ekonomie behaal.

Dit is Tumi – ’n ‘jong 28’ in ’n neutedop.

Senior analiss

Tumi werk tans by die African Bank in Midrand as senior analis in die kredietrisiko-afdeling. Haar taak is om ’n oog te hou oor risikoverwante elemente van al die bank se produkte.

Sy beskou haarself as ’n leier en moes vinnig leer hoe om verandering te bestuur en persoonlike en professionele hindernisse te oorkom.

“Daar was uitdagings soos die verlies van geliefdes, om oor die hoof gesien te word en om aan my eie vermoëns te begin twyfel. Gebed en advies van mense wie se opinies ek vertrou het my egter nog altyd gehelp om aan die ander kant uit te kom.”

Draai die tyd terug

Haar studentejare was van die gelukkigste tye van haar lewe.

“As ek kon, sou ek die tyd teruggedraai het – al is dit net vir ’n dag. Behalwe vir die grade het ek ook baie vriende gemaak en lewenslesse geleer, en is die grondslag gelê sodat ek die vrou kon word wat ek vandag is,” sê sy.

In die bietjie vrye tyd wat sy deesdae het, lees, dans en reis sy graag. Noorweë was dan ook haar eerste buitelandse ervaring.

> “Een van my doelwitte in die lewe is om die korporatiewe leer tot heel bo te klim.”

“My jaar in Noorweë het baie vir my beteken. Ek het vinnig grootgeword. Die één ding wat ek geleer en gou begin toepas het, was om hard te werk en hard te speel, maar ook om altyd familie eerste te stel.” Tumi is ’n enigste kind, maar, voeg sy gou by, sy is darem nie ’n bedorwe brokkie nie. Haar pa is dood toe sy nog baie klein was.

“As kind was ek meestal op my eie en vreeslik skaam. Tog het dit so uitgewerk dat ek nog altyd baie mense om my gehad het, want my ma het ’n oop hart vir haar medemens gehad. Vir so lank as wat ek kan onthou, ontferm sy haar oor almal wat haar pad kruis. Ek is geseënd met al daardie ervarings en herinneringe.”

Haar kinderjare het meegebring dat sy ook vandag deernis met ander mense het. “Ek kan nie afsydig staan as ek weet iemand het my hulp nodig nie.”

Passievol

Sy is passievol oor baie dinge, insluitende jongmense, om haar kennis uit te brei en om te dans, maar daar is één passie bo alles: haar geloof in God. “Die les wat my ma my van vroeg af geleer het, is om alles tot die beste van my vermoë te doen en om nooit op te hou bid vir wysheid nie.”

Ja, Tumi het groot korporatiewe ambisies, maar haar geloof en opvoeding maak dat dit altyd getemper word deur haar liefde vir mense.

Werkwoordman se **rykdom** lê in **ervaring**

Mnr Johan Booyens kan lékker gesels. Boonop is hy by uitstek 'n wérk-woordmens. Ewe geesdriftig skryf, reis en ervàár hy. Die NWU & U deel graag van sy ervaringe as wetenskapskrywer, radiojoernalis, koerantman en operasanger met ons lesers.

Hoe oud dink jy is ek? begin 'n lang gesprek met mnr Johan Booyens, 'n alumnus van die voormalige Potchef-stroomse Universiteit vir Christelike Onder-wys (PU vir CHO).

Hy is 'n jong 71 jaar oud, blyk dit uit sy vertelling.

Sy studentejare begin in 1959 as 'Gepukte Poot' – dis nou 'n student wat deur die voormalige Potchefstroomse Onderwyskol-lege (bekend as Pote) aan die PU vir CHO studeer het.

Maar tyd vir tipiese studentekaskenades was daar ook.

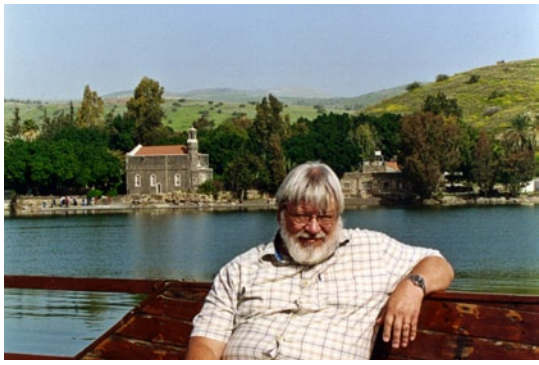
"As tweedejaar van die manskoshuis, Mia Mater, het ons een aand ná 'n rolprent oor studentepret besluit om die fliekpret na te doen: om in die naaste vrouekoshuis te gaan bad. Ons gaan bad toe in Eikenhof oorkant die straat – tot groot konsternasie van die dames."

Nadat hy met BSc begin het, het hy oorge-skakel na BA, en het hy ook musiekklasse vir niegraaddoeleindes bygewoon. Musieklek-tor Eberhard Kunkel se geesdrif oor sy sang was 'n hupstoot en het daartoe gelei dat hy later 'n vaardige bas-bariton geword het wat veral in operas vir kunsterade en ander groepe opgetree het.

As uitsaai-, tydskrif- en koerantjoernalis was hy aan die voorpunt van groot gebeure in Suider-Afrika.

"My grootste "scoop" was die wêreld se eerste hartoorplanting in Kaapstad toe ek deel van die SAUK se nuusspan was. Dr Chris Barnard, pionier van hartoorplantings, het vir my 'n getekende afskrif van sy eerste boek oor die oorplanting gegee en ons het goeie kennisse geword. Daarna was ek ook deel van die SAUK se nuusspan wat voor was met wêreldnuus, waaronder die oor-stroming van die Wes-Driefontein-goudmyn en die ineenstorting van die ou goudprys-stelsel."

Johan het heelwat ander mylpale op sy kerfstok. Daaronder tel sy deelname aan die bekendstelling van die huidige metrieke stelsel, die skep van die televisietydskrif Dagboek in die middel jare sewentig en



Mnr Johan Booyens verwyl 'n rustige oomblik langs die meer van Galilea tydens 'n besoek aan Israel.

'n sterk bydrae tot Namibië se toetrede tot internasionale tydrenne. Die afgetrede joernalis woon saam met sy vrou, Irene, in Walkerville suid van Johannesburg en teel Russiese Borzoi-honde, nadat hy 40 jaar lank met Afgaanse windhonde geboer het.

"Die etos van diensbaarheid wat ek by die PU vir CHO geleer het, was 'n lig op my pad. Ek het altyd gemik na nog kennis en erva-rings en om vir ander 'n baken en 'n ligdraer te wees," sê hy.

Deur die jare het Johan duidelik sakke vol ervaring opgedoen. Trouens, as 'n mens se ware rykdom sy ervarings is, is Johan Booyens vandag 'n baie ryk man.

Hier is oudjoernalis, mnr Johan Booyens, in Seattle in die Amerikaanse staat Washington, waar hy onder meer die Boeing-vliegtuigfabriek en Bill Gates se Microsoft-"dorp" besoek het.

Die wêreld was sy woning

Hoewel Johan Booyens sy BSc-studies verruil het vir 'n BA, is hy nog altyd bekoor deur die natuur- en verwante wetenskappe en was hy 'n geesdriftige wetenskapskrywer.

Dié skrywery het talle geleenthede geskep, van besoeke aan die Gobabeb-navorsing-stasie naby Walvisbaai en die sterrewag buite Sutherland tot die Chinese kleisoldaatop-grawings by Xian en die Amerikaanse ruimtebeheersentrum by Houston.

Hy was ook sake- en reisskrywer by die Sondagkoerant, *Rapport*, wat verdere internasio-nale besoeke moontlik gemaak het.

"Dit is moeilik om van 'lekkerste' ervarings te praat. Rusland en China was besondere er-varings met heelwat verrassings. So praat die Russe meer as 'n honderd dialekte, China meer as vyftig en Indië 1400! Gaan soek tussen die mense en hul kulture en verlekker jou in die soektog. Om net die blink goed te gaan soek en tuis daaroor te kom spog, is maar bra armoedig."

Hy verander uitdagings in **geleenthede**

Prof Sipho Seepe, alumnus van die Mafikengkampus, is 'n man van vele talente. Sy indrukwekkende resumé vertel die verhaal van iemand met 'n omvattende kennis wat nie skroom om uitdagings die hoof te bied nie.

Met ses tersiêre kwalifikasies in sy sak, is prof Sipho Seepe tans spesiale raadgewer vir die Minister van Verdediging en Militêre Veterane. Daarby is hy ook 'n politieke ontleder en strategiese konsultant vir hoër onderwys.

Tydens sy loopbaan het hy bestuursposte beklee by ABSA se Hoofkantoor, die Graduate Institute of Management and Technology en Henley Management College.

Prof Sipho se onderrig-ondervinding is baie uitgebreid. Behalwe dat hy by 'n hoërskool, kollege en verskeie universiteite (plaaslik en in die buiteland) klasgegee het, het hy ook in 'n stadium as visekanselier van die voormalige Vista-Universiteit waargeneem.

Sy rekenaar se sleutelbord werk oortyd, aangesien hy baie oor sake van openbare belang skryf. Dit wissel van politiek, kultuur, regstellende-aksie-kwessies en opvoeding, tot sake wat met die transformasie van die samelewing en instellings verband hou.

Wat die akademie betref, het hy onder meer die gesogte Fulbright South African Researcher Grant en die Harvard South Africa Fellowship ontvang. Daarby het hy by 'n aantal instellings in die buiteland as besoekende professor opgetree.

Die ongebaande weg

Prof Sipho wou aanvanklik medies studeer en het vir beurse aansoek gedoen. Die destydse Universiteit van Bophuthatswana (bekend as Unibo), wat toe pas gestig is, se klasgelde was die laagste en daarom was hy in 1980 een van die eerste studente wat daar ingeskryf het. "Ek het die sogenaamde Groot Vier in my eerste jaar geneem – wiskunde, fisika, chemie en biologie," onthou hy. Hy het opvoedkunde daarby gevoeg, asook 'n praktiese kursus, bekend as kommunikasie- en studievaardighede.

"Ná twee jaar het ek my plan om medies te studeer, laat vaar omdat twee van my professore by my 'n liefde vir fisika ingeboesem het."

Nog 'n rede vir die verandering was dat fisika in daardie stadium as die moeilikste vak beskou is. In daardie tyd was daar net 'n handjievol swart mense in Suid-Afrika met 'n PhD in fisika, teenoor 10 000 mediese dokters. Ek het dus die ongebaande weg gekies," sê hy.

Breër horisonne

Hy dink met vreugde terug aan sy studentedae. Die toewyding en intellektuele oorvloed by die universiteit het hom baie beïndruk en hy het baie gebaat by die openbare lesings wat gereeld by die universiteit gehou is.

"Die lesings het ons kennis verbreed – ver verby die eng grense van ons vakgebied. Die gevoel dat ons almal een familie was en deel was van iets wat nog verder gaan groei, was uiters opwindend."

Ten spyte van sy besige skedule, het hy steeds kontak met sy alma mater, en veral met sy vroeëre professore.

"Ons verhouding is kollegiaal, maar ook vriendskaplik en wanneer ek raad nodig het, kan ek by hulle aanklop. Hulle is steeds my mentors."

Gevorm vir die toekoms

Behalwe die akademiese kennis wat prof Sipho opgedoen het, glo hy ook dat die universiteit hom vir sy loopbaan en vir die lewe gevorm en voorberei het. "Die stigterslede wou destyds 'n universiteit hê wat goed afgeronde professionele persone sou lewer," sê hy. "Vakke soos opvoedkunde en ontwikkelingstudies het ons in staat gestel om met studente in die sosiale wetenskappe in aanraking te kom. Dit was dus nie ongewoon om met fisika, wiskunde en chemie besig te wees en later by debatte oor die reg, ekonomie en nasionale ontwikkeling betrokke te raak nie."

Prof Sihpo het op 53 al meer in sy volwasse lewe bereik as die meeste mense in 'n hele leeftyd:

- Hy was betrokke by 'n aantal navorsingskapasiteitsbou-inisiatiewe onder histories-benadeelde instellings in Suid-Afrika.
- Hy het in verskeie komitees gedien, onder andere die Stigting vir Navorsingsontwikkeling se wetenskaponderrig-evalueringskomitee.
- Hy was 'n lid van die Raad vir Geesteswetenskaplike Navorsing (RGN) se navorsingspaneel wat te doen gehad het met die evaluering van spannavorsing by histories-bevoordeelde en histories-benadeelde instellings.
- Hy was ook betrokke by 'n projek wat deur die destydse Suid-Afrikaanse Vereniging vir Akademiese Ontwikkeling geloods is om geleerdheid onder swart mense te bevorder.

As 'n mens na sy prestasies kyk, kan jy nie help om te wonder watter uitdagings vir die toekoms oorbly nie.

Die antwoord is kort en kragtig: "Om Afrika te help om die beste oplossings vir sy probleme te kry."

Prof Sipho glo dat sy studentejare hom geslyp en voorberei het vir sy loopbaan en vir die lewe.

Versterk deur vroeëre uitdagings

Prof Sipho Seepe is in 1959 in Soweto gebore en het daar as die oudste van drie seuns grootgeword.

Hy het talle uitdagings in sy lewe gehad – die wonde van geweld uit sy kinderdae getuig daarvan.

Sy oupa is gewelddadig dood, en so ook sy pa wat vermoor is toe hy nege jaar oud was. "Ek weet nie presies wat die omstandighede van sy dood was nie, dit was te pynlik om daaroor navraag te doen," onthou hy.

Sy ma het hulle onderhou deur by 'n hospitaal te werk – die Brenthurst-kliniek in Park Lane.

"Die grootste uitdaging in my lewe was om my twee jonger broers, Edward en Jimmy, te verloor. Niks kan jou hiervoor voorberei nie," sê prof Sipho.

Sy broers was albei slagoffers van geweld. "My jongste broer, Jimmy, is dood nadat hy vir 'n maand in 'n koma was. Dit was die gevolg van 'n gebarste serebrale aneurisme wat voortgespruit het uit verskeie skietwonde wat hy 'n paar jaar tevore opgedoen het."

'n Kleiner uitdaging, maar nie minder belangrik nie, was mislukking. "Ek het egter meer uit my mislukkings as uit my suksesse geleer," sê hy.

"Dit kos baie moed om weer op te staan as jy geval het. Mnr Nelson Mandela het dit pragtig gesê: ''n Wenner is 'n verloorder wat nooit tou opgooi nie.' Ek het gelukkig al die ondersteuning gehad wat nodig was."

Op hierdie noot onthou hy die trots op sy ma en oorlede broer, Jimmy, se gesigte toe hy sy eerste graad gekry het, en later sy PhD.

Politiek is deel van die pakket

Politiek is 'n belangrike deel van prof Sipho se lewe. Volgens hom kan ons nie almal wiskundiges of fisici wees nie, maar ons is almal politieke wesens.

"Ek is in die smeltkroes van die politiek gebore en grootgemaak. As inwoner van Soweto kon ek nie aan die invloed van mense soos Nelson Mandela, Winnie Mandela en Walter Sisulu ontsnap nie. Hulle was deel van ons omgewing.

"Omdat ek 'n analis is, deel ek dikwels my perspektiewe oor politieke verwikkelinge. Dit verg nogal moed, omdat 'n mens jouself in die proses aan kritiek blootstel." As rubriekskrywer vir 'n koerant sien prof Sipho homself as 'n stroomop-loper wat weier om deel van die kudde te word.

"Ek was 'n rubriekskrywer vir die *Mail & Guardian* asook vir *Business Day,* en my skryfwerk het my posisie as stroomop-loper weerspieël. Albei koerante het vir my daardie ruimte gelaat.

"Ek sien myself primêr as 'n onderwyser – om fisika te doseer en politieke ontleding te doen, stem ooreen, want albei gaan uiteindelik oor die deel van idees," sê hy.

Stilsit is min en **ophou nog minder**

Van baie dinge weet prof Johann Coetzee baie, maar daar is een ding waarvan hy niks weet nie, en dit is stilsit.

Hoeveel aktiwiteite kan 'n mens dan in 'n enkele leeftyd inpas?

Kom ons kyk: Bedryf- en raadplegende sielkundige. Menslike ontwikkelingskonsultant. Professor aan twee universiteite. Twee Comrades Marathon-medaljes. 'n Silwerkruis vir lewensredding. Vrystaatse provinsiale kleure vir rugby, swem en waterpolo. Helikoptervlieënier. Skrywer van sewe boeke. Lid van Krieket SA se afrigters-keuringskomitee. Postdoktorale studies in Forensiese Medisyne en Etiek en Filosofie.

Dit alles kan jy in een leeftyd doen as jy prof Johann Coetzee, alumnus van die NWU se Vaaldriehoekkampus is.

Prof Johann se verbintenis met die NWU het in 1979 begin toe hy by die Vaaldriehoekkampus ingeskryf het vir sy meestersgraadstudies. In daardie stadium was die kampus nog deel van die voormalige Potchefstroomse Universiteit vir Christelike Hoër Onderwys. Hy is toe ook aangestel as professor in Bedryfsielkunde en by die Bestuurskool.

Vir altyd 'n student

Sy akademiese kwalifikasies dek 'n wye veld en dit lyk nie asof hy enigsins in die toekoms van plan is om die boeke weg te pak nie.

"Wanneer 'n mens jou in die toegepaste gedragswetenskap bevind moet jy 'n ewige student bly. Omdat ek inherent lui is, is dit vir my goeie dissipline om maar 'n geregistreerde student te wees sodat daar toesig kan wees oor my pogings en vordering," sê hy.

Deur die jare het hy sy kennis en ondervinding met meer as 27 000 bestuurders gedeel.

"My raad aan bestuurders en leiers was hoofsaaklik rondom selfbestuur, selfgelding, persoonlike en professionele geborgenheid, en in die jongste tyd veral die handhawing van 'n gebalanseerde en geïntegreerde lewenstyl," sê hy.

Baie mense het hom ook in 'n terapeutiese of sielkundige konteks gespreek, en dan het hy oorwegend probeer om hulle rondom die positiewe te inspireer – trouens, hy streef steeds daarna.

Hope hooi op sy vurk

Met so baie hooi op een vurk is daar daagliks baie uitdagings om te oorkom.

"My grootste uitdaging is om nie te veel te werk nie," bieg hy. "Ek is inderdaad daaraan skuldig (en ook skaam) dat ek soms werklik te hard gewerk en myself en ander in die proses afgeskeep het.

Hy reik steeds hoër: Een van die baie vaardighede wat prof Johann Coetzee in sy leeftyd bemeester het, is om 'n helikopter te vlieg.

"Ek glo dat hierdie nie 'n unieke situasie is nie, maar ongelukkig universeel.

"Soveel mense doen gewoon net te veel en in die proses ly ander as gevolg daarvan en vertroebel dit verhoudings wat tog immers net soveel belangriker is as werk."

Keuring vir krieket

Meer onlangs was prof Johann in die nuus omdat hy deel was van Krieket Suid-Afrika se keuringskomitee wat 'n nuwe afrigter vir die nasionale krieketspan moes kies.

Met sy kenmerkende beskeidenheid laat prof Johann dié taak alledaags klink.

"Krieket Suid-Afrika het iemand nodig gehad wat 'n objektiewe en professionele inset kan lewer om die nuwe afrigter van die Proteas te evalueer.

Dis waar ek toe ingekom het," vertel hy.

Sy hart se punt

Prof Johann en sy vrou, Irma, woon in Henley on Klip in Gauteng. Hulle het mekaar ontmoet op die eerste dag toe hulle by die by die Universiteit van die Vrystaat aangekom het en is vier jaar daarna – in 1970 – getroud.

"Sy was 'n *girl* wat anders was – boksterte langs die kop, tekkies en styl. Sjoe!," onthou hy met 'n glimlag.

Die egpaar het vier kinders gehad – André, Jeanie, Karin en Johann. "Jeanie is in 1994 in haar slaap oorlede en dit is die mees verbysterende ervaring wat enige mens kan beleef en ek inderdaad ervaar het. Ek huil elke dag baie, maar ek huil al anders!"

Prof Johann-hulle het ook twee kleinkinders, Milla en Tina. "Kleinkinders is die sieraad van jou lewe en die grootste geskenk wat die Here vir jou kan gee, via jou eie kinders," sê hy.

Lewenslesse

Tot dusver het die lewe prof Johann geleer om die lewe te kies en dit dan voluit te lééf.

"Geloof en godsdiens is die wese van my lewe en die perspektiewe waaruit ek die lewe aandurf. Dit is wonderlik om elke dag met opwinding te kan aandurf, en om al die verskillende dimensies van die lewe te kan raaksien en te geniet."

Dalk is daar tog iets waarvan prof Johann minder weet as van stilsit. Dit is van ophou om verder te reik as wat jy gedink het jy kan. Ja-nee, met hom is die kanse vir stilsit min, en ophou nog minder.

Werkgewer vs werknemer – 'n kwessie van balans

As bedryfsielkundige is daar min dinge wat jy prof Johann omtrent arbeidsgedinge kan vertel. Hy het dan ook heelwat raad hieroor.

"Sakelui, en ook organisasies, moet die unieke arbeidsituasie in Suid-Afrika nie vanuit regstegniese perspektiewe benader nie, maar vanuit 'n medemenslike konteks," sê hy.

Dit gaan egter nie oor 'n slaafse omhelsing van mense en veral van die georganiseerde arbeid nie, maar die bestendige toepassing van dissipline, met liefdevolle oorleg daarby, glo hy.

Daar is egter enorme uitdagings, veral ten opsigte van die absurde gaping tussen topbestuurvergoeding en dié van laer vlakke, sê prof Johann. Hy glo dit het handuit geruk en diskrediteer die integriteit van individue en organisasies.

In die weegskaal

Om die regte van die arbeider teen die regte van die werkgewer op te weeg is taamlik ingewikkeld. "My pa het my destyds geleer dat 'n mens nie regte het nie, maar net voorregte," vertel hy." In wese hou ek hierby as 'n filosofie, maar ook as inspirasie.

"Om te kan werk is 'n voorreg, en dit is die vertrekpunt waarmee ek alle situasies benader, eerder as die uitbuitende ingesteldheid van enige party."

Waar daar wel uitbuiting is – en daaroor bestaan daar volgens hom ook geen twyfel nie – moet die regsproses uiteraard volg.

Dit moet egter altyd gedrewe wees deur wedersydse billikheid, omdat die werkgewer net soveel verantwoordelikheid en regte het om werk te verskaf en die organisasie te bedryf, as wat die werknemer het as die verskaffer van arbeid.

Arbeidswette

Hy reken Suid-Afrika het waarskynlik die mees gesofistikeerde en gevorderde arbeidswetgewing van alle lande.

"Ons Handves van Menseregte, Hoofstuk 2 van die Grondwet van SA, is 'n instrument wat enige organisasie kan help om billikheid en regverdigheid om te sit in beleid en prosedures," sê hy.

Wyse woorde uit sy pen

'n Hele paar boeke het reeds uit prof Johann se pen verskyn. Van die meer formele boeke was byvoorbeeld *Beroepsbekering: Konfrontasie, krisis en kentering.*

Omdat hy dit geniet om te skryf is daar ook twee ander boeke gepubliseer – *Paulus se Broer,* en *A Hatful of Memories.* Twee voltooide manuskripte – *Van Doerietyd tot Netnou* en *Tussen die Reëls*: *'n Klomp Korporatiewe Koddighede* – sal binnekort op die rakke sal wees.

Die ontstaan van nog 'n boek, *It's About Time,* het 'n intense aanloop gehad. "Op 11 Junie 2010, die dag wat die wêreldbekersokker in Suid-Afrika afgeskop het, was ek vir 'n operasie in 'n hospitaal in Pretoria," vertel hy.

"Die operasie was suksesvol, maar om een of ander onverklaarbare rede het ek ernstige hartversaking gekry en is ek dankbaar dat ek dit wel oorleef het. Tydens die operasie is daar ook kanker ontdek en verwyder en ek is tans in remissie, waaroor ek baie dankbaar is."

Prof Johann het *It's About Time* saamgestel na aanleiding van hierdie belewenisse. In hierdie boek skryf hy oor wat hy deur die jare vir ander mense voorgehou het as perspektiewe rondom selfbestuur en veral oor hoe om jou tyd en geleenthede die beste te benut.

Katlego skitter in vermaaklikheidsbedryf

Wanneer 'n mens kyk na die lewe van mnr Katlego Maboe, alombekende lid van die a capella-sanggroep, Flip a Coin, en aanbieder op TV3 se vroegoggendprogram, Expresso, is dit duidelik dat 'n opwindende toekoms vol geleenthede op hom wag. Die NWU & U het by dié alumnus van die Potchefstroomkampus meer gaan uitvind oor sy lewe as student, hoekom hy mense graag vermaak, en waar alles begin het.

Dit inspireer hom as hy mense kan beïnvloed en dit vul hom met vreugde dat hy elke dag nuwe mense kan ontmoet en by hulle kan leer.

So sê Katlego Maboe, oud-inwoner van Veritas-manskoshuis op die Potchefstroom-kampus.

"Daar is 'n brandende gevoel diep binne my dat ek die wêreld 'n beter plek moet maak," verduidelik hy. "Ek is in 'n posisie om die beste te doen met dit wat aan my geskenk is en 'n positiewe verskil in lewens te maak. Ek kan nie nou laat slap lê nie."

Sêr (die sanggroepe van die koshuise) en Veritas, en die BCom-graad wat hy in 2007 behaal het, vertel die storie van sy studente-dae. "Die beste jare van my lewe... Sjoe, nou moet ek my woorde mooi kies!" grap hy.

Lekker gekuier

"Ek het hard geswot, maar ook hard gekuier wanneer ek die kans gekry het," ... en dan fluister hy dat sy ma hopelik nie hierdie stukkie sal lees nie.

"Op die ou end het ek my graad gekry, boonop met lekkerkry!"

Wat die jare in Veritas veral vir hom spesiaal gemaak het, was sterk vriendskap, "En natuurlik Sêr," voeg hy by. "Wat sou my lewe daarsonder wees?"

Op universiteit het hy homself leer ken deur sy eie waardes te ontdek en te leer wat integriteit beteken. "Baie dankie aan die NWU vir al die bydraes wat julle in my lewe gemaak het, vir die vriendskappe en die aanmoediging. Sonder julle was ek nie waar ek nou is nie. O, en 'TAS TAS VERITAS'!"

Katlego sê sy gunsteling-uithangplek op 'n Vrydagaand was die kuierplekke Picasso's en Bourbons. Elke nou en dan sou hy ook "die goeie ou Draak" (die Drakenstein-restaurant op die kampus) besoek.

'n Kop vir syfers

Hy het gou besef 'n "kop vir besigheid" is belangrik in die vermaaklikheidswêreld. Daarby doen hy self die finansies van sy oupa se taxi-onderneming en het hy sy eie klein sake-onderneming begin.

Katlego is lid van die a capella-sanggroep, Flip a Coin. Hier is hy saam met ander lede van die groep. Hulle is van links Michael de Villiers, Johan Venter, Stefan Pretorius, Katlego en Niekie van der Walt.

Dit was aanvanklik nie regtig sy keuse om in Potchefstroom te studeer nie. “Ek wou eerder Tukkies toe gaan, maar ek was gelukkig en geseënd om ’n beurs by die Fakulteit Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe te kry. My ma het my oortuig, toe stem ek saam – daarna het ek nog nooit weer teruggekyk nie,” sê hy glimlaggend.

Katlego het in Potchefstroom grootgeword by ouma Ellen en oupa Salthiel, terwyl ma Beauty in Itsoseng in Lichtenburg gewerk het. “Ek is een van twee kinders, en my sussie se naam is Thato. Sy is 14.”

Sy oupa inspireer hom en sy invloed, glo Katlego, het hom gebring waar hy vandag is. “Ek het by hom geleer hoe belangrik dit is om hard te werk. Met sy aanmoediging het ek elke oggend vyfuur opgestaan en my dag begin deur die erf buite skoon te vee. My oupa is nou 78 en het nog steeds die energie van ’n jong man.”

Onderkry is min

Niks kry Katlego sommer onder nie. Al wat pla is dat hy nog nie geleer het om te swem nie, en dat party mense dit moeilik vind om die “tl” in sy naam uit te spreek – soms voel hy verleë as hulle dit verkeerd uitspreek. So het dit gebeur dat mense hom maar sommer Kat noem.

In die musiekgroep, Flip a Coin, het Katlego gou bekendheid verwerf. Deesdae vermaak hy mense van alle kultuurgroepe met sy besondere stem en warm persoonlikheid. Hy sê die verhouding met sy medekunstenaars en die Sêr-ouens in die koshuis speel steeds ’n groot rol in sy sukses.

“Deur ons musiek en die jare saam het ek die belangrikheid van spanwerk geleer. Soos hulle in Engels sê: There is no ‘I’ in team.” Al is hulle oor die land versprei, is Flip a Coin steeds aan die gang en sing hulle graag waar daar geleenthede is.

Katlego sê hy is weer genooi vir die musiekfees, die Huisgenoot Skouspel en hy kry ook nou en dan ’n kans om op Expresso te sing. Sy vryetyd is beperk, maar dis dan wanneer hy kitaar speel en liedjies skryf.

Daar kom dalk later ’n CD, sê hy. Hy glo dit is met die Here se seën dat die toekoms sommer baie helder en blink wink.

Mnr Katlego Maboe het onlangs by die NWU se Wys wat jy weet-kompetisie as seremoniemeester opgetree. Dié vasvra was deel van die NWU se Interkampus Sosiale Dag vir personeel, wat op die Mafikengkampus gehou is. Katlego het die kompetisie gemaklik in drie tale – Afrikaans, Engels en Setswana – gelei.

Dakar op motorfiets gevolg

Om die 2012-Dakar-wedren per motorfiets te volg, is nie kinderspeletjies nie – vra maar vir prof Hein Prinsloo van Bestuurswetenskappe in die Fakulteit Handel en Administrasie op die Mafikengkampus wat saam met twee vriende dié avontuurrit aangepak het.

Met gehuurde motorfietse het prof Hein Prinsloo saam met twee vriende die Dakar-wedren gevolg 'n paar dae nadat dit op 1 Januarie 2012 in die Argentynse kusdorp Mar del Plata begin het.

"Dit is dié toeskouergeleentheid – deesdae selfs nog groter as die Tour de France," sê prof Hein.

Hordes ondersteuners

'n Horde ondersteuningspanne, vriende en familie, lede van die media en toeskouers het die 465 motors, bakkies, motorfietse en vierwiel-motorfietse wat deelgeneem het, vergesel. Tussen dié toeskouers was daar heelwat Suid-Afrikaners met motorfietse, sê prof Hein.

Ná 'n gedeelte deur Chili het die wedren op 15 Januarie in Lima, die hoofstad van Peru, geëindig. Gedurende die twee weke van die wedren is byna 9 000 km afgelê waartydens deelnemers duine, modder, kameelgras en rotse moes trotseer. "Die ruwe omstandighede was net so moeilik vir die toeskouers as vir die deelnemers," sê prof Hein. "Ons moes alles saam met ons vat: van klere, water en kos, tot gereedskap en beskermende toerusting in geval van koue of reënweer."

Boonop het hulle in die oop veld geslaap en het dit – ten spyte van die dae wat uiters warm was – snags baie koud geword.

Vroeg uit die vere

Soggens vieruur was opstaantyd – dan het die drie Suid-Afrikaners gesorg dat hulle voor die ander toeskouers by goeie uitkykpunte kom vanwaar hulle die deelnemers kon dophou.

In die proses het hulle 'n paar keer in die dik sand neergeslaan, maar gelukkig het hulle darem sonder letsels daarvan afgekom. By die Andesgebergte, kort voor hulle die grens na Chili oorgesteek het, het prof Hein en sy vriende die Dakar-avonturiers verlaat.

Dié berge, sê prof Hein, is majestueus en uitsonderlik – glad nie soos ons berge nie. Maar dié rit was alles behalwe maklik. "Die weer was onvoorspelbaar en die paaie sleg. Twee van ons motorfietse is byna deur vloedwater meegesleur." Die drie vriende het 'n 1 000 km lange ompad deur die landbougebied suidwes van Buenos Aires gevolg voor hulle weer by die Dakar-deelnemers aangesluit het. Langs dié roete het hulle deur verskeie dorpe gery.

Die hartklop van 'n dorp

"Die plein is die hart van elke dorp," vertel prof Hein."Van sonsondergang af kom die dorpenaars daar bymekaar om kos, musiek en mekaar se geselskap te geniet en dikwels bly hulle daar tot in die vroeë oggendure. Geen wonder besighede maak soggens eers ná nege oop nie!"

As gevolg van die intense hitte, is 'n middag-siesta ook algemeen in dié dorpe.

Prof Hein sê toe hy ná vyf weke by die huis kom, was hy veel armer, maar ook veel plomper – te danke aan die gasvryheid van die Argentyne wat baie hou van vleis, slaaie en bier. Prof Hein sê hy sal die avontuur weer aanpak, maar net as hy volgende keer sy eie, bekende motorfiets kan saamvat.

Avontuurlik, avontuurliker… Dakar

Die Dakar-wedren is 'n jaarlikse veld-uithourit vir verskeie soorte voertuie. Sedert die eerste wedren in 1978, het die meeste in Parys, Frankryk begin en in Dakar, Senegal geëindig. Sedert 2009 vind dit egter in Suid-Amerika plaas. Sowat 80% van die deelnemers is amateurs en die res professionele jaers.

Die Fransman, Stéphane Peterhansel, wat die wedren al 10 keer gewen het, het ook die 2012-wedren saam met sy medebestuurder, Jean-Paul Cottret, gewen. Suid-Afrika se Giniel de Villiers en sy Duitse medebestuurder, Dirk von Zitzewitz, in hul Toyota Hilux was derde.

Tydens hul Dakar-avontuur: Saam met prof Hein Prinsloo (middel) is sy twee vriende, Steve Landman (links) en Nardus du Preez (regs). Albei vriende is van Oos-Londen. Steve kompeteer self in die nasionale "enduro" of uithou-kampioenskappe en vir Nardus het prof Hein in Malawi tydens 'n ander motorfiets-avontuur ontmoet.

Heel liks: Die oorspronklike Diana het baie letsels oorgehou van haar vroeëre avonture. Links: Met die Aardklop Kunstefees in 2009 het die studente Diana in 'n veelkleurige feesrokkie uitgedos.

Diana, die olifantkoei, staan deesdae vreedsaam in haar dammetjie terwyl die inwoners van die Ratau Lebone-manskoshuis 'n wakende oog oor haar hou. Hier salueer 'n paar van die koshuis se huiskomiteelede haar.

Diana simboliseer nou **eenheid**

Diana, die olifantjie-standbeeld in die Chatarina-dammetjie* voor die hoofgebou van die Fakulteit Opvoedingswetenskappe op die Potchefstroomkampus, spog deesdae met 'n vietse voorblad-voorkoms.

Die "glam-goeroes" wat haar en haar blyplek onder hande geneem het, is die tweedejaars van die manskoshuis Ratau-Lebone.

Dié koshuis het onlangs die gebou oorkant hulle, nou weer bekend as Ratau Lebone Suid, in hergebruik geneem, nadat die manskoshuis, Laureus, dit vir jare lank bewoon het.

Diana se dammetjie is in die middel van die twee geboue en word deur die inwoners as die simbool van eenheid beskou. Vandaar dus die mooimaak-sessie waarby Diana toe ook gebaat het.

Vanmelewe se olifant

Diana is egter nie meer vandag se olifant nie – sy kom nog uit die dae van die voormalige Potchefstroomse Onderwyskollege (POK).

In daardie jare was die oorspronklike Diana 'n tuinornament wat male sonder tal deur studente geverf of ontvoer is. Die skuldiges was meestal die "pampoenboere" van die destydse Potchefstroomse Landboukollege of studente van die voormalige Potchefstroomse Universiteit vir Christelike Hoër Onderwys.

Danksy die onverskrokke bevrydingspogings deur onderwysstudente, het sy haar pad darem altyd weer teruggevind tot op die voormalige POK-kampus. Dis nou totdat die pampoenboere haar by "Gimmies se Gat", 'n diep poel in die Mooirivier, weggegooi het en sy eers 'n ruk daarna toevallig deur iemand raakgesien en gered is.

Ná haar traumatiese ondervinding het die oorspronklike, ietwat gehawende Diana uiteindelik in die Opvoedkunde-museum "afgetree". Intussen het prof John Botha, 'n kunsgeskiedenisdosent, opdrag gekry om 'n replika van haar te maak – dié keer 'n behoorlike kunswerk.

'n Minister onthul haar

Kort nadat die replika-Diana'n tuiste in die dammetjie gevind het, is sy – soos dit 'n olifantkoei van haar statuur betaam – deur 'n minister onthul.

Minister Naledi Pandor, die voormalige Minister van Onderwys, het in Februarie 2008 nie net 'n nuwe Opvoedkunde-gebou nie, maar ook sommer vir Diana onthul.

Maar o wee, sonder uitdagings het dié onthulling ook nie verloop nie.

Die swart doek waarmee sy toegegooi was, moes ewe dramaties die lug in styg, maar die meganiese planne wou nie heeltemal vlot nie.

Een van die jong manne aan wal moes maar skoene uittrek, broekspype oprol en die water in loop om Diana per hand te gaan onthul.

Pikante pers

Die onthulde Diana was egter steeds 'n groot aantrekkingskrag vir onnutsige studente. Hulle het byvoorbeeld al op 'n keer besluit sy lyk baie goed in pikante pers … (sien foto). Tog lyk dit asof daar 'n rustiger toekoms vir Diana voorlê.

Vierpoot-vasgesement in haar dammetjie, met die manne van Ratau Lebone aan weerskante van haar, is die kanse goed dat sy haar voorblad-voorkoms sal behou, sonder dat ontvoerders of verwers haar weer binnekort kan beetkry.

** Die dammetjie is vernoem na die eerste rektor van die destydse Potchefstroomse Onderwyskollege, prof PJ van der Merwe, se vrou.*

Ontwikkel jou potensiaal om gelukkig te wees

Glo jy aan aanhouer wen, of gaan sit jy al by voorbaat in sak en as wanneer die eerste donker wolk op die horison verskyn? Die NWU & U het met prof Ian Rothmann van die Optentia-navorsingsprogram op die Vaaldriehoekkampus gesels oor positiewe sielkunde, emosionele veerkragtigheid en die geheim van gelukkig-wees.

Ons almal wil gelukkig wees. Om die waarheid te sê, dit is waarskynlik een van die dinge wat ons as mense die meeste in gemeen het.

Maar het jy al gewonder waarom party mense gelukkig is en ander ongelukkig? En waarom jy soms gelukkiger en meer optimisties is as ander kere?

Positiewe sielkunde mag dalk lig werp hierop.

Maar wat is positiewe sielkunde? Wel, eenvoudig gestel is dit 'n positiewe manier om na jouself, mense en die wêreld te kyk.

Volgens prof Ian Rothmann van Optentia op die Vaaldriehoekkampus vra hierdie studieveld vrae soos "Wat werk vir mense en waarom werk dit?", eerder as om te kyk na wat nié werk nie.

Half vol of half leeg?

Klink dit vir jou na die glas wat vir optimiste half vol lyk, terwyl dit vir pessimiste half leeg lyk?

Inderdaad. Positiewe sielkunde daag jou uit om begeesterd te raak, 'n doelwit en betekenis te vind en positiewe verhoudings te bou. "Een van die groot voordele van positiewe sielkunde is dat dit bou op die sterkpunte en hulpbronne wat mense reeds het en waarop hulle reeds staatmaak. So 'n benadering kan tot positiewe verandering en sterker families, gemeenskappe en volke lei," sê prof Ian.

As jy na 'n sielkundige of psigiater toe gaan wat die beginsels van positiewe sielkunde toepas, sal hy of sy dus eerder op jou bestaande kragte voortbou as om te kyk na "wat is verkeerd met jou en hoe kan ek dit regmaak?".

Positiewe sielkunde, sê prof Ian, gaan oor positiewe ontwikkeling en oor hoop, vasberadenheid, deernis, vergifnis, en om betekenis in die lewe te vind. Dit gaan ook

Prof Ian Rothmann van die Optentia-navorsingsprogram op die Vaaldriehoekkampus glo 'n mens moet op 'n positiewe manier na jouself, mense en die wêreld kyk. As jy dit doen, sal 'n glas wat halfpad gevul is met water, vir jou waarskynlik half vol, eerder as half leeg lyk.

oor veerkragtigheid – dit wil sê die vermoë om positiewe aanpassings te maak onder moeilike omstandighede soos kroniese siekte, armoede, oorlog of mishandeling.

Muurbalballetjies bons terug

Kortom: veerkragtigheid is daardie eienskap wat maak dat sommige mense soos muurbalballetjies terug bons as hulle hulself teen 'n muur vasloop. Met ander woorde, dit is die vermoë om terug te wip en weer op jou voete te land wanneer die lewe jou onderstebo klits.

"Veerkragtigheid is 'n goeie voorbeeld van hoe positiewe sielkunde mense aanmoedig om uit te vind wat hul lewens betekenisvol maak en daarop te fokus, selfs onder moeilike omstandighede," sê prof Ian.

Maar word party mense veerkragtig gebore, of is dit 'n eienskap wat jy kan aanleer?

"Navorsing wys dat ons interaksie met ons fisiese en sosiale omgewings bepaal hoe ons gedagtepatrone neurologiese paadjies in die brein vorm en hoe die brein dus 'bedraad' word," sê prof Ian.

"Dus: wat ons ervaar, verander die brein. Hierdie veranderinge kan positief of negatief wees, en positiewe sielkunde gaan juis oor hoe 'n mens positiewe neurologiese 'bedrading' kan bewerkstellig."

Maar moet nou net nie dink dat iemand wat meestal optimisties is, nie soms ook pessimisties raak nie.

"Ongeveer vyf dekades van navorsing oor veerkragtigheid het gewys dat positiewe aanpassing dinamies is. Dit is op baie faktore gebaseer en fluktueer dus," sê prof Ian.

Op pad na positiewe sielkunde

Hoe kan ons die beginsels van positiewe sielkunde in ons lewens toepas?

- Handhaaf 'n gesonde leefstyl. Genoeg oefening en 'n gesonde dieet het 'n groot uitwerking op die gemoed. Trouens, oefening is al beskryf as 'n "wondermiddel", omdat dit so 'n wye verskeidenheid voordele inhou.
- Vind betekenis in die lewe deur jou sterkpunte te gebruik om 'n verskil te maak. Word byvoorbeeld deel van iets groter as jyself, soos vrywillige werk.
- Vier die positiewe in die lewe; wees dankbaar vir alles wat goed uitwerk, geniet die eenvoudige dinge wat vir jou vreugde verskaf en troetel positiewe verhoudinge.
- Kyk na jou sosiale netwerk: die struktuur van 'n persoon se sosiale netwerk het skynbaar 'n uitwerking op geluk.
- Studies het getoon dat mense wat baie sentraal is (met ander woorde baie vriende het, asook vriende van vriende) oor die algemeen gelukkiger is as diegene op die randjie van die netwerk.
- Die kweek van 'n ekstroverte ingesteldheid stem ook ooreen met geluk om dieselfde rede: dit bou verhoudinge en ondersteuningsgroepe.
- Wees versigtig: dit kan teenproduktief wees om te veel oor geluk te dink. Dis beter om na te dink oor jou waardes, en te vra: "Het ek steeds hoop?" eerder as om te vra "Is ek gelukkig?" want studies het bewys dat geluk begin afneem as mens laasgenoemde vraag vier of meer keer per dag vra.
- Leef doelgerig

Die mense om ons

'n Mens moet egter nie net na die individu kyk nie. Trouens, positiewe sielkunde leer juis dat mense verhoudingswesens is. Daarom vra positiewe sielkunde vrae soos: Watter sosio-kulturele prosesse is daar in die lewens van dié mense wat gewoonlik meer optimisties voorkom as ander? En: Op watter eksterne kragte maak hulle staat en hoe ondersteun dit hulle?

Al kan positiewe sielkunde nie verhoed dat die lewe jou soms 'n streep trek nie, kan dit jou beslis help om die sterkpunte in jouself en jou omgewing raak te sien en daarop te bou om die uitdagings op jou pad die hoof te bied.

Optimaal + Potensiaal = Optentia

Die naam van die Optentia-navorsingsprogram op die Vaaldriehoekkampus is 'n kombinasie van die woorde "optimaal" en "potensiaal". Geen wonder nie, want navorsing in hierdie entiteit handel oor die optimalisering van individuele, sosiale en institusionele potensiaal.

Optentia het die volgende vyf subprogramme:

- Florering en deugsaamheid
- Roetes na veerkragtigheid
- Positiewe verhoudinge
- Boustene na psigososiale welstand
- Talentbestuur

Personeel van al drie NWU-kampusse is tans betrokke by Optentia. Hulle kom van vakgebiede soos sielkunde, bedryf-/organisasiesielkunde, opvoedkundige sielkunde, sosiologie, arbeidsverhoudinge en maat-skaplike werk.

Die bemeestering van positiewe sielkunde

'n Meestersprogram in positiewe sielkunde sal van 2013 af aangebied word in die Skool vir Gedragswetenskappe op die Vaaldriehoekkampus, en later ook in die Skool vir Psigososiale Gedragswetenskappe op die Potchefstroomkampus.

Behalwe dat dit 'n logiese ontwikkeling is vanaf die voorgraadse en honneursprogram in Sielkunde en Bedryfsielkunde, bied dit ook 'n goeie alternatief vir gewilde kliniese en beradingsprogramme. Die kursus sal na verwagting ook voordelig wees vir mense wat reeds in 'n beroep staan. As jy dus jou persoonlike ontwikkeling en loopbaangeleenthede wil uitbrei, is hierdie meestersgraad net die ding vir jou.

Dit sal nuttig wees vir gekwalifiseerde sielkundiges, beraders, psigoterapeute, en verpleegsters en dokters wat die teorie, navorsing en toepassings van positiewe sielkunde vir hul kliniese werk wil gebruik.

Daarby kan onderwysers ook kundigheid oor positiewe sielkunde nuttig aanwend.

Mooi bly maar mooi

Die NWU bestaan vandag uit kampusse met verskillende gewoontes en tradisies. So was daar by die voormalige universiteite voor die samesmelting nog altyd verskillende gebruike rondom Jool en die kroon van joolskoonhede. Die NWU & U het gaan ondersoek instel.

Deur die jare het die vrouestudente van die voormalige Potchefstroomse Universiteit vir Christelike Hoër Onderwys (PU vir CHO) én die van die huidige Potchefstroomkampus van die NWU, bewys dat hulle nie net slim is nie, maar mooi ook.

Dié wat by die PU vir CHO as skoonhede gekroon is, het bekend gestaan as sjampanje- en karnavalnooientjies en later as joolpersoonlikhede. Vandag word daar steeds joolpersoonlikhede gekroon, maar mans- en vrouestudente ding ook mee vir die titels Mej en Mnr Kampus.

Lydia klink 'n glasie

Vroeër jare se sjampanjenooientjies het 'n belangrike rol gespeel by sportbyeenkomste, en in besonder tydens die jaarlikse intervarsity tussen die PU vir CHO en die voormalige Universiteit van die Oranje Vrystaat. Karnavalnooientjies was weer by Karnaval (soos Jool eers bekend gestaan het) en fondsinsameling betrokke.

In 1982 is me Lydia Botha (neé Hoogendyk), gekroon as karnavalnooientjie én sjampanjenooientjie.

Tydlose skoonheid: Me Lydia Botha, sjampanje- én karnavalnooientjie van 1982, is tans 'n NWU-personeellid by die Institusionele Kantoor.

"Dit was 'n wonderlike tyd in my lewe; my koshuiskamer het behoorlik soos 'n blomtuin gelyk – te pragtig," sê Lydia.

Sy sê as karnavalnooientjie was dit vir haar 'n voorreg om geld te kon insamel en só 'n verskil in behoeftige mense se lewens te kon maak.

Haar ondervinding as sjampanjenooientjie was net so lekker. Veral die kontak wat sy met ander universiteite se sjampanjenooientjies gehad het, het vir haar baie beteken.

Mooi, mooier, mooiste: Dr Juanita Terblanché, joolpersoonlikheid van 1992, is vandag 'n parlementslid vir die Demokratiese Alliansie.

Jool saam met Juanita

Later jare het Karnaval en karnavalnooientjies plek gemaak vir Jool en joolpersoonlikhede.

In 1992 was dr Juanita Terblanché (neé Hattingh), tans 'n parlementslid vir die Demokratiese Alliansie, die joolpersoonlikheid van die jaar.

"Om as joolpersoonlikheid gekroon te word deur niemand anders nie as die eertydse Mej Suid-Afrika, me Suzette van der Merwe, was een van die hoogtepunte van my studentelewe," vertel Juanita.

"Die professionele manier waarop die proses plaasgevind het en die onderhoude wat met my gevoer is, sal my altyd bybly."

Van die ander groot lekkertes van daardie jaar, was 'n week lange vakansie in Mauritius as prys, kosbare vriendskapsbande wat gesmee is, en die feit dat sy haar 'droomman', mnr Reinier Terblanché, in Junie daardie jaar op die kampus ontmoet het.

"Dit was vir my 'n verrykende, kosbare ervaring wat ook tot ander geleenthede gelei het en verskeie deure vir my oopgemaak het," sê sy.

Marlie word Mej Kampus

Vandag wys die Potchefstroomkampus steeds 'n joolpersoonlikheid aan. Daarby word 'n Mej en Mnr Kampus ook gekroon.

'n Mej Kampus wat nie net plaaslik nie, maar ook nasionaal en internasionaal haar merk gemaak het, is me Marlie Jonker. Sy was nie net die Mej Kampus van 2011 nie, maar is boonop in September verlede jaar gekroon as Mej SA Kampus – dus die mooiste kampusnooi in die land.

Daarna, aan die einde van 2011, het sy Suid-Afrika by die World Miss University 2011 in Seoul, Suid-Korea, verteenwoordig.

Op die loopplank: Me Marlie Jonker, Mej Kampus van 2011, verteenwoordig Suid-Afrika by die World Miss University in Seoul.

Marlie is tans die redakteur van die studentekoerant, die Wapad. Sy het verlede jaar BA Kommunikasie studeer en doen vanjaar 'n Nagraadse Diploma in Bestuur.

Aanvallige skooljuffers

Prof Annette Combrink, voormalige rektor van die PU vir CHO, vertel dat daar beslis Jool en joolkoninginne was gedurende die jare toe sy op die Potchefstroomse Onderwyskollege (POK) was (1963 tot 1967).

"In 1964 was my goeie vriendin, me Marthie Daffue, byvoorbeeld die joolkoningin," sê sy.

Alumni van die POK wat meer inligting – en dalk ook foto's – het wat hierdie stukkie geskiedenis van die POK uitbeeld, is welkom om ons te laat weet.

Mafikeng se mooistes

Me Shirley Lobelo van die Mafikengkampus sê dié kampus het wel vroeër die mooiste onder die mooies gekroon. Volgens haar was die laaste Mej Unibo (Universiteit van Bophuthatswana) me Millicent Muthuloe.

Die laaste Mej Noordwes-Universiteit, Mafikengkampus, was me Barileng Sape, wat in 2005 die septer geswaai het.

"Aangesien daar na my wete sedertdien nog nie weer so 'n kompetisie was nie, is ek waarskynlik steeds die heersende koningin," sê sy. Haar termyn as kampuskoningin het vir haar baie beteken. "Die titel het heelwat verantwoordelikhede meegebring en ek het met trots opgetree as ambassadeur van die universiteit," sê sy.

Sy beskryf haarself as 'n 'mens vir mense' en daarom het sy haar medestudente bygestaan waar sy kon. "Selfs van die dosente het my gevra om dié wat studieprobleme gehad het, te help," sê sy.

Me Barileng Sape, wat in 2005 gekroon is as Mej Noordwes-Universiteit, Mafikengkampus, is tans 'n ekonoom by SARS in Pretoria.

Vaaldriehoek se skoonhede onthou

Die Vaaldriehoekkampus het vroeër jare jooloptogte gehad, kompleet met vlotte en joolprinsesse, sê prof Piet Prinsloo, voormalige rektor van dié kampus.

Dit, sê hy, was in die tyd toe die Vaaldriehoekkampus nog 'n satellietkampus van die voormalige PU vir CHO was.

Mnr Harm Stavast van Studenteontwikkeling op die Vaaldriehoekkampus, sê met die verskuiwing van die Ingenieursstudente na die Potchefstroomkampus het Jool doodgeloop, en daarmee ook die aanwys van joolkoninginne. "Ek dink die laaste joolkoningin was so in 1991 of 1992, as ek reg onthou," sê Harm.

Me Christelle Kriel (neé Van der Linde) was in 1989 die joolkoningin. Sy sê die hele joolkoningin- en debutant-ervaring was vir haar waardevol en het haar onder meer voorberei om met selfvertroue voor mense op te tree.

"Die grootste waarde daarvan het ek egter eers besef toe ons dogtertjie met Down-sindroom gebore is," vertel sy. "As joolkoningin het ons met gestremde kinders gewerk en het ek gesien wat alles met hulle bereik kan word. Dit het my met soveel entoesiasme gevul dat ek nie kon wag om met Kyli te begin werk nie."

Voortspruitend uit haar ervaring, het sy die volgende raad vir huidige studente: "Hulle moet alle geleenthede op kampus aangryp om hulle vir die toekoms voor te berei – dit gaan immers nie net daaroor om 'n akademiese graad te verwerf nie."

Ongelukkig het baie van die Vaaldriehoekkampus se ou dokumente en foto's verlore gegaan en is dit moeilik om die gebeure te rekonstrueer. Lesers wat besonderhede of foto's van die joolkoninginne van daardie jare het, is welkom om ons te kontak by nelia.engelbrecht@nwu.ac.za.

Me Christelle Kriel het in 1989 die septer langs die Vaalrivier geswaai – 'n ondervinding wat haar voorberei het vir die uitdagings op haar pad.

Hartsmusiek vir Christa Steyn

Luide applous en geïnspireerde klavierspel het van welwillendheid en passie getuig tydens die musiekkonsert "20 hande, 1 hart" wat op 25 Februarie 2012 in die Sanlam-ouditorium op die Potchefstroomkampus gehou is.

Tydens 'n klavierkonsert is meer as R115 000 ingesamel vir Christa Steyn, musiek-foendi en alumna van die voormalige Potchefstroomse Universiteit vir Christelike Hoër Onderwys (PU vir CHO), wat haar stryd teen kanker op 11 Junie 2012 verloor het.

Ná die konsert het Christa op haar beurt R10 000 van die ingesamelde bedrag aan die plaaslike tak van Cansa Relay for Life geskenk. Dit was haar manier om haar dankbaarheid teenoor die gemeenskap van Potchefstroom te wys en ook solidariteit met ander kankerlyers te betoon.

Die idee vir die reeks konserte wat landswyd gehou is, was die breinkind van die bekende musikant, sanger en TV-programaanbieder, Coenie de Villiers.

Net soos Coenie het die bekende sanger en seremoniemeester van die aand, Jannie du Toit, en elkeen van die 10 pianiste wat opgetree het, een of ander hegte band met Christa. Sommige van hulle, byvoorbeeld prof Truida van der Walt, 'n dosent van die Skool vir Musiek op die Potchefstroomkampus, was 'n leermeester van Christa.

Ander, byvoorbeeld die jong pianis, Ramon Alexander van Stellenbosch, het vir Christa weer as 'n mentor en rolmodel beskou.

Die program het gewissel van klassieke musiek, byvoorbeeld 'n opwindende duet deur Wessel van Wyk en die Russiese pianis, Tatiana Bolomogow, van Franz Liszt se Hongaarse Rapsodie nr 2, tot 'n uitbundige uitvoering van die popgroep, Queen, se musiek deur Roelof Colyn.

Die bekende alumnus van die voormalige PU vir CHO, Johan van Rensburg, het die gehoor se voete laat jeuk toe hy die tweede helfte van die program ingelui het met 'n keurspel van Alabama-liedjies. Johan was jarelank die regisseur van dié PU vir CHO-musiekgroep, en het Christa leer ken toe sy as student ook by dié groep betrokke was.

Nog 'n hoogtepunt van die aand was 'n aangrypende impromtu-uitvoering deur Jeremy Lubbock en Jaconell Mouton op twee vleuelklaviere. Jeremy is 'n Amerikaner en musiekvriend van Jaconell en was deur die jare verantwoordelik vir musiekverwerkings vir kunstenaars soos onder meer Barabara Streisand, Neil Diamond en Elton John.

Die "20 hande, 1 hart"-konsert is onder leiding van Horst Bütow en sy span van NWU-PUK-Kunste op die Potchefstroomkampus georganiseer.

Christa help met universiteitslied

Christa Steyn het die orkestrasie en opname van die NWU se nuwe universiteitslied behartig. Die groep Flip a Coin het die lied gekomponeer, Corneels Schabort, 'n dosent op die Potchefstroomkampus, het die Afrikaanse en Engelse woorde geskryf, en Theriso Tsambo het die Setswana-gedeelte geskryf. Die nuwe lied is gedurende 2012 amptelik by die NWU in gebruik geneem.

Kunstenaars wat tydens die "20 hande, 1 hart"-konsert opgetree het, is agter van links Wessel van Wyk, Jeremy Lubbock, Jaconell Mouton, Roelof Colyn, Jannie du Toit (seremoniemeester), Melissa van der Spuy, Tatiana Bolomogowa, Truida van der Walt en Johan van Rensburg. Voor van links is Janine Neethling, Coenie de Villiers, Clinton Zerf en Ramon Alexander.

Gee **jou mening** oor die **NWU & U**

Ons vertrou dat jy dit geniet om die alumnitydskrif, NWU & U te ontvang en dat jy dit nuuswaardig en interessant vind. Om ons tydskrif te evalueer, sal ons dit waardeer indien jy 'n paar minute sal neem om die volgende vrae te beantwoord.

Op 'n skaal van een tot vyf, met een "glad nie" en vyf "baie", dui asseblief aan hoeveel jy dit geniet om die volgende in die NWU & U te lees:

Nuus / artikels oor die volgende by die NWU:

Raadsake en -besluite	1	2	3	4	5
Die bestuur van die NWU	1	2	3	4	5
Prestasies van die NWU	1	2	3	4	5
Uitdagings van die NWU	1	2	3	4	5
Prestasies van personeellede	1	2	3	4	5
Onderrig-leer	1	2	3	4	5
Navorsing	1	2	3	4	5
NWU-projekte in die gemeenskap	1	2	3	4	5
Sentrums/skole/fakulteite/ondersteuningsdepartemente					
Wenke/inligting wat kan bydra tot die lesers (alumni) se lewenskwaliteit	1	2	3	4	5
Mensgerigte stories – byvoorbeeld hoe iemand 'n hindernis in sy/haar lewe oorkom het	1	2	3	4	5
Artikels oor hoe dit in die ou dae op die kampusse was	1	2	3	4	5
Volhoubaarheid (om "groen" te leef)	1	2	3	4	5

Gereelde artikels:

Boodskap van die visekanselier	1	2	3	4	5
Redaksionele boodskap	1	2	3	4	5
Briewe	1	2	3	4	5
Eenbladsy-profiele oor spesifieke alumni se lewens	1	2	3	4	5
Tweebladsy-profiele oor spesifieke alumni se lewens	1	2	3	4	5
Kampusnuus	1	2	3	4	5

Beskou jy die NWU & U as 'n waardevolle bron van inligting?	**Ja**	**Nee**
Moet ons die kampusnuus-bladsye in die NWU & U meer maak?	**Ja**	**Nee**
Moet ons meer artikels oor NWU-personeel plaas?	**Ja**	**Nee**
Moet ons meer artikels oor NWU-alumni plaas?	**Ja**	**Nee**
Verkies jy om NWU & U aanlyn (elektronies) te lees, of as gedrukte publikasie?	**Aanlyn**	**Gedruk**

Waaroor sal jy graag meer wil lees in die NWU & U? (Skryf jou voorstel hier neer):

Watter veranderinge of verbeteringe sou jy graag in toekomstige uitgawes van NWU & U wou sien?

Baie dankie vir jou deelname aan hierdie opname. Stuur asseblief jou vraelys terug aan Nelia Engelbrecht, Institusionele Kantoor, Noordwes-Universiteit, Privaatsak X1290, Potchefstroom, 2520, of faks dit aan 086 614 3222. Jy kan ook die vraelys inskandeer en per e-pos stuur aan *nelia.engelbrecht@nwu.ac.za.*

Naam en van: ..... Tel nr: .....

Ek is 'n alumnus van die ..... kampus van die NWU.

NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY ®
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as alumni

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Volume 4 no 1 2012

Early-morning coffee with **Katlego**

Let's get back on our **bikes**

Beauty is **ageless**

Johann Coetzee: Variety is a way of life

Front page
Mr Katlego Maboe, an alumnus of the Potchefstroom Campus, is the presenter of a morning TV programme, Expresso, and a member of Flip a Coin, the a capella singing group. Read more about his activities in the entertainment business on p26.

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Message from the vice-chancellor

Dear alumni

The NWU & U alumni magazine is already in its fourth year and we're grateful that we are receiving so many positive comments about the magazine from former students.

This is usually the time of year to take stock. In this edition, we introduce staff and alumni from all three NWU campuses who are making their mark in the community. We also trace the past year's successes in key performance areas, demonstrating that the NWU is still on a strong growth curve.

- The teaching-learning scorecard at the NWU reveals that student numbers rose more than 46% between 2005 and 2011. Whereas the growth in contact student numbers was approximately 17%, the number of distance education students increased 116% during the same period. It's clear that the NWU, which is the second largest provider of distance education in South Africa after UNISA, is serious about making a real contribution to the ongoing training and empowerment of human capital in South Africa.

2011 was also the year in which the NWU achieved an 85% pass rate in all undergraduate modules (for contact and distance students), representing a 6% increase in the pass rate since 2005.

The graduation rate of 27% in 2011 (compared to the national graduation rate of approximately 16%) again makes the NWU one of the top achievers in this regard in South Africa.

A total of 15 093 degrees and diplomas were awarded at the three NWU campuses in 2011. This compares with the 7 764 awarded in 2005, which shows an increase of 94% and places us among the top three universities in South Africa for degrees and diplomas awarded.

This achievement would not be possible without dedicated staff on all the campuses and at the Institutional Office. I am proud of them all and thank them for their exceptional dedication and hard work.

- In terms of the research outputs achieved across all campuses in 2011, it is clear that the year was a highlight in the history of the NWU:

  - Thanks to strong growth in subsidised publication output, the NWU's total research output grew from 1 318 in 2010 to 1 758 in 2011 (a 33% increase). This is also 103% more than the 865 units that comprised the total research output in 2005.

  - Article equivalents increased from 511 in 2010 to 635 in 2011. This 21% increase in just one year is remarkable.

  - The subsidised publication output increased by 35% to 781 units, compared to the previous year's 578 units.

  - However, we take note of the consolidation currently apparent at postgraduate level. Despite the marginal improvement of 639 master's degrees conferred in 2011 (compared to 633 in 2010), there was a 12% decrease in PhDs conferred, from 387 conferred in 2010 to 339 in 2011. And while this tendency is also noticeable at other universities, you may be sure that we are currently looking for creative solutions to address this matter.

- The NWU also owes it to its stakeholders to be effective and efficient. I'm happy to report that the university's finances are sound. Although it is becoming increasingly difficult to collect all student debt, our effective financial management is enabling us to keep improving the physical infrastructure, increasing self-generated income and build up a healthy surplus.

In conclusion, it is important to mention that the NWU – like all South African universities – is experiencing exciting and challenging times. The university management is convinced that the NWU is well positioned to make a tangible contribution to the knowledge economy in South Africa.

Read more about our progress in this regard in the next issue!

Regards

It's all about **opportunities**

When we look at the lives of the alumni we introduce in this edition, we see time after time that the NWU was the place where their dreams were born and their future successes incubated.

For them the NWU was a place where "what if" became "what is" and "could" became "can". With this attitude, they went out into the world and made their dreams come true.

Looking at how their lives are still unfolding, two things are evident. Firstly, they live life to the full, and secondly, they do not live only for themselves – what they have received goes back into the community.

On page 17 we read about how Mr Monnapula Motlogelwa uses his knowledge and experience to make home owners of people,

and on page 18 we read how Mr Johan Cloete has managed to put South Africa's cricket umpires on the world map.

Ms Tumi Hatla is a leader who wants to climb the corporate ladder, but also wants to make sure that she influences the lives of others positively – read more about her on page 20.

Turn to page 21 to find out how Mr Johan Booyens has informed and entertained thousands of people throughout his journalistic career. Another person who informs and entertains is Mr Katlego Maboe. On page 26 he tells us more about his career as a singer and TV presenter.

Prof Sipho Seepe makes a major contribution to the development of the community. Read on page 22 how he works in the political and educational field in order to improve people's quality of life.

Prof Johann Coetzee (page 24) is another example of someone who gives back by living a full life as an industrial psychologist, professor, life guard, writer and post-doctoral researcher.

What all these alumni have in common is their connection with the NWU or its former institutions. It seems that the content of the NWU's new branding manifesto – which you can see on the back page of this edition – is spot on: the NWU is not only about education, but about the opportunities that education brings.

It is also evident from the articles that alumni have seized these opportunities with both hands to make invaluable contributions to the community.

This is truly an institution and alumni of which we can be proud.

Happy reading,

Nelia en Marelize

NWU-experts know their subjects

The NWU's experts are often quoted in the media, strengthening the public profile of the university as an institution driven by the pursuit of knowledge and innovation, striving towards enabling others to improve their quality of life. In this article we share some of the comments of our experts that were published in different media throughout the year.

"No particular person or entity can be held responsible for the death of Thabang Makhoang due to negligence or otherwise. The drowning was a freak accident in spite of every conceivable precaution; it occurred during an event organised exclusively for fun and teambuilding, which had nothing to do with any form of initiation practice."

Mr Peet van der Walt, Chairperson: NWU Council
Beeld, 3 April 2012

"Environment-friendly methods should be implemented to improve mine water quality because, if the water quality is good, mine water can be used as an alternative water resource."

Prof Ingrid Dennis, Research Unit for Environmental Sciences and Management, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Potchefstroom Campus
Mining Weekly.com, 4 May 2012

Editorial team: Nelia Engelbrecht and Marelize Santana, Louis Jacobs, Phenyo Mokgothu, Kiewiet Scheppel, Annette Willemse, Ronel Beukes van Zyl. **Editing:** Clairwyn van der Merwe. **Layout:** Graphikos. **Printing:** The Platinum Press. **Photography:** Maclez Studios, Nelia Engelbrecht, Phenyo Mokgothu, Kiewiet Scheppel, Annette Willemse. **For further enquiries/correspondence:** Nelia Engelbrecht - Tel 018 299 4937, fax 018 299 4938. The *NWU & U* is produced and published in English and Afrikaans by the Corporate Affairs and Relations Department in the Institutional Office of the NWU. Should you need extra copies, please contact Nelia Engelbrecht.

Messages

The NWU & U has once again received quite a number of letters from alumni. We gladly share their opinions, nostalgia and wisdom with our readers.

Good day to you all,

What a pleasant surprise! This is the first contact that I have had with the new NWU since the disappearance of the PU for CHE from the face of the earth. Thank you very much.

I was a Hombre resident from 1969 to 1973, which was still a prefab building on the edge of the campus at the time. People such as Prof Dekker, Prof Tiedt, Prof Stoker, Prof Reinecke and Prof Offermeier taught us knowledge, and the Rev D'Assonville taught us about Calvinism.

After many years of travelling the globe, I opened my own pharmacy practice: from 1980 to 1994 in Bonnievale, and now in Mossel Bay.

I would love to hear from other alumni from my era, wherever they may find themselves – maybe we could meet again at a reunion.

Regards from the Garden Route,
Cornelis (Rattles) Cornelissen, Mossel Bay

Dear Editor,

It's my first morning back in the office after the recess; emails, regular mail and all sorts of messages clutter my desk. Opening my mail, I come across alumni magazine Vol. 3, No. 2 of 2011.

On p4, a picture of Theuns Eloff catches my eye – I look up at the two pictures on the wall: the SRC pictures of 1975/76 and 1976/77, featuring Theuns and the likes of Div Lessing and Petrus Coetzee. I'm shocked to realise that some of those people are not with us any longer.

I browse further and see the article (p20) of David Mazibuko who experiences life as a journey. Food for thought. It's funny how a picture of an acquaintance, an interesting article and other familiar things can make you feel that you were a student yourself only yesterday.

My old university friend Frik Snyman and I get together at least once a week and then we round it off with a braai under the camel thorn tree.

It's then that we relive our student life and replay rugby matches against Jan Tromp in our heads.

Thanks for an excellent magazine!

Kind regards from the Northern Cape and Upington.

Peet Badenhorst,
Principal: Upington Campus, Vaal University of Technology

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank you for this alumni magazine.

Something about myself:

My name is Hansie Coetzee, previously from the Internal Audit Section in the Institutional Office, but I'll always be interested in the university, which is why I really appreciate this magazine.

My association with the PU for CHE/NWU started on 1 November 1967 with an appointment in Financial Administration: Student Debtors.

In 2002, I retired as deputy director and senior internal auditor, after which I continued to work in the same department on a temporary basis until 2010.

I was one of the first students to enrol for the after-hours BCom in 1962. We used to drive here from Klerksdorp to attend class on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

The edition Vol. 3, No. 2/2011 refers.

The articles are presented very well and I find the magazine very newsworthy.

It's good to learn about the achievements of so many alumni, and it could also serve as encouragement for others.

This just goes to show that good things also happen in this country of ours, though we don't necessarily get to see much of that on the news, and that the NWU definitely makes a big contribution in all spheres of life in South Africa.

On page 32, a certain Jurie Venter is mentioned, and I believe it's the same Jurie Venter who was the local pastor in Vryheid in 1976 and who buried my father there.

I would like to make contact with the Reverend Venter. Is there anyone who can help me?

The article on page 32 reminded me of our evening classes on Thursdays and the last three periods of History of Economics at Prof Willie Venter (Kajafas), who used up all available time, even if the boys in the bus were in a hurry, particularly in winter!

JC Coetzee
143 Kruger Street / Beyers Naude Street, Potchefstroom

from afar

The library fire of '49

My father, Prof JF (Lappies) Labuschagne, wrote the following piece in 1949, about a month after the library fire. I recently found this article among his papers and books, and wondered whether you would be interested in it.

He was professor in the Department of Afrikaans and Dutch from 1931 until his retirement in 1965. (Pieter Stümpfer also mentioned my father in his letter in the last alumni magazine.)

I studied Social Work (1946 to 1949) at the PU for CHE and was primaria of Thaba N'kulu in 1948. We women also helped to salvage as much as possible of the furniture and equipment from the burning building. I still have some pictures of us in front of the burning library.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Cilna van Wijk (née Labuschagne)

Groenkloof, Pretoria

The following is a slightly abridged version of the document written by Cilna's father, Prof FJ Labuschagne.

You can only comprehend the meaning of a university library once you think about the fact that it takes years and years of commitment, careful selection and tiresome collection. The loss is more than can be measured in monetary terms.

The new academic year was set to start on 23 February 1949. Shortly before eight, a couple of students noticed smoke billowing from the roof of the main building. They investigated and discovered that the roof of the main building was on fire!

What a catastrophe: the main entrances to the library were soon blocked by smoke, heat and flames, and any rescue attempt became perilous. Books were thrown down from the balcony and caught in blankets. Students worked and fought like people possessed... the municipal fire brigade arrived... everybody pitched in... but the hoses did not fit the fire hydrants!

Somebody managed to reach the reference section with a ladder, but smoke and fumes and heat made any rescue attempt impossible. By the time the fire brigades of the military and Witrand showed up, part of the roof was already coming down. All the journals and reference works were consumed by fire... the room was ablaze... glass from the windows shattered into pieces, cracks formed in the walls... the roof gave way completely!

Students such as Victor d'Assonville fought like heroes to stop the fire from spreading to the roof of the adjacent hall. Eventually the destruction of the hall and further part of the main building was also averted...

We kept the faith; we emerged with new strength and courage... and joyfulness of heart...

Prof FJ Labuschagne, 1949

Please write and tell us where you are and how your careers and families are doing. Send your letters to nelia.engelbrecht@nwu.ac.za, fax them to 018 299 4938, or mail them to Nelia Engelbrecht, Institutional Office, North-West University, Private Bag X1290, Potchefstroom, 2520.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Courageous musicians receive Chancellor's Medals

Two visually impaired musicians, Adv Stephen Kekana and Mr Babsy Mlangeni, were rewarded for their courage and passion when the Mafikeng Campus presented them with Chancellor's Medals at the autumn graduation ceremony.

The Chancellor's Medal is awarded for exceptional service or achievement of a non-academic nature in any sphere of life.

Babsy and Adv Stephen are role models who have overcome many obstacles in their lives.

No wonder they have been honoured for their continued contribution to the national and international music industry, their association with the values of human rights, equity and reconciliation, and their promotion of social justice and education through music.

Perseverance is rewarded

Their lives speak of talent and perseverance.

Adv Stephen, a labour consultant at Legal Smart, a labour law firm, was born in 1958 near Zebediela in the Limpopo Province and has already produced 43 albums and more than 70 golden records.

In 1979 and 1980, he won the SABC Black Music award for best male vocalist. He also received the Radio Zulu Award for top male vocalist and has been the runner-up on the Tswana and Sotho radio stations.

Since 2001, he has collaborated with a number of well-known vocalists to produce numerous albums.

His other awards include the Four Outstanding Young South Africans Awards (1984), the Ten Outstanding Young People of the World Awards (1985) and the Mama Beka Community Award (2010).

Experienced musician

Babsy is also a seasoned professional with four decades of experience in the music industry.

He was born in Soweto and attended the Athlone School for the Blind in Cape Town.

Doing what they do best: after receiving the Chancellor's Medals, Adv Stephen Kekana and Mr Babsy Mlangeni entertained the audience. Here, Adv Stephen takes a bow.

Musician of stature: Mr Babsy Mlangeni (right) accepts his Chancellor's Medal from Prof Dan Kgwadi, the rector of the Mafikeng Campus.

He is a renowned singer, guitarist, composer and entrepreneur, and was the first black owner of a record company in South Africa.

But his music career has not been all moonshine and roses.

There have been many creative, emotional and financial challenges, among them an unscrupulous talent scout and an unethical record company.

However, he has also recorded numerous hits and achieved striking commercial success, such as more than 25 golden records and several music awards.

Both legends have demonstrated that there is a difference between disability and inability and that disability need not rob one of an opportunity to contribute to society.

Sponsorship once again celebrates **excellent journalism**

Offering qualifications in communication and boasting high-quality communication experts on all three NWU campuses, it is no wonder that the university has once again sponsored the National Press Club – North-West University Journalist of the Year awards.

Dr Theuns Eloff, the vice-chancellor of the NWU, handed the prizes to journalism's cream of the crop at a prestigious function held on 23 March 2012 in Pretoria.

With media freedom high on the public agenda these days, he expressed the NWU's concern about this topic: "The university shares the concern held by all journalists that the Protection of State Information Bill might have serious implications for the freedom of information and the freedom of journalists."

He also said that if the awards can assist in further improving the quality of journalism in the country, they will have served their purpose.

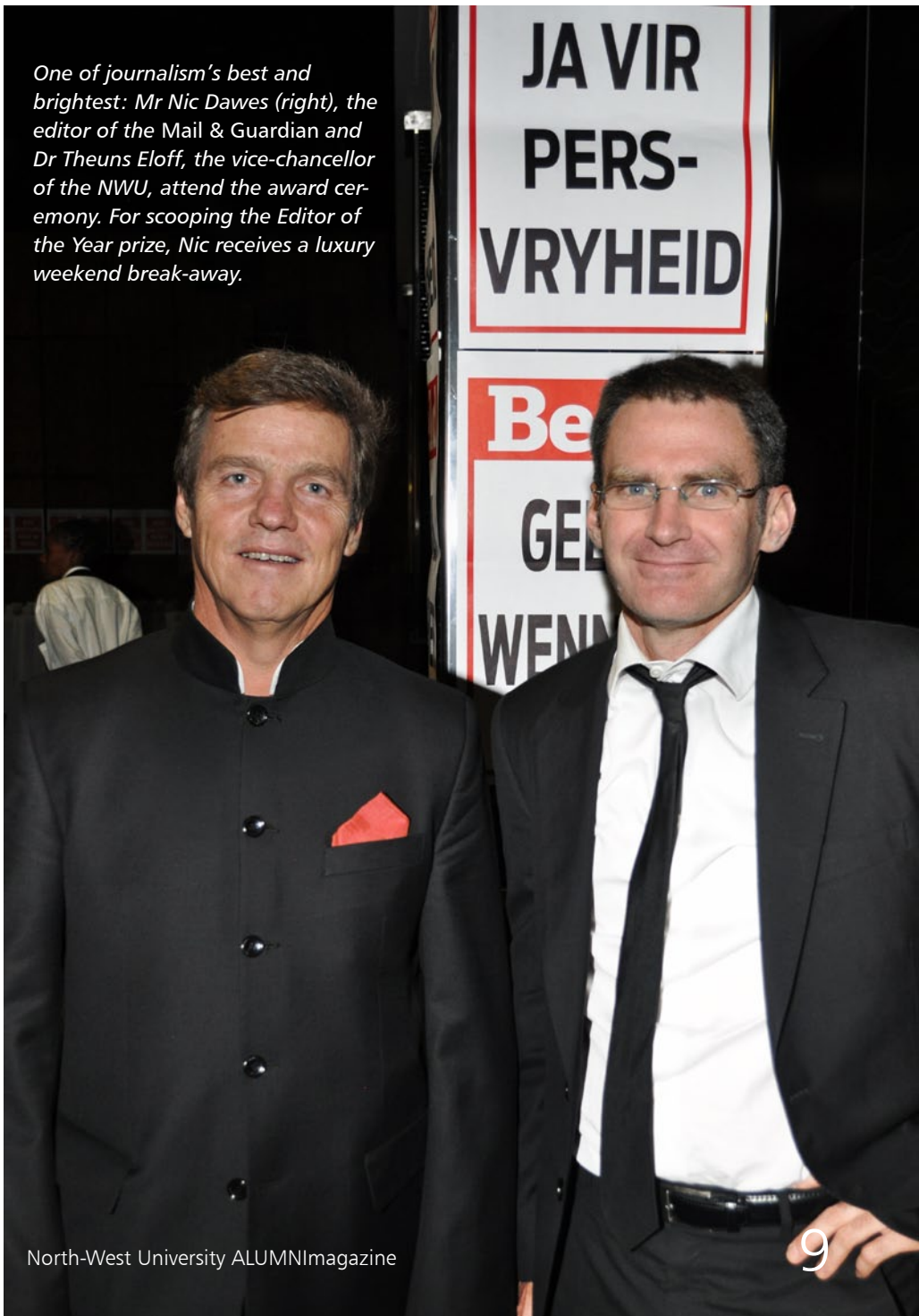
The entries were judged by a panel of various independent experts and academics, including Ms Cornia Pretorius, a senior lecturer in journalism at the School of Communication Studies at the NWU.

The overall winner of the National Press Club–North-West University Journalist of the Year award received R10 000 while each category winner won R5 000, sponsored by the NWU.

Scooping the prizes

Mr Barry Bateman of *Eyewitness News* was named Journalist of the Year for 2011. He was recognised for his factually correct reporting and for working under tremendous deadline pressure. His tenacity with the story on the Tshwane Metro Police's use of vehicles with false number plates is a prime example of excellence in journalism.

Mr Nic Dawes, Editor of the *Mail & Guardian,* received the Editor of the Year award for his uncompromising stance on excellence and his commitment to the fight for media freedom.



One of journalism's best and brightest: Mr Nic Dawes (right), the editor of the Mail & Guardian *and Dr Theuns Eloff, the vice-chancellor of the NWU, attend the award ceremony. For scooping the Editor of the Year prize, Nic receives a luxury weekend break-away.*

They made headlines

At the awards ceremony, Public Protector Ms Thuli Madonsela and suspended ANC Youth League President Julius Malema were named joint National Press Club – Aon South Africa Newsmakers of the Year for 2011.

"They both made headlines day in and day out. They dominated the pages of our newspapers and the airwaves.

"They got us talking, writing and debating," said Mr Yusuf Abramjee, the chairman of the National Press Club.

Members of the advisory committee are, back from left, Ms Sindy Thuthubalang (Marketing and Communication), Mr Corrie Botha, Prof Marius Stander, Mr Vuyisile Gubuza, Mr Heinrich Kriel and Mr Dawie Erasmus. In the front from left are Ms Pat Matla, Ms Lindokuhle Matla, Dr John Maloma (Director: Marketing and Communication), Mr Ramosebi Morabe, Dr Brendah Sekatane, Ms Alwine Naude (alumni coordinator) and Ms Tumi Hatla. Absent: Mr Chris Schwartz.

Economist and **new committee** give advice

The Vaal Triangle Campus alumni established an advisory committee in the first half of 2012 and learnt more about the economy during a breakfast event.

The first alumni advisory committee was constituted on 16 February 2012. The 14 committee members are all alumni of the campus and play key roles in the corporate environment, industry, government and community.

According to Ms Alwine Naude, alumni coordinator, the aim of the committee is to ensure a strong and meaningful network that will deliver a range of alumni services and benefits for all graduates.

In turn, this will create mutually beneficial lifelong relationships and professional networking opportunities.

The mandate of the advisory committee is to liaise with the various alumni groups in order to foster reciprocal relationships. These groups include postgraduate students, alumni from different subject groups and residences, and alumni with different qualifications.

Breakfast with Ettienne

During a recent alumni breakfast hosted by the alumni office, the spotlight fell on global economic markets, and alumnus Ettienne le Roux, Chief Economist at Rand Merchant Bank, looked into his crystal ball to see what the coming year has in store for South Africa.

The facts that Ettienne shared with the alumni included the following:

- The future global economic growth potential is not so much in the hands of the developed world but rather the emerging markets.

  For instance, the annual growth of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of developed countries is currently 1%, whereas that figure is closer to 5% for emerging markets.

  Markets such as India (6% GDP growth) and Brazil (2% GDP growth) are considered the 'new normal', as they are fundamentally better poised for growth.

- It takes at least 12 months to regain the losses resulting from the global recession and all indications are that South Africa is experiencing an economic upswing.

  The single biggest challenge posed to the South African economy is overspending on the government's wage bill – which increased 8,2% for the 2012/2013 fiscal year.

According to Alwine, quite a few similar breakfast events are planned for the remainder of 2012. Feel free to contact her at 016 9103250 or *awine.naude@nwu.ac.za*.

Mafikeng alumni socialise in Botswana

Alumni were brought up to speed about the achievements of the Mafikeng Campus at an alumni gathering on 9 March 2012 at the Cresta Lodge in Gaborone, Botswana.

According to Ms Susan van Rooyen, alumni coordinator on this campus, the alumni were particularly impressed with the academic and sports achievements and progress made with infrastructure development on the campus.

The facts that she shared with the alumni included the following:

- The number of academic publications by academics almost tripled from 5,5 units in 2010 to 15,32 units in 2011.
- In 2011, 36 sport stars represented the North-West Province in various sporting codes, six were selected for national teams and 13 for University Sport South Africa teams.
- Infrastructure developments in 2011 included an Education Sciences building, housing for postgraduate students and a lecture hall complex. Animal Health acquired two new laboratories and new facilities were built on their Molelwane Farm.

Some of the other matters that were discussed at the gathering in Gaborone were the development of the alumni database and the possibility of establishing an alumni trust fund for students. Susan plans similar gatherings all across South Africa for the remainder of the year. For more information, contact her at 018 389 2509 or at *susan.vanrooyen@nwu.ac.za.*

Details updated

The institutional department of Corporate Affairs and Relations is updating the contact information of thousands of NWU alumni. Perhaps Mr Stef van der Linde and Ms Magda van der Linde have contacted you about this. If not, you will probably hear from them soon. Thanks for your friendly cooperation in this regard. The information gathered will be captured in the data base by Ms Louisa Vermeulen.

On 5 March 2012, with a gale blowing outside, these NWU leaders and alumni enjoyed a pleasant evening in Old Mutual House in Constantia. They are from left Prof Herman van Schalkwyk, the rector of the Potchefstroom Campus, Ms Elbie Webber, Mr Corneel Pelser, and Dr Theuns Eloff, the vice-chancellor of the NWU.

Coming together – from the Cape to Namibia

Strike while the iron is hot. That was probably the reasoning behind welcoming the 2012 first years in January 2012 as "future alumni".

"It was part of the first years' official welcoming programme," says Ms Yolandi Yssel, alumni coordinator on this campus. "We want to get them used to the idea from the outset that the NWU is their alma mater of the future – the institution with which they will have a life-long connection."

Since then, the more "mature" alumni from this campus have enjoyed several social events.

Apart from the wine-tasting events and golf days, 75 Cape alumni also got together on 5 March 2012.

It started out solemnly – a moment of silence was observed to remember the well-known cyclist and NWU alumnus, Mr Ertjies Bezuidenhout, who died recently.

This was followed by good food and even better conversation.

Amongst those present was a former "sjampanjenooientjie", Ms Elbie Webber – read more about the student beauties from the past on p32.

Other well-known people included Dr Pieter Bingle, former pastor of former State President Mr FW de Klerk, and Mr Corneel Pelser, who served as SRC Chairman.

"Seeing so many alumni in the Cape was truly a wonderful experience and we could not have asked for a better evening," said Mr Frik Prinsloo from the alumni office, who served as master of ceremonies for the evening.

Several more get-togethers for Potchefstroom Campus alumni await in the second half of 2012.

Residence reunions that lie ahead include those of Patria, De Wilgers and Over de Voor.

Then there is also an SRC reunion for members of the past 10 years and get-togethers for Biokinetics, the first years from 1962 and the alumni in Namibia.

The golf gurus will be teeing off in September, October and November on the Lost City, Parys and Goldfields courses respectively.

And for those who feel more at home at the 19th hole, several wine-tasting functions have been planned – more information on these at *yolandi.yssel@nwu.ac.za* or 018 2992768.

Dr Karabo Mabe of the Agricultural Economics and Extension Programme on the Mafikeng Campus made history when she became one of few black women in the country who obtained a PhD in Agricultural Extension.

NWU lecturer is **one of few in SA** in her field

An NWU lecturer, Dr Karabo Mabe, has become part of a small group of black women in the country who boast a PhD in Agricultural Extension.

Dr Karabo received her PhD during the recent autumn graduation ceremony. She is a lecturer, research supervisor and programme coordinator for the Agricultural Economics and Extension Programme at the Mafikeng Campus and is also the acting manager of the Centre for Agribusiness and Entrepreneurial Skills Training (CAEST).

Excited about her accomplishment, she says: "I am grateful, overwhelmed and humbled by the honour which has been bestowed on me. I dedicate this achievement to the management, staff and students of the NWU, as well as my family who has made it possible."

One of her aims, Dr Karabo says, is to stimulate a culture of "giving back to the university". She also wants to increase the level of participation of black alumni and encourage greater involvement in community outreach programmes.

"I also plan to utilise my experience as an educator and researcher with expertise in agricultural extension and economics to galvanise support from graduates and local businesses to communities surrounding the university."

Unique **science kits** fill a **vacuum**

Chemists from the Faculty of Natural Sciences on the Potchefstroom Campus have designed unique laboratory apparatus to help learners in primary and secondary school with the practical aspects of science subjects. This apparatus has been exported to Norway and Ethiopia where it is being used with great success.

In 2011, Prof Corrie du Toit, and his colleague, Ms Marié du Toit, developed a compact chemistry and natural sciences set, called MyLab, for science instruction in grades 4 to 12.

According to Prof Corrie, these sets can make a huge contribution towards successful science teaching in schools – even schools without laboratories.

The researchers believe that practical work is a very important component of science teaching and so they developed the MyLab apparatus to assist teachers with practical work. They came to the conclusion that teachers' need for chemicals, apparatus, instruction booklets, memoranda and preparation material is even greater than for laboratories, electricity and running water.

The MyLab sets are for sale at a very reasonable price and the revenue generated is ploughed back into research. Please visit the website (www.mylab.co.za) for more information. Prof Corrie can be called at 076 377 8989 and Marié at 082 392 0883.

All set for science: Prof Corrie du Toit and his colleague, Ms Marié du Toit, from the Faculty of Natural Sciences on the Potchefstroom Campus of the NWU with the compact science apparatus that they developed.

Paper planes **for freedom**

The Political Science subject group within the Faculty of Humanities on the Vaal Triangle Campus recently joined the international initiative to end modern-day slavery. The CNN Freedom Project – brain child of the global news agency CNN – is aimed at drawing much-needed attention to the plight of modern-day slaves.

In an effort to spread awareness, CNN has challenged individuals to not only create paper planes with messages of hope written on them, but also to pass the planes on to others, thus expanding the reach of the project.

According to Dr Ina Gouws of the Political Science subject group, the paper planes are a symbol of the path towards freedom. "It is astounding that more people are forced into labour today than ever before," she says, adding that most of the public is unaware of this global crisis.

Statistics show that between 600 000 and 800 000 human beings are captured and transported across international borders every year. It is also estimated that there are at least 10 million slaves in the world today – more than at any other point in human history.

"By taking part in the project, we take ownership of this global atrocity," says Dr Ina.

Ride-a-Bicycle project starts a new cycle on campus

Many an alumnus probably has fond memories of the days when most students still rode bicycles.

It was with this in mind that the Faculty of Education Sciences introduced a Ride-a-Bicycle project at the Potchefstroom Campus to help create a "greener" campus.

A number of bicycles were purchased and are available free of charge to students and staff wanting to move quickly from one point to another on campus. The bicycles are parked in front of the Faculty of Education Sciences main building (the former PCE main building).

Dr Schalk Raath of the School of Curriculum-based Studies says that to use a bicycle, all one has to do is collect a key at the Education Council's office on the ground floor of the building, use the bicycle and return it again.

This novel idea is part of a project, Mobility and the Environment, sponsored by the Flemish Foundation for Traffic Science (FFTS). The project consists of two legs: making bicycles available free of charge for people to move around on campus, and a research project on the physical impact that cycling has on the human body.

Start of a new cycle: Mr Louis Jacobs, Institutional Director: Corporate Communication and his wife Triens, secretary in the Department Financial Support Services, support the Ride-a-Bicycle initiative.

Photo: *Noordwes Beeld*

The project of the FFTS focuses on the sensible use of a means of transport that will have the lowest impact on the environment.

Mafikeng student plays for **South Africa**

Playing for the national team is a far-fetched dream for many. For Ms Lebohang Monyatsi, a final-year psychology student at the Mafikeng Campus, this dream became reality when she was selected for South Africa's Wheelchair Basketball team.

Earlier this year, the South African team played in a tournament to qualify for the London 2012 Paralympic Games in Guadalajara, Mexico. Although the team did not qualify, Lebohang – who was named best shooter of her team – hopes that they will qualify for the next event.

Lebohang, who hails from Vryburg but spent most of her life in boarding school at Gelukspan, has been playing basketball for the past seven years. She now plays for both the provincial and national Wheelchair Basketball teams. "My family and friends have been really supportive, especially my grandmother. She has helped me to keep pushing on."

Her perseverance has brought Lebohang success in her sport and studies. She wants to be a clinical psychologist, and says: "I want to help people help themselves; help them to solve their problems."

Her motto in life is: When you play, play hard, but when you work, don't play at all. When asked whether she has a message of motivation for other sportspeople, she responds with "Never give up! Whether you're playing locally or provincially, you will achieve success if you persist."

Story: Faith Botele

Ms Lebohang Monyatsi believes that when you play, you should play hard, but when you work, you should not play at all.

New unit to provide postgraduate risk management education

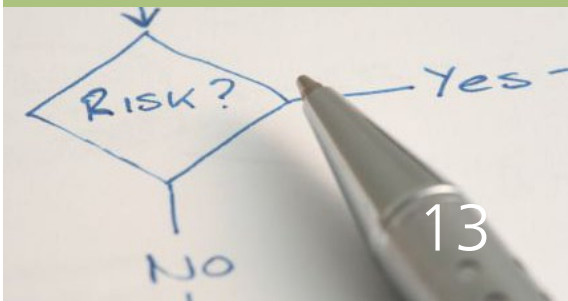
The importance of risk management education cannot be overstated. News stories daily describe the impact of risks that were not adequately identified or addressed. Risk-related news events range from the global financial crisis to potential nuclear meltdown in Japan, flooding in Mpumalanga, the downing of tools by trade unions and even the latest debacle about the e-tolling system in Gauteng. Unidentified and unresolved risk affects all aspects of our lives.

In light of this, the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Information Technology on the Vaal Triangle Campus recently introduced a new Unit for Applied Risk Management (UARM) to provide risk management education at postgraduate level for experienced employees across all sectors. The aim of this unit is to play a critical role in empowering employees to better understand and manage risks while also serving as the NWU's centre for applied research in risk management.

According to Prof Hermien Zaaiman, who heads the unit, risk management is not only of importance to risk managers. The global financial crisis has made it clear that the focus on risk quantification and modelling is not enough to manage the risks facing organisations (including government and public institutions). All members of an organisation's management team need to understand their individual roles in applying risk management principles, enabling them to manage and grow the organisation.

The unit was formally launched at its new venue at the Quest Conference Estate in Vanderbijlpark during June this year. At this event, a symposium with the theme 'Risk and U' was presented on topics concerning people and risk. The presenters included experienced risk professors from the Free University (Vrije Universiteit) in Amsterdam.

Prof Hermien says the symposium served as a platform for gaining input about the expectations and requirements that executives and senior managers in the private and public sectors have of the new unit.



Nutritionist enjoys worldwide recognition

In the previous edition of the NWU & U, we introduced several women scientists at the NWU. In this edition, we turn the spotlight on Prof Esté Vorster, a nutritionist who is honoured worldwide for her contributions.

The mere mention of Prof Esté Vorster's name is enough to let anybody involved with nutrition research sit up and pay attention. A Google search yields thousands of hits.

Prof Esté used to be the Director of the Faculty of Health Sciences' Centre of Excellence for Nutrition, the only centre of its kind in Africa, but these days she concentrates on research.

This research is not a casual interest; she sees it as her life's work to overcome real nutritional challenges with practical solutions.

Her research is recognised nationally and internationally. Prof Esté has worked closely with the United Nations' World Health Organization (WHO) for the past 14 years (see text box), and in 2011 was named secretary general of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf).

ASSAf is South Africa's official national academy for science and represents the country in the international community of science academies.

The research initiated by Prof Esté Vorster back in 1987 when she obtained her doctorate is still being continued at the NWU and is widely regarded as cutting edge. Her doctoral study was on the effect of a high-fibre diet on blood coagulation.

As an expert on food and nutrition security in South Africa, Prof Esté was also approached by the National Planning Commission of the State President's office to advise on the long-term planning of nutrition policy.

World traveller

During her career, Prof Esté has travelled extensively. She has never been to China, but that's only because she's had to decline two invitations due to other obligations.

She always takes work along to do while waiting at airports. The flight itself is spent reading a good book, one of her passions.

Although she is retiring at the end of the year, her involvement with the WHO looks set to continue for quite a while.

She's looking forward to being able to travel with her husband in Africa more frequently.

Prof Esté is married to Prof Ig Vorster. He was dean of the Faculty of Law on the Potchefstroom Campus and is currently working at the NWU's Institutional Legal Services.

"There are approximately seven billion people in the world, of whom 900 million are hungry."

World Hunger Education Service

World health is her passion

Through her long-standing involvement with the World Health Organisation (WHO), Prof Esté is making a meaningful contribution towards addressing nutrition-related challenges worldwide.

"The WHO's goal is to optimise the nutrition status of the world," explains Prof Esté, "either by advising people who eat unhealthily or too much or through famine relief."

Asked how a person gets into a situation where the WHO wants his or her advice on policy matters, she answers: "It has a lot to do with knowledge of the literature and networking so that the 'right people' realise that the knowledge and experience exist to serve on such panels."

Prof Esté currently serves in the WHO's nutrition advice group tasked to compile guidelines for the prevention of nutrition-related chronic diseases.

She also wrote the WHO manual which is currently used worldwide to develop diet guidelines in various countries.

After developing the manual, she presented workshops all over the world to train local experts to implement it.

Passion impels them **to perform**

As promised in the previous edition of the NWU & U, we offer our readers some insights into the pioneering people whose creative outputs earned them awards during the Researcher of the Year event at the end of last year.

True creativity requires passion, of which there is clearly no shortage at the NWU.

This passion has inspired creative outputs such as a gripping radio drama, beautiful music and unique graphic works of art. In terms of creativity, staff in various disciplines – such as languages, music and graphic design – are expected to deliver outputs.

Choosing the best of these creative contributions at the NWU is no easy task, but following an assessment by a panel of external judges, awards were made at a gala event at the end of 2011.

Some of the extraordinary contributions by academics from the Potchefstroom Campus are the following:

- Dr Hannes Taljaard from the School of Music's original composition, Les Sarabandes, described by one of the judges as *"... a highly intelligent composition, meticulously crafted, beautifully structured and almost technically flawless".*
- Prof Piet Koornhof's contribution to the CD recording of works of Babadjanian and Vasks, described as *"of the highest quality, demonstrating superb and well informed musical artistry..."*
- Prof Franci Greyling's radio drama "Die vye is nou ryp" which was broadcast on RSG in April 2011 and which won her a prize in the 2010 RSG/Sanlam radio drama writing competition.
- Mr Richardt Strydom's work of art consisting of reflecting mirrors, a reference to the psychological violence that humans bring upon themselves.
- Mr Wessie van der Westhuizen's short animated film that he based on Ngano-Venda stories portrayed by women in the Limpopo valley through embroidery.

Prof Piet Koornhof from the School of Music on the Potchefstroom Campus is one of the academics who received awards for their creative outputs.

Best of the best: Ms Stefanie-Marié (Stef) Esterhuizen from the Faculty of Humanities on the Vaal Triangle Campus (centre) is the overall ITEA winner. With her are Prof Thanyani Mariba (left), the rector of the Vaal Triangle Campus, and Prof Linda du Plessis, Vice-rector: Academic, Quality and Planning on the same campus.

NWU celebrates **superb teaching skills**

Ms Stefanie-Marié (Stef) Esterhuizen from the School of Educational Sciences in the Faculty of Humanities on the Vaal Triangle Campus fared the best in the challenging Institutional Teaching Excellence Awards (ITEA) process during 2011.

For this achievement, she received the Vice-Chancellor's Prestigious Award at a gala event held on 2 March 2012 in Potchefstroom. She received a floating trophy from Dr Theuns Eloff, the vice-chancellor of the NWU.

Apart from being the overall winner for 2011, Stef is one of the three campus winners. The other two are Dr Ralph Manyane from the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences on the Mafikeng Campus and Mr Pieter Van der Zwan from the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences on the Potchefstroom Campus.

In 2011, 49 NWU lecturers received ITEA awards, compared to 46 in 2010. The Mafikeng Campus showed the biggest increase in award recipients. A record number of 18 Mafikeng lecturers received awards in 2011, compared to only eight in 2010 and three in 2009.

On the Potchefstroom Campus there were 20 recipients in 2011 and on the Vaal Triangle Campus 11. The latter constituted an increase of five, compared to the six Vaal Triangle recipients in 2010.

"Lecturers play a very important role in the lives of students and tonight we celebrate those who have excelled in their dedication to their subject and their passionate influence on their students," Dr Theuns said during the ceremony.

Congratulations are in order: Prof Dan Kgwadi, the rector of the Mafikeng Campus (left), hands the campus winner, Dr Ralph Manyane from the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences his award.

Rewarded for his teaching skills: Potchefstroom Campus winner, Mr Pieter Van der Zwan (left) from the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Management, receives his award from Prof Herman van Schalkwyk, the rector of that campus.

What is this all about?

ITEA aims at recognising and rewarding lecturers who excel in teaching-learning.

As part of the strict ITEA evaluation process, panels assess the lecturers' portfolios, feedback from students, innovation and excellence in contact sessions and the utilisation of technology in teaching-learning.

Faculty figures

The NWU faculty that received the most awards is the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Information Technology on the Vaal Triangle Campus, with six recipients.

The runners-up were Human and Social Sciences, and Agriculture, Science and Technology on the Mafikeng Campus, Economic and Management Sciences on the Potchefstroom Campus and Humanities on the Vaal Triangle Campus. Each of them had five participants.

Unlocking possibilities for home owners

For Mr Monnapula Motlogelwa, alumnus of the Mafikeng Campus, it is an extremely fulfilling experience to hand over the keys to the proud new owner of a house.

This privilege goes with his position as the current North-West Executive Manager/Chief Director for Housing Needs, Planning, Policy Research and Technical Services in Human Settlements.

As one of the decision-makers in local housing policies in the North-West Province, Monnapula has first-hand experience of the extent of housing needs in the province and countrywide.

In 2007 he presented a paper titled "The implementation of socio-economic rights in South Africa" at the Law Students Council Conference on the Mafikeng Campus.

"The presentation concluded that it is virtually impossible to meet the demand for housing in the short to medium term," he says. The presentation also highlighted the need for solutions other than low-cost housing projects. "Fiscal constraints and other competing socio-economic needs are a reality, Monnapula says.

It saddens him to think that there will always be residents who won't have their own house. However, meeting the housing needs of as many people as possible still creates a sense of accomplishment.

Productive student years

Serving society and taking an interest in the lives of people are not new to Monnapula.

As a student on campus he was actively involved in many activities and structures.

"You'd find me almost anywhere – drama society, cultural union, university choir, Law Students' Council, Student Representative Council and the South African Students' Congress," he says.

"All these structures afforded me a balanced university lifestyle and account for what I am today."

A particular highlight, he recalls, was in 1998 when he, together with 21 other students from all over the country, was selected to represent South Africa on an academic tour to the United Kingdom.

They visited various institutions of governance, as well as academic and legal institutions such as the British Royal Courts.

Monnapula's interest in law and politics was sparked in high school when he took part in debating competitions and learned to love history.

Moving on to university, his experience as a student leader prepared him well for the future. "My leadership role enabled me to develop competencies of logical thinking and the ability to affirm my personal integrity," he says. "It also taught me to respect the views and esteem of others while driving to attain what I believe needs to be achieved."

Politics is close to Mr Monnapula Motlogelwa's heart and he believes that democracy is like good wine: it matures with time.

Mr Monnapula Motlogelwa gives the keynote address at the graduation ceremony of the faculties of Law and Education on the Mafikeng Campus on 10 May 2012.

Proud alumnus

Today, Monnapula is unabashedly proud to be an alumnus of the Mafikeng Campus.

Twelve years after graduating, he is still actively involved in campus activities. "I was a full- and part-time student from 1994 to 1999 and I still visit the campus regularly."

Dear to his heart

Politics is, of course, closest to Monnapula's professional heart and he can speak at length about its pros and cons.

"Democracy is, well … like good wine –it matures with time.

"What I dislike the most about the current political situation is that there are some self-serving individuals who pretend to be whole-heartedly serving the masses, whilst knowing that they are mere people with an exaggerated sense of self-importance and overblown egos.

"I hope history will judge them some day," he says.

Monnapula currently resides in Reveira Park, Mafikeng, with his wife, Nontutuzelo, and enjoys the strength and support of a galaxy of family members and friends.

No leg before wicket

Mr Johan Cloete does not easily get caught leg before wicket. This is clear from his shining career as international cricket umpire and his crowning as South Africa's Umpire of the Year.

Before 2010 few people outside the world of cricket had heard of Johannes Daniël Cloete, but these days people locally and internationally prick up their ears when they hear his name.

In fact, the umpiring world is buzzing after this alumnus of the former Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education (PU for CHE) was nominated Umpire of the Year for the second time by Cricket South Africa (CSA) and by the umpires themselves at the end of last year's cricket season.

Johan, who has been the Director of Sport at the Centurion High School near Pretoria for the past 13 years, has already umpired 18 international one-day games and five T20s* matches. And he has achieved all this at the relatively young age of 40 years.

Not that the success and fame have gone to his head.

On the contrary, he remains the humble, hardworking and ordinary person he was when he arrived as a first-year student at the PU for CHE in 1990.

First year on campus

"Ah!" he sighs with satisfaction when questioned about his student days. "I have an unbelievable collection of good memories, as I studied for four years and was involved in numerous different sporting disciplines and other activities."

Johan never lived in a campus residence, but shared a house with friends in the student community known as the Bult.

Many moments from his student years are carved into his memory for ever, including the three years he served on the editorial staff of the student newspaper, called the Wapad.

"I remember all those hours I spent in the Wapad offices typing my articles with three fingers, and the Wednesday nights I sat there doing page layouts," he says.

His days on the Rag Committee also created precious memories. "The committee worked hard behind the scenes to raise funds for charity," he recalls.

"The average student always regarded Rag as a time for partying, folding paper flowers and socialising, but we as committee members were aware of the much deeper meaning, because we managed to make a difference in the lives of the underprivileged."

From rag to cricket

"In 1990 and 1991, when I was responsible for Rag Sport, I started the evening cricket league between the residences, and soccer games for the women's residences.

"The next year I saved the university R40 000 in steel for the floats, because we used scrap metal and did not have to purchase it."

But how does a BCom degree help him with a cricket career?

"All the subjects I took for my BCom studies helped to shape my outlook on life," Johan explains.

"Industrial and Personnel Psychology, Industrial Sociology and Industrial Ethics are enriching subjects that help you to get along with other people, bring out the best in others and develop acceptance and understanding.

"Naturally it is useful to umpires to have a financial background, as vital calculations are made during matches.

"My degree is therefore more useful than anyone can ever imagine. In any case, education and knowledge are things nobody can take away from you and experience is not sold at the mall!"

Between suitcases and hotels

Being an international cricket umpire is not always a bed of roses, however. Johan has travelled a lot since September last year and has become used to living out of a suitcase.

"This is no joke! In September I was in the Netherlands for three matches, returned home for two days and then had to pack again for India, to umpire at the Championship Trophy for three weeks.

"Immediately after that I was involved in the Australian tour to South Africa and at the end of November I went to Bangladesh for the series against Pakistan," he explains.

At the time of this interview Johan was in Dubai, after which he spent five nights at home and then went to India for the Indian Premier League (IPL).

"In June I am taking my school teams to England for a cricket tour and early in August I am going to the u-19 World Cup Tournament in Australia. My schedule is quite full, as you can see!"

Duck!

The life of a cricket umpire can be dangerous, although he does not have to evade "hand-held missiles" only on the cricket field.

Mr Johan Cloete was named best umpire at the T20 World Cup Qualifiers in Dubai in March 2011. At that event, the two top teams, Ireland and Afghanistan, qualified for the T20 World Cup in Sri Lanka in September 2012.

During the one-day series in Chittagong, Bangladesh, Johan and a colleague had a major scare when a stone hit the window of the bus on their way to their hotel.

"I had had a good series and this was the final match," Johan explains.

"Unfortunately I erroneously called a leg-before-wicket decision against one of the Bangladesh players.

"Pakistan won the series 3–0 and the spectators were unhappy. And on whom did they vent their frustration? The umpires!

"Fortunately nobody was hurt and security was tightened. I did not really feel threatened by the incident and immediately put it behind me and continued with my normal routine."

Except for encounters with furious cricket fans, Johan feels that the biggest challenge to umpires is to be consistent in their decisions.

"It is also important for us to control and manage all individuals and the matches," he says. "This naturally makes many physical and intellectual demands, but the key to success is to be well prepared for the matches and tournaments."

Johan lives in Pretoria with his wife, Martie, and their son, Jean (3). Little Jean is already a good cricketer who bats left handed and has accompanied his father on a number of overseas trips.

** The T20 is the shorter one-day version of twenty overs for each team. It is also written as "Twenty20 match".*

Nothing happens by itself

The only place where "success" comes before "work" is in the dictionary. This, Johan Cloete says, is something that life has taught him.

"Achieving success requires hard work, accompanied by discipline and sacrifice. Nothing happens by itself and life is usually not fair.

"In addition there is no such thing as a problem – only a challenge that has a solution. Find that solution! If your attitude is right, you will always rise above your circumstances and above average people."

Johan's story: from captain to umpire

Apparently, Johan was destined from a young age to become involved in cricket at a professional level.

After all, he captained all the teams for which he played.

Johan's cricket career started when he played for the u-10 team at Stilfontein Primary School.

"Later, as the captain of the first team at Stilfontein High School in 1989, I decided I needed to know and understand the rules of the game. I completed an umpiring course and passed the exam with distinction.

"During my first year at university I tore my shoulder ligaments during a rugby match and was unable to bowl for six months.

"As there was a shortage of umpires in that specific season, I was asked to umpire," he remembers.

That season he not only made his debut as umpire, but did it so well that he was nominated the best umpire in the province even at that early stage.

Since then the highlights followed one after the other and in 1993 Johan umpired the final of the National Club Championships and made his first-class debut in the game between Western Transvaal and the Griquas.

A leader with heart

At the age of 28, Ms Tumi (Boitumelo) Hatla, alumnus of the Vaal Triangle Campus, has already worked her way up to the position of senior analyst at African Bank.

However, despite her success, she never forgot where she came from.

"When our nation achieved political freedom, I was given the opportunity as a young girl to be anything I could dream of. But, with all the opportunities, I try to never lose sight of where I come from. I think it's a sad reality for many young people, that they have forgotten that".

Ms Tumi Hatla's ambition is tempered by the fact that she has a big heart for people.

Climbing the ladder

"One of my foremost missions in life is to climb the corporate ladder, all the way to the top," she says. "However, while climbing, lives have to be touched and impacted in a positive way."

Tumi first graduated in BCom Economics and Informatics in 2005, and was a Golden Key International Honour Society member.

She finished her BCom Honours in Risk Management in 2006 while serving as vice-chairperson of four sub-committees of the Student Christian Fellowship, being the first female in this role. She was student assistant for first-year Economics students in the same year.

She journeyed to Norway where she spent 2007 at Molde University College completing an international programme in Supply Chain Management. In 2011 she achieved her master's in Economics.

This is Tumi – a 'young 28' in a big nutshell.

Keeping an eye on risks

Tumi currently works at the African Bank in Midrand as a senior analyst in the credit risk space where she has to look at risk-related elements across all the bank's products.

She sees herself as a leader and had to quickly learn to manage change and overcome personal and professional obstacles such as losing loved ones, being overlooked, giving in to self-doubt, or selling herself short."Prayer and advice from those whose opinion I value and trust have always pulled me through to the other side," she says.

Her student years were some of the best of her life to date.

"If I could, I would turn back the hands of time, even if it's just for a day. By the time I left campus I had not only graduated, but I had made friends, learned lessons and begun on my path towards being the woman I am today," she says.

Surrounded by many

"It's so funny how I grew up being a loner and extremely shy, but somehow with time I have found myself always being around people. In my free time (the little I have nowadays) I love reading – loads of it – dancing and travelling."

> "One of my foremost missions in life is to climb the corporate ladder, all the way to the top."

Norway was her first experience outside South Africa. "My year in Norway was priceless. I did a lot of growing up. The one thing I learned and soon applied was to work and play hard, while never forgetting the importance of family."

This stems from her childhood. "I am an only child ... and no, I am not spoilt. My dad passed away when I was very young so it has just been me and my mom, but we were supported by a whole lot of other people. My mom has a warm, big heart. She has been caring for children and adults for as long as I can remember. I am blessed for all those experiences and memories."

One love above all

Passionate about young people, acquiring knowledge and dance, there is one love above all: "My greatest passion is Christ Jesus and all I do is influenced by my desire to be more Christ-like.

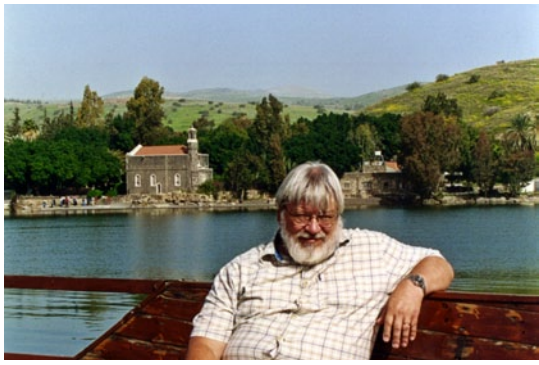
"The one lesson my mom instilled in me from an early age was to do everything to the best of my ability and never to forget to ask for wisdom from God."

Her faith and upbringing ensure that her ambition to climb to the top of the corporate ladder is tempered by empathy and compassion for others.

"My nature prevents me from standing on the side of the road whilst I know and can see that someone needs my help," she says.

Verb man's **wealth** lies in **experience**

Mr Johan Booyens is a man of words and action. A great talker and writer, he also travels, teaches and experiences with the same enthusiasm. The NWU & U would like to share with you some of his experiences as science teacher, radio and newspaper journalist and opera singer.



Former journalist, Mr Johan Booyens at the Sea of Galilee during a visit to Israel. The little church in the background was built by Franciscan monks over the "Mensa Christi" rock upon which Christ breakfasted with his disciples, according to John 21 in the Bible.

How old would you say I am?" is the start of a long conversation with Mr Johan Booyens, an alumnus of the former Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education (PU for CHE).

Well, he's a young 71.

His student years started in 1959 as 'Gepukte Poot' – a student who studied at the PU for CHE via the former Potchefstroom Teachers Training College (known as Pote).

But there was always time for student fun.

"As second-year resident of Mia Mater we decided one evening after seeing a movie about student fun to imitate art: taking a bath in the nearest women's residence. So we went over the street to Eikenhof – much to the consternation of the ladies."

He started with a BSc but switched to BA, and also took music lessons for non-degree purposes.

Music lecturer Eberhard Kunkel's enthusiasm for his singing was a great encouragement to him and led to his becoming a sought-after bass baritone who performed mainly in operas for arts councils and other groups.

Mr Johan Booyens in Seattle, Washington, where he visited the Boeing aircraft plant and Bill Gates' Microsoft "town".

As a broadcasting, magazine and newspaper journalist he was at the forefront of some great events in Southern Africa.

"My biggest 'scoop' was the world's first heart transplant in Cape Town when I was part of the SABC's news team. Dr Chris Barnard, pioneer of heart transplants, gave me a signed copy of his first book about the transplant and we became good acquaintances.

"I was also part of the SABC's news team that was first on the scene with world news such as the flooding at the West Driefontein gold mine and the termination of the old gold price system."

Johan has many achievements under his belt. Among them are his participation in the introduction of the current metric system, the creation of the television magazine *Dagboek* in the mid-seventies and a strong contribution to Namibia's entry into international rally driving. The retired journalist lives with his wife, Irene, in Walkerville south of Johannesburg and breeds Russian Borzoi dogs, after 40 years of breeding Afghan greyhounds.

"The ethos of service that I learnt at the PU for CHE proved to be a light for my path. I have always strived for more knowledge and experience and to be a beacon and a light," he says.

Through the years, Johan has gained a lot of experience. Indeed, if true wealth is measured in experience, Johan Booyens is a very rich man.

A man of the world

Although Johan Booyens changed to a BA he has always been fascinated by nature and the related sciences and has been an enthusiastic science writer.

This writing has created many opportunities, from visits to the Gobabeb research station near Walvis Bay and the observatory at Sutherland to the Chinese terracotta warriors at Xian and the American space control centre at Houston.

He was also a business and travel writer at the Sunday newspaper *Rapport*, which meant still more international travel.

"It is difficult to speak of 'best' experiences. Russia and China were special experiences with many surprises. The Russians speak more than 100 different dialects, China more than 50 and India approximately 1 400! My advice would be to study the people and their cultures and enjoy the research. Looking for the shiny stuff so that you can brag about it when you get home is not nearly as exciting."

Changing challenges into **opportunities**

Prof Sipho Seepe, alumnus of the Mafikeng Campus, wears many hats. His impressive resumé reveals that he is a man of stature and immense knowledge who isn't afraid to tackle challenges head-on.

Boasting six tertiary qualifications, Prof Sipho is currently a special advisor to the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans.

In between, he "moonlights" as a political analyst and higher education and strategy consultant.

Earlier in his career, he occupied leadership positions at ABSA Head Office, the Graduate Institute of Management and Technology and Henley Management College.

His teaching experience is extensive. In addition to teaching at a high school, college and several universities (locally and abroad), he once acted as vice-chancellor of the former Vista University.

His computer keyboard has not been standing idle as he has written prolifically on matters of public interest – from politics and culture to affirmative action, education and the transformation of society and institutions.

He is a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright South African Researcher Grant, as well as the Harvard South Africa Fellowship. He has held visiting professorships at a number of institutions abroad.

The road less travelled

Prof Sipho initially planned to study medicine and applied for bursaries in the field.

The then University of Bophuthatswana (known as Unibo), which had just opened, had the lowest fees and he became one of the first students to enrol in 1980.

"I had planned to study medicine, so I took the so-called Big Four in my first year – mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology," he recalls. He also added education and a practical course called communication and study skills.

"I abandoned medicine after two of my professors instilled the love of physics in me.

"The second reason had to do with the fact that physics was considered the most difficult subject.

"At the time there were only a handful of Africans who boasted a PhD in physics in South Africa, compared to over 10 000 medical doctors. So I chose the road less travelled," he says.

Broadening his horizons

He fondly remembers his student years, when he was touched by the commitment and intellectual exuberance that prevailed at the university. "I benefited a lot from the public lectures that were a constant feature of the university," he says.

"Those lectures broadened our knowledge beyond the narrow confines of our discipline. The sense of family and being part of something that will grow big was most exciting."

Despite his tight schedule, Prof Sipho still keeps in touch with his alma mater, and especially his former professors. "Our relationship is both collegial and that of friendship. When I am in dire straits, I still turn to them for advice. They continue to mentor me in more ways than one."

Shaping his future

Apart from the academic knowledge Prof Sipho gained at the university, he also believes that Unibo shaped and prepared him for his career and life in general.

"The founding fathers and mothers had envisaged a university that would produce well-rounded professionals," he says.

"Taking subjects like education and development studies enabled us to interact with students who were pursuing the social sciences. It was therefore not unusual to talk and do physics, mathematics and chemistry, and later on dabble in debates dealing with law, economics, and national development."

At age 53 Prof Sipho has already achieved more than many people do in a lifetime:

- He has been involved in a number of research capacity-building initiatives among the historically disadvantaged institutions in South Africa.
- He has served on several committees such as the science education Assessment Committee of the Foundation for Research Development.
- He used to be a member of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) research panel tasked with the evaluation of team research between historically advantaged and disadvantaged institu tions.
- He was also involved in a project on promoting African scholarship pioneered by the then South African Association for Academic Development.

Looking at his achievements, one can't help wondering what challenges are left for the future.

The answer is short and to the point: "Helping Africa find the best solutions for its problems."

Prof Sipho believes that his student years shaped and prepared him for his career and life in general.

Strengthened by early challenges

Prof Sipho Seepe was born in Soweto in 1959 and grew up there as the eldest of three boys.

There have been challenges aplenty in his life, with his childhood years bearing the scars of violence.

His grandfather died violently and so did his father, who was murdered when he was nine years old. "I don't know the exact circumstances of his death; it was too painful to inquire about," he remembers.

His mother supported them by working in a hospital – the Brenthurst Clinic in Park Lane.

"The main challenge in my life was losing my two younger brothers, Edward and Jimmy. Nothing can prepare you for that," Prof Sipho says.

Both his brothers fell victim to violence. "My youngest brother, Jimmy, died after being in a coma for a month." This was the result of a ruptured cerebral aneurysm, which had its origins in several gunshot wounds he had suffered a few years earlier.

A lesser but nonetheless important challenge has been failure. "However, I have learnt more from my failures than from my successes," he says.

"It takes a lot of courage to pick oneself up after stumbling. Nelson Mandela put it wonderfully when he said: 'A winner is a loser who never gives up'. Fortunately I had the support that I needed."

On this note, he remembers the pride on the faces of his mother and late brother, Jimmy, when he obtained his first degree and later his PhD.

Politics is part of the package

Politics is a major part of Prof Sipho's life. He argues that we may not all be mathematicians or physicists, but we are all political beings.

"As for me, I was born and raised in the crucible of politics. Being a Sowetan, I could not escape the influence of the likes of Nelson Mandela, Winnie Mandela and Walter Sisulu. They were part of our environment.

"Being an analyst one is privileged to share one's perspectives on political developments. It is also an act of courage since one opens oneself to public critique."

As a newspaper columnist, Prof Sipho considers himself a contrarian, refusing to become part of the herd.

"I was a columnist for both the *Mail & Guardian* and *Business Day* and my writing reflected my position as contrarian. Both newspapers provided that space.

"I consider myself to be fundamentally a teacher – teaching physics and providing political analysis are similar activities, as both are about sharing ideas," he says.

Forever a student, he never **stands still** or **gives up**

Prof Johann Coetzee not only lives life to the full, but also gives back to the community what he received.

How many activities can one squeeze into a single lifetime?

Let's see: Industrial and consulting psychologist. Human development consultant. Professor at two universities. Two Comrades Marathon medals. A silver cross for lifesaving.

Provincial colours in rugby, swimming and water polo. Helicopter pilot. Author of seven books. Member of the coach selection committee of Cricket South Africa. Postdoctoral studies in Forensic Medicine and Ethics and Philosophy.

You can only achieve this in one lifetime if you are Prof Johann Coetzee, alumnus of the Vaal Triangle Campus of the NWU.

Prof Johann enrolled at the campus in 1979 when it was still part of the former Potchefstroom University of Christian Higher Education. Later, he was appointed professor at the subject group Industrial Psychology and the Management School.

Forever a student

His academic qualifications cover a vast field and there is no indication that he intends packing away the books any time soon.

"When you find yourself in the applied behavioural sciences you must remain a student for ever.

"Because I am inherently lazy, it is good discipline for me to be a registered student so that my efforts and progress are supervised," he says.

Through the years he has shared his knowledge and experience with many people.

In fact, he has so far counselled more than 27 000 managers.

"My advice to managers and leaders has generally centred on self-management, assertiveness, personal and professional security, and in recent times especially, on maintaining a balanced and integrated lifestyle," he says.

He has also assisted many people in a therapeutic or psychological context, inspiring them to stay positive.

Many irons in the fire

With so many irons in the fire, there are many challenges to overcome every day.

"My biggest challenge is to not work too much," he confesses. "As a matter of fact I am guilty (and also ashamed) of having worked too hard sometimes and neglecting myself and others in the process.

One of the many skills that Prof Johann Coetzee has mastered in his lifetime, is that of flying a helicopter.

"I believe that this is not a unique situation, but unfortunately universal.

"So many people simply do too much and others consequently suffer in the process, and it disturbs relationships, which are after all just so much more important than work."

Selection for cricket

More recently Prof Johann was in the news because he was part of Cricket South Africa's selection committee, which had to select a new coach for the national cricket team.

With his characteristic modesty Prof Johann makes this task seem mundane.

"Cricket South Africa needed someone who could deliver an objective and professional input to evaluate the new coach for the Proteas.

That is where I came in," he explains.

His heart-throb

Prof Johann and his wife, Irma, live in Henley on Klip in Gauteng. He and Irma were married in 1970 – four years after they met each other on the day they both arrived at the University of the Free State.

"She was a girl who was different – pigtails and *tekkies* and style. Wow!" he remembers with a smile.

The couple had four children – André, Jeanie, Karin and Johann. "Jeanie died in her sleep in 1994, and it is the most bewildering experience that anyone can experience, as I indeed did. I cry a lot every day, but now I cry differently!"

Prof Johann and Irma also have two grandchildren, Milla and Tina. "Grandchildren are the light of your life and the biggest gift that the Lord can give you via your own children," he says.

Lessons for life

Life has taught Prof Johann to choose life and live it to the full.

"Faith and religion are the core of my life and the perspectives from which I approach life. It is wonderful to approach each day with excitement, and to experience and enjoy all dimensions of life."

Perhaps there is something, after all, that Prof Johann is not an expert about. He knows very little about placing limits on yourself and others.

Surely, with him the chances of standing still are slim, and of quitting even slimmer.

Employer vs employee – a question of balance

There are very few things that you can teach Prof Johann as an industrial psychologist. He has considerable advice on this topic.

"Business people and organisations should not approach the unique labour situation in South Africa from a legal-technical perspective, but from a humanitarian context," he says.

This does not mean blind acceptance of people, and especially not of organised labour, but constant discipline has to be applied, accompanied by loving deliberation, he believes.

However, there are major challenges, especially with regard to the "absurd" gap between top management's remuneration and that of the lower levels, says Prof Johann. He believes that it is now out of hand and discredits the integrity of individuals and organisations.

In the balance

Balancing the rights of the worker against those of the employer is quite complicated.

"My father taught me long ago that a person does not have rights, only privileges," he says. "This is my core philosophy, but also my inspiration. Working is a privilege, and that is my point of departure for approaching all situations, and not the exploiting attitude of any party."

"Where exploitation does exist – and this is a reality – the legal process naturally has to follow its course.

"However, it always has to be driven by mutual fairness, because the employer has just as much responsibility and rights to provide work and run the organisation, as the employee – as the provider of labour – has."

Labour laws

He reckons that South Africa probably has the most sophisticated and advanced labour legislation in the world.

"Our Bill of Rights, Chapter 2 of the Constitution of SA, is an instrument that can help any organisation to convert fairness and justice into policies and procedures," he says.

Wisdom from his writings

Prof Johann has published quite a few books to date. One of the more formal books was *Beroepsbekering: Konfrontasie, krisis en kentering,* which is about dealing with confrontation, crises and change in your career.

Because he likes to write, two other books have been published – *Paulus se Broer* and *A Hatful of Memories.* Two completed manuscripts – *Van Doerietyd tot Netnou* and *Tussen die Reëls: 'n Klomp Korporatiewe Koddighede* – will soon be published.

Another book, *It's About Time*, had an intense beginning. "On 11 June 2010, the day the World Cup soccer kicked off in South Africa, I was in hospital in Pretoria for an operation," he recalls.

"The operation was a success, but for some inexplicable reason I suffered serious heart failure, and I am grateful that I survived. During the operation they also discovered cancer, and I am currently in remission, for which I am very grateful."

It's About Time is about those experiences. It offers perspectives on self-management and how to make the most of time and opportunities – topics that he has taught other people about all these years.

He's an entertainer with **heart and a head for figures**

Looking at the life of Mr Katlego Maboe, well-known member of the a cappella group Flip a Coin and presenter on SABC3's early morning Expresso programme, it is clear that an exciting future full of opportunities lies ahead of him. The NWU & U approached this alumnus of the Potchefstroom Campus to find out more about his student days, why he likes to entertain people, and where everything started.

He is inspired by the fact that he can influence people and filled with joy that he meets new people every day and can learn from them, says Mr Katlego Maboe, former resident of Veritas men's residence on the Potchefstroom Campus.

"I have a deep, burning desire to make the world a better place," he explains. "I am in a position to make the best of what has been given to me, and make a positive difference in people's lives. I cannot stop pulling my weight now." Personal milestones that tell the story of his student days are Veritas, the BCom degree that he obtained in 2007, and Sêr, the serenade group from the residences.

Parties

"The best years of my life… Now I must choose my words carefully!" he jokes. "The fact is, I studied hard, but I also partied when I got the chance," … and then he whispers that he hopes his mother doesn't read this part.

"Well, in the end I got my degree, and I enjoyed getting it!"

The years in Veritas were special because of strong friendships, "and naturally Sêr," he adds. "What would my life be without that?"

At university he learnt about himself by discovering his own values and the meaning of integrity.

"I am very grateful to the NWU for all the contributions you made to my life, for the friendships and the encouragement. Without you I wouldn't have been where I am now. Oh, and 'TAS TAS VERITAS'!" he says, using the slogan that binds all Veritas residents together forever.

Katlego says his favourite haunts on a Friday evening were Picasso's and Bourbons. Every now and then he also turned up at the good old "Draak" (the Drakenstein Restaurant on the campus).

A head for figures

He quickly realised that a "head for business" is important in the entertainment world. Today, he handles the finances of his grandfather's taxi business and has started his own small business.

Katlego is a member of the a cappella group Flip a Coin. Here he is with other members of the group. They are, from left, Michael de Villiers, Johan Venter, Stefan Pretorius, Katlego and Niekie van der Walt.

Initially, Potchefstroom wasn't his first choice. "I wanted to go to Tuks, but was fortunate and blessed to receive a bursary from the Faculty for Economic and Management Sciences. My mother convinced me and I agreed – and have never looked back since," he says with a smile.

Katlego grew up in Potchefstroom with his grandmother Ellen and grandfather Salthiel, while his mother, Beauty, worked in Itsoseng in Lichtenburg. "I am one of two children, and my sister is called Thato. She is 14."

His grandfather inspires him, and he believes that his grandfather's influence has brought him to where he is today. "I learnt from him how important it is to work hard. He encouraged me to get up at five o' clock every morning and start my day by sweeping the yard outside. My grandfather is now 78 and still has the energy of a young man."

No getting the better of him

Not much in life gets Katlego down. The only thing that bothers him is that he has not yet learnt to swim, and that some people find it difficult to pronounce the "tl" in his name – sometimes he feels embarrassed if they pronounce it incorrectly. This has led to his nickname of Kat.

Katlego quickly became well known in the music group Flip a Coin. These days he entertains people from all cultures with his striking voice and warm personality. He says that his relationships with his fellow artists and the Sêr guys in the residence still play a large role in his success.

"Through our music and the years together I learnt how important teamwork is. It's like they say: There is no 'I in team". Even though they are scattered all over the country, Flip a Coin is still going strong and they like to sing when they have the opportunity.

Katlego says he has been invited to participate in the music festival, *Huisgenoot Skouspel*, again and he also sings on *Expresso* every now and then. His free time is limited, but when he has any, he plays the guitar and writes songs.

There may be a CD in the future, he says. In fact, he believes that with God's blessing the future is very bright and shining.

Mr Katlego Maboe recently acted as master of ceremonies at the NWU's Strut your Stuff competition. This quiz was part of the NWU's Intercampus Social Day for staff and was held on the Mafikeng Campus. Katlego presented the competition with ease in three languages – Afrikaans, English and Setswana.

Following **Dakar** on a motorcycle

Following the 2012 Dakar Rally on a motorcycle is not child's play – just ask Prof Hein Prinsloo from the Mafikeng Campus, who undertook this adventure with two of his friends.

Having rented motorcycles in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Prof Hein Prinsloo from the School of Management Sciences and his friends joined the Dakar retinue a few days after it started in the Argentine coastal resort city of Mar del Plata on 1 January 2012.

"It's the ultimate spectator event – nowadays even bigger than the Tour de France," Prof Hein points out.

Hordes of supporters

Accompanying the 465 competing cars, trucks, motorcycles and quad bikes were their support teams, friends and family members, members of the media and spectators. "Among them were many South Africans with KTM motorcycles," says Prof Hein.

After passing through Chile, the race finished in Lima, the capital city of Peru, on 15 January. Over the rally fortnight, almost 9 000 km were covered, during which competitors had to brave dunes, mud, camel grass and rocks."The harsh conditions were just as difficult for the spectators as for the participants," Prof Hein explains. "We carried everything with us, from clothes, water and food to tools and protective gear in case of cold or rainy weather."

They also had to sleep in the open and, although the days were extremely hot, it became quite cold at night.

Early birds

Rising at four each morning, the three South Africans raced ahead of the contestants to reach a vantage point where they awaited the rally pilots. Deep sand caused a few falls on the way, but luckily they escaped unscathed.

"But it wasn't a holiday; it was an adventure ride," says Prof Hein. At the Andes Mountains, just before crossing the border into Chile, they left the Dakar entourage.

"The Andes are magnificent and exceptional," he says. "They're nothing like our mountains." This ride was all but easy. "The weather was unpredictable and the roads bad. Two of our bikes were almost swept away by flooding rivers." The three friends undertook a 1 000 km round trip through the agricultural area south west of Buenos Aires before joining the Dakar competitors again. On their way they travelled through several unforgettable towns.

The heart of a town

"The village square is the heart of every town," says Prof Hein. "From sunset the villagers gather there to enjoy food, music and the company of their fellow townspeople, often staying until the early hours of the morning. No wonder businesses only open after nine in the morning!"

Because of the heat, a daily siesta is also common in these towns.

Prof Hein says that, upon returning home after five weeks, he was poorer but plumper thanks to the hospitality of the Argentinians who believe in plenty of meat, salads and beer.

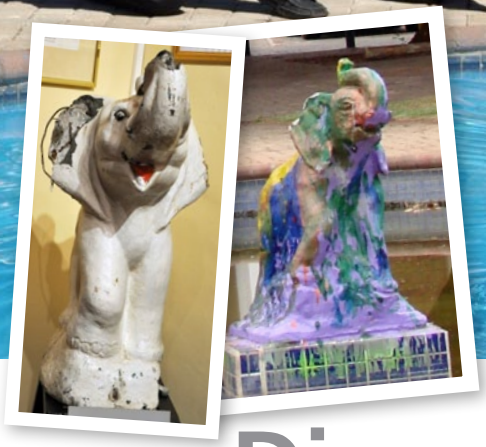
Prof Hein says he will embark upon such an adventure again, but only if he can use his own, familiar motorcycle.

What an adventure!

The Dakar Rally is an annual off-road endurance race for many different types of vehicles. Since the first race in 1978, most races started in Paris, France, and ended in Dakar, Senegal. However, since 2009 the Dakar has been run in South America. Amateurs typically make up about 80% of the participants, while the others are professionals.

Frenchman Stéphane Peterhansel, with 10 titles to his name, won the 2012 race together with his co-pilot Jean-Paul Cottret. The South African, Giniel de Villiers and his German co-driver, Dirk von Zitzewitz, finished third overall in their Toyota Hilux.

Enjoying their Dakar adventure: Accompanying Prof Hein Prinsloo (centre) are his two friends, Mr Steve Landman (left) and Mr Nardus du Preez, both from East London. Steve participates in endurance championships, while Nardus and Prof Hein met in Malawi during another motorcycle adventure.



Far left: The original Diana bears many scars from her earlier adventures.
Left: In 2009, during the Aardklop Arts Festival, students dressed Diana up for the occasion.

Diana the elephant cow is saluted by members of the Ratau Lebone house committee.

Diana now symbolises unity

Diana, the elephant statuette in the Chatarina Pond* on the Potchefstroom Campus, is no longer looking worse for wear.

Thanks to the tender loving care of a group of students, she now boasts a chic new look.

The second-year students from the Ratau Lebone Men's Residence were the style gurus responsible for her most recent makeover.

They spruced Diana up during their efforts to rebrand part of their residence, which used to be occupied by students from Laureus.

This building, which is now known as Ratau Lebone South, is directly across from the other Ratau Leobone building.

With Diana's pond right in the middle of the two buildings, the residents now regard her as a symbol of unity, which is also the reason behind her makeover session.

From days gone by

Diana is no calf any more – she hails from the days of the former Potchefstroom Teachers' Training College (PTTC).The original Diana was a garden ornament kidnapped and painted by students on countless occasions.

The culprits were usually either the "Pampoenboere" ("Pumpkin farmers") from the Potchefstroom Agricultural College or students from the former Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education. Fortunately, she's always managed to find her way back to her rightful home – thanks to daring rescue attempts by teaching students.

Following these harrowing experiences, the original, somewhat battered, Diana "retired" to the Education Museum and Prof John Botha, a lecturer in art history, was subsequently commissioned to create a replica, this time a proper work of art.

Unveiled by a Cabinet Minister

Shortly after being installed in the pond, she was unveiled by a Cabinet Minister, as befits someone of her stature.

In February 2008, Minister Naledi Pandor, who was then the Minister of Education, inaugurated the new Education Building and also unveiled Diana.

However, her unveiling presented its own set of challenges.

The black cloth she was draped in was supposed to rise skyward very dramatically, but something went wrong with the mechanics of the plan. Eventually, one of the young onlookers had to take off his shoes, turn up his trousers and wade into the water to unveil Diana by hand.

The unveiled Diana remained irresistible to mischievous students. There was the time, for instance, that they decided she would look good in purple ... (see picture)

But it seems as if there's hope for a more stress-free future for Diana.

Securely cemented in her little pond, with the students from Ratau Lebone on either side, there's an off-chance that she will keep her stylish look for a while without too much harassment from kidnappers and painters.

** The pond was named after the wife of the first rector of the former Potchefstroom Teachers' Training College, Prof PJ van der Merwe.*

Expand your potential for happiness

Do you believe in always seeing the bright side of life or do you sink into gloom as soon as the first dark cloud appears on the horizon? The NWU & U talked with Prof Ian Rothmann from the Optentia Research Programme on the Vaal Triangle Campus about positive psychology, emotional resilience and the secret of happiness.

We all want to be happy. In fact, it's one of the things that we as human beings have most in common.

Have you ever wondered why some people are happy while others are unhappy?

Or about the reasons why you are sometimes happier and more optimistic than at other times?

Positive psychology may shed some light on these questions. What is positive psychology? Simply put, it is a positive way of looking at yourself, people and the world.

According to Prof Ian Rothmann from Optentia, this field of study asks questions such as "What works for people and why does it work?", rather than concentrating on what does NOT work.

Half full or half empty?

Does this remind you of the glass that seems half full to optimists, and half empty to pessimists? Indeed. Positive psychology challenges you to become inspired, to find purpose and meaning in life and to build positive relationships.

"One of the great benefits of positive psychology is that it builds on the strengths and resources that people already have and rely upon. Therefore this approach can lead to positive changes and stronger families, communities and nations," says Prof Ian.

If you consult a psychologist or psychiatrist who applies the principles of positive psychology, he or she will build on your existing strengths rather than look at "What is wrong with you and how can I fix it?".

Positive psychology is about positive development and hope, determination, compassion, forgiveness, and finding meaning in life. It is also about resilience, which is the ability to make positive adjustments under

Positive perspective: Prof Ian Rothmann from the Optentia Research Programme on the Vaal Triangle Campus believes people should look at themselves, others and the world in a positive way. By doing so, a glass half filled with water will probably seem half full to you, rather than half empty.

Beauty is ageless

At one time, each NWU campus had its own rag and rag queen customs and traditions. The NWU & U turned back the clock to investigate how times have changed.

Over the years, female students at the former Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education (PU for CHE) and those at the current Potchefstroom Campus of the NWU have been known for their brains and their beauty.

The beauty queens at the PU for CHE were known as "karnaval- and sjampanjenooientjies" (champagne and carnival girls), and later as rag personalities. Rag personalities are still crowned today, but male and female students also compete for the titles of Miss and Mr Campus.

A bubbly time for Lydia

The champagne girls of the early years played a prominent role at sports events, especially during the annual intervarsity between the PU for CHE and the former University of the Orange Free State. Carnival girls were involved in the carnival (as the rag was known) and in raising funds.

Ms Lydia Botha (née Hoogendyk) was crowned as carnival girl and champagne girl in 1982.

Timeless beauty: Ms Lydia Botha, champagne and carnival girl of 1982, is currently an NWU staff member.

"It was a wonderful time in my life. My room in the residence looked like a flower garden – it was so beautiful," says Lydia, who currently works at the Institutional Office of the NWU.

She says that as carnival girl it was her privilege to raise funds and so make a difference in the lives of needy people.

Her experience as champagne girl was just as good – all the attention and the contact she had with other universities' champagne girls meant a lot to her.

Famous face: Dr Juanita Terblanche, rag personality of 1992, is now a member of parliament for the Democratic Alliance.

Memorable moments for Juanita

When the rag and rag personalities came into their own, they were no less memorable than the carnival days.

In 1992 Dr Juanita Terblanché (née Hattingh), currently a member of parliament for the Democratic Alliance, was the rag personality of the year.

"To be crowned as rag personality by none other than the former Ms South Africa, Ms Suzette van der Merwe, was one of the highlights of my student life," says Juanita.

"The professional way in which the process took place and the interviews were conducted with me will always be part of my memories."

Some of the other wonderful things of that year were the prize of a week-long holiday in Mauritius, valuable friendships made, and the fact that she met her "dream man", Mr Reinier Terblanché, on the campus.

"It was an enriching, rewarding experience that led to other opportunities and opened various other doors," she says.

Marlie crowned Ms Campus

Currently, the Potchefstroom Campus still selects a rag personality and also crowns a Ms and Mr Campus.

One Ms Campus who made her mark not only locally, but nationally and internationally as well, was Ms Marlie Jonker.

She was not only Ms Campus of 2011, but was also crowned Ms SA Campus in September last year – making her the prettiest campus girl in the country.

Then, at the end of 2011, she represented South Africa at the World Miss University 2011 in Seoul, South Korea. Last year Marlie studied BA Communication and this

difficult circumstances such as chronic illness, poverty, war or abuse.

Rebound like squash balls

In short: resilience is the characteristic that enables some people to rebound like squash balls when they run into a brick wall.

In other words, it is the ability to bounce back and land on your feet when life knocks you down.

"Resilience is a great example of how positive psychology encourages people to find out what makes their lives meaningful and to focus on it, even in the face of difficulty," says Prof Ian.

Are some people born resilient, or is it a characteristic that you can acquire?

"Research shows that our interaction with our physical and social environments determines how we form thought patterns and neurological pathways in the brain and how the brain is 'wired'," says Prof Ian.

"Therefore, our experiences change the brain. These changes can be either positive or negative, and positive psychology is about accomplishing positive neurological wiring."

Don't think that a person who is mostly optimistic doesn't become pessimistic at times, though.

"Approximately five decades of research on resilience has shown that positive adjustment is dynamic.

"It is based on many factors and it fluctuates," says Prof Ian.

Applying the principles

How can we apply the principles of positive psychology in our lives?

- Maintain a healthy lifestyle. Getting exercise and following a healthy diet has strong effects on mood. In fact, exercise is sometimes called the "miracle" or "wonder" drug, alluding to the wide variety of proven benefits that it provides.
- Find meaning in life by using your strengths to make a difference. For instance, become involved in something larger than the self, such as volunteer work.
- Celebrate the positive. Express gratitude for what works well in your life, enjoy simple pleasures and prioritise positive relationships.
- Look at your social network. The structure of a person's social network appears to have an impact on happiness. Studies showed that people who were very central in their networks (with many friends, and friends of friends) seemed significantly more likely to be happy than those on the periphery of the network.
- Remember that cultivating an extroverted temperament may correlate with happiness for the same reason: it builds relationships and support groups.
- Be careful. Thinking too much about happiness can be counter-productive. It may be better to reflect on one's values, asking: "Do I still have hope?", rather than asking "Am I happy?" since studies have proven that asking the latter just four times a day starts to decrease happiness.
- Live purposefully.

The people around us

However, one shouldn't look exclusively at the individual. In fact, positive psychology teaches us that humans are relational beings. Hence, positive psychology asks questions such as: "Which socio-cultural processes are to be found in the lives of people who seem more optimistic than others?" and "On which external forces do they rely, and how does it help them?"

Even if positive psychology cannot prevent life from throwing you the occasional curve ball, it can help you to identify and build on the strong points in yourself and your environment and to face the challenges in your path.

Optimal + Potential = Optentia

The name of the Optentia Research Programme on the Vaal Triangle Campus is a combination of the words "optimal" and "potential".

No wonder, because research in this entity is all about the optimisation of individual, social and institutional potential.

Optentia has the following five sub-programmes:

- Flourishing and virtuousness
- Pathways to resilience
- Positive relations
- Building blocks to psychosocial well-being
- Talent management

Currently, staff members of all three campuses of the NWU are involved in Optentia.

They come from subject fields such as psychology, industrial/organisational psychology, educational psychology, sociology, labour relations and social work.

Mastering positive psychology

A master's programme in positive psychology will be offered in the School of Behavioural Sciences at the Vaal Triangle Campus from 2013 and later also at the School for Psychosocial Behavioural Sciences on the Potchefstroom Campus.

Apart from offering a logical career progression from the undergraduate and honours programme in Psychology and Industrial Psychology, it is also an attractive alternative to the popular clinical and counselling programmes.

This course is expected to attract people who are already employed. So, if you would like to extend your personal development and career progression opportunities, this master's degree is ideal for you.

It will be useful for qualified clinical psychologists, counsellors, psychotherapists, and nurses and doctors who intend to use positive psychology theory, research and applications in their clinical work. Teachers can also use positive psychology expertise to enhance their practice.

In the limelight: Ms Marlie Jonker, Ms Campus of 2011, representing South Africa at the World Miss University in Seoul. Marlie is currently editor of the student newspaper, the Wapad.

year she is doing a postgraduate Diploma in Management.

Going even further back in time

Some people have even longer memories. Prof Annette Combrink, former rector of the PU for CHE, says when she attended the Potchefstroom Teachers' Training College (PTTC) from 1963 to 1967, there were definitely events such as rag or carnival, and rag queens and carnival girls were indeed crowned. "In 1964, my good friend Ms Marthie Daffue was the rag queen," she says.

Alumni of the PTTC who have more information – and perhaps some photographs – on this part of the history of the PTTC should please let us know.

The most beautiful of Mafikeng

Ms Shirley Lobelo of the Mafikeng Campus says that the Mafikeng Campus crowned their campus beauties in the past.

According to her, the last Ms Unibo (University of Bophuthatswana) was Ms Millicent Muthuloe. Ms Barileng Sape, the last Ms North-West University, Mafikeng Campus, reigned in 2005 and is currently an economist at SARS in Pretoria.

"As there has been no competition since then that I know of, I am most probably still the reigning queen," she says. Her term as campus queen meant a lot to her. "The title brought quite a number of responsibilities and I acted as ambassador for the university with pride," she says.

Barileng describes herself as a "person for people" and therefore she helped her fellow students wherever she could. "Some of the lecturers even asked me to help those with study problems."

Ms Barileng Sape, who was crowned Ms North-West University, Mafikeng Campus, in 2005, is currently an economist at SARS in Pretoria.

Vaal Triangle's beauties remembered

The Vaal Triangle Campus had rag parades in earlier years – complete with floats and rag princesses, according to Prof Piet Prinsloo, former rector of this campus.

This was when the Vaal Triangle Campus was still a satellite campus of the former PU for CHE, he says.

Mr Harm Stavast of Student Development on the campus says that when the Engineering students moved to the Potchefstroom Campus, the rag came to an end, and therefore also the selection of rag queens. "I think the last rag queen was chosen around 1992 or 1992, if I remember correctly," says Harm.

Ms Christelle Kriel (née Van der Linde) was rag queen in 1989.

She says the whole rag queen and debutant experience was invaluable and prepared her for speaking in public, among other things.

"However, the most valuable benefit I only realised when our daughter was born with Downs Syndrome," she says.

"As rag queen we regularly worked with handicapped children, and I saw all the possibilities that could be achieved with them. "It made me so enthusiastic that I could not wait to start working with Kyli."

Thanks to her rag experience, she has the following advice for current students: "They must grab all opportunities on campus with both hands in order to prepare them for their future – they are not only here to receive an academic degree."

Unfortunately many of the Vaal Triangle Campus' old documents and photographs have been lost, and it is difficult to reconstruct events. Readers who have details or pictures of earlier rag queens are welcome to contact us at nelia.engelbrecht@nwu.ac.za.

Ms Christelle Kriel wore the crown on the banks of the Vaal River in 1989 – an experience that prepared her for future challenges.

Music from the **heart** for **Christa Steyn**

Rapturous applause and inspired piano playing resonated with goodwill and passion during the "20 hands, 1 heart" concert held in the Sanlam Auditorium on 25 February 2012 on the Potchefstroom Campus.

At a concert more than R115 000 was raised for Christa Steyn, a musician and alumnus of the former Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education, who lost the battle against cancer on 11 June 2012.

After the concert, Christa, in turn, donated R10 000 of this amount to the local branch of Cansa Relay. It was her way of showing her gratitude towards the community of Potchefstroom and of expressing solidarity with other cancer sufferers.

The idea for the series of countrywide concerts came from musician, singer and TV presenter Coenie de Villiers.

The master of ceremonies for the evening, Jannie du Toit, and each of the 10 pianists shared some sort of connection with Christa Steyn.

Some, including Prof Truida van der Walt, a lecturer from the School of Music on the Potchefstroom Campus, were Christa's mentors. Others, such as the young pianist, Ramon Alexander from Stellenbosch, regard Christa as a mentor and a role model.

The programme covered the entire musical spectrum from classical to pop – an exciting rendition by Wessel van Wyk and Tatiana Bolomogow of Franz Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No 2 all the way through to a boisterous performance of Queen's music by Roelof Colyn.

The well-known alumnus of the former PU for CHE, Johan van Rensburg, ushered in the second part of the programme with a medley of Alabama songs. Johan was director of the Alabama dancing and singing group for many years and got to know Christa through her involvement with this group when she was a student.

Another highlight of the evening was a moving impromptu performance by Jeremy Lubbock and Jaconell Mouton on two grand pianos. Jeremy is an American friend of Jaconell's and has been responsible for musical arrangements for artists such as Barbara Streisand, Neil Diamond and Elton John.

The "20 hands, 1 heart" concert was organised by Horst Bütow and his team from NWU-PUK Arts on the Potchefstroom Campus.

Christa helps with university anthem

Christa supervised the arrangement and recording of the NWU's new university anthem. The group Flip a Coin composed the song, while Corneels Schabort, a lecturer on the Potchefstroom Campus, wrote the Afrikaans and English words, and Theriso Tsambo the Setswana words. The new university anthem was officially adopted in 2012.

Artists who performed during the "20 hands, 1 heart" concert are, back from left Wessel van Wyk, Jeremy Lubbock, Jaconell Mouton, Roelof Colyn, Jannie du Toit (master of ceremonies), Melissa van der Spuy, Tatiana Bolomogowa, Truida van der Walt and Johan van Rensburg. In front from left are Janine Neethling, Coenie de Villiers, Clinton Zerf and Ramon Alexander.

Give **your opinion** on the **NWU & U**

We trust that you enjoy receiving the alumni magazine, NWU & U, and that you find it newsworthy and interesting. We would appreciate it if you could take a couple of minutes to answer the following questions.

On a scale of one to five, with one meaning "not at all" and five "a lot", please indicate how much you enjoy reading the following in the NWU & U:

News/articles about:

NWU Council matters and decisions	1	2	3	4	5
Management	1	2	3	4	5
Achievements of the NWU	1	2	3	4	5
Challenges of the NWU	1	2	3	4	5
Achievements of staff members	1	2	3	4	5
Award ceremonies, seminars and conferences of the NWU	1	2	3	4	5
Teaching-Learning	1	2	3	4	5
Research	1	2	3	4	5
NWU projects in the community	1	2	3	4	5
Centres/schools/faculties/support departments	1	2	3	4	5
Tips/information that can contribute to the reader's quality of life	1	2	3	4	5
Human-interest articles – for instance how someone overcame an obstacle in life	1	2	3	4	5
Articles on how things used to be on the campuses	1	2	3	4	5
Sustainability ("green" living)	1	2	3	4	5

Regular articles:

Message from the vice-chancellor	1	2	3	4	5
Editorial	1	2	3	4	5
Letters	1	2	3	4	5
One-page profiles about individual alumni	1	2	3	4	5
Two-page profiles about individual alumni	1	2	3	4	5
Campus news	1	2	3	4	5

Do you view the NWU & U as a valuable source of information?	**Yes**	**No**
Should we increase the number of campus news pages in the NWU & U?	**Yes**	**No**
Should we publish more articles on NWU staff?	**Yes**	**No**
Should we publish more articles on NWU alumni?	**Yes**	**No**
Do you prefer to read NWU & U online (electronically) or in print?	**Online**	**Print**

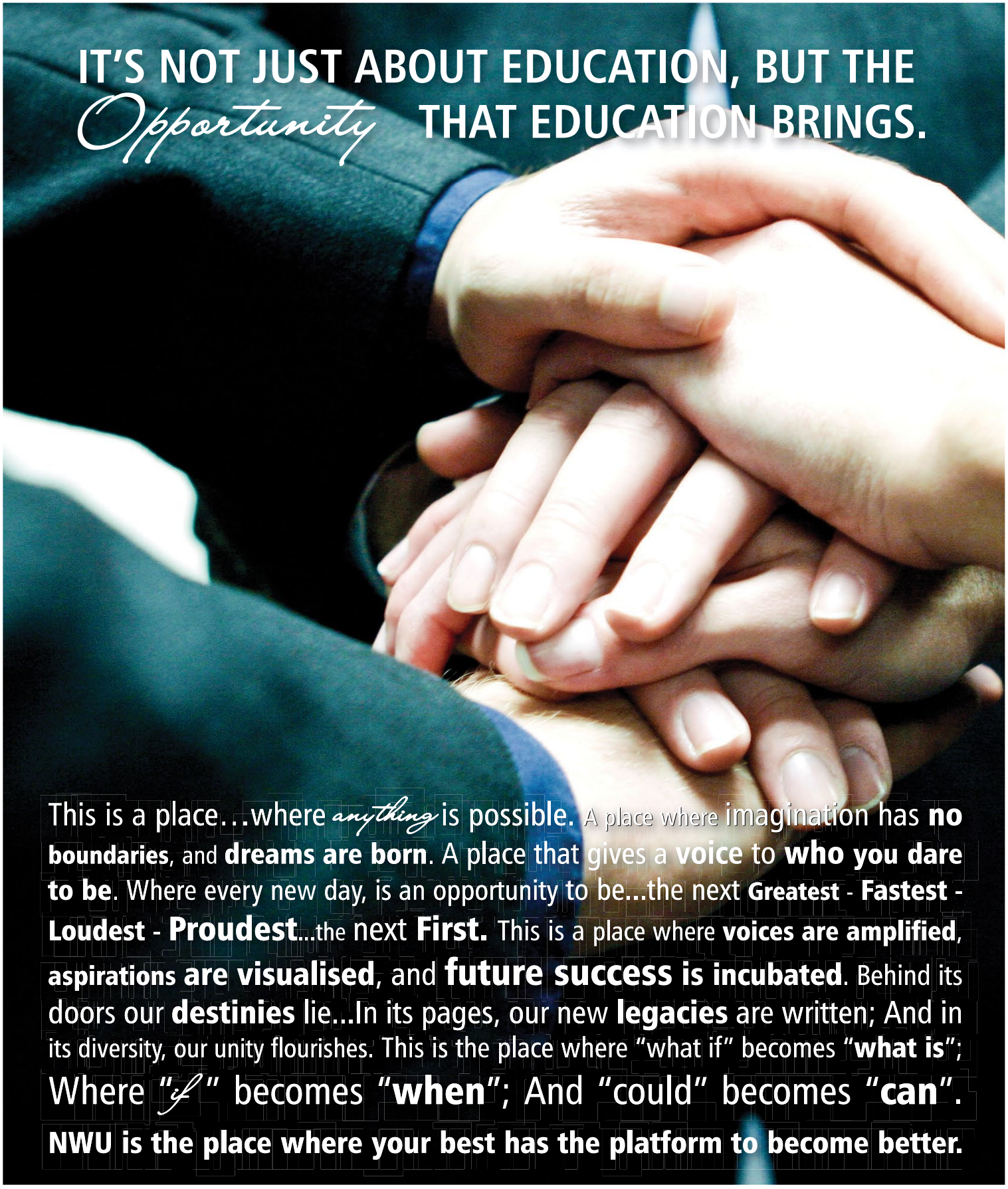
What would you like to read more about in the NWU & U? (Write down your suggestion here):

What changes or improvements would you like to see in future editions of the NWU & U?

Thank you for participating in this survey. Please return your questionnaire to Nelia Engelbrecht, Institutional Office, North-West University, Private Bag X1290, Potchefstroom, 2520 or fax it to 086 614 3222. You can also scan the questionnaire and email it to *nelia.engelbrecht@nwu.ac.za*.

Name and surname: ..... Tel no: .....

I am an alumnus of the ..... Campus of the NWU.



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