

NWU & U

AS ALUMNI

ALUMNI magazine

New era
for NWU

Alumni awards

Breaking up
with a smile





CON

It all starts here®



FRONT PAGE:

These alumni received awards for their outstanding contributions in their communities. They are Mr Alec Moemi, Mr Etienne le Roux, Prof Pieter Stoker and Adv Jan Henning, SC. Read more about the award ceremony on p 10.



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

Message from **the vice-chancellor**

Dear alumni,

TEN YEARS AFTER the North-West University was established in 2004, the university is at a critical point in its history and decisions which Council takes now will have far-reaching consequences for the future.

After the merger the NWU established itself as a significant new university in the country. One of the great successes of the merger was the consolidation and expansion of our core activities, namely teaching-learning and research. There has also been substantial infrastructural development on all campuses.

However, one area which remains challenging is transformation.

Transformation is necessary

An international panel evaluation of the extent to which the university has achieved its merger objectives suggests that more needs to be done to ensure that the divide between a historically black and historically white university is overcome.

It is not suggested that transformation is merely a numbers game. Demographic transformation is a necessary but insufficient condition for the kind of deep transformation which will strengthen the university's contribution to social cohesion and nation building.

How effective is our management model?

Another area that requires attention is the way in which the university is structured and, in particular, the management model.

The merger employed a management model which took account of the geographical separation of the campuses and sought to establish local accountability for performance by placing a campus rector at the head of each campus with an Institutional Office providing the strategic lead in policy and process development.

This model served the university well in the past. It allowed the necessary stability for the consolidation of the merger, permitted campuses to address their weaknesses and encouraged strong campus accountability.

However, the model is constantly criticised as resembling a federal model and has some

negative effects in encouraging competition rather than co-operation between campuses. The model further encourages the idea that the campuses are semi-autonomous and can establish separate and possibly non-aligned strategic directions.

Apart from these concerns, there are also significant issues of affordability and efficiency.

We need one identity

Structural adjustment may therefore be necessary to ensure that a university-wide identity and culture is embedded and that strong transformation initiatives are centrally steered.

We must establish and nurture a single university culture and identity which leads to an integrated university with equity of provision across the campuses.

Developing a new strategic agenda

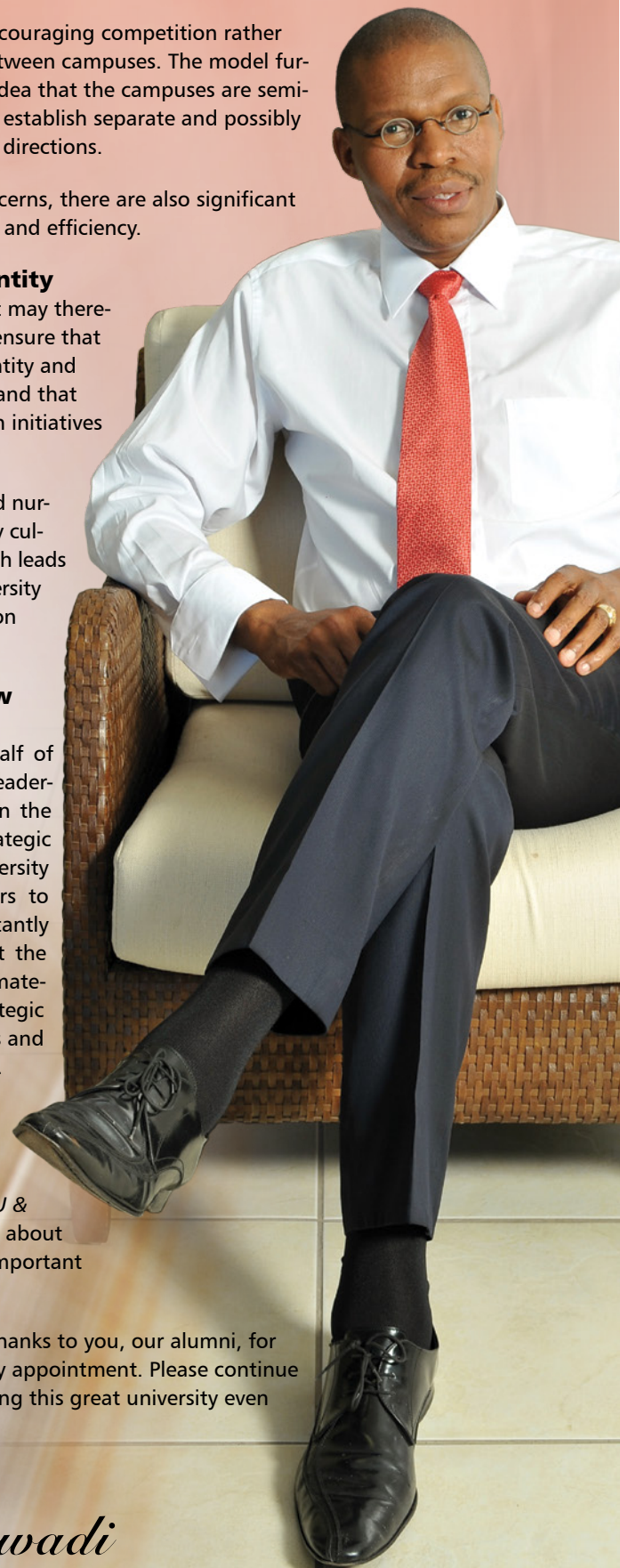
During the second half of this year, the senior leadership team engaged in the formulation of a strategic agenda for the university for the next 10 years to 2025. Council is constantly being updated about the process and will ultimately approve the strategic agenda and the goals and targets for the future.

We will engage with you to enrich our thinking and in the next issue of the *NWU & U*, we will inform you about the progress of this important process.

I wish to extend my thanks to you, our alumni, for your support since my appointment. Please continue to contribute to making this great university even better.

Kind regards,

Dan Rgwadi



NWU experts know their stuff

The NWU's experts are often quoted in the media, which enhances the public image of the university as an institution that pursues knowledge and innovation in order to enable others to improve their quality of life. In this article we share some of our experts' comments that were published in the media in the last year.



“Tourism industry players should consider giving our students opportunities for internships so that they can also learn how the industry operates.

“Tourism is multifaceted and it's made up of small, micro and medium enterprises. Students need to start their own tourism businesses so that they can contribute in making sure that the province reaches its 2020 and 2030 targets.”

Prof Haretsebe Manwa, School of Human Sciences, Mafikeng Campus.

“Statement by Desbo Mohono, MEC for Tourism, celebrates tourism achievements in 20 years of freedom and democracy”, *polity.org.za*, 23 September 2014.



“It is really possible to improve mathematics results with the use of apps. Apps enable children to work at their own speed and to receive individual feedback. And they no longer have to copy from a black board or overhead projector.”

Prof Marthie van der Walt, School of Natural Sciences and Technology for Education, Potchefstroom Campus.

“Apps help kinders met somme”, *Rapport*, 21 September 2014.

On the brink *of the next chapter*

THE NWU IS ON the threshold of the next decade.

Behind us lies a 10-year journey of growth and development. However, for some of you, our alumni, the journey goes much further into the past. Some come from the very institutions that helped form the NWU – the University of North-West (and its predecessors) and the Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education.

Your contributions offered a solid platform from which the new NWU could launch itself.

Our journey so far

The road the NWU has been travelling since the merger of 1 January 2004 has not always been on level ground; the new university has often had to make its way cautiously among rocks and crevices. Nevertheless, the NWU forged resolutely ahead, treading in the light of wisdom and a shared vision of excellence.

There have been plenty of milestones along the way to illuminate our road to excellence. For instance, the NWU's weighted research output units has grown by an impressive 183,5% over the past 10 years. Read about two of the many valuable research projects undertaken by the NWU on p 28 and 32.

Another success story is that of the Potchefstroom Business School, which celebrated its 50th anniversary this year (p 14).

In addition, our alumni have their own tales of success to tell. The careers of the alumni who received Alumni Awards on 31 October (p 10) demonstrate their determination and success.

The next stage

The NWU will be as unwavering as it embarks upon the next stage of its journey. The road ahead surely holds its own set of difficulties, especially since the university has begun the process of determining a new strategic agenda for the next 10 years. (More on this in the vice-chancellor's message on the previous page.)

When the NWU takes the first steps of its new 10-year journey in 2015, it will be with the knowledge that – assured of your continued loyalty and support – we can build constructively upon the achievements of the past decade.

May you all enjoy a blessed festive season and may 2015 bring blue skies and a clear view.

Happy reading,

Nelia
and the
NWU & U team





Please write and tell us where you are in the world and how your careers are progressing, or just write about anything that is close to your heart.

Email letters to nelia.engelbrecht@nwu.ac.za, fax them to 086 614 3222 or mail them to Nelia Engelbrecht, Institutional Office, North-West University, Private Bag X1290, Potchefstroom, 2520.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!

It is heart-warming to read the letters from our alumni. We gladly share this one with our readers.



Pieter and his wife, Carlene, stand in front of the highest building in the world, the Burj Khalifa building in Dubai.

Good day

Although I have to wait three months for my copy of the NWU & U, I am always happy when it is delivered to my office in Dubai. The edition I received today (29 September) bears a post office stamp dated 12 June 2014.

I still have to finish reading it, but I quickly paged through it to see what it promises. Congratulations to Prof Dan Kgwadi, the new vice-chancellor.

My wife and I are still in Dubai after arriving here in 2004. We have grown accustomed to the heat and have learned how to avoid outside temperatures of 47 degrees Celsius.

Thank you very much for the interesting alumni magazine – I am look-

ing forward to my first electronic version.

I want to arrange an NWU reunion here in Dubai – I will see whether I can do so next year. If you know of any former students living in the United Emirates, kindly forward their information.

My email address is: pietvster@gmail.com.

Best wishes
Pieter Vorster
Dubai

If you are still receiving your copy of the NWU & U per post, but prefer to receive it via email, please send your email address to nelia.engelbrecht@nwu.ac.za. Thank you to the many alumni who have already forwarded their email addresses in order to receive electronic versions of the publication in future. In so doing you are helping us to reduce our carbon footprint.



The new face of CONVOCAATION

DR SAMMY THEKISO was elected president of the NWU Convocation at the triennial general meeting held on 23 August at the Quest Conference Estate, Vanderbijlpark.

He follows in the footsteps of Adv Jan Henning, SC, who resigned due to ill health.

A new executive committee for the Convocation was also elected:

- President: Dr Sammy Thekiso (psychologist, Potchefstroom)
 Vice-president: Dr Dirk Hermann (chief executive officer, Solidarity)
 Bursar: Prof Marius Stander (psychologist and lecturer, Vaal Triangle Campus)
 Other members: Mr Werner Human (attorney, Hurter Spies Inc, Centurion)
 Adv Marelize Kruger (legal consultant and facilitator, Potchefstroom)
 Mr Nelson Mongale (special advisor on industrial strategy, Gabarona Engineering Consulting, Vanderbijlpark)
 Mr Albert Sorgdrager (group legal counsel for litigation and disputes, Nedbank, Johannesburg)
 Mr Henk Schalekamp (chairperson of Solidarity Investment Company, Pretoria)

The next triennial general meeting will be held in 2017.

ALUMNI OFFICES

There is an alumni office and an alumni coordinator on each campus:

- Mafikeng Campus: Ms Susan van Rooyen, 018 389 2388
- Potchefstroom Campus: Ms Yolandi Haasbroek, 018 299 2768
- Vaal Triangle Campus: Ms Alwine Naudé, 061 910 3250

CONVOCAATION IN A NUTSHELL

As an NWU graduate and alumnus, we invite you to join the Convocation of the NWU.

PURPOSE

The main function of the Convocation is to represent the views of the alumni to Council, to encourage cooperation among alumni and to elect members into Council. In promoting our values, good governance, support and innovation, we develop mutually beneficial relationships between the university and its alumni.

MEMBERSHIP

Every graduate and diplomate of the university or its predecessors and current full-time, permanent staff members may become a member of the Convocation. You have to apply for membership and pay the prescribed fee (R50) for lifelong membership. More information is available on the application form. Contact person: Ms Izette Schouwstra, 018 285 2594 or izette.schouwstra@nwu.ac.za.

NWU COUNCIL

The Convocation is represented by four members in the NWU Council. If you are a member of the Convocation, you can be nominated and elected as a Council member. Only members of the Convocation may vote in this election.

The members of the newly elected executive committee of the Convocation are, at the back from left, Mr Henk Schalekamp, Mr Albert Sorgdrager, Mr Werner Human and Mr Nelson Mongale. In front from left are Dr Dirk Hermann, Dr Sammy Thekiso, president, Prof Marius Stander, and Adv Marelize Kruger.





New era

DAWNS FOR NWU

The inauguration of Prof Dan Kgwadi as the second vice-chancellor of the NWU marks the beginning of a new and exciting era for the university. Supporting him is the King of the Royal Bafokeng Nation, Kgosi Leruo Tshekedi Molotlegi, who was reinstated as chancellor of the NWU.

Prof Dan's inauguration and Kgosi Leruo's reinstalment for a second term as chancellor of the NWU took place on 26 September at the Mafikeng Convention Centre.

Relationship must be a mutual process

KGOSI LERUO Moletlegi will serve as chancellor – the titular head of the university who confers all degrees in the name of the university – for another five years.

During his acceptance address, the chancellor said that the relationship between the university and the community must be a mutual process of learning.

"It should be a partnership that starts by agreeing on the questions to be asked, and continues through the testing and application of the findings. As we take our technical knowledge into a real-life context, we learn anew what works and what doesn't,

the importance of context and the importance of communication."

He said the NWU has a long history of productively advising practitioners, whether in agriculture, mining or government and beyond.

"This store of knowledge is extremely valuable and we must continue to build on it. We cannot afford to compromise or lose the value and the values that have been painstakingly built over time by those who came before us in this university," Kgosi Leruo said.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Kgosi Leruo Tshekedi Molotlegi is the 36th paramount ruler of the 800-year-old Bafokeng Kingdom.
- The Royal Bafokeng Supreme Council has, under the leadership of Kgosi Leruo, embarked on a mission to meet all the basic human needs of the Bafokeng community in order to promote respect for and the enhancement of the Bafokeng culture and economic self-sufficiency.
- He believes that the most pressing reform that is needed in the public education system is to help young people to make an entire mind-set shift in which they take greater responsibility for themselves and their communities, embrace openness and develop an attitude of determination, patience and persistence.
- Kgosi Leruo is also an architect and fixed-wing pilot.





Kgosi Leruo Tshekedi Molotlegi (second from left) was reinstalled as chancellor of the NWU and Prof Dan Kgwadi (second from right) was inaugurated as vice-chancellor. The formalities were done by Ms Itumeleng Pooe, acting chairperson of the NWU Council (far left), and Prof Marlene Verhoef, Institutional Registrar (far right), respectively.

New strategic direction for NWU

Prof Dan Kgwadi is appointed for a term of six years and took office on 1 April 2014. His appointment ushered in a new strategic direction for the NWU and he is at the forefront of ensuring that the university's positioning, locally and internationally, receives renewed impetus.

Speaking at the inauguration, Prof Dan said that the university is at a critical point in its history and decisions which Council takes now will have far-reaching consequences for the future.

"We must ensure that we position the university to be ready to undertake the substantial challenges which lie ahead. These challenges relate to the place of the NWU in the South African higher education landscape and the particular contribution we can make to the well-being of our country, the continent and, indeed, the world."

He went on to say that recent evaluations of the university's performance suggest that we need to relook our transformation trajectory. "This will require committed and passionate leadership, bold political will and central steering, leading to a transformed and integrated culture and identity for the university."

Prof Dan said he is committed to strengthening unity at the NWU. "We must create and nurture a single university culture and identity which lead to an integrated university with equity of provision across the campuses," he concluded.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Prof Ntate Daniel (Dan) Kgwadi served as Mafikeng Campus rector, prior to his appointment as the NWU's vice-chancellor.
- Starting his career as a physics teacher at Phatisma High School, he also served as:
 - senior manager/assessment coordinator at the National Nuclear Regulator;
 - head of the Physics Department at the Vaal University of Technology;
 - lecturer and head of the Physics Department at the University of North-West; and
 - research and teaching assistant at Ball State University.
- While at Ball State, in recognition of his high scholarship in physics, he was admitted to the sigma-pi-sigma honour society.
- Prof Dan has a passion for skydiving and has been awarded a certificate by the American Parachute Association for completing a number of successful jumps.

NWU honours alumni

The NWU held its second annual Alumni Awards ceremony at the Maslow Hotel in Sandton on 31 October.

THE UNIVERSITY BESTOWS the honour of an Alumni Award on alumni who have made a significant contribution to society and in their respective fields. The recipients of the 2014 Alumni Awards are Mr Alec Moemi, Adv Jan Henning, SC, Prof Pieter Stoker and Mr Etienne le Roux.

Meet our top alumni



ECONOMICS FUNDI

Mr Etienne le Roux followed a career as an economist at the National Treasury after starting out as a lecturer in economics at the university's Vaal Triangle Campus.

While employed at the Treasury, he also had the opportunity to further his studies in the United States of America.

He later moved into the banking environment and is now chief economist for Rand Merchant Bank (RMB). During his time at RMB he has received various performance awards, including Best Analyst of the Year.

In July 2013, Mr Trevor Manuel, then Minister in the Presidency: National Planning Commission, appointed him to the South African Statistics Council.

On occasion, he gives guest lectures in economics at the Vaal Triangle Campus.



ON TOP OF HIS GAME

Mr Alec Moemi is the director-general of Sport and Recreation South Africa (SRSA).

However, his skills and passions are not limited to sport alone and in his student days he also participated extensively in student leadership.

During his career he has been involved in various youth organisations including the ANC Youth League, the Umsobomvu Youth Fund and the former Free State Youth Commission.

His career path also led to the Office of the Premier in the Free State Provincial Government where he worked as chief director responsible for special programmes and inter-governmental relations.

As director-general of SRSA, he is on top of his game and working hard to take South Africa to the next level in sport.

Showcasing the excellence of the NWU

In addressing the audience, the president of the NWU Convocation, Dr Sammy Thekiso, remarked that for many years now, alumni from the NWU have made their mark – not only in South-Africa, but also internationally.

“The NWU is privileged to boast such a distinguished stakeholder group.”

Acts of service set them aside

Prof Dan Kgwadi, vice-chancellor, said that through their many accomplishments and acts of service, these four alumni have proven themselves to be exemplary members of the university community. “This award ceremony honours the recipients for their selfless contributions to society. As the 10-year anniversary celebrations draw to a close, we are very proud to see these awards made for the second year running.”



CHAMPION OF PROSECUTORS

Ado Jan Henning, SC is regarded as one of the best prosecutors and managers that South Africa has produced.

He contributed to the fight against insider trading on the stock exchange, is known as a champion of better working conditions for prosecutors and fulfilled leadership roles in various fields and in many institutions. These include the Institute of Commercial Forensic Practitioners, the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA).

Former President FW de Klerk awarded him the status of senior counsel in 1992 and in 1999 he was appointed as special director of court management in the NPA.

Even in his retirement, he is not afraid to comment frankly on issues that affect our constitutional democracy.



EXPLORING THE FRONTIERS OF SPACE

Prof Pieter Stoker is an excellent example of a Potchefstroom local who has earned international recognition for himself and his department.

He established a research facility in cosmic rays and nuclear physics in the Department of Physics of the former Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education in 1953. It is known today as the North-West University's Centre for Space research.

He was also head of the Physics Department for 36 years and served as dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences for two terms.

His work received national and international recognition. He is the proud recipient of awards such as the Havenga Prize for Physics and a gold medal of the South African Society for the advancement of Science, among others.

Wow, what great fun our alumni had during 2014! Music, wine, good company and the occasional birdie on the golf course made this an unforgettable year.



Mafikeng Campus alumni enjoy themselves in the company of Prof Dan Kgwadi, NWU vice-chancellor (third from the right) during an event held at the Bronberg Wine Estate in Pretoria East.

Sharing inspiring stories

With the theme for the evening being 'Entrepreneurial Excellence', Mafikeng alumni inspired each other with stories about their careers at an alumni gathering held in Pretoria on 17 October.

Among the speakers were a former BCom Economics student turned entrepreneur, a senior financial analyst at the National Treasury, an associate at a law company and a research officer at Unisa, holding an honours degree in Nuclear Energy.

Be our ambassadors, asks rector

During the alumni function held in October in Pretoria, Prof Mashudu Davhana-Maselesele, rector of the Mafikeng Campus, was impressed by the entrepreneurial excellence of the alumni who told their stories. She encouraged them to be proud ambassadors of the NWU, ploughing back their expertise and resources to benefit the university.

ALUMNI FUN

Future fun for Potch alumni

- 1965 Student Representative Council reunion
- 1965 first years' reunion
- Heide residence 45-year reunion
- Other possible residence reunions: Caput, Hombré, Kasteel, Klawerhof, Ratau and Soetdorings
- Possible alumni gatherings: Gauteng and Bloemfontein



Fitting into the 1920s like a hand in a glove are Heinrich Kriel and his wife Christelle during a 'Gatsby' evening at the Riviera on Vaal in Vereeniging on 17 September.

Alumni Advisory Committee members joined in the festivities celebrating the respective anniversaries of four of the region's best-known institutions. These institutions were the Vanderbijlpark Chamber of Commerce (50 years), the *Vaalweekblad* newspaper (50 years), the Vaal University of Technology (10 years) and the NWU's Vaal Triangle Campus (10 years).

What a busy year

In 2014 the Vaal Triangle Campus's alumni fraternity joined in the celebration of the university's 10th anniversary and enjoyed a full programme which included networking events, reunions and business breakfasts.

At the 2014 graduation ceremonies, the Alumni Office re-emphasised the importance of the Young Alumni Movement. This



Staff members from the Potchefstroom Campus were treated to warm Namibian hospitality during their visit to Windhoek on 11 June. Crouching for a 'scrum' in front of a poster of the Potchefstroom Campus are from left alumnus André van der Merwe, Piet Steyn, Marketing and Communication, NWU, and Prof Herman van Schalkwyk, rector, Potchefstroom Campus.



2014

Let the good times roll

Among a myriad of fun events organised by the Potchefstroom Campus in 2014 were various residence reunions. Leaving their worries at home, alumni attended elegant dinners, shared nostalgic stories about their student days, and sang their residence or first-year ('dore') songs.

Besides these reunions, 2014 also saw the 50-year reunion of the MBA students who attended the Potchefstroom Business School, and the reunion of the 1964 first years. In addition there were the usual golf days, wine tasting events and alumni gatherings all over the country.



Wanda residence alumni sing their first-year ('dore') song at the reunion on 30 June at the Potchefstroom Campus. From left are Marle Rautenbach, Rentia Harrison (primaria 2001), her sister, Marietjie Smith (primaria 2002) and Estée Campher.

Well-known singer Karen Zoid entertains alumni at the gala dinner held on 30 October in Vanderbijlpark.

movement encourages graduating students to cherish their association with the campus beyond their student years.

The highlight of the year was without a doubt the gala dinner held on 30 October. This prestigious event took place at the Quest Conference Estate and saw singer Karen Zoid and funny man Riaad Moosa taking to the stage. The unique combination of Karen and Riaad contributed towards making this an unforgettable celebration.



Business school director heads national body

THE DIRECTOR OF the Potchefstroom Business School (PBS) on the NWU's Potchefstroom Campus has been elected as president of the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut (AHI).

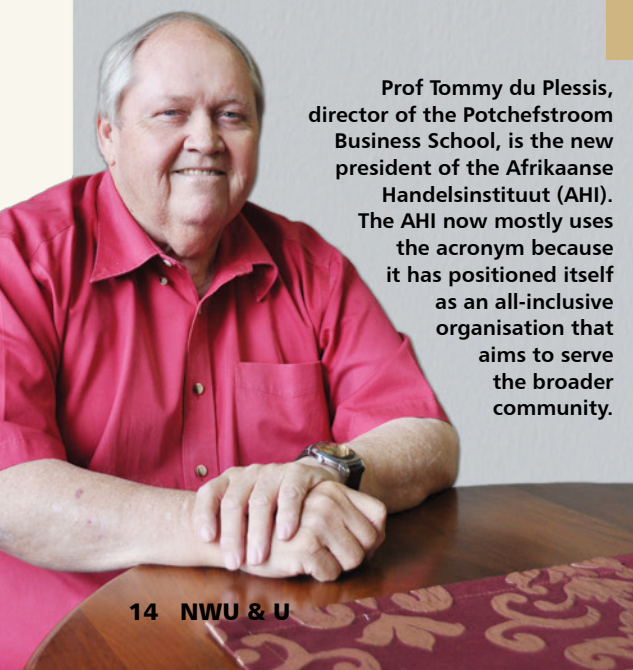
Prof Tommy du Plessis will serve in this capacity for the next year. He is the second staff member of the NWU to be chosen as president of the AHI in the past three years and follows in the footsteps of Dr Theuns Eloff, former NWU vice-chancellor.

THE CHALLENGE "During my inauguration as president the message was clear that we have to make sure that the small business revolution becomes a reality," he says.

"There are a lot of wonderful things that happened on the business front in South Africa after 1994 and it is important that we acknowledge that. We have to be positive and drive change to benefit the economy."

THE PLAN Tommy says one of the best ways to make this happen is for the AHI to work together with other institutions to strengthen economic development and create a favourable climate in which small businesses especially can grow and prosper.

Some of his new responsibilities will be to create a workable business model for the AHI and the various business chambers.



Prof Tommy du Plessis, director of the Potchefstroom Business School, is the new president of the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut (AHI). The AHI now mostly uses the acronym because it has positioned itself as an all-inclusive organisation that aims to serve the broader community.



golden years for PBS



THE YEAR 2014 is very special to the Potchefstroom Business School. They not only celebrate **half a century of growth**, but also a very special achievement, namely the **international accreditation** of the business school by the Association of MBAs (AMBA).

Part of the festivities is a reunion that took place on 5 November. For this event, the PBS attempted to bring together everyone who has contributed to the success of the school.

This success is impressive. The school, which has been offering its MBA course for nearly 50 years, is ranked as one of the top five business schools in South Africa by the leading finance publication, the *Financial Mail*.

The cream of the crop

A place at the business school is much sought after, which has compelled the PBS to limit the number of MBA entries to 200. This implies that the PBS can afford to select the cream of the crop for the course.

Prof Tommy du Plessis, director of the PBS, says that the business school produces some of the best research outputs in the country despite a small staff corps. "The standards of minor dissertations and staff research are high. We are also one of only two business schools in the country that present MBA classes in English and Afrikaans."

He says that the staff of the PBS worked very hard for three years to obtain the AMBA accreditation. This is the cherry on top for a world-class business school. "Now we are looking forward to exciting new developments for the PBS," Tommy continues.

One of the most eagerly awaited glimmers on the horizon is the brand-new facilities being built especially for the PBS.

An eventful past

No vision of the future is complete without reflecting on an eventful past. Some of the highlights in the history of the business school include the following:

- 1964 ➔ First business school intakes.
- 1966 ➔ An MBA is introduced. (Initially, the school offered only an honours degree in business administration.)
- 1979 ➔ The school becomes an independent entity. (Previously it formed part of the economics faculty.)
- 1986 ➔ A new MBA qualification is implemented.
- 1987 ➔ First management development programme.
- 1992 ➔ The Graduate School of Business becomes the Potchefstroom Business School.



Members of the NWU's winning team in the Lexis-Nexis competition are Mr Lönngren Prinsloo, Ms Chrisna Landsberg (tutor) and Ms Edna du Toit.

*"The competition gave us the opportunity to learn and also gain valuable experience. I developed a love for litigation because of the competition."
- Edna -*

Law students show their mettle in 'court'



NWU law students recently took part in two mock trial competitions. In August they participated in the NWU's own Juta Mock Trial Competition, and in September they competed in the national LexisNexis Mock Trial Competition.

POTCHEFSTROOM Campus law students won the LexisNexis Mock Trial Competition that took place in Port Elizabeth from 8 to 12 September.

The team, comprising Ms Edna du Toit and Mr Lönngren Prinsloo under the guidance of their tutors, Ms Chrisna Landsberg, attorney at the Law Clinic, and Mr Braam Klaasen, lecturer at the Faculty of Law and Law Clinic, argued their way to the top position amongst 22 teams from universities across the country. They argued for the 'state' in a case of assault to cause grievous bodily harm.

It is the sixth consecutive year that a team from the Potchefstroom Campus has won the competition.

During the LexisNexis mock trials, criminal cases are simulated and students get the opportunity to examine and cross examine witnesses, and do opening and closing statements just as would be the case during a real trial.

A TEAM comprising second-year law students from the Mafikeng Campus took first place in the NWU's internal Juta Mock Trial Competition after eliminating a team from the Vaal Triangle Campus in the finals.



THE TEAM

Members of the winning team are Mr Oarabile Isaac Modiko, Mr Reitumetse Senoana, Mr Kadafi Lehabe and Ms Linda Mhlongo. Playing the part of the defence, they argued a case of assault during family violence.

THEIR FEEDBACK

Team members say the competition was a good experience which will contribute meaningfully to their careers when they become legal practitioners.

The competition is the brain child of lecturer Adv René Koraan from the Faculty of Law on the Potchefstroom Campus. "The mock trials help prepare the students for their careers and teaches them how the system works," she says.

The competition was originally for students of the Potchefstroom Campus but has since been embraced by all three campuses as a friendly competition.

Book focuses on Faculty of Natural Sciences

THE FACULTY OF Natural Sciences on the Potchefstroom Campus has asked all former staff members and alumni for contributions for a book about the history of this faculty.

According to Prof Jan Geertsema, project manager, the book will consist of about 300 pages. They're also considering an e-book.

"The emphasis is on academic work, but we want it to be in an engaging, conversational style. There will be plenty of space for reminiscences, anecdotes and interesting photographs."

The book will appear in Afrikaans. It is being compiled under the leadership of an editorial committee consisting of Prof Elize van Eeden, editor, Prof Piet Prinsloo, advisor and Prof Jan Geertsema, project manager.

Kindly send your contributions as soon as possible to Ms Tumi Letsie, liaison officer of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, at tumi.letsie@nwu.ac.za. For any enquiries, call Tumi at 018 299 2711.



Serious games conference puts campus on world map

THE FACULTY OF ECONOMIC Sciences and Information Technology on the Vaal Triangle Campus has made history by successfully hosting the first ever International Conference on Serious Games in South Africa.

The theme of the conference was "Serious Games to the Rescue", drawing attention to the value of serious games in helping learners and students unravel the mysteries of subjects such as mathematics.

Delegates from across the globe attended the event, which was hosted at the Quest Conference Estate in Vanderbijlpark by the Serious Games Institute – South Africa (SGI-SA), a dynamic unit within the faculty.

The three-day conference included an interactive workshop by Dr Ernest Adams, a world-renowned game designer.

An animation studio from Cape Town, Sea Monster, gave a comprehensive presentation on a soon-to-be-released serious game on home-ownership, called HOZZ-IT.

The conference also highlighted current serious game projects taking place in South Africa, including the SGI-SA's own Mandela27 interactive graphic novel.

"All-in-all the conference was a great success," says Mr Werner Ravyse, manager of SGI-SA.

Analyser to measure performance

THE MAFIKENG CAMPUS has acquired a state-of-the-art VO₂ max analyser that will assist in examining athletes' aerobic exercise capacity to help them prepare for competitions.

The research will mainly focus on the players at the Soccer Institute and outreach programmes in and around rural villages of the district.

VO₂ max is the maximum rate of oxygen consumption during maximal exercise, normally performed on a treadmill, and reflects the cardiovascular endurance of a person. By measuring the soccer players' endurance capacity (among others), it will give an indication of how they will perform during competitions.



At the VO₂ max analyser are from left Mr Tom Heer of TDH Medical, Mr Pieter Boer and Prof Petrus Botha, dean of the faculty of Human and Social Sciences.

NWU solar car fills up on sunshine

THE POTCHEFSTROOM CAMPUS put up a good fight during the 2014 Sasol Solar Challenge from 27 September to 4 October and their solar car, Sirius X25, ended the race in overall fourth place.

The team came second of the South African competitors, only 60 km behind the University of KwaZulu-Natal and 700 km ahead of the fifth place winner, the University of Johannesburg. Delft University of Technology of the Netherlands won the challenge.

As this race draws competitors with exceptional expertise in science, technology and engineering, it is indeed a huge accomplishment to drive 2 360,6 km (more than double the team's distance in 2012), powered only by the sun. The team received prizes for the longest distance travelled by a South African per day in the history of the Sasol Solar Challenge, as well as a Team Communications award for excellent social media engagement.

The Sasol Solar Challenge, which takes place every two years, showcases the progress of research into sustainable transport and promotes advanced science, technology and engineering. In 2012, the NWU shared first place with the Japanese team from Tokai.



Campus appoints new vice-rector

PROF LUVUYO LUMKILE Lalendle, former director of quality promotion and assurance at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, has been appointed as the new vice-rector for teaching, learning and quality assurance on the Mafikeng Campus earlier this year.

Lumkile has worked in higher education institutions in South Africa and the USA for the past 28 years.

He has extensive experience and knowledge of strategic planning, change management, development of high-performance work systems, diversity and equity, human resource management and labour and industrial relations.



“The Mafikeng Campus must, on an ongoing basis, improve the quality of the student experience in order to transform our education landscape so that the university can provide equity of experiences,” he says.

Prof Luvuyo Lumkile Lalendle, the new vice-rector for teaching, learning and quality assurance, says his motto is to keep things simple and to do them well.



Vaal seeks to change the world through Enactus

ENTREPRENEURS HARNESS big ideas that have the potential to change the world. With this in mind, the student community on the Vaal Triangle Campus recently became part of the global movement, Enactus.

Enactus is an international non-profit organisation which aims to bring together students, academics and business leaders by creating and implementing various community empowerment projects around the globe.

The main common denominator among the participants is that they are all committed to using the power of entrepreneurial action to improve the quality of life and standard of living of people in need.

Various national and international competitions take place each year, encouraging creativity and rewarding results. The final round of the national competition for 2014 took place in Sandton. This year saw 26 teams from South Africa take part in the competition.

The Enactus Vaal team also joined in the competition for the first time and clinched an overall third place in the category for the application of technology in the business environment.

Professor receives WTO international trade honour

THE WORLD TRADE Organisation (WTO) in Geneva has awarded one of its prestigious research chairs to Prof Wilma Viviers, leader of the TRADE research entity on the Potchefstroom Campus.

Wilma's ground-breaking research on trade and development has propelled her to the top echelons of her profes-

sion by redefining the way local exporters assess foreign markets. She was formally honoured on 17 September 2014 as one of seven global candidates chosen by the WTO from 80 applicants for its latest chairs programme.

Wilma says the WTO Chair gives her and her TRADE team an opportunity to assist with the policy debate through high-level research and engagement, at a time when trade-related challenges and questions about global competitiveness are high on the agenda – both in South Africa and in the surrounding region.

“The chair appointment will also ensure that the NWU remains at the cutting edge of research in these critical policy spheres.”



Prof Wilma Viviers is one of only seven recipients worldwide to receive a WTO Chair this year. Mr David Shark, the deputy director-general of the WTO, Prof Dan Kgwadi, the NWU's vice-chancellor, and Mr Maarten Smeets of the WTO congratulate her during the WTO Chair launch at the NWU.



Mr Wikus Botha says the Cricket Centre of Excellence aims to create a platform from which local talent can be honed and developed into future cricketing greats.

Exciting cricket era awaits

THE VAAL TRIANGLE Campus is blazing a trail of excellence in sport and the diamond in the crown of the Sport Department is the newly established Cricket Centre of Excellence.

The centre combines state-of-the-art technology such as video analysis with the latest coaching methods to ensure a scientific basis from which young players and coaches can be mentored and developed.

The centre can accommodate 32 male and 32 female players between the ages of 13 and 19. Heading up the Centre of Excellence is former Northwest Dragons player, Mr Wikus Botha.

Wikus says the campus is working towards becoming part of the Premier League within the next three years.

The Gauteng Cricket Board recently announced the launch of a Promotional League for the eight most promising teams who are not currently taking part in the Premier League. The winner of this league will automatically be promoted to the Premier League. "This can boost the campus's developmental cycle immensely," says Wikus.



One of Prof TT Cloete's poems is being displayed in the Frans du Toit building.

Words will inspire you

A **PROJECT TO** promote the written gems of various languages will soon see the light of day on the Potchefstroom Campus. Poems by local and international poets will be put up on walls, pavements and pedestals all over campus.

Prof Wannie Carstens, director of the School of Languages, says this project has been in development since 2012.

The Frans du Toit building already boasts a few poems. Staff members of the School of Languages will soon identify some places on campus where the next poems will be displayed.

According to Wannie, Lovers' Lane is first priority for a series of poems from local wordsmiths such as Prof TT Cloete, Prof Heilna du Plooy, Prof Hans du Plessis, Prof Etienne Terblanche, Prof Hein Viljoen, Prof Jan Swanepoel and Prof Bernard Odendaal, to mention but a few.

Poems in Afrikaans, English and Setswana will receive preference, but staff members and students are invited to make suggestions for poems in any language.



Project benefits informal day care

A **COMMUNITY OUTREACH** project initiated by the Faculty of Education and Training on the Mafikeng Campus is set to benefit informal day care centres in and around Mafikeng.

Dr Myrtle Erasmus, the project leader, initiated the project with the assistance of Prof Dawid Gericke, the dean of the faculty, after she realised that young children who attend the informal day care centres are not exposed to appropriate learning programmes.

Mamo T Hos Day and Baby Care Centre is one of the informal day care centres that currently benefit from Dr Myrtle Erasmus' outreach project.

The objective of the project is to train the care givers, to guide them in managing the centres and to introduce them to the typical day programme which is supposed to be followed at day care centres.

Currently the project only has the capacity to work with 10 schools, but according to Myrtle, the need is much greater. Care givers from approximately 40 schools or centres attend the training sessions presented by herself and Dr Elsabe Wessels, both lecturers in foundation phase education.

UNW council member

Alec served as a member of the former University of North-West's (UNW's) council, first in his capacity as president of the Student Representative Council and later as treasurer-general of the UNW's alumni association.

He was a council member during a "quite interesting time" when the UNW and the Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education were preparing to merge. "It was of critical importance for the country and future students that the new institution be a success."

Youth leader's *lasting legacy*

Mr Alec Moemi, director-general of Sport and Recreation South Africa, is one of the recipients of an NWU Alumni Award for 2014. This is an award that he says he will cherish forever.

ALEC'S LEGACY AT the former University of North-West (UNW) – now the Mafikeng Campus of the North-West University – is enshrined in his active involvement as a student leader while completing his BJuris degree.

He was elected to the Student Representative Council in 1997 and was president of this body for two terms (1998 and 1999).

However, his student leadership was not limited to the former UNW. He also participated in national student organisations such as the Congress of South African Students (Cosas), the South African Students' Press Union (Saspu) and the South African Students' Congress (Sasco).

Young people close to his heart

Alec has a longstanding interest in the development of young people. He has been involved in NGOs working with the youth and was the national administrator for the African National Congress Youth League. He later became manager of the Umsobomvu Youth Fund (now the National Youth Development Agency), and CEO of the then Free State Youth Commission.

Nurturing and developing sport talent from school level has been one of his priorities since he was appointed *director-general of Sport and Recreation South Africa (SRSA) in November 2011. He encourages a school sport programme with physical education as a learning area in the curriculum of every school.

Praise for the NWU

Alec praises his alma mater for evolving into an excellent academic institution. "Today, the North-West University is a shining example of what can be produced with shared resources and shared expertise, building a solid institution for the future."

As an NWU alumnus, he respects and admires the university's mission to develop future young leaders for the country and says he is especially proud of the quality education on offer.

Alec still lives by the university motto and credo. "The foundation that I've had and the values that have been imparted in me while I was a student, I'm thankful for."

* Alec is the administrative head of SRSA, which promotes participation in sport and recreation, while Minister Fikile Mbalula heads the SRSA politically.

HIS STUDIES



Alec completed his BJuris degree at the former University of North-West (now the NWU's Mafikeng Campus), followed by a master's degree in political governance and transformation from the University of the Free State. He also studied corporate communication management at Wits University's Business School, and holds a certificate in public relations.



HIS CAREER

Among others, Alec has experience as an entrepreneur, regional manager of a bank in Bloemfontein, and chief director in the Office of the Premier of the Free State Provincial Government. Currently he serves as director-general of Sport and Recreation South Africa.

BEING A LEADER rather than a boss

Perseverance, dynamism and courage are three words that embody the being of Ms Ayanda Nakedi, alumna of the Potchefstroom Business School.

MS AYANDA NAKEDI, senior general manager has risen in the ranks of Eskom from where she started as a petty cash clerk to being in charge of the energy supplier's renewable unit.

Under her guidance, Eskom is implementing a 100 Mw Sere Wind Farm near Vredendal in the Western Cape and a 100 Mw Concentrating Solar Plant (CSP) in Upington.

"These projects anchor Eskom's commitment towards diversifying the energy mix, reducing its carbon footprint and ensuring security of supply," says Ayanda. "Over time the renewable plants will reach grid parity and reduce the current energy prices."

No substitute for knowledge

This vibrant woman has come a long way since walking barefoot to school after losing her shoes on the way. This childhood memory still motivates her today.

For Ayanda, her mom's hard work and the sacrifices she made for the benefit of her children, spurred her on to do better.

"There is no substitute for knowledge. It is necessary to constantly bolster one's depth and breadth of knowledge to make business decisions."

Being a survivor

Ayanda faced a personal battle in 2010 when she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

She continued working throughout her chemotherapy treatment and decided to not let the cancer control her.

Her cancer is now in remission

and she eagerly gives testimony about her journey with breast cancer to inspire others.

Closer to home

Ayanda guards jealously over the time she spends with her family. "I've long accepted that it's impossible for women to master both our professional and motherly duties equally. It's important to make that extra effort to be present in your children's lives," she says.

She adds that an unwavering support system in her private and public life is also crucial to balance being a wife and mother with her career. To this end, the immense support she receives from her husband only lifts her to reach greater heights. To relax, she enjoys hiking with friends and family over weekends, revelling in the opportunity to unwind and meditate.

Boss of the Year

In 2013, Ayanda was the title bearer of the prestigious Boss of the Year Leadership Award. This award is dedicated to seeking out leaders in the South African workplace.

For Ayanda, the secret to being a good leader is to know your innate character and the character you want an organisation to have. "Classical leadership in the workplace requires visionary strategy, competence, empathy and operational excellence. Lastly, leaders must be willing to give for a good cause without personal gain. Leaders must sacrifice but remain resolute."

From a barefoot learner to a leading renewables energy expert and a cancer survivor – Ayanda's journey is only just starting.



HER CAREER

Her career has now spanned 20 years and five managerial appointments to establishing the renewables business unit in 2011, which is responsible for helping reduce Eskom's carbon footprint by generating electricity from alternative energy sources.

HER STUDIES



Ayanda obtained a BCom Accounting degree and a Higher Education Diploma from Rhodes University. She completed her MBA at the North-West University in 2001 and also finished a Management Advancement Programme at the Wits Business School.

Success *is his only option*

Education is the key to changing your humble beginnings. Let it be the map that guides you to your dreams, says Mr Sipiwe Mbatha, alumnus of the Vaal Triangle Campus.

GROWING UP IN the dusty streets of Evaton, 10 kilometres from Sebokeng, Sipiwe knew that walking this distance to and from Beverly Hills High School every day must pay off eventually.

He was right. As a strategic pricing analyst at Total SA he has established himself as a young professional with his sights set firmly on reaching the top.

Without mincing words, Sipiwe describes himself in two short sentences. "I don't lack confidence at all and I believe in my abilities. I love to compete and I believe success is my only option."

Work hard, play hard

During his BCom studies he became involved in organised student life. As a resident of Thuthuka Residence, he was elected a house committee member in his first year.

The highlight of his student years was being elected Student Representative Council (SRC) president in 2009, the year in which he was also president of the Institutional SRC. The proudest moment was when he accepted the Rector's Award for Excellence in Student Leadership that same year.

At the time, Sipiwe was busy with a BCom Honours degree and was also the recipient of the award for best academic performance by a student leader.

Sipiwe was also a top goal scorer on the soccer field, the opening bowler of the university's first cricket team and received university sport colours in bodybuilding.

"My objectives remained clear: study hard, play hard and lead by example. I wanted to succeed in life and I knew I had to work hard every day to do all these things," he says.

Alma mater

Sipiwe stays in contact with his alma mater and visits the campus regularly where, he says, he still feels at home.

According to him the multiracial nature of the campus taught him tolerance, respect and understanding of various racial groups. "Leadership engagement with university management, the student community and fellow student leaders was the biggest contribution to my professional career and personal growth."

Double or nothing

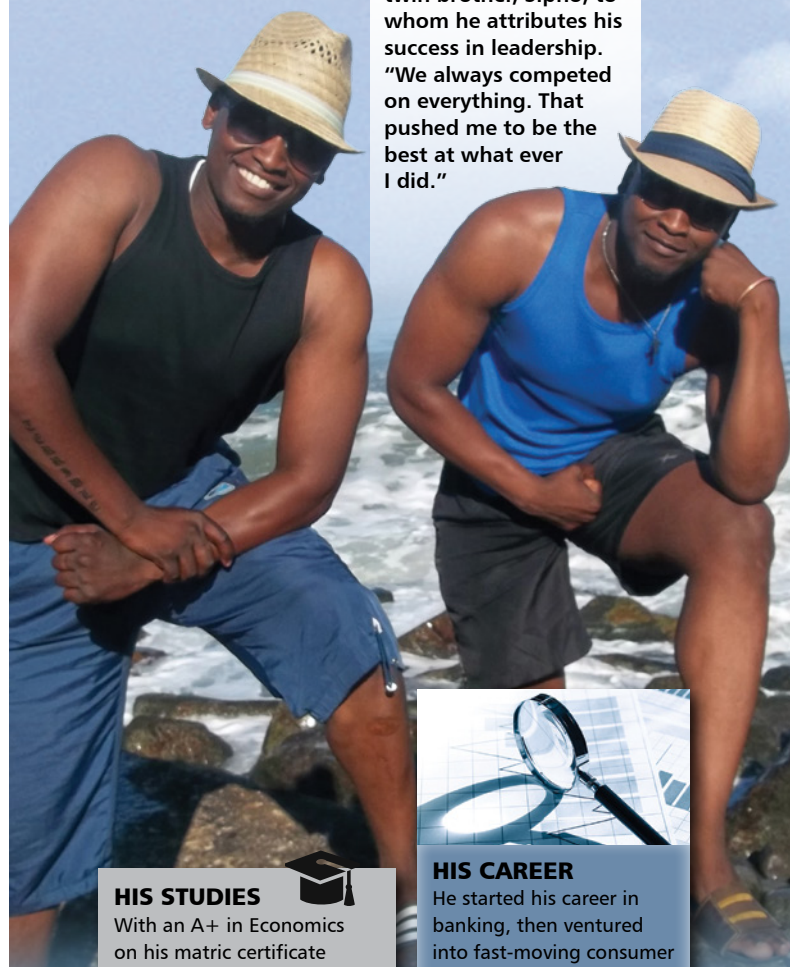
Despite growing up poor, Sipiwe was inspired by his

mother's will to live happily and to persevere in hard times. She raised him and his four siblings alone in a loving home.

Today Sipiwe is father to a "smart and energetic" five-year-old boy and plans to pop the question to the love of his life before the end of the year.

He lives by the saying of the former rector of the campus, Prof Piet Prinsloo: "If it is to be, it is up to me." With wise words such as these to guide him, it seems certain that success is the only option.

Sipiwe (right) has a twin brother, Siphon, to whom he attributes his success in leadership. "We always competed on everything. That pushed me to be the best at what ever I did."



HIS STUDIES

With an A+ in Economics on his matric certificate Sipiwe enrolled for a BCom degree (International Trade and Marketing) at the Vaal Triangle Campus in 2006. He also completed a BCom Honours degree (Economics).

HIS CAREER

He started his career in banking, then ventured into fast-moving consumer goods before moving into telecommunications and, most recently, the energy and petroleum industry. Today he is a strategic pricing analyst at Total SA.

Rising from miner to **LEGAL EAGLE**

Dr Sejake Senatle, alumnus of the Mafikeng Campus, is the first and only black member of the North West Bar Association with an LL.D. To top that, he received the Senior Counsel Award from President Jacob Zuma in April this year.

YOU CANNOT TURN back time, says Dr Sejake Senatle, but if he could, he probably would have been a rocket scientist by now.

"The past, present and future are entirely dependent on science. I wish I were still in my youth. I would exploit this science opportunity full-force. I have come to realise that every nation should invest mainly in grooming young scientists."

So he started his own project called "Groom a Scientist" that encourages learners to pursue science studies. "A quality life is the end product of science studies and careers," he says.

"Look at mega-science projects like the Medupi power station and the SKA telescope in the Northern Cape."

Going underground

Born on the edge of the southern Kalahari Desert, Sejake grew up in the veld in impoverished circumstances. In those days, boys were rarely schooled after Sub B (Grade 2).

"This was because we were learners-cum-shepherds. You go to school in the morning and straight to the veld from there."

It is hard to believe that this respected legal mind worked as an underground rock drill operator during school holidays. Then, after matriculating, he became a full-time miner before joining the public service as a court clerk and interpreter.

"At least this job was more decent – unlike working for 10 hours in a square space underground. As a result I gradually gained interest in law," he says.

Legal eagle

All his law qualifications (see text box, p 23) were achieved through part-time study. Working and studying was challenging, but hard work and commitment brought success. Sejake says he inherited these characteristics from his father who "could literally not read or write his name" but always persevered in trying times.

The Senatle family of 10 lived in a small mud hut and slept on beds made from tree branches. Paralysed in an underground rock fall, his father, the family's sole breadwinner, was retrenched from the mine without compensation. Then a severe drought wiped out the few livestock the family had.

These memories bring tears to Sejake's eyes. "My father did not give up. He started doing seasonal jobs on the farms, putting up fencing and making bricks for the local people. He was literally paralysed and being the eldest son, I had to assist him in all these heavy physical tasks."

Always aim higher

Years later, in 2002, Sejake was forced to take early retirement from the public service due to severe backache attributed to doing heavy work in his youth.

Against all odds

Congratulating Sejake on receiving the Senior Counsel Award in April this year, North West Premier Supra Mahumapelo said his achievement is a triumph of the human spirit and determination to rise against all odds.

In a statement from his office, he said it should motivate Sejake's peers, colleagues in the legal fra-

ternity and learners from humble beginnings to pursue their dreams.

Sejake is full of praise for the South African legal system. "The only hope for our rainbow nation is our judicial system and in particular our courts. Take for example cases taken to courts, especially by opposition parties; our courts are impartial and thus fair."

Throughout his career, he has presided over and led evidence in various commissions of inquiries, read law papers locally and abroad, and published in reputable law journals.

In addition, he was recently appointed a council member of the new Sol Plaatje University in Kimberley.

HIS STUDIES



Sejake obtained his BJuris and LLB degrees in 1989 and 1994 respectively at the former University of Bophuthatswana. He attained his LLM through Howard Law College in 1998, his LLD in 2003 through the then Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education, and Arbitration Certificates (SA) in 2004.



“Always aim higher than the rest.”



HIS CAREER

He served in the public service in various capacities for over 20 years. After his retirement as senior prosecutor, Sejake became an advocate in 2003 and started a private practice. He also served as deputy chair of the Bar Council for three terms and as chairperson of the North West Housing Tribunal from 2006 to 2009. In addition, he is a Colonel in the SA National Defence Force and serves as a Military Court Judge.

On the home front

Sejake is married and the couple has four children. His family is his life and makes him happy, he says.

Something else that brings him joy is his farm. He is a commercial farmer and a Bonsmara Satellite Breeder in the North West Province, appointed by the Department of Agriculture. He assists emerging farmers with quality genetic material for Bonsmara cattle. He also farms with goats.

“Farming and gardening keeps me fit. I am working on my six-pack,” he jokes.

Today he is grateful for the lessons he learnt from his father, who insisted that his children aimed higher, found decent jobs and not work as manual labourers.

Sadly, the patriarch of the Senatle family did not live to see his first-born son reach the top of the legal profession, but Sejake honours his father through his work in the community every day.

His advice to students echoes what his father always told him. “Always aim higher than the rest.”

Still working hard

As an advocate with his own practice in Mafikeng, Sejake doesn't have much time to relax. He works 12 hours each day, only taking time off to take his children to school and an hour for physical exercise.

He is looking forward to publishing his first doctoral thesis and to completing his second doctoral thesis within the next five years.

Sejake ends the interview saying he still wants to do something great in memory of his late father. Looking at his illustrious career and the SC behind his name (standing for Senior Counsel), it's clear he has already done just that.





Adventurer, liberal, Afrikaner...

Barely 37 years old, Dr Frans Cronjé, alumnus of the Potchefstroom Campus, is an Afrikaner who subscribes to liberal values and is hooked on adventure.

PREDICTING THE FUTURE for business empires to build their successes on requires dedication, research and a passion for what's going on around you.

As scenario planner and head of the Institute for Race Relations (IRR) Dr Frans Cronjé definitely meets these requirements.

Frans took over as head of the IRR from John Kane-Berman earlier this year.

The IRR was established in 1929 when a number of pioneers decided to do research about race relations. They also took a strong position against Apartheid.

Today, the IRR is a liberal think tank that promotes ideas and policy solutions that will promote investment and economic growth.

Frans, a former policeman, obtained his doctorate in the scenario planning field at the Potchefstroom Campus of the NWU.

"My doctorate was an attempt to devise a methodology to determine the long-term future of a country or economy," he says. "This methodology is now widely applied in our work for big companies and other clients – both here and in other parts of the world.

"It was particularly satisfying when the guru of South African planning, Clem Sunter, declared that the work done at the NWU would keep the country at the forefront of global scenario work," he said.

Praise for the NWU

Frans is very positive about his studies at the NWU. "All of it is commentary on the quality of research that can be done at the NWU and the impact of the work on South Africa. For this I have to thank Prof André Duvenhage from the NWU who played a major role in the project.

"I enjoyed my postgraduate studies at the NWU immensely. One thing that says a lot

Fast facts

Hobbies: Fishing, hunting, working with dogs.

Favourite book: Peter Godwin's *Mukiwa* – the best book ever written about modern Africa.

Food: Free State mutton chops on the coals.

Drink: It varies between Red Heart and Coke, or a good single malt whisky.

Motto for life: Wayne Gretzky's quote: "I missed every shot I did not take."

about a university is its administration. This was excellent at the NWU."

In his opinion, the NWU's standards are very high, which makes the university a top choice for young people – white and black (and their parents) – who wish to obtain the best possible degree.

Book gives a glimpse into the future


Shortly after his appointment at the IRR, Frans's book, *A Time Traveller's Guide to Our Next Ten Years* (Tafelberg 2014), was published.

Veteran political journalist Max du Preez described this book as "thought-provoking". Max also called Frans "a promising recent addition to our arsenal of public intellectuals... and one of far too few Afrikaans-speaking intellectuals who also move outside Afrikaans circles."

Adapt or die

Like his own journeys, his work at the IRR is full of adventures and challenges. He acknowledges, for instance, that it is not always easy to influence policy or draft legislation.

"It is extremely difficult – particularly because so few people and organisations are willing to embrace the idea that policy reforms are urgently necessary. Thus, the 'reformers' – in-

HIS STUDIES 

Frans was educated at St John's College and Wits University. He holds a master's degree in international relations from Wits and a doctorate in scenario planning from the NWU.



HIS CAREER

Frans joined the research department of the Institute for Race Relations in 2004. Since then he has taken over responsibility for the organisation's marketing drive and has also launched the Unit for Risk Analysis in 2007.



Adventure is his middle name

From his childhood through his school years at St John's College in Johannesburg to his current position, adventure has always played an important role in his life.

"It was a great adventure, and a privilege, to travel between Cape Town and Cairo for almost an entire year. The Sahara desert – especially in the Sudan – was the highlight and I will definitely go back there.

"Africa is developing very fast at the moment and I am glad that we could complete the journey before the economic development could really take off."

"Adventure is important. When I was a student I was a policeman in Johannesburg for five years, worked with horses in America, and worked as a tree-feller for one year. These kinds of experiences are important for young people and will always have a greater impact on their lives than anything they will learn at university."

Frans's next adventure will be to trek through the Sahara from east to west.

side and outside the state – often find themselves standing alone. Our role is to offer them all possible support in terms of how to change policy to turn around the country."

Frans encourages business leaders to actively participate in processes surrounding change.

"In order to ensure a long-term future for their businesses, employees and children, they should give all possible support to the reformers. This means that they will sometimes have to say or do difficult things – or at least support organisations and people that are willing to say difficult things."

Advice to young people

However, he warns that if we fail to double the country's economic growth rate, it will not be possible to empower people. His advice to young people is to gain experience and develop as entrepreneurs.

"I think we should recognise that South Africa is entering a decade of increasing economic pressure. Accumulate as much as possible international work experience – particularly in other African countries, which are expected to grow very fast over the next 20 years. This will prepare you to return to South Africa as an entrepreneur.

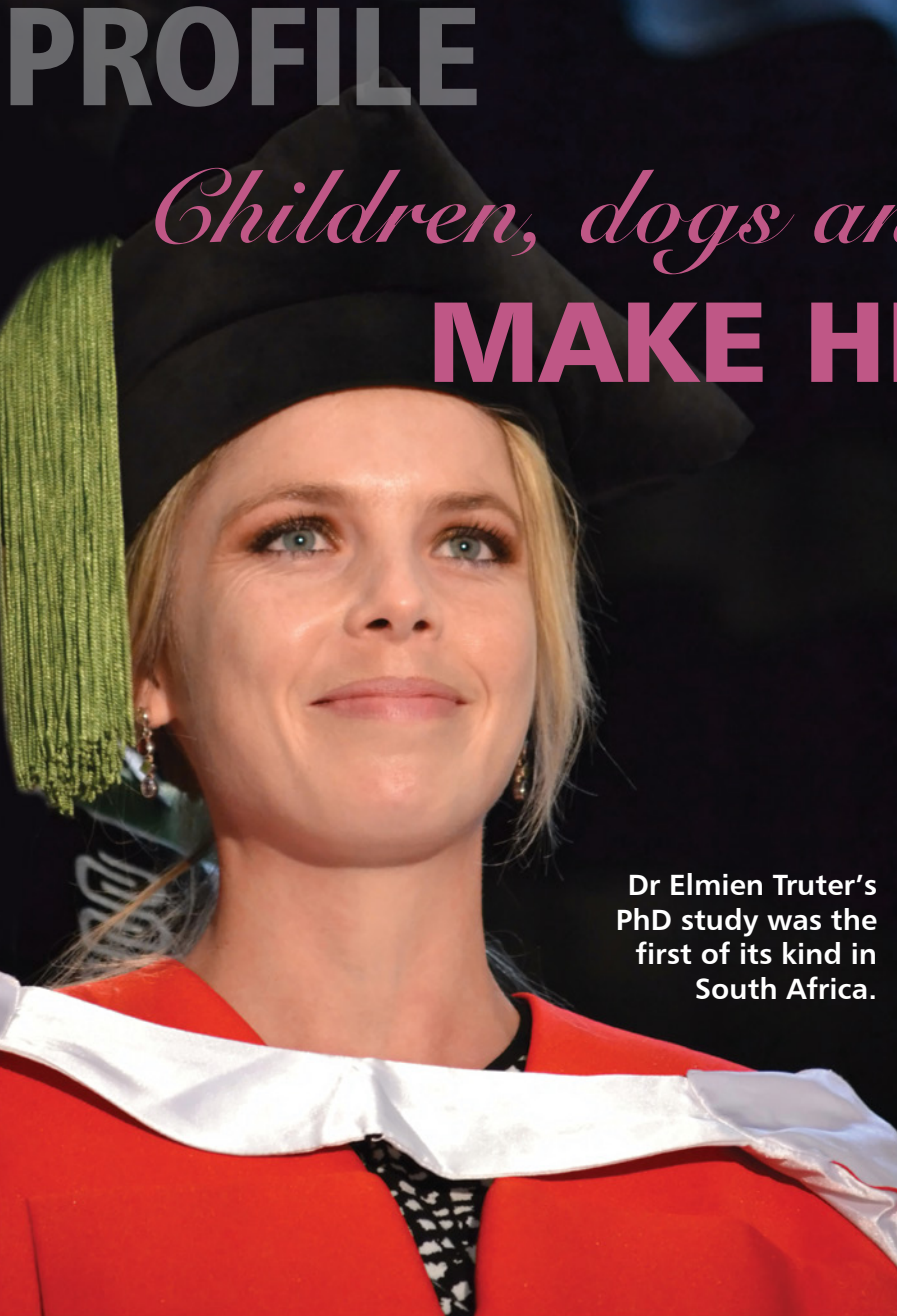
"We will require large numbers of entrepreneurs to turn our country around. But there is no doubt that it can recover – we wouldn't have done what we are doing now if we thought that it was too late."

"The first Cronjés arrived in the country in 1659. It is our country; we belong here and nowhere else. The challenge is now to ensure a future in Africa for our children."



Children, dogs and the ocean

MAKE HER HAPPY



Dr Elmien Truter's PhD study was the first of its kind in South Africa.

Dr Elmien Truter, alumna and lecturer from the Vaal Triangle Campus, has always had a heart for disadvantaged people who are vulnerable or in distress.

AS A MEMBER of the School of Behavioural Sciences on the Vaal Triangle Campus, Dr Elmien Truter has a passion for people, her faith and her students.

She was born in Pretoria and also lived with her parents in Potchefstroom in her early years. The family relocated to the Western Cape and she spent most of her childhood in Fish Hoek.

Protecting the defenceless

Her father was the first to realise his daughter was a born social worker.

"My parents would often lose me somewhere in a shop or on the street. Then they would find me with street children or with some beggar. I think I have always been attracted by defenceless people. I simply don't know how to ignore unfairness and abuse. My passion is also strongly linked to my faith in Jesus Christ," she says.

Elmien as student

The course in social work was established

in 2008 and Elmien was the first student to obtain her doctorate at the Vaal Triangle Campus.

She started her thesis, "South African Social Workers at risk: Exploring pathways to their resilience", in 2011. The purpose was to give supervisors guidelines for encouraging resilience among statutory social workers.

Dr Ansie Fouche, Elmien's supervisor, describes her as someone with drive, perseverance and a work ethic second to none. Elmien, in turn, says she would not be able to do her work without her wonderful colleagues and mentors.

... and as lecturer

Even though she has seen the dark side of life in her career, her students are a ray of sunshine in her life. She enjoys it when they think critically and apply literature and legislation to case studies.

Because of her practical and academic experience, Elmien can equip her students for life beyond the university gates. She does not hesitate to make them aware of the risks, challenges and career obstacles that await them.

Risks and challenges

"In South Africa I think the big workload – workers have up to 300 case files – and limited resources are some of the biggest challenges.

"Social workers do not always have cars for home visits, and South African social workers are sometimes confronted with extreme violence. However, I have read that it is also a reality for social workers in Australia and New Zealand. Many social workers have paid with their lives to help others."



HER CAREER

She worked as a statutory social worker, first in Potchefstroom and later in Lutzville, before joining the Optentia research entity at the Vaal Triangle Campus in 2011. During 2012 she served as area manager and social worker in Kimberley and in 2013 she was appointed as lecturer on the Vaal Triangle Campus.

HER STUDIES



Elmien obtained her BA Social Work degree in 2007 at Stellenbosch University and her master's degree in forensic social work at the NWU's Potchefstroom Campus in 2011. This was followed by a PhD at the Vaal Triangle Campus in 2014.



Changing children's lives

Elmien says one of the highlights of her career was saving two toddlers from the clutches of their biological father who had sexually abused them. The Children's Court proceedings and the investigation went on for months and drained her emotionally.

"It was a tough case. After forensic assessments and other sources of information we were able to prove that it was in the best interest of the children to be placed in foster care and to receive urgent and continuous specialised therapy.

"We placed the children with good foster parents, and they are flourishing. It is good to know that they are doing so well."

She says it is only through God's mercy, hard work and a lot of weekends and nights that the case had such a good outcome.

She is aware of the image that social workers are cruel people who take children away from their parents left, right and centre. "That is not the truth. Maybe there are people like that, but the vast majority act in the best interest of the child."

Her most emotional moment yet came when a child put a painting with a poem (her own work) on Elmien's desk.

"It was a particularly difficult day, but she walked in and gave me a painting of myself and a poem. We may not accept gifts, but it was her way of saying thank you. I had been able to assist her and arrange a study opportunity for her after school. It was very intense because in this line of work people don't often say thank you."

A calling

Elmien does not believe it is possible to do this type of work if you are not called. She also says planning and focusing on successes are important tools for survival for a social worker. She ascribes her own resilience to her perseverance and focused outlook on what is important.

Each child's improved circumstances, every person she can help and each social work student she can equip for the profession give her renewed courage to take on each new day. That, plus faith, dedication and a passion for people, keep her moving forward.

Relaxation

When Elmien is not working, she enjoys gardening, playing with her dog, going to the movies, reading non-fiction books or visiting a zoo or a park. Time spent with her family is also precious.

She acknowledges freely that she is crazy about food... "Oh my goodness, I love food! It is in our Truter blood... Any good food, I love home-cooked meals, stew, braai, seafood, a nice salad ... the list goes on and on!"



Dr Elmien Truter's school days at Fish Hoek Senior High hold only good memories for her. She loves the ocean – especially running on the beach with her dogs.



Child-headed households face a daily battle

Since the advent of democracy, the South African government has introduced excellent policies and laws to support child-headed households. Now what remains to be done is to enforce these policies more robustly.

PROF AKIM MTURI, leader of the Population and Health research niche area on the Mafikeng Campus, says there is a gap between what is on paper and what is there in practice.

“We have very good policies meant to assist child-headed households, but what is happening on the ground does not necessarily match these documents.”

His research into the realities facing households headed by children under the age of 18 in the North West Province shows that while a few aspects of government policy appear to be working, others are not.

About the study

“The aim of the study was to establish whether the government’s efforts had translated into an improvement in the lives of children living in these households,” says Akim.

For the study, conducted in three of the four municipal districts of the North West Province, Akim and his research team interviewed 14 heads of child-headed households, 22 key informants and 24 social workers.

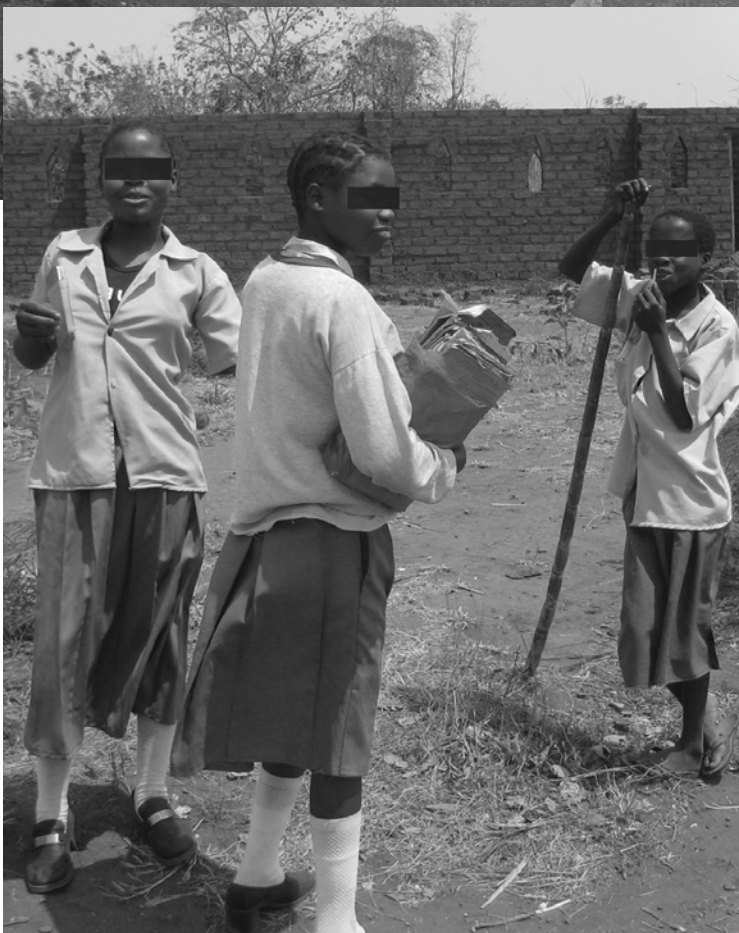
The households studied had between one and six members, and the lowest age of the heads of households was 14 years.

Surviving without a safety net

Akim says that while child-headed households are not new to South Africa or the rest of Africa, what has changed is that their traditional support networks have fallen away.

“Previously, there were safety nets – the elders would ensure that all minors were placed in households where there was an adult who would be capable of taking care of them. Nowadays, the phenomenon of child-headed households is so prevalent that the traditional safety nets cannot cope.”

The HIV/Aids pandemic, together with changes in the structure of families, is largely responsible for this.



Children's challenges

Food and shelter



The researchers found that accessing food was the most immediate challenge faced by child heads of households. They say that these children spend up to two days without food.

The next most pressing challenge was meeting physical needs such as shelter and clothing. In some cases, parents left some property and home utensils behind upon their death. However, in many instances, the children were displaced as the property was 'grabbed' by relatives.

Safety concerns



Safety was also a major concern.

In some cases they are targeted by robbers because there are no adults around to restrict access to the house, even during day time.

Other obstacles were a lack of guidance from adults and exposure to emotional and psychological abuse.

Girls are also exposed to the risk of being raped and becoming pregnant.

Receiving their grant money



Only a person over the age of 18 may apply for and be paid a child support grant, meaning that child-headed households depend on the goodwill of adults to apply for them.

In some cases, child heads of households reported that adults who received grants on their behalf either withheld them or used some of the money for their own families.

Where children were benefiting from child support grants, the R260 a month per household was far from enough to cover all the household's needs.

Ways to alleviate children's plight

Having pinpointed the main challenges that child-headed households faced, the research team made a number of recommendations to improve their lot.

"It is very important to make the child support grant accessible to all who are eligible," Akim says. "The authorities should make sure that the grant is provided to all child-headed households as it is their main source of income."

He adds that where there is a lack of the correct documentation, there should be preliminary approval, facilitated by social workers, to ensure that payments are made while waiting for documents.

"There is also a need to revisit the procedures for applying for the grants. Heads of these households should be allowed to receive the grants directly as they are the ones taking care of the households."

Thirdly, the grant amount should be reviewed for child-headed households specifically.

"The current R260 is clearly not enough for the monthly expenses of a child-headed household.

"This may not necessarily cost the government much extra money as it could be a matter of simply restructuring the money currently spent on child support grants."

CText[®]

celebrates its first decade

CText[®], the internationally recognised, innovative research and development centre for text technology resources and applications, celebrated its 10th birthday in August.

THIS MILESTONE WAS MARKED at a special event, held at the NWU PUK Sports Village, where some of CText[®]'s accomplishments were showcased. CText[®] functions as a non-profit, self-supporting unit of the Research Unit for Languages and Literature in the South African Context in the Faculty of Arts on the Potchefstroom Campus.

Proud achievements

Since the establishment of CText[®], it has continually achieved excellence.

The centre has been awarded 40 contracts and developed 50 software packages. This includes 21 end-user software products, 20 core technologies and 31 data sets, and the sale of more than 58 000 units of their spelling checkers.

They have received many accolades for their work in the field of human language technology such as the Johan Kruger Prize, the PanSALB award, CL Engelbrecht Award, CJ Langenhoven Award and two Absa bronze medals.

Early beginnings

Although work on a project transcribing speech data and the development of their first commercial product (Afrikaanse Speltoetser 2.0) started in 2002, the centre was officially established in June 2004. This came after they received a contract from Microsoft to develop spelling checkers for five South African languages.

The centre's staff is a dynamic group of mostly young people from different backgrounds, and includes engineers, linguists, programmers, project managers and computational linguists. CText[®] has 16 full-time personnel and about 30 external co-workers.

"We are very proud of our contribution in terms of technology, software and trained staff and students. This enables CText[®] to promote multilingualism in South Africa," says Dr Martin Puttkammer, head of CText[®].

Exciting projects

Martin says they also have three long-term projects. These include the Autshumato Project, which entails an integrated translating environment that includes terminology management, and the named-entity recognition and phrase chunking of 10 South African languages. The third project is to manage and develop the government's Language Resource Management Agency (RMA).

The team at CText[®] is also busy working on a campus GPS and language games for cellphones and tablets.



Biggest challenges

“Our biggest challenge is that our 11 official languages have limited resources and this means if we want to develop something for a particular language, we basically have to start from scratch,” says Martin.

He says another big challenge for CText® is to find new skilled staff with a passion for their kind of work.

Martin believes these challenges can be overcome and will not hinder CText® in its mission. “My vision for CText® is that we will make a significant contribution to the access of information in each South African mother tongue, especially through our translation software and other technologies.”



The dedicated staff of CText® celebrated the centre's 10th birthday in August. At the back from left are the late Dr Martin Schlemmer, Ms Charlene Schoeman, Ms Marlie Coetzee, Ms Cindy McKellar, Dr Daniel van Niekerk, Ms Khumo Mosiapoa, Prof Gerhard van Huysteen, Mr Jacques van Heerden, Mr Wikus Pienaar and Ms Sunny Gent. In front are Prof Daan Wissing, Mr Jason Neumann, Dr Martin Puttkammer, Mr Wildrich Fourie, Dr Roald Eiselen and Ms Liané van den Bergh. Absent: Mr Ismail Lavangee.



When individuals flourish organisations prosper



Burnout and stress are familiar terms in research on wellbeing at the workplace; flourishing and virtuousness are much less commonplace.

FOCUSING ON THE POSITIVE rather than the negative is an attribute that makes Prof Ian Rothmann and his fellow researchers at the Vaal Triangle Campus's Optentia research focus area stand out. Their deliberate strategy is to discover what makes people happy at work rather than what makes them miserable.

"We are interested in what keeps people engaged, happy and satisfied in their jobs, and the impact these people have on organisations," says Ian, leader of the research subprogramme called "Flourishing in Institutions" within Optentia. "The focus is on improvement and optimisation as opposed to prevention and treatment."

This emphasis on the positive does not imply that research on stress, burnout, conflict and the myriad of other woes of most modern organisations is no longer relevant.

"Of course it is important to focus on the negative aspects too," he says. After all, the statistics show that between 15% and 20% of the general population are languishing – meaning they feel and function poorly – and roughly half of these people have real psychological problems such as symptoms of depression. "Only about 20% of people are flourishing, and the rest are somewhere in between."

The better we understand what makes the flourishers flourish, the more likely it is that the organisations they work for will flourish and prosper too.

Happy managers = good managers

Is a happy manager a good manager in terms of outcomes? "Definitely, yes," Ian says.

"In our study in the agricultural sector in South Africa, involving more than 500 managers, we found that a manager who is engaged and finds meaning in life and work is more committed and has less intention to leave. He or she is also more likely to find creative solutions to problems, be more interested in organisational citizenship and more willing to do things for others."

Flourishing individuals also tend to be less likely to commit a crime or become involved in ethically dubious dealings, and are more likely to care for the environment.

The positive impact of flourishing individuals has been confirmed in other research projects that Ian and his team have conducted in various settings, from state-owned enterprises in Namibia to IT environments, hospitals, educational institutions and the police service in South Africa.



About OPTENTIA

Optentia, based on the Vaal Triangle Campus of the NWU, develops and organises knowledge for the optimal expression of individual, social and institutional potential.

It has a specific interest in the African context and draws on various social sciences disciplines, including psychology, industrial/organisational psychology, educational psychology, sociology, educational sciences, employment relations and social work.

Nature or nurture?

All the many components and characteristics of flourishing seem like a tall order to find in a single individual, never mind in a critical mass of employees and managers.

The good news is that flourishing individuals are not just born that way: nurture usually has as much to do with it as nature. Put another way, happiness is built on genetic makeup (about 50%), a person's internal efforts to be happy (40%) and his or her immediate circumstances (10%).

This means an organisation committed to attracting and retaining flourishing employees and managers can do this by creating a conducive environment. This could, for example, include providing interesting and stimulating work, a good work role fit, adequate resources, fair pay, sound co-worker relations and opportunities for learning and career progression.

Feeling well, functioning well

A person who is flourishing feels well and functions well.

In a work setting, feeling well has two components:

Job satisfaction

Individuals who feel well are more satisfied with their jobs.

Positive emotions

They experience more positive than negative emotions at work, opening them up for learning and creativity.

Feeling well has four components:

- 1 You are energetic in and dedicated to your job and are able to become absorbed in it so that you forget about the time.
- 2 Your psychological needs are satisfied so that you feel autonomous, competent and have a sense of relatedness – meaning you feel you are contributing to something bigger instead of feeling alone.
- 3 You have a purpose and experience meaningfulness in what you do. In a workplace setting, meaningfulness is usually strongest among people who see their work as a calling rather than a career or just a job.
- 4 You are hopeful, resilient, optimistic and self-efficacious.

STRENGTHS

are virtues

If you give people the opportunity to use their **strengths**, you should be well on your way to building an environment where flourishing individuals can **thrive**.

This "strengths-based approach" is known as virtuousness, according to Ian. It essentially means allowing employees to do what they do best, resulting in higher productivity and employee engagement.

"All of us have certain skills and strengths. People flourish when they have the opportunity to use their strengths. Employees feel real pleasure when they use their strengths; they learn rapidly and perform successfully, and they complete tasks," he says.


Most compelling of all, perhaps, is that employees who use their strengths at work are more loyal and more productive. Their intentions to leave are 14,5% lower and their units about 12,5% more productive.

There's virtue in using people's strengths. May organisations that do so flourish and prosper!



NO LIMITS for communication alumni

The NWU's alumni who studied communication have shown there are no limits when it comes to achieving your dreams.



Boucher Bosch

His claim to fame:
Involved in music, television, films and social media. He is a former band member of *Straatligkinders* and *Dans Dans Lisa*. He has appeared in films such as *Klein Karoo*, *Pad na jou hart*, *Spook van Uniondale* and *Moorivier* (to be released in 2015) and in the television series *Donkerland*. He was also co-writer and producer of the best short film at KykNET's Silwerskermfees.

His studies:
BA Communication degree, Potchefstroom Campus, 2010.

His advice:
Everything is about networking and if you do not have this skill you will stay behind. Do whatever you do with integrity – there is a big shortage of integrity in the media world.

MANY OF THESE alumni have become household names by reaching the top of the ladder in their careers, while others have branched out into related fields and in some cases conquered the local entertainment world.

The NWU & U asked a few of the cream of the crop to tell us where life has taken them since they finished their studies at the NWU and what advice they have for communication students.



Ewoudt Cloete

His claim to fame:
Managing brands on social media. He has a permanent position at Aqua Online and is MTN South Africa's social media brand manager.

His studies:
Honours and master's degrees in communication studies, Potchefstroom Campus, 2009. (He was also a former editor of the student newspaper, *Die Wapad*.) He is currently busy with a PhD in communication studies.

His advice:
Develop your English writing and speaking skills. The South African business world centres around English and students who are not fluent in the language will have to overcome more obstacles in their careers. It is also important to gain a lot of experience in the form of internships and freelance work.

Moathodi Justice Dilotsothe

His claim to fame:

Leadership within corporate affairs, marketing, public relations and communication. As chief executive of the Mmabana Arts, Culture and Sports Foundation in Mafikeng he promotes the arts, culture and sport in the North West Province and finds funding for various projects. Other hats he has worn through the years include being a lecturer, a shop steward and a journalist.

His studies:

BA Communication degree, former University of Bophuthatswana, 1994 and BA Honours, University of North-West (now the Mafikeng Campus of the NWU), 1997.

His advice:

Broaden your horizons. Seize all opportunities so that you will become the change you wish for. Follow my example: lead with passion, err with caution and immerse yourself in bread-and-butter issues.



Bonolo Molosiwa

Her claim to fame:

Being in the music industry for 10 years, performing at various concerts. She was a Top 12 finalist in the M-Net Idols competition in 2003 and recently recorded her debut album. Her CD, *Platinum Product*, honours the North West Province and was sponsored by the North West Department of Arts, Culture and Traditional Affairs. She says her dream is to promote her music career in Africa and later internationally.

Her studies:

BA Communication degree, Mafikeng Campus, 2003. She is currently completing an honours degree in communication.

Her advice:

Put your communication studies into practice. Remember, listening is a skill. You can never listen too much and never know enough.



Piet Matipa

His claim to fame:

Winning numerous awards. As a journalist with *Beeld* and *Rapport*, he clinched the title Best Young Journalist this year. Other awards include an ATKV (Afrikaans language and cultural association) Media Veertjie award, the Standard Bank Sikuville Young Journalist of the Year award and the Media24 Young Journalist award. He was also a finalist for the Media24 Legends awards.

His studies:

Honours degree in journalism, Potchefstroom Campus, 2011. (He is also a former editor of the student newspaper, *Die Wapad*.)

Botho Molosankwe

Her claim to fame:

Bringing you some of the most important news stories of the day. She started out in public relations before becoming a journalist (*The Star*) and a lay-out artist (*Sunday Independent*). She won awards for her coverage of Reeva Steenkamp's

death and the fake sign language interpreter at Nelson Mandela's memorial service. She was a category winner (Print media) in the National Press Club Journalist of the Year awards for 2013.

Her studies:

BA Communication degree, Mafikeng Campus, 2002.

Her claim to fame:

Inspiring presenter on radio and TV and author of a book on communication in the business sector. During her career she worked at a community radio station, as an editor for business-related magazines,

and as a presenter of KykNET's breakfast show *Ontbytsake*. She is currently part of KykNET's marketing team for *Ontbytsake* and is a presenter and news organiser at Radio Pretoria, where she is also involved in the actuality programme *Klankkoerant*.

Her studies:

BCom, Potchefstroom Campus, 2007.



Sanet Olivier



Her claim to fame:

Directing popular TV series such as KykNet's cooking programmes *Kokkedoor* and *Roer*, and also the documentary *Shoreline* that won a South African Film and Television award in 2010. Her next big project is the series, *Koekedoor*, an extension of *Kokkedoor*.

Her studies:

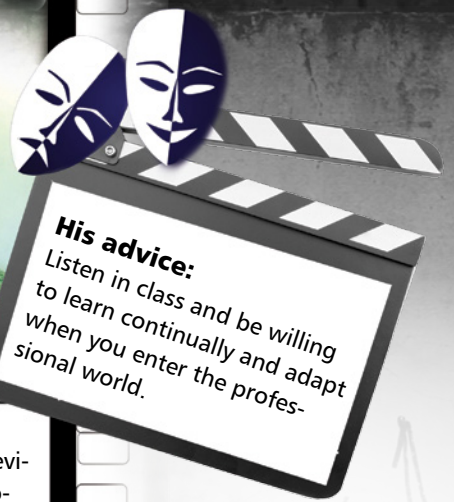
BBK Honours degree in audio-visual communication, Potchefstroom Campus, 2003.

Her advice:

This type of work is a way of life, definitely not a nine-to-five job. Everything around you has to inspire you all the time. It is expected from you to have fresh ideas every single day. If you are able to do this you will have a very satisfying career.



Tim Theron



His claim to fame:

Appearing in films and on television. Starting out in the corporate communication world, he moved on to the entertainment industry. He started a comedy series *Lagnes* on KykNET, established the production company, Kaapland Films, starred in the film *Klein Karoo* and has appeared in TV series such as *Vloeksteen* and *Donkerland* on KykNet. His second film, *Mooirivier*, was shot on location in Potchefstroom.

His studies:

BCom Honours degree in industrial psychology, Potchefstroom Campus, 2003. Before that he completed a BCom BBK degree in 2002.

The communication alumni of the NWU have abundant talent. They have proven that quality education will enable go-getters to seize the day, reach their full potential and make every dream come true.

Tumelo Tshetlo

Her claim to fame:

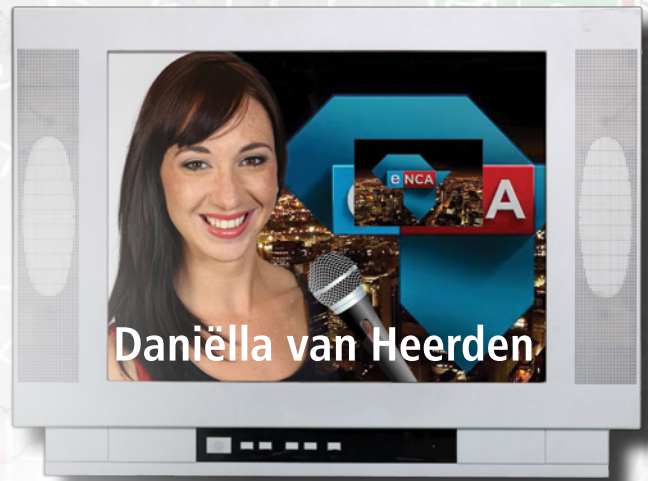
A growing fan base for a budding star. Known as Melo, she sings songs with a combination of English and Setswana lyrics and a jazzy melody and is working on her first album. She is also a journalist for Caxton and CTP Publishers and Printers Limited. Since completing her studies she has worked for various publications and event companies and would like to start her own online publication in the future.

Her studies:

BA Communication degree, Mafikeng Campus, 2010.

Her advice:

Stay focused on your studies and complete your postgraduate degree immediately after obtaining your degree. It becomes more difficult if you wait too long.



Daniëlla van Heerden

Her claim to fame:

Award-winning field journalist for eNCA. Starting out as a news journalist at *Beeld* in 2008, she moved to the broadcasting media when KykNet and eNCA started the first independent Afrikaans news bulletin in 2010. She has won several awards, one of the latest being the category winner (Electronic media, TV news) in the National Press Club Journalist of the Year awards for 2013.

Her studies:

BA Communication degree, Potchefstroom Campus, 2006. (She is also a former editor of the student newspaper, *Die Wapad*.)

Her advice:

Gain as much experience as possible and build a portfolio – work at the student newspapers and do holiday work and internships.

* If you know of any alumni who have excelled in their careers or made a name for themselves, contact Willie du Plessis at 018 299 4915 or email willie.duplessis@nwu.ac.za.

Breaking up *was simply wonderful*

You would have been forgiven if, for a moment, you thought you had been transported back to the 1950s, attending an Ed Sullivan Show or Dick Clark's American Band Stand.

Watching Puk Arts and Artéma's production of *Breaking up is hard to do* from 3 to 6 September in the Auditorium on the Potchefstroom Campus was truly a trip down memory lane. Everything from the decor to the retro outfits and the wonderfully sentimental songs of Neil Sedaka reminded the audience of the simpler, more innocent and romantic fifties from which most of the songs in the production originate.

PHOTOGRAPER:
LEANRI CUNNIFF
Scintillio Photography

*"It was excellent!
Congratulations!"*
- Lennie Gouws

Esther's Place

Amazing talent shines on stage

"It is amazing that not one of the actors in *Breaking up is hard to do* is studying music," says Mr Chris de Bruyn, manager of Artéma, the institute for Art Management and Development, on the NWU's Potchefstroom Campus.

"The main actors are studying LLM, BA Languages and Psychology, BCom Communication Studies, BCom Marketing and Languages and BCom Communication Management degrees, among others."

Chris says their wonderful performances prove that the NWU's students have an abundance of talent.

"We are extremely proud of everyone who was involved in this production. We also want to thank every person who walked the extra mile to ensure that we could bring *Breaking up is hard to do* to the Potchefstroom Auditorium's stage. Without their support this would not have been possible."

He says Artéma and Puk Arts are looking forward to the next production that will be staged in 2016. Judging by the quality of this year's production it will be something not to be missed.

"I was very impressed."
- Charonike Nel



Paradise

A story of love, loss and love again

The storyline of the musical is a familiar one. It is a tale of love and loss and, just like a true fairy tale, it has a happy ending. It is a feel-good musical which ultimately left the audience uplifted and most probably whistling a tune or singing the lyrics on their way home.

The message that love will ultimately conquer all heartache is told in an entertaining and colourful way by showcasing the highlights of singer Neil Sedaka's songbook. It is a message that is not only relevant for the 1950s era in which the musical is set, but for all decades.



"Your show was the best, great, awesome, a lot of fun, fantastic, supa dupa!!!"

- Suretha Bester
Van Emmenis

Familiar tunes are music to the ear

The magic of familiar tunes such as *Breaking up is hard to do*; *Where the boys are*; *Stupid Cupid*; *King of clowns*; *Solitaire* and *Love will keep us together* (an addition from the 1970s), among others, thrilled the older audience members while simultaneously introducing a younger generation to its charms.

Great performances from an enthusiastic cast made the production extra special. A knowledgeable and able production team ensured that everything from the lighting and costumes to the sound and stage changes were done professionally and effectively.



10
YEARS

It all starts here®



24 years ago

Nelson Mandela took the first steps to freedom.

20 years ago

our country marked its first day of freedom for all our people.

10 years ago

our journey started as two different universities united to deliver on the true needs of our country.

In these intertwined landmark journeys, we have always known that progress is only possible through change, and that **change has to start with us**. We have been part of the success of the evolving and growing South Africa ever since.

As we make our journey into the future we will continue to **embrace the transformation** that we as the NWU and our country face.

The truth is in the facts – what our staff, our students and our alumni have achieved and what our research is contributing to.

“It all starts here” – with us as individuals and as an institution.