



# OP News

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## Samuel Motaung reigns supreme

at Nooitgedacht National Championships

Samuel Motaung, experienced horse handler at the Faculty's Onderstepoort Teaching Animal Unit (OTAU) was awarded the Best In-hand Handler and the Most Enthusiastic Handler trophies at the recent Nooitgedacht National Championships.

Samuel is well known at the Faculty as the "go-to" person when a difficult horse has to be handled, and is a very deserving recipient of these trophies. He was also the first black person to be awarded these trophies – a major achievement indeed! The OTAU's Nooitgedacht stallion, Arop Pluim (shown in-hand by Samuel) was the Reserve Grand Champion Purebred Nooitgedachter stallion at the show.

The Best In-hand Handler is a floating trophy that was donated to the Nooitgedacht Horse Breeder Society by Prof Montague Saulz, a former staff member of the Equine Clinic, in 2010. To qualify for this trophy, a handler must handle two or more Nooitgedacht horses at the show. The trophy is awarded annually at the Nooitgedacht National Championship to a handler who is judged to be the best in-hand

handler according to the following criteria during the National Championship Show:

- Ability to present his or her horse in accordance with the showing rules/principles
- General condition of the horse
- General appearance of both horse and handler (turnout of the horse, cleanliness, tack, dress of handler)
- General behaviour of the handler towards his or her horse
- Quality of presentation (anxious, jerky, horses being dragged around vs light, quick to obey, disciplined, transition between gaits, etc.)
- Respect towards the judges and helpers in and out of the arena

Samuel not only received the highest score, but the judge's remark was that she had never



Samuel Motaung and OTAU's Nooitgedacht stallion, Arop Pluim, in action at the Nooitgedacht National Championships

encountered such love and respect between horse and handler.

## IVF lab on track

The in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) laboratory in the Section of Reproduction, Department of Production Animal Studies, recently achieved the first pregnancy in a cow from a transferred in vitro-derived embryo at Onderstepoort since 1999.

The laboratory had been inactive for a few years due to staff changes and staff shortages. After a number of practice runs to establish successful protocols, oocytes aspirated from slaughtered cows were matured, fertilised and cultured in the lab

up to morula or blastocyst stage, after which the best embryos were transferred into synchronised recipient cows on Day 6 or Day 7 after oestrus. One Nguni recipient cow became pregnant from this embryo transfer.

continued on p 5

## A first for the OVAH

– Endoscopic transcervical insemination

Read more on page 6.



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Faculty of Veterinary Science

# From the Desk of the Dean

At the end of a year it is always appropriate to reflect on what has been achieved during the year, despite certain obstacles and challenges. It is fitting to also look at a few highlights that could have contributed to reinforcing the Faculty's position and role in the veterinary health environment, and to promote its vision to be an internationally renowned seat of veterinary excellence.



At the same time, we must look beyond these achievements and plan for the future by continuing to place the relevant navigational markers along the road that lies ahead.

Last year marked the end of a very successful five-year plan for the Faculty, which formed part of the strategic plan of the University. Both plans emphasised the importance of increasing research outputs in terms of quantity and quality in support of the University's objective to become a research-intensive institution. This can only be achieved by developing effective postgraduate programmes, supervised by world-class staff members without neglecting the basic responsibility of providing the highest quality of undergraduate training.

The Faculty is progressively focusing on recruiting talented academic staff and growing the number of postgraduate students, developing unique and relevant research areas and facilities, and publishing articles in high-impact ISI-accredited scientific journals to ensure that the face of research is more visible. Measuring the growth of the research outputs over the preceding five-year period is useful to evaluate the success of the Faculty.

Subsidy earnings, which reflect the number of scientific publication units by staff members and students, increased from 65.31 to 89.79,

representing a growth of 37.5%. The number of master's and PhD qualifications increased by 42% and 113% over the past five years respectively, with the highest number of postgraduate students in the history of the Faculty graduating in 2012. Furthermore, the number of National Research Foundation (NRF)-rated staff members, perhaps the most important long-term indicator, increased from 17 in 2008 to 26 in 2012, a growth of 52.9%.

The basic mandate of veterinary science is the protection of animal health, which often also impacts on human health, thereby stimulating economic growth and food security. An efficient research programme must therefore meet the needs of society, but remain relevant to a constantly changing environment.

An important initiative during 2012 was the University's implementation of selected Institutional Research Themes (IRTs). Five themes were initially approved for special funding and the Faculty actively collaborates in three of these: Animal and Zoonotic Diseases, Genomics, and Food, Nutrition and Wellbeing. Six proposals submitted by the Faculty for each of the first two IRTs were approved for funding in 2012/13.

A milestone for the Faculty was the allocation of its first Research Chair, for Poultry Health and Production, with the financial support of

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the poultry industry and the appointment of Prof Celia Abolnik to this important position.

Another major event was the final signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for the establishment of the Tshwane Animal Health Biocluster between the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) of the government and the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Onderstepoort Biological Products (OBP), the NRF and the University of Pretoria. The MoA will stimulate collaboration between these bodies in the development of commercially viable technologies for the control of animal diseases of major social and economic importance for South Africa and the entire Southern African region. In the first round of applications for funding in 2013, the Faculty was successful with nine proposals to the value of more than R25 million.

For the first time in the history of this Faculty, out of a total of 135 students admitted at the beginning of 2013, 70 students (52%) were black. This is another milestone for the Faculty. This dynamic upsurge was assisted by an intensive and continuing awareness and recruitment drive over many years, the introduction of the Faculty's new six-year programme and a new selection policy and procedure.

The process of reviewing its existing academic programmes and curricula is a continuing process, and the Faculty has made significant progress with the development of the BVSc curriculum. This process is aimed at progressive development, optimisation of the degree structure, the introduction of defined veterinary competencies, continued excellence in training, teaching and learning, and, ultimately, the global accreditation of the Faculty.

We are also excited about the prospects of introducing a new three-year Bachelor in Veterinary Nursing (BVN) degree programme, pending final approval, in 2016. The last intake of students into the existing Veterinary Nursing Diploma programme will be in 2015, after which it will be phased out as the degree programme is phased in.

The magnitude and pace of change in the veterinary health environment demand that faculties such as ours change. Leading in a time of great change is difficult. The ultimate goals of veterinary education have not changed, but the drastic nature of the changes taking place all around, and within veterinary education, make it more critical than ever to keep in mind what is really important. We should all be exquisitely attuned to what is really important, and in this faculty we must make sure that the academic veterinary community never loses sight of what that is.

I also say this because, in the near future, a new dean will be appointed in this faculty. Today's deans must be skilled at collaborative behaviour, since they must have a vision for their faculties and find ways to offer direction to their own faculty and others in order to realise that vision. However, what a dean does as an individual is not nearly as important as what a dean enables others to do. Similarly, the

dean cannot be a collaborator without the support and commitment of his or her faculty staff. To operate in the new collaborative culture, today's successful dean must mend persuasion with educational statesmanship, always informed by a vision of how the faculty can prosper and serve.

In *A Passion for Excellence*, Peters and Austin talk about a vision in this way: "You have to know where you are going. To be able to state it clearly and concisely. And you have to care about it passionately. That all adds up to a vision. The concise statement or picture of where the [institution] and its people are heading and why they should be proud of it."

To define a vision is a pragmatic exercise and the first step in establishing a meaningful strategy. It is a practical action or undertaking in any faculty and it is the key to empowerment.

We all must be leaders in this regard. If we can remind each other of these higher values, I believe that many other things will take care of themselves in this faculty. This is not simply a wish for all problems to disappear. It is the conviction that the core values of veterinary science and the core commitments of those of us involved in teaching and working at this faculty are sufficiently powerful that being re-inspired by those values is enough to release tidal waves of energy, motivation and even sacrifice that will overcome any obstacles encountered along the way.

**To define a vision is a pragmatic exercise and the first step in establishing a meaningful strategy.**

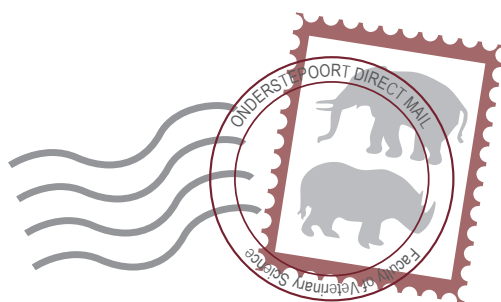
For me, there is no real ending. It's just the place where you stop the story. My "story" as dean of this Faculty, this great institution, will come to an end early in 2014. It has been a thrilling and exciting journey, a road filled with challenges, new undertakings and numerous successful outcomes. In my last message in the next issue of the *OP News*, I will reflect on some of those and assess the role this faculty can play in the future.

However, as they say "*a viaxe continúa!*" (the journey continues). We still have a lot of work ahead of us to become the distinguished seat of veterinary excellence that we have envisioned, a renowned institution with proud values, sound financial management, a research-intensive culture, and teaching and learning of the highest quality, complemented by excellent service delivery.

Your efforts throughout this year have not gone unnoticed. Thank you to each and every staff member for making this a successful year for the Faculty. My wife, Lina, and I wish you a blessed and joyful festive season with your families and a prosperous 2014.

**Prof Gerry Swan**  
Dean

# Letters to the Editor



## Did you know?

The Faculty of Veterinary Science had a Tree Committee, which functioned for a number of years and was responsible for the planting of many hundreds of indigenous trees on campus (including the areas around the hostels). They chose some frost-sensitive trees for, among other areas, the north side of the OVAH. These have done amazingly well. The other indigenous trees were chosen for their resistance to frost and their ability to grow in water-logged black clay ("swart turfgrond"). Some trees chosen initially, such as wild peach (*Kiggelaria africana*), did not do well or died (a few have survived as rather poor specimens). The Committee was formally disbanded when it was satisfied that its job was done and that no new trees needed to be planted.

(Thank you to Prof Mark Williams who provided the information.)

We received the following letter from Prof Roy Tustin, Professor Emeritus, Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases

I was very interested to read in the editorial "From the Desk of the Dean" in the *OP News* (Volume 12 No 1) that the Faculty envisages further infrastructure development to accommodate an increased intake of students for the BVSc degree programme. I was associated with the Faculty for many years before and after my retirement and saw its present campus at Onderstepoort emerge in various phases, literally "from the veld". I have continued to get great pleasure from seeing its spaciousness, well-kept lawns and abundance of beautiful indigenous trees when I periodically visit it. The original Faculty was, of course, housed in the buildings of the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (then the Veterinary Research Institute, Onderstepoort) "across the road", but with the

periodic increase in student numbers (there were 15 students in my class in 1949) over the years, new lecture rooms and laboratories had to be found. New faculty buildings were built (now called the "Old Faculty Building") and gardens were laid out. However, to the dismay of some of us, many of the trees that were initially planted were exogenous and not indigenous to South Africa. While many of them have either died or been removed, there are still some remaining. One can see them particularly on the south side of the departments of Anatomy and Veterinary Tropical Diseases, and at the Equine Research Centre.

Although any tree is, of course, a "sight to behold", several of us thought that these exogenous trees "were not quite fitting", so that when construction of the present Faculty Building was virtually complete, we submitted a proposal at a Faculty Board meeting to the effect that in the "new" Faculty campus from then on,

only indigenous trees would be planted. A Tree Committee, comprising the late Prof TW Naudé, Prof M Williams and one other member of Faculty was elected to offer advice to the gardener, if required. I regret, however, that I cannot remember precisely when this Faculty Board meeting was held, but I hope that the same policy will prevail in the newly envisaged and enlarged campus.

With best wishes for the future

**Prof (Emeritus) R.C. Tustin**

The Faculty Manager, Dr Paul van Dam replied to the letter as follows:

**Dear Prof Tustin**

Thank you for your input. Management of the campus gardens/grounds now is in the hands of the University's Department of Facilities Management. Although the Faculty still provides input towards decisions made in this regard, our inputs are largely regarded as requests and are not necessarily followed. The University now also has its own "in-house" landscape architect, who will be in charge of the design of the gardens around the new buildings.

Removal of trees on any UP property is only



Prof Roy Tustin's love for trees is well known and on the occasion of his retirement from the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases on 17 November 2011 he planted a Marula tree just outside the departmental building.

allowed after approval by a central committee and only if this is well motivated. Acceptable reasons would be trees dying off, trees creating a problem for traffic, trees doing damage to buildings, etc. Trees being exogenous are not accepted as sufficient reason. One also has to keep in mind that some of the exogenous trees might have cultural value, such as the jacaranda trees near the student residences.

Be that as it may, we are all in agreement that the emphasis should be on indigenous trees. One of the projects that we plan for the near future is the mapping of all trees on the Onderstepoort Campus, not only to plan for the future replacement of exogenous ones, but also to identify the specific specimens that should be protected at all costs.

Your remarks have also been forwarded to the University's landscape architect, with the request that he should limit plantings to indigenous trees far as possible.

Mr Neal E Dunstan, landscape architect in the Department of Facilities Management of the University of Pretoria, commented as follows: It is evident that efforts have been made to only introduce indigenous trees to the campus, and if the Faculty has made a call in this regard, then we will continue in the same vein. I am looking at a more diverse evergreen tree palette for the lecture complex and more specifically endemic trees.

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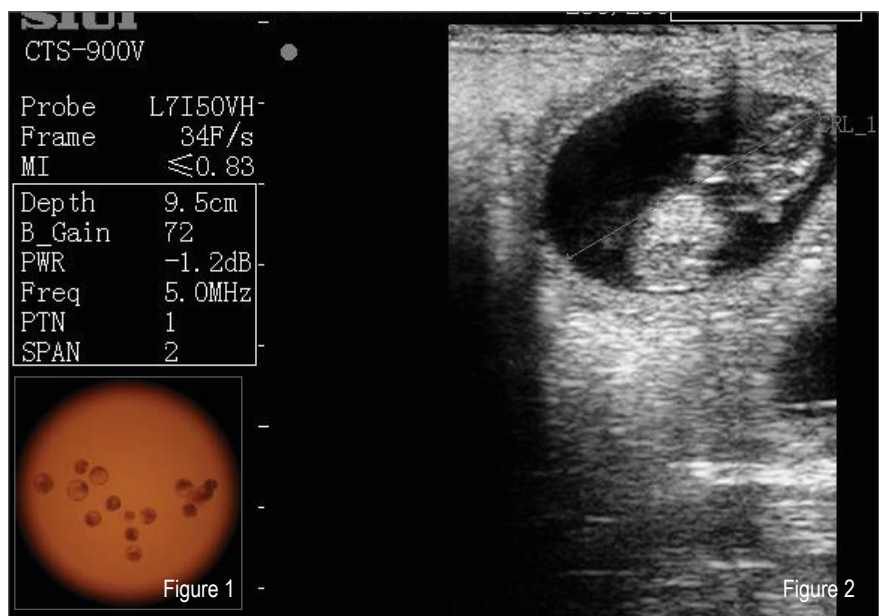
Prof Roy Tustin, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases, next to one of the indigenous trees planted on campus.

## IVF lab on track

Dr Dietmar Holm, Dr Giulia Esposito and Mario Smuts of the IVF lab are currently involved in a research project investigating oocyte quantity and quality in post-partum dairy cows. Oocytes are to be aspirated from cows once a week, after which the normal IVF procedures (without transfers) will be performed to determine cleavage and blastocyst rates.

**Figure 1:** Micrograph of Day 7 bovine blastocysts after in vitro fertilisation and culture in the IVF lab.

**Figure 2:** Ultrasonograph of the recent pregnancy achieved from an in vitro-derived embryo in a Nguni recipient cow on the 50<sup>th</sup> day after insemination.



# Endoscopic transcervical insemination a first for the OVAH

Alexis, a three-year old bull terrier owned by Mr Colin Bohler, recently became the first bitch in the Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital (OVAH) of the Faculty of Veterinary Science to be artificially inseminated with frozen-thawed semen deposited in her uterus by means of a transcervical endoscope purchased by the hospital. The procedure was successfully performed at the end of July 2013 by specialist clinician Dr Annett Heise of the Section of Reproduction, together with Dr Fiona Hollinshead of Matamata Veterinary Services in New Zealand.

International expert Dr Hollinshead gave Reproduction clinicians hands-on training in the use of the endoscope, and they all showed their mettle by successfully catheterising a bitch on their first attempt.

Endoscopic transcervical insemination (TCI) holds important advantages over other established methods of intrauterine insemination and will now be offered routinely as it is less invasive, eliminates the need for anaesthesia and enables repeated catheterisation of the cervix. Pregnancy rates are similar to those achieved by other methods.

As for Alexis, she is now a proud mum, caring for her two healthy female puppies, which were born on 30 September 2013



Alexis, the bull terrier, with her two female puppies born after successful artificial insemination at the OVAH.



Mr Bohler thanking Dr Fiona Hollinshead after the procedure.



Dr Annett Heise (left) performing the TCI procedure on Alexis.

## New Departmental Administrator for Department of Paraclinical Sciences

Ms Lerato Maluleke has been appointed from 1 August 2013 as the new Departmental Administrator in the Department of Paraclinical Sciences. She was previously employed by the Department of Trade and Industry as a personal assistant. According to Lerato, she is enjoying her stay and has already met and made friends on the Onderstepoort Campus, as well as on the Hatfield and Prinshof campuses. She appreciates the fact that the Department has welcomed her with open arms and has made it easier for her to adapt to the rest of the departmental group and the Faculty. She has already attended a few training courses to familiarise herself with the UP system, for example, ClickUP, Performance Management and Induction Training. You can contact Lerato at 012 529 8239 or at [lerato.maluleke@up.ac.za](mailto:lerato.maluleke@up.ac.za).



# Feedback on LibQUAL+® 2013

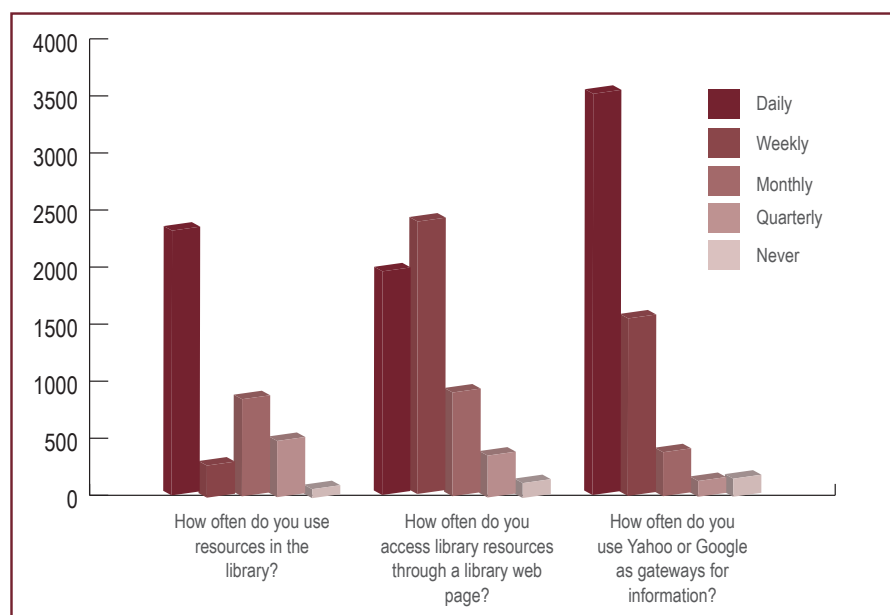
Marguerite Nel

During August 2013, the University of Pretoria Library Service (UPLS) invited users to participate in a LibQUAL+® survey, and the Faculty had the best response rate.

LibQUAL+® is a standardised international online survey used by many libraries worldwide. It consists of 22 questions as well as some open-ended questions. The response rate of 10.91% for the 2013 survey was the best yet for UP. The rates for 2005 and 2009 were 7.56% and 6.82% respectively. Veterinary Science had the best response rate, with 18.64% of users completing the survey successfully. This was followed by Law (14.44%) and Natural Sciences and Engineering (13.57%).

With the main aim to help libraries to assess and improve their services, this survey measured library users' minimum, perceived and desired service levels. The following dimensions were measured: effectiveness of service (interactions, helpfulness and competency of library staff), information control (finding the required information in the library) and library as a place (physical environment for individual or group work).

The results of the 2013 survey indicated that the UPLS users were more satisfied with the quality of services than in 2005 and 2009. From the figure above, it is clear that a large number of users still prefer to use



Library use summary (all clients)

the resources in the library on a daily basis, while electronic resources are used by most users on a weekly basis. The popularity of Google and Yahoo is also clear from the results.

A total of 3 607 open-ended comments on the quality of library services were also gathered as part of the survey. Of these, 65% were positive, whereas 35% were negative. A large number of respondents made constructive suggestions to address their concerns.

The library analysed these comments and identified concerns with access to the library's electronic resources as the biggest challenge, followed by complaints regarding physical facilities.

The Faculty's Jotello F Soga Library wants to thank all staff and students who participated in the survey and raised their voice regarding the quality of the library services. The library staff will readily formulate action plans to address all concerns and remedy perceived deficiencies.

# 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference

of the Association of Institutions for Tropical Veterinary Medicine

The 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Association of Institutions for Tropical Veterinary Medicine (AITVM) was presented for the first time in Southern Africa from 26 to 29 August 2013. It was jointly organised by the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases (DVTd) and the Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM), Antwerpen, Belgium. The AITVM has 22 member institutions worldwide and hosts an international conference every three years. At this year's conference at the Indaba Hotel and Conference Centre in Johannesburg, approximately 160 delegates from 38 countries attended. The Organising Committee consisted of Prof Moritz van Vuuren, Chair of the Committee, Dr Jannie Crafford, Joint Chairman of the Scientific Committee, and Dr Eric Thys and Dr Tanguy Marcotty, from the ITM in Antwerpen.



A formidable delegation of staff and students from the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases attended the 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Association of Institutions for Tropical Veterinary Medicine from 26 to 29 August 2013 at the Indaba Hotel and Conference Centre, Johannesburg. Jolly Musoke, PhD student in the DVTd, won the prize for best oral presentation by a PhD student.

The theme of the conference, *The livestock/human/wildlife interface: Challenges in urban livestock health and production, and extensive farming/conservation systems* was chosen as a result of the major constraints that infectious and parasitic diseases of livestock have on the expansion of the agricultural sector to sustainable development in many parts of the world. The conference was therefore topical and relevant for researchers, policy-makers, veterinarians, academics and postgraduate students involved or interested in the human-domestic animal-wildlife interface throughout the world. The conference theme was divided into six subthemes, necessitating parallel sessions during the conference. These included:

- Diagnosis, surveillance and control at the interface
- Drivers of emerging and re-emerging diseases (with particular reference to zoonoses)
- Animal welfare at the interface
- Food safety and food security (including marketing and trade)

- Training opportunities in the context of the interface
- Animal health and production

Diseases at interfaces may have substantial socio-economic consequences and are of particular importance at the interface between communities and conservation areas, but have now also attained prominence in urban and peri-urban settings. During this four-day event, the factors that affect the health of humans and animals at these interfaces were addressed and debated. This information is needed to guide policy development to manage these diseases, while at the same time taking the needs of conservation and sustainable livelihoods into consideration. The subthemes of the conference made provision for exposure to the full spectrum of activities and disciplines that addresses the interrelationship between human, animal and environmental health.

Prof Koos Coetzer, who has been President of the AITVM for the past six years, presented

the successful bid to host the conference in South Africa during the previous conference in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2010. The bid was jointly prepared by the DVTd and its close collaborating partner, the ITM. Prof Coetzer handed over the presidency to Dr Ulf Magnusson from Sweden during the final session of the conference.

One of the last formal functions performed by the outgoing President, Prof Koos Coetzer, was to deliver a tribute to Dr Robert Paling, Head of the Office for International Cooperation (BIC) of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht University, who had performed the duties of General-Secretary of the AITVM for two decades.



# SANAS allocates bursaries to BVSc students

The South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) is the single national accreditation body for South Africa for laboratories and other facilities. A partnership was formed between SANAS and academic institutions, and currently the universities of Pretoria and North-West are represented on the Working Group. UP is represented by Prof Lise Korsten (Department of Microbiology and Plant Pathology in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences) and Anette Durand (Quality Manager in the Faculty of Veterinary Science). The bursaries are managed under the Institutional Research Theme of Food, Nutrition and Wellbeing.



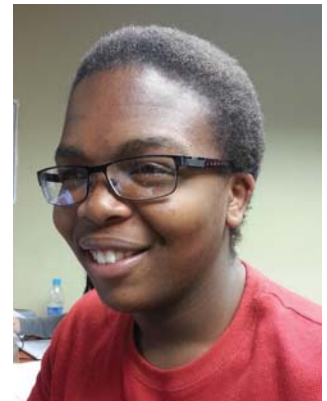
Khrystyne Hill



Farahnaaz Abdool-Khader



Carien du Toit



Olwam Monakali

SANAS is committed to people development to maintain its position as a world-class accreditation body. The organisation supports job creation and, because of the shortage of skills in areas of technical infrastructure, has identified the need to establish partnerships with academic institutions. The purpose of this interaction is to raise

awareness of accreditation among staff and students at academic institutions, and to jointly develop a programme that provides practical and work experience programme that exposes staff and students to the operations of an accreditation body. The skills gained will enable future employment opportunities within the technical infrastructure.

A bursary scheme and an internship programme are two of the initiatives that are being developed. SANAS envisages assisting university laboratories with appropriate education support and skills transfer on the principles of accreditation.

The first bursaries were allocated to four BVSc students for 2013.

They are Carien du Toit (second year), Farahnaaz Abdool-Khader (second year), Khrystyne Hill (first year) and Olwam Monakali (first year). The students are required to work for one week in a laboratory with an implemented quality management system and spend one week at SANAS for training. The bursary recipients are looking forward to their training.

## Luncheon for excellent veterinary lecturers



On 18 October 2013, the Director: Teaching and Learning in the Faculty, Prof Linda van Ryneveld (middle), hosted a luncheon for excellent veterinary lecturers. This will be an annual event. Among others, the event was attended by Dr Patrick Page, Lecturer of the Year (far left), Prof Roy Meintjies (second from the left), Dr Japie Venter, Nursing Lecturer of the Year (second from the right), and Dr Catriona Lyle, Junior Lecturer of the Year (far right).

# Fifth LINQED

## Educational Network Workshop 2013

The fifth workshop of the LINQED Educational Network was held at Onderstepoort from 27 to 30 May 2013. LINQED is an international network of educational institutions and government-related partners that provide training in human and animal tropical medicine and public health. The aim of this network is to strengthen postgraduate training capacity in developing countries in clinical, public and international health.

The LINQED Educational Network is funded within the Third Framework Agreement between the Prince Leopold Institute for Tropical Medicine (ITM) and the Belgian Directorate-General Development Cooperation (DGDC). It consists of partner institutions from all over the globe, and the DVTD is one of the partner institutions. Dr El-Marie Mostert from the Department for Education Innovation attended the fourth workshop in Ecuador in 2012 and is a member of the executive committee responsible for the planning and execution of the 2013 workshop.

The workshop was presented at the Postgraduate Centre at Onderstepoort and Ms Rene Perridge and Ms Fransie Lottering were responsible for all the organisational components. They ensured that everything ran smoothly and all the delegates complimented them on the support and assistance they

received during their stay. They were also very impressed with the accommodation and facilities of the Faculty, and especially enjoyed the guided tour of the Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital (OVAH).

The main theme of the workshop was *Quality in Education*. It had two parallel goals: "learning to network" and "networking to learn". The first day of the workshop was used to give feedback on ongoing exchange projects between institutions, while the theme for the second day two was *Using thesis writing for developing critical thinking*. This was an interactive session presented by Kristof van Rossem, a specialist facilitator and philosopher from the Netherlands. The overall objective of the day was to enable participants to facilitate the development of students' critical thinking as part of thesis supervision. During the third and fourth days,

the objective was to assist participants in aligning their learning objectives with teaching and assessment methods to promote effective learning. The theme was *Beyond semantics, getting to coherence in course design*.

The workshop was attended by 27 participants from India, Nepal, Indonesia, Ecuador, Peru, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Morocco, Uganda, Belgium and South Africa. The Faculty was represented by Prof Marinda Oosthuizen, Dr Jannie Crafford, Dr Sarah Clift, Dr Lynette Bester, Dr El-Marie Mostert and Ms Linda Venter. Prof Darrell Aberhethy, Head of the DVTD, presented certificates of attendance to all the delegates on the last day of a successful workshop. The next workshop is planned for May 2014 and will be hosted by the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia in Peru.



The delegates who attended the workshop.

# Community engagement partners and vet students celebrate 2012 achievements

Eugene Machimana (Community Engagement Coordinator) and Dr Quixi Sonntag (Lecturer: Curricular Community Engagement)



The Faculty of Veterinary Science has been involved in curricular community engagement (CCE) projects since 2010. Until recently, veterinary science students have embarked on community projects under the Ethology (CPE 400) module, which was coordinated by Dr Quixi Sonntag. As from 2013, CCE is done under the Veterinary Professional Life (VPL 300) module. Given the success of community projects at the Faculty, it was time to celebrate the outstanding work done by the veterinary science students in collaboration with community partners.



About 140 CPE 400 students participated in the Faculty's community projects.

In June 2013, the Faculty hosted about 40 community partners, who came to celebrate the CCE Showcase with the veterinary science students. The community partners came from all walks of life, including other faculties of the University of Pretoria, animal welfare and conservation organisations, and industry. About 140 CPE 400 students were awarded certificates of participation in community projects. Special awards were presented by the Dean, Prof Gerry Swan, to outstanding community projects. The best project overall for 2012 was the Pitbull Project. Ashleigh Knowles, Debbie van Dyk, Jade Clark, Liezle Crous, Nadia de Beer and Robyn Moll were thrilled to receive their award.

Credit is due to all the students of the past three years in which the Faculty has embarked on these projects. Without fail, the students have embarked on their projects with unparalleled enthusiasm, and the Community Engagement Committee salutes them all.

The excitement of the winning groups was shared by the many veterinary science students and community partners who attended the function. Bronwyn Orford (OPVSC) said the following: "I would like to thank you for organising the gathering for CPE 400 projects... It was very well received." Dr Maximus Monaheng Sefotho, lecturer in Educational Psychology, shared the sentiments by saying: "Sir, thanks for inviting me to such an inspiring presentation. It was really wonderful". The Faculty prioritises community engagement and it is embedded in curricular teaching, learning and research. Through community engagement, the Faculty staff members and students use their talents and skills to plough back into the economy in order to alleviate problems, leading to a better life for all people and animals in South Africa.

As a Faculty, we felt honoured to have such diverse community partners. We are aware of our national responsibility, given that the



The Dean presents the special awards.

University of Pretoria is the only institution in South Africa to have a Faculty of Veterinary Science. Community partners affirm the Faculty's alignment with the UP Strategic Plan on community engagement to "increase the number of active partnerships with industry and government". The partnership with Gauteng Veterinary Services was acknowledged during the function. In absentia, Ali Makgato, animal health technician, was one of the many individuals who were recognised for their outstanding contribution to community engagement. In January 2013, he cut short his annual leave to assist the International Veterinary Students Association (IVSA) in organising community clinics in Soshanguve.

The Faculty aims to be more focused when implementing community engagement projects in the future. This will mean working with fewer community partners at a time, but having a high impact in line with the Faculty's strategic plan.

continued on page 12

# Focus on the veterinary interns...

The veterinary internship programme in small animals started last year as a joint venture between the Department of Companion Animal Clinical Studies and the Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital (OVAH). The successful applicants are employed for one year directly after qualifying in order to gain valuable postgraduate exposure in all relevant disciplines (outpatients, medicine, surgery, reproduction, critical care, anaesthesiology, diagnostic imaging and clinical pathology).

This exposure affords them advanced theoretical and practical knowledge, which they can then utilise in their future veterinary careers. It also gives them insight into postgraduate academia, should they wish to apply for a residency in a particular discipline.

Jacques Ferreira was one of the three interns employed in 2012. He hails from Port Elizabeth and started a degree in marine biology in 2003. However, in 2004, he moved to Pretoria and changed focus by completing a BSc in Biotechnology in 2006. Jacques was accepted into the veterinary science programme in 2007, which he completed in 2011. During his undergraduate studies, he discovered that he really enjoyed Physiology and Pharmacology. He found functional pharmacology particularly fascinating as it dealt with drugs relating to anaesthesia. In Jacques' final year of study, he realised that he wanted to specialise in



Jacques Ferreira with a patient.

anaesthesiology, and he approached several professors to discuss how to go about applying to study for an MMedVet. Luckily, the internship programme started directly after Jacques

qualified, so he was able to apply for a post in time and was accepted. As one of only three interns, Jacques was required to complete 17 weeks at Outpatients, 12 weeks on Small Animal Medicine, 12 weeks on Small Animal Surgery, four weeks on Diagnostic Imaging, four weeks on Anaesthesiology and two weeks on Small Animal Reproduction. Four weeks of academic leave was allotted, which had to be used to write case reports. Jacques really enjoyed feeling increasingly competent to approach a case and work it through to a correct diagnosis. He also enjoyed being able to put what he had learnt in the various referral clinics into practice on outpatients.

Since leaving the internship programme at the end of 2012, Jacques has achieved the first stage of his dream by enrolling as a resident in the three-year MMedVet Anaesthesiology programme.

continued from page 11

The strategic move was embraced by the community partners, as they realised that it will yield better results for all involved. In response to the Faculty's strategic move Sr Kate van den Berg of the People Upliftment Programme (POPUP) in Salvokop, Pretoria, stated:

*"I would like to start by saying thank you for inviting us to the event last night. You truly have something to be proud of. Thank you for sharing it with us! Indeed, I realise how privileged we are to actually have interaction with your Faculty. I am excited by the possibilities of a more integrated approach and look forward to discussing this with you and your colleagues."*

It is important to get the buy-in of community partners, because they are instrumental in collaboration work. In fact, community partners are viewed as equal partners

who have the power to make decisions in collaborative projects. Community ownership has contributed to the sustainability of projects implemented in the past. Veterinary science students visit communities for a limited time, but projects are sustainable as we work with existing organisations. We encourage veterinary science students in subsequent years to engage with partners who are on the database in order to ensure ongoing relationships.

We would like to thank Jacques van Rooyen, CCEn Chairperson, for his leadership. The Faculty is more focused, because the CCEn Committee developed a strategic document under his guidance. The CCEn Committee is grateful for the leadership of Prof Gerry Swan, Dean, who supports the Faculty's initiatives. He goes out of his way to seek opportunities to enhance the work done by various departments. Be assured that your commitment and contribution is recognised by all the community partners, including other faculties at the University.

Peter Martin, Deputy Director: Food Services/ Residence Affairs and Accommodation, highlighted the following:

*"Thank you very much for yesterday [CCEn Showcase]. It was really an eye-opener how hard students work and the joy they experience in doing community engagement. I shared some of the things I saw on the video with my colleagues while having coffee, and they were amazed what some faculties do with community engagement."*

To our community partners and sponsors, we are grateful for your continuous support in community work. The students could not have achieved this much without your assistance. We wish you all the best as you strive to promote the development of communities for the benefit of both people and animals. The Faculty is proud to be associated with you.



# The day of the big cats

A big cat on campus always creates a stir, so when two big cats recently arrived at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital (OVAH) within minutes of each other, it caused quite a buzz!

The cheetah, a hand-raised adult male, arrived first and was booked to undergo survey X-rays and a possible CT scan to shed light on its chronic hindquarter weakness. The cheetah had barely been unloaded when a bakkie drove into the breezeway behind it. The vehicle was carrying a large metal crate containing a five-year old male lion. The lion had been losing weight recently, and its owner was concerned

that it might have an intestinal obstruction. An abdominal ultrasound was required. Both cats arrived fully anaesthetised, so after the cheetah had been intubated it was loaded onto a trolley and wheeled off to Radiology for survey radiographs of its spine.

A separate specialised team intubated the lion, and then loaded it onto a trolley and wheeled

it off to the room next door for an abdominal ultrasound. CT scans were later performed on both animals.

Later, both cats were loaded back into their crates to head off to their respective homes, all the hurry and scurry died away and the breezeway in the OVAH quickly regained its former calm.



A cheetah is prepared for examination at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital.

## Team Holm sail like champs

Dr Dietmar Holm and his son, Christiaan, recently were awarded a South African Sailing (SAS) silver medal in the Dolphin Dinghy Class at the National Championships held at Rietvlei Dam. The regatta consisted of 14 races between 21 and 24 September. Team Holm performed well during the windier days, but had to settle for second place when the wind dropped and turned against them during the last two races. Christiaan will be sailing his Dabchick in the SAS Youth Nationals to be held at the Midmar Dam in December. Dietmar and his brother, Ferdinand, achieved a fifth position in the Fireball Class in Cape Town earlier this year.



# PGSA donates 67 minutes

to Onderstepoort Primary School community in honour of former President Nelson Rolihlahla Madiba Mandela

Mandela Day (18 July) is commemorated internationally. Volunteers donate or spend 67 minutes of their time on community service. The Postgraduate Student Association (PGSA), comprising postgraduate students from different departments in the Faculty of Veterinary Science carried out a project at the Onderstepoort Primary School. During the project, learners were taught the purpose of and reason behind Mandela Day. They were given the opportunity to present their wishes about Madiba, while receiving different attractive and appetising goodies. The teachers were also provided with manuals on the proper use of MS Word 2010 and goodies as a token of appreciation. The school premises (the yard, classroom windows and floor) were cleaned, surrounding bushes trimmed with the support of volunteers from the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), Onderstepoort Biological



Postgraduate students after cleaning the premises of Onderstepoort Primary School.

Products (OBP) and postgraduate students. The day turned out to be a success. Volunteers and pupils from the different organisations were able to interact under a unified purpose.

We thank everyone who helped in the planning, as well as the students who donated their time. Let's go beyond this in the coming years.

## OP 4 Madiba project a huge success

Lesego Teffu

The Faculty of Veterinary Science celebrated Mandela Day in a unique and thoughtful manner in 2013 by initiating the two-week long OP 4 Madiba project. The idea behind 67 minutes for Madiba is to dedicate 67 minutes to making a difference in the lives of people who are in need and to make an effort to freely participate in any action that will make a difference in the community.

Two community institutions were chosen as beneficiaries of the project, namely the Institute for Primary Health in Soshanguve and Weskoppies Psychiatric Hospital in Pretoria-West. The institutions' needs were identified and a plan was devised accordingly. The project was divided into two weeks. During the first week, containers were placed at each of the five departments and other strategic collection points in the Faculty, where everyone could donate toiletries. The second week of the campaign was used to collect all the toiletries from the containers and make them up into special packages.

This is where staff members and students came in large numbers to dedicate their 67 minutes to help with all the packaging, as well as bringing along the essential material that was needed to give the packages a complete fancy look.



Lesego Teffu of the Department of Marketing and Communication (second from the left) and Dr Quixi Sonntag of the Faculty's Community Engagement Committee (third from the right) hand over the gift packs to staff at the Institute for Primary Health in Soshanguve. Looking on is Mr OS Lukhuleni, Manager of the Institute (far right).

More than 200 packages were delivered to the two institutions on 28 August and 19 September 2013. The huge smiles on the recipient's faces clearly indicated that the idea

not only brought changes to their lives but would have an everlasting effect.

This is just what Madiba had in mind.

# Jacaranda Spring Walk

Isla Mackellar

The Jacaranda Spring Walk is an annual event held on Heritage Day, and hosted by Jacaranda FM and Discovery Health. The event is aimed at promoting good health and building community spirit. As the Faculty of Veterinary Science at Onderstepoort is unique to Pretoria, the Onderstepoort Animal Blood Bank (OABB) thought it would be great to participate.

What better way of doing so than with Onderstepoort's seven fine looking, athletic, blood-donor greyhounds who, together with their student handlers, would not only advertise the OABB, but also veterinary science in general.

This year, the greyhounds boasted smart red jackets made by their sponsors, Royal Canin. The attractive, appropriately coloured jackets proved to be excellent in advertising the important role that they play.

Great fun was had by all – especially the dogs who were very well behaved and received lots of attention and admiration.



An example of the custom-made jackets donated to the OABB greyhounds by Royal Canin.



From left: Isla Mackellar, Tahiyya Shaik and Andre van den Berg with blood donors Emma Woodhouse, Elinor Dashwood (Dash), Anne Elliot (Annie) and John Willoughby.

## OP staff soccer team

Lesego Teffu

On 18 September 2013, the University celebrated its annual Spring Day. The event was loaded with different fun activities to welcome Spring, including a soccer tournament. There were more than 12 soccer teams on the day, which first competed in the group stage. An OP staff team also participated.

The OP team's first game started in low gear and they were beaten two goals to one by the University Relations team. In the second, third and fourth stages of the tournament, the

team managed to win most of their games, including the game against the Human Resources team. Although the team did not make it to the semi-finals due to the low goal difference, there was a great spirit of togetherness and team participation overall and good fun was had by all.

The player of the day was Jan Motaung of the OTAU, who played and scored the team's goals barefooted.

"Rasta" also scored a couple of goals, and Hendrick "Mancane"

was the entertainer in the middle of the pitch. Annah, Jane and

Magdeline were the team's cheerleaders for the day.



The OP staff soccer team with the Vice-Chancellor and Principal Prof Cheryl de la Rey at the Spring Day festivities.

# OP's own Picasso

claims first place in the Visual Arts category of UP's Expression Art Competition

The versatile 19-year-old Cathryn Abernethy recently came to South Africa to pursue a career in veterinary science.

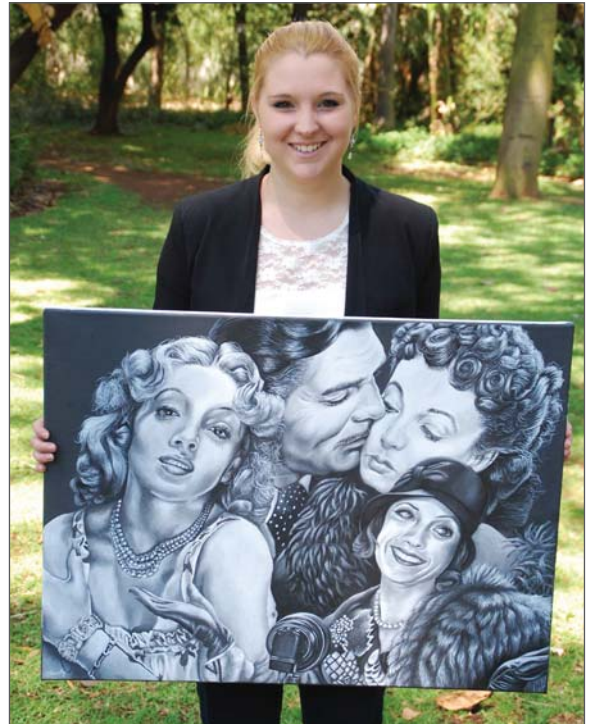
Cathryn, who is originally from Ireland, recently entered the Expression Art Competition in order to unwind from her studies. Little did she know that she would take the top honours in the Visual Arts category of the competition, which took place between all the residences of the University of Pretoria.

Growing up in an artistic home, her parents always encouraged creativity and art. Her mom, in particular, is very artistic and she thinks she must have inherited her talent from her. From an early age, Cathryn has always liked working with her hands.

There weren't a lot of competitions she could take part in, since Ireland is a small country and does not provide many opportunities for entering art competitions.

It was during her high school years that she got to experiment with different mediums and also learned new techniques that gave substance to her art skills.

She was a little anxious to study veterinary science at first, because she thought her love for art would remain latent. However, winning this prize has proved her wrong. She will now gladly follow her two main interests in life: animals and art. This talented young lady sees herself operating her own practice or a rehabilitation centre for animals in the near future.



Cathryn Abernethy with her winning entry, claiming the top spot in the Visual Arts category of the Expression Art Competition.

## In die nuus

BEELD  
20 Nov 2013, p.3

# 'n Trap-Verwoerd

## Hy neem op 79 aan sy 1ste fietsren deel

Seugnet Esterhuysen

Die tweede oudste seun van wyle dr. H.F. Verwoerd, voormalige eerste minister van Suid-Afrika, het die naweek, op 79, aan sy heel eerste fietswedren deelgeneem.

Dit was ook nie sommer enige fietswedren waaraan dr. Daan Verwoerd deelgeneem het nie, maar een van meer as 94 km.

Verwoerd het Sondag saam met sy twee seuns, Frans (51) en Kobus (49), aan die 94,7-fietswedren in Johannesburg deelgeneem.

"Ek dink nie ek sal dit weer doen nie, maar dit was lekker om dit 'n slag te kon doen," het

Verwoerd gister op sy 80ste verjaardag gesê.

Hy het gesê dit was juis Kobus, 'n ginekoloog van die Pretoria-Oos-hospitaal, wat hom aangemoedig het om saam met hulle deel te neem.

Albei sy seuns is kranige fietsryers.

Frans is 'n ingenieur wat tans as konsultant in die telekommunikasiebedryf werk.

"Wel dit was moeilik, maar gelukkig het ek my twee seuns gehad om my te ondersteun."

Hulle het die wedren saam in ses uur en 23 minute voltooi.

"Ek verstaan nou vir die eerste keer waarom die mense so oor die wenstreep sukkel."

Verwoerd is toe ook as wen-



Dr. Daan Verwoerd (80) het die naweek aan sy eerste fietswedren, die 94,7, in Johannesburg deelgeneem. Foto: THEANA BREUGEM

ner in sy ouderdomskategorie aangewys.

"Dié eerste plek is 'n groot spottery in die gesin, want ek was die enigste deelnemer in dié kategorie."

Hy het in Junie vir die wed-

ren begin oefen en moes 'n pad- en bergfiets daarvoor aanskaaf.

Verwoerd is as 'n veeartsopgelei, maar het nooit gepraaktiseer nie. Hy was al die jare by navorsing aan die Universiteit



**Ek verstaan nou vir die eerste keer waarom die mense so oor die wenstreep sukkel.**

van Pretoria se fakulteit veeartsenykunde by Onderstepoort betrokke en het ook sy doktorsgraad in biochemie behaal.

"Ek was dan eintlik ook 'n viroloog," het Verwoerd geskerts.

Hy is steeds deelyds met navorsingswerk by die fakulteit betrokke.

Hy en sy vrou van 55 jaar, Rina (77), bly in Wapadrand, Pretoria.

Sy dogter, Jana (39), wat ook gister verjaar het, bly in Londen.

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# One-Health Summer School

The Faculty of Veterinary Science organised and hosted the first One-Health Summer School from 8 to 25 August 2013. Selected MSc and PhD students from Iowa State University, the Royal Veterinary College, Utrecht University, the Southern African Centre for Infectious Disease Surveillance (SACIDS), the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), the University of Zimbabwe and the Faculty of Veterinary Science at Onderstepoort attended this week-long programme.

During their stay in South Africa, the students were exposed to different One-Health environments at the livestock/wildlife/human/ecosystem interface.

The students were joined by facilitators from each institution who shared their knowledge and expertise from their own disciplines and organisations within the context of One-Health. The programme focused on the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (GLTFCA) as one of the most important health interfaces in the region. Issues related to socio-economic trends, policy and decision-making, macro-

economics and land-use planning were linked to challenges with animal and human health, conservation and the environment.

The week started with a day-long scene-setting discussion at the Postgraduate Centre, followed by a visit to the BSL4 laboratory of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) under the guidance of Dr Janus Paweska. A visit to the Modjadi (Rain Queen) and the Sacred Cycad Reserve provided an interesting perspective of people and environments, which was counterpointed by a visit to the Phalaborwa Mine and the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre.

The Mnisi Community Programme and the Hluvukani Animal Clinic showcased what the University is doing in this area, and a discussion with medical colleagues from the Wits Rural Facility highlighted some of the issues of people and livelihoods within the GLTFA. The trip ended off with a visit to the Kruger National Park, and a discussion with scientific and veterinary staff of South African National Parks (SANParks). The summer school was very successful and we hope to host this event on an annual basis over a two-week period, where more time can be spent at the interface at the Hans Hoheisen Wildlife Research Station.



Participants in the One-Health Summer School from Iowa State University, the Royal Veterinary College, Utrecht University, SACIDS, CIRAD, the University of Zimbabwe and Onderstepoort.

***“Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole.”***  
– Roger Caras

# OP Photos

a picture is worth a thousand words



An unexpected feline patient at the OVAH



Intern Jacques Ferreira attends to a tamer member of the cat family.



Dietmar and Christiaan Holm with their SAS silver medals obtained in the national sailing championships held at Rietvlei Dam.



Tahiyya Shaik, Onderstepoort HK Chairperson for 2013 (left) with the trophies the OPVSC received at the annual UP 2013 TuksRes Prestige Evening on 9 October. With her is Maritza Lubbe, Student Culture Committee (STUKU) Chairperson for 2013.

# OPVSC elected as best overall male and female sports residence for 2013

Kelsey Skinner

The Faculty of Veterinary Science has indeed reason to be proud after the Onderstepoort Veterinary and Paraveterinary Students Committee (OPVSC) was elected as best overall sports residence in both male and female categories at the annual Faculty House and Residence Awards on 10 October 2013. At the ceremony on the Hatfield Campus, the OPVSC was also elected the winner in the best extracurricular activities category, with the highest average (65.4%) of all mixed residences.

Although 2013 has most definitely proven to be a year of many challenges, it undoubtedly had its highlights. Who could forget the nail-biting, nerve-wracking, breathtaking nights of 27 August and 3 October 2013 when our rugby gents and soccer ladies claimed gold in their respective finals and brought home the victory cups?

We all know the difficulty that comes with studying to become veterinary surgeons, with academics requiring a large portion of our 24-hour daily limit. But, given all of this, and against many odds, OP has once again proven its incredible ability – as is customary for the students of Onderstepoort – to meet those challenges head on and turn them into numerous amazing successes, especially on the sports fields.

This year has seen all our sports teams dominate their way through each of their respective leagues, with most finishing in the final top five residence positions.

The amazing effort, teamwork and dedication of the players, coaches and loyal supporters, have been the driving forces behind our victories – from our cricket and hockey gents performing outstandingly, our soccer gents being successfully promoted to the next residence league division, and our hockey and netball ladies taking the silver in their respective league finals.

Having completed the 2013 sporting year in such grace and style, we can only hope to tackle 2014 with the same level of enthusiasm and determination, hold onto our rugby and soccer res league champion titles, and hopefully bring home a few more trophies. The year 2014 will bring on new challenges and opportunities, but we hope that Onderstepoort will again show their greatness and incredible sporting abilities.



The victorious OP rugby team who beat Mopanie in the final



The OP 1st netball team who were league finalists and eventually claimed silver to end second in the league.

# OP ladies' soccer team excels in campus league final

Lesege Teffu

On 5 September 2013, the OP ladies' soccer team made the Faculty proud by bringing home the 2013 campus league trophy, beating Klaradyn 1-0 in the semi-finals and Magrietjie 2-0 in the finals.

The team's wonderful achievement followed close on the heels of the OP rugby team's victory in the Steinhoff House League final against Mopanie. These two teams' achievements bode well for the future of sport at OP.

The winning team's goals were both scored during the second half of the match, thanks to Bronwyn Orford and Isla Mackeller. Isla was further awarded the title of top goal scorer, as well as top player for this league, which clearly indicates OP's dominance of the league.



Hola OP ladies!

The OP ladies soccer team also claimed gold in their final.

## Just in case • emergency numbers

• Security Services (main campus)	6911	012 420 2310
• Flying Squad	6022	10111
• Police Pretoria North	6022	10111
• Ambulance: - Rosslyn	6003	012 541 3421/6
- Pretoria	6002	012 326 0111
• Fire Brigade (Wonderboom)	6024	012 543 0335
• Tygerberg Poison Centre	6179	021 931 6129
• Emergency Medical Help: OP		
- Sr Amanda Hamman (OVAH)	8064	083 269 8874
- Prof Frik Stegman (OVAH)	8279	8148 (operating theatre)
- Mr Chris Neetling (Feed Store)	8004	8004 (roving phone)
- Prof Ken Pettey (Ethology/Physiology)	8449	082 882 7356
- Psychologist at OP (Wednesday), Voula Samouris	8243	083 754 5427
- Psychologist - Main Campus, Rina Buys	6127/6151	082 908 3688
• 24-hour University crisis line		0800 00 64 28
• Head of OP Residence:		
- Dr Jan Myburgh	8350	082 392 2534
- Ms Susan Myburgh		083 235 6778

In case of an emergency, just dial the four-digit number given above.