



# OP News

Volume 7 • No 1 • Winter 2007 • Official newsletter of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria

## Onderstepoort delivers **best lecturer** in New York

by Dr Kathy Edmondson, Assistant Dean for Learning and Instruction, Cornell University

**Prof Braam Bezuidenhout, a former lecturer in Anatomy at Onderstepoort and Head of the Department of Anatomy from 1986 to 1998, has been awarded the State University of New York (SUNY) Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.**

This is quite an achievement, since Prof Bezuidenhout was selected from 64 universities in the State of New York to receive this award. He is a member of the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell. He was appointed at the rank of senior lecturer and has been a valued member of the faculty since 1998.



*Prof Braam Bezuidenhout*

Prof Bezuidenhout's contributions to the teaching mission of the college are many and varied. His dedication to students, continual interest in innovative teaching methods, and efforts to refine course materials and further develop his skills make him an exemplary teacher. He is highly respected by students and colleagues for his excellence in teaching. In 2006, Cornell veterinary students from all four classes selected him as the recipient of the Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association (SCAVMA) Award for Teaching Excellence in the Basic Sciences. He is most deserving of this nomination for a SUNY Chancellor's Award.

Prof Bezuidenhout's contributions to the academic programme include serving as a problem-based tutor in the foundation course, as a laboratory instructor for the gross dissection laboratories and for microscopic anatomy. He has organised and taught embryology, histopathology and clinical pathology. Recently, he assumed responsibility for applied anatomy and animal health and disease. His contact time with veterinary students exceeds that of almost any other faculty member in the college. His commitment to teaching is manifested in a wide range of activities that include traditional didactic methods and innovative approaches.

As a strong proponent of problem-based learning, Prof Bezuidenhout has mentored his colleagues and students in this mode of teaching. His leadership in the College with regard to teaching has been significant. He served as a member of the College's Curriculum Committee from 2001 to 2003, and as Chair in 2002 and 2003.

Prof Bezuidenhout has an international reputation. He has concentrated recently on the fine and ultrastructure of the avian lung, and collaborates with pathologists on lung changes during viral infection, studies with high relevance for avian influenza and other potential zoonoses. He is the primary author or co-author of several textbooks and book chapters used by veterinary scholars around the world. He has received a number of grants related to the anatomy of ostriches and elephants, and he has published the results of his work in a variety of international journals. He has given presentations at international scientific meetings and conferences focusing on a range of species.

Prof Bezuidenhout credits this award to the excellent training and experience he received at the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Veterinary Science at Onderstepoort.



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Faculty of Veterinary Science

# From the **Desk of the Dean**

The year 2007 has already proceeded into its sixth month and, while we can look back on a successful 2006, the new year has once again presented itself with new challenges, strategies and actions.



sustainable as an internationally accredited seat of veterinary excellence.

Not only is the faculty the only one of its kind in South Africa and a national asset with world-class infrastructure, but it is also expected to play a future leading role in Africa, especially in the SADC region and in Eastern Africa. There is increasing international pressure to develop the faculty as a regional veterinary training centre. Similarly, the influence of globalisation and the expanding scope of veterinary training in itself present numerous challenges to our faculty. Possible extended cooperation with other veterinary education institutions, even in new areas, is another factor that has to be taken into consideration when steering the faculty into the future.

Risk factors include the financial sustainability of the veterinary programme, a failure to recruit adequate numbers of black and male students, and difficulty in recruiting and retaining veterinary clinical specialists. We also have to deal with perceptions among policy-makers that training is mainly focused on companion animals, while urban development (development in the so-called 'zone of choice') could pose its own specific challenges to the faculty.

Against this background, the bosberaad produced certain important strategic objectives for the next few years to effectively deal with some of the challenges the faculty will be facing. With regard to undergraduate training, it was decided to:

- develop a new single-degree veterinary curriculum for implementation in 2009;
- convert the nursing diploma to a three-year degree for implementation in 2008/09; and
- implement an awareness, recruitment and in-care programme to promote the transformation of the student body.

Decisions about postgraduate training included the recruitment of postgraduate students to achieve a projected growth rate of more than 2% to improve the throughput rates and the master's and doctoral enrolments per academic staff member.

An important part of the faculty's strategic vision is its ability to conduct relevant and innovative research. The objectives in this regard revolve around strengthening our research focus and niche areas and increasing the research output per academic staff member by at least 10% on the 2006 figure.

Naturally this also highlights the objective to increase the number of staff members contributing to research output and to increase the number and ratings of NRF-rated staff. To strengthen the faculty's research focus areas will also require us to attract sustainable research funding, build very strong partnerships and collaborations internally and externally, identify and recruit top-rated veterinary scientists, and develop faculty research centres such as the Centre for Veterinary Wildlife Studies and the Equine Research Centre.

It was appropriate that senior management should hold its bosberaad from 19 to 23 February at the Wildlife College near Orpen to deliberate about the future and specifically look at what 2007 will hold for the faculty. The faculty's plan, the new strategic plan of the University and previous senior management proceedings were used as a basis for the discussions that took place.

While looking at the future, we have to take cognisance of the University's strategic elements, the faculty plan and the risks the faculty faces in striving to be globally competitive, regionally pre-eminent and locally relevant, as well as

## Publication information

**OP News is issued by:**  
Faculty of Veterinary Science  
University of Pretoria

**Editor:**  
Prof Ken Pettey  
e-mail: ken.pettey@up.ac.za

**Consulting editor:**  
Janine Smit  
Tel: (012) 349-2059

**Layout:**  
Janine Smit Editorial Services  
www.jses.co.za

**Printing:**  
Remata iNathi Communications  
and Printers (Pty) Ltd

**Contributions to OP News are welcomed. Please submit any material electronically to the editor in MS Word.**



*The new design of the OP News reflects the new corporate identity of the University of Pretoria.*



With regard to community engagement, the faculty has to develop a community outreach strategic plan, effectively make use of the Mamelodi Campus and continue and extend its engagement with the Mnisi tribe, to name but a few.

Clinical services were also part of the agenda during the bosberaad, and specific emphasis was placed on the difficulty of retaining and recruiting clinical staff. A short-term proposal and longer-term solutions to deal with current staff shortages were discussed and an alternative model for the provision of clinical experiential training was considered.

As I have mentioned before, we as staff members are the most important resource of this faculty. Therefore, we also dealt with personnel issues such as performance management, remuneration and equity.

Having said all this, how do we ensure that this faculty can increase its global competitiveness and position itself according to its strategic vision to be an internationally accredited seat of veterinary excellence and be acknowledged accordingly? Firstly, by implementing the strategic objectives that we have set for ourselves, and secondly by effectively internationalising the faculty. Apart from extensive networking and partnerships, we will have to optimise opportunities, revisit the quality of our infrastructure (laboratories, housing, etc) and create a friendly environment for postgraduate students and visitors in particular.

Our products (postgraduate training and research programmes) must have international and regional appeal to attract more international students. Research will have to produce more high-impact factor journals and patents. The faculty must continue to review existing

academic programmes and curricula in support of sustainable development, excellence in training and service delivery, and the accreditation of the faculty.

We can look forward to 2007 and beyond with confidence and optimism. We have the ability, facilities and intellectual resources to not only reach our goals, but to go beyond the average, to change from something good to something great. Together we can ensure that we will take this faculty to the next level of brilliance and distinction. For that we also need a new level of *joie de vivre*, something special that will unite us in shaping the future.

**Prof Gerry Swan**  
**Dean**

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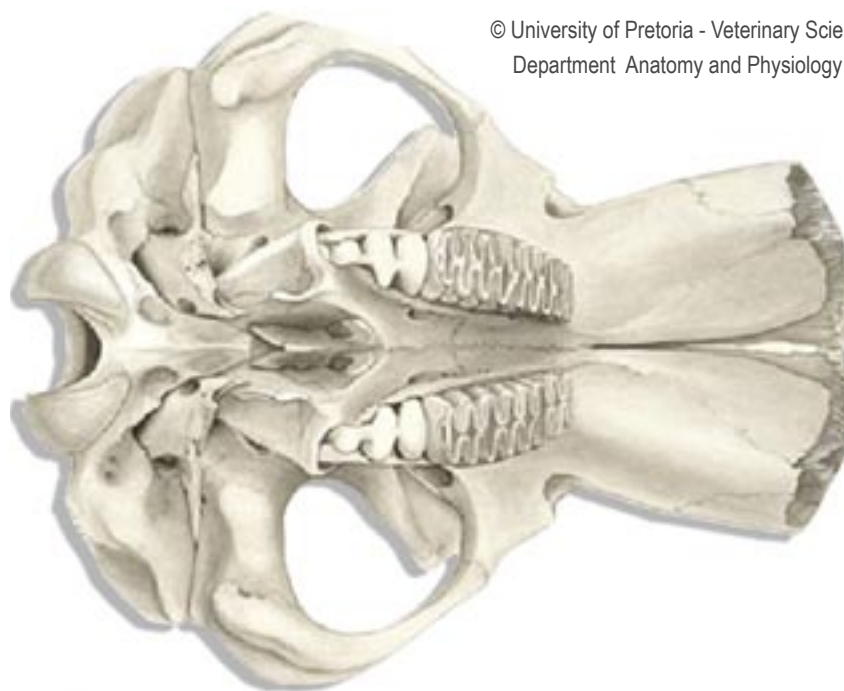
# Elephants in UPSpace

by Erica van der Westhuizen

The Onderstepoort library is excited about its latest digital project. Fifty-one of Christine Seegers's elephant sketches have been placed on the UPSpace at <https://www.up.ac.za/dspace/handle/2263/1971>. In this way this unique collection can be safeguarded, while showing it to the rest of the world. Each plate has the UP logo, marking it as UP property, the copyright-holder being the Department of Anatomy and Physiology of the Faculty of Veterinary Science.

Special mention must be made of the important role of two staff members in creating this digital collection: Ria Groenewald, Digitisation Coordinator of UP, whose expertise in creating the digital images ensured that the artist's work is shown to its best advantage, and Amelia Breytenbach of the Onderstepoort library, who heads the metadata applications for UP, enabling optimal retrieval of information on the website.

We would like to thank Prof Herman Groenewald, Head of the Department of Anatomy and Physiology, for his input in describing each illustration.



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Department Anatomy and Physiology

*An example of Christine Seegers's illustrations of the African elephant (the adult skull), which can be seen at <https://www.up.ac.za/dspace/handle/2263/2213>.*



# Reflections on the AFMA Forum

by Dr Marianne de Vries

**In March this year, I attended the Animal Feed Manufacturers' Association (AFMA) Forum. I had just recently become aware of the fact that KPMG was investigating the future of the veterinary profession in South Africa, so naturally I was interested to see if the animal feed industry was also facing a changing future.**

Unlike the South African Veterinary Association's congresses, the AFMA Forum had only one lecture at a time, but all the speakers were international and all focused on global emerging trends.

It soon became apparent that the global animal feed industry is facing a looming crisis due to an imminent shortage of raw materials. The production of ethanol from grain is becoming very profitable and the production of biodiesel from oilseed crops is quite high on the political agenda of many countries. This means that grains that were previously used exclusively for animal feed will become more and more expensive as demand increases. It is predicted that soon more and more of the land previously used to grow animal feed crops will be planted with maize for ethanol production, or with oilseed crops for biodiesel production, decreasing the supply of traditional raw materials.

Edible byproducts, known as distillers grains with solubles (DGS), are produced when ethanol is made, but the composition of these vary widely between suppliers and sometimes even between batches. It seems, however, that in the near future these byproducts will be the only affordable raw materials available to the animal feed industry.

What to do about it? The answer from all the experts was clear: accept it, and learn to manage your new situation. In the case of feed producers, this would mean changing ration formulation radically at first, and then tweaking it with every new batch of DGS to ensure that the final feed product remains of a consistently high standard.

Closer to home, many lecturers feel that the recommendation of the South African Veterinary Council report after the recent visitation, stating that courses should be presented in a more modern way, is unnecessary and unfeasible for the volume of work to be covered. After all, everyone who graduated in South Africa was taught like this and it has been good enough until now. On the other hand, students are struggling with the increasing volume of work and pressure in the classroom, because veterinary knowledge has increased drastically in the last 50 years and study material needs to reflect all relevant knowledge. Students feel they need more targeted guidance through the mass of work, while lecturers feel that class notes and the benefit of computerised audiovisual aids already provide ample guidance, and that fancy new teaching tricks are just not feasible in a course this loaded with facts.

Did the AFMA Forum give me any solutions to our problems? No. But I got one message very clearly. Change is inevitable. It appears that each person in the veterinary profession in South Africa needs to evaluate what need he or she meets at the moment and if it will be the same in ten years. With the current rate of change in the world, we should be looking at everything that we do the same as ten years ago and ask if it is still appropriate. No, I'm not suggesting we fix something that ain't broke, and change just for its own sake is really a waste of energy.

Sadly, sometimes the best-intentioned change is also not right and we need to go back to the drawing board and start all over again. But I am certain of one thing: that in our current, ever-altering world, country and faculty, keeping on as we have been for the last 50 years cannot be right either. The voice of one speaker echoes in my mind. "It's not going to be easy," he said, "but it's what you have to do if your business wants to survive."

*Yes... about 90% of businesses eventually disappear because they either can't or don't want to keep up with change! Editor*

## Anthelmintic resistance

In February 2006, PARASOL (Parasite Solutions), an international research project designed to investigate and develop sustainable, low-input methods for internal parasite control in ruminants, was launched. A new website with information on the project and the project partners, as well as current information on anthelmintics and the state of anthelmintic resistance, is now online.

The project is coordinated by Prof Jozef Vercruyse of the University of Gent, and will run for a period of three years. It involves 12 academic partners and five business ventures from seven European Union and African countries and is funded by the EU Framework 6 Programme (2.9 million Euro).

South African involvement comprises the National Woolgrowers' Association (NWGA) and the Faculty of Veterinary Science. The NWGA is doing work in communal farming areas under the guidance and assistance of the faculty, which is also conducting trials on commercial farms. The faculty's team is headed by Dr Jan van Wyk (Veterinary Tropical Diseases) and Prof Gareth Bath (Production Animal Studies). The envisaged outcome is that the principle of the well-established FAMACHA© system for wireworm, which they developed and is now used world-wide, should be extended for use in identifying animals that need treatment for non-bloodsucking worms.

If successful, this will help more farmers to get away from the blanket, frequent treatment of all sheep, which inevitably leads to worm resistance against all the drugs used. These strategies will also reduce the risks of residues in food and the environment. "By the end of the project, PARASOL will provide farmers, veterinarians and advisors with clear guidance and protocols for sustainable, low-input, user- and consumer-friendly nematode control," says Prof Vercruyse.

These protocols will be available on the project website: [www.parasol-project.org](http://www.parasol-project.org).





# SVD welcomes Dr Ockert Botha as CEO

by Thomas Smit

Scientific Veterinary Diets (SVD) and the UltraDog food range is a proudly South African premium-brand dog and cat food range developed by a South African veterinarian, Dr Chris van der Merwe, as a premium-choice dog food for vets only.

This trusted brand was the first premium brand of vets-only dog food to be launched in South Africa more than 15 years ago. Identifying with its South African roots, Dr Ockert Botha, well-known South African veterinarian, himself distinctly accomplished in the establishment of several global firsts in the avian industry, has taken a special interest in SVD. After completing his studies at Onderstepoort in 1982, he worked at the Army Dog School at Voortrekkerhoogte. He joined the well-known practice of the Hatfield Bird and Animal Hospital in 1984. Dr Botha soon distinguished himself as a world authority on avian and pigeon diseases and lectured world-wide to vets and fanciers alike, while also maintaining a practice that accepted daily referrals on specialised surgical cases. While still with Hatfield, he founded the company Medpet in 1988, a supplier of premium, scientifically formulated avian and companion animal products. Dr Botha has now been appointed as CEO of SVD, and has welcomed the opportunity to share his thoughts with readers.

**Q** Why did you take up the position of CEO?

**A** Besides it being a new challenge to me, I believe in the integrity of the company and the quality of the product. Clinical nutrition has always been a passion of mine and I hope that I will be able to lead SVD into new and exciting times.

**Q** Why did you join this company?

**A** With Nola (established in 1953) behind it, SVD is assured of technical backing, quality control and production facilities that few companies can match. It is one of the largest leading South African-owned companies that market products for both human and animal consumption – thus doubling its capability. Furthermore, the company has committed itself to supporting me in a new drive to make UltraDog the leading vets-only dog food brand in South Africa.

**Q** Why do you believe in the product?

**A** The fact that it was researched and developed by a South African vet for local conditions and consumption makes it a first-choice product. I have an exceptional team of people, including top scientists, to support me and we will focus on what is needed for the South African market. We are currently the only wholly owned South African specialist pet food company. We will produce the best possible and safest products specifically made for our conditions with the added advantage of incredible affordability.

**Q** What is your vision for the future of the company?

**A** To ensure that SVD stays on as a leading and affordable vets-only, premium pet food brand in South Africa and to develop new and exciting nutritional solutions for our own conditions. We will have a complete revamp of our packaging material and will launch some incredibly exciting new nutritional solutions in the next few months.

**Q** How are you going to achieve this?

**A** Our team has formulated a vision based on four strategic qualities or principles:

- **Ultra-safe:** The instigation of specialised safety measures has ensured that our products are ultra-safe. They are out of harm's way from the sourcing of raw materials in terms of the choice of the substance and formulation, as well as the conditions of storage. Manufacturing takes place in the same plant where our mother company manufactures our human products, so quality control and safety of manufacture are exemplary. What's more, in SVD's history of 15 years it has never had a recall due to poison or contamination of any nature.
- **Ultra-reliable:** SVD's production chain is ultra-reliable to ensure immediate delivery on short notice. Its stock is seldom, if ever, out of supply. During the crisis that arose with melamine intoxication, the company was able to increase production by 300% to fill the void

of recalls that the other company had. SVD had the capacity to do this, as it sourced locally and its staff were prepared to work non-stop to make this possible!

- **Ultra-affordable:** SVD is committed to securing the highest profit margin to the veterinarian that will still allow the industry to tender a competitive price to the consumer. It is at least 15 to 20% cheaper in the vets-only brands without compromising on quality.
- **Ultra-committed:** SVD is for the veterinarian, started by a veterinarian as a vets-only product range. Besides the pledge of one of the highest profit margins and excellent affordability within the dog breeders' loyalty programme, SVD will ensure that it includes the veterinary industry. It is committed to hold up the veterinarian's entire delivery chain via the established veterinary wholesalers.

**Q** Are there any new initiatives in store?

**A** We are planning a revamp of the entire SVD range in terms of packaging, size and format. We are challenging nutritional improvement upon the latest research of new diets. We are forming strategic alliances with exciting incentives for participating practices. Our renewed efforts and financial support to the South African Veterinary Association include much-needed specialised research on local needs and conditions.



# Researchers meet in **Münich**

by Moritz van Vuuren



*The research teams at the report-back meeting in München: sitting from left to right are Dr Anders Franklin, principal investigator (SVA), and Prof Moritz van Vuuren, principal investigator (DVTD); standing are Janita Greyling (DVTD), Susanna Thyseilius (SVA), Dr Christina Greko (SVA), Dr Björn Bengtsson (SVA), Dr Stina Englund (SVA), Dr Oskar Nilsson (SVA) and Dr Jackie Picard (DVTD).*

The Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases (DVTD) started collaborating with the Department of Antibiotics of the National Veterinary Institute (SVA) in Sweden in 2005 under the umbrella of

the Joint Swedish-South African Bilateral Scientific Agreement funded respectively by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and the National Research Foundation (NRF) in South

Africa. The Department of Antibiotics has been involved in research on resistance to antimicrobial drugs for three decades and produces reagents for use in determining minimum inhibitory concentrations of antibiotics that are used by many countries in their surveillance programmes.

At the end of the three years of the collaboration, it was decided to hold a report-back meeting simultaneously with the joint 17<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases and the 25<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Chemotherapy. The participants were given the opportunity to attend this formidable congress that drew 6 500 delegates at the International Conference Centre in München, Germany.

During the week of the congress, a meeting was held between the collaborating teams that focused on their respective research projects dealing with resistance to antimicrobial drugs. The DVTD team in particular reported back on progress made with the South African national veterinary surveillance and monitoring programme for resistance to antimicrobial drugs. The programme was developed with the assistance of the Department of Antibiotics.

## **Undergraduate veterinary training at Cambridge**

by Moritz van Vuuren

The Cambridge Infectious Diseases Consortium (CIDC) was formed by the University of Cambridge together with the Animal Health Trust in Newmarket and other national centres for animal diseases to create a world-class research environment for the future training of veterinarians as infectious disease specialists.

The CIDC is housed at the University of Cambridge Veterinary School and includes leading groups from the University of Cambridge Department of Pathology and Zoology, the Animal Health Trust, the Sanger Centre, the Veterinary Laboratory Agency, the Institute for Animal Health and the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases

(DVTD) of the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Veterinary Science.

Following on an initiative by the Director of the CIDC, Dr James Wood, staff of the DVTD were invited to present a course to fifth-year veterinary students on aspects of diseases important in the wildlife-domestic animal-human interface in sub-Saharan Africa.

The team was represented by Prof Koos Coetzer, Head of the DVTD, Prof Moritz van Vuuren, Prof Peter van den Bossche from the Belgian Institute for Tropical Medicine, who is also Extraordinary Professor at the DVTD, and Dr Mark Rweyemamu,

retired senior officer of the Food and Agricultural Organisation's Infectious Diseases Group.

The course was designed to be interactive, and students were provided with information of a broad nature to enable them to prepare assignments for presentation at the end of the week's lectures and discussions. The class consisted of 60 students who presented their assignments in groups of four. The overwhelming consensus of the lecturers was that the students presented excellent presentations and showed commendable insight into diseases and concepts to which they had previously only been exposed briefly.





# Helpful new book for stock farmers

by Paula Beviss-Challinor (BVSc VI)



My grandfather, Dr Siegfried Stampa, son of veterinarian Dr Walther Stampa and brother of veterinarian Dr Friedrich Stampa (author of a textbook on mastitis currently being translated from German into English), recently published a book entitled *Diseases of Livestock in Africa – a farmer's guide*. His book is based on his teachings at the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Fort Hare, where he was an associate professor in Animal Health.

Dr Siegfried Stampa studied veterinary science from 1948 to 1953 at the Liebig University of Giessen, Germany. He was awarded the Liebig

Prize of the Faculty of Agriculture for his doctorate thesis on food conversion in livestock (published in the *Journal for Animal Nutrition*) in 1953. In 1953, he did postgraduate studies in South Africa on parasitology, working under Dr Rene du Toit, Dr Gertrude Theiler and Dr OGH Fiedler. Together they wrote a guide on the identification of immature stages of ticks, which was never published.

In 1954, Dr Stampa was employed as a State Veterinarian. He investigated the incidence and cause of Karoo tick paralysis, the protection of sheep against myiasis and infectious itch, and he did taxonomical work on Anoplura of wild animals.

In 1958 he was employed by Messrs Farbenfabriken Bayer, where he worked on the development of various products for use in South Africa. In 1970, he was appointed at the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Fort Hare as a senior lecturer, and from 1972 as associate professor. During this time he also practised as a country practitioner in Fort Beaufort.

During his research career, he published 42 articles in scientific journals in four different languages.

At present Dr Stampa is living with his wife in Badenweiler, Germany, and can be contacted at [heidusigistampa@aol.com](mailto:heidusigistampa@aol.com).

His book, currently being translated into Zulu and German, is written for stock farmers, students and graduates of agriculture and veterinary science. The basis of the book is to address the need of stock farmers (having been one himself) and to find practical solutions to problems associated with animal diseases as quickly as possible. The book can be obtained via Vet Serv.

***If you have a problem obtaining a copy, please contact me at 082 562 4715 or [s23045877@vetstud.up.ac.za](mailto:s23045877@vetstud.up.ac.za).***

## Scholarships for online vet courses

The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA) in the Netherlands has made 20 scholarships available for two of the web-based tropical animal health courses at the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases (DVTD) in the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Pretoria.

The scholarships have been earmarked for the Community-Based Animal Health: Veterinary

Communication and Extension and Research Methodology courses.

The scholarships are available to candidates from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region and other African, Caribbean and Pacific countries who meet the requirements of the CTA.

CTA is an ACP-EU institution and is focused on 'information for development'. The institution

is tasked with improving the flow of information among stakeholders in agriculture and rural development in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

For more information regarding these scholarships and the continuing education portfolio of products, please contact Chanine Pienaar at 012 420-5015 or at [chanine.ce@up.ac.za](mailto:chanine.ce@up.ac.za).



# Lesotho outreach

by Ingrid Arnold

Semonkong is a town in central southern Lesotho – in the middle of the Maluti Mountains. At the end of 2005 a few medical students from the University of the Free State 'serendipitously' found the Semonkong Methodist Mission Station, which includes an orphanage and derelict hospital. The medical students visited the area twice before inviting Onderstepoort to join the outreach in April 2006. Since then we have been privileged to be part of the team.



*One of the wards in the derelict Semonkong Hospital.*

For the April 2007 outreach we received over 400 bibles to distribute in Lesotho. The orphanage currently houses 57 children, and Jill (the caretaker of the mission property) is also helping to support over 30 children who live in the villages and whose parents are unable to care for them properly. After making an appeal to Onderstepoort for blankets we received over 200 – abundantly more than the 40 we had expected!

It was a great privilege to spend time with the orphans. With our limited Sesotho and their limited English we managed to have lots of fun playing games, colouring in pictures and hearing about what Jesus achieved for us on the cross at Easter time. Future projects to help the orphanage include establishing a laying hen unit and a bigger vegetable garden.

OP students never feel like they've had all that much fun unless they've donned their greens and gotten themselves into a bit of a mess! After being invited by the village chief, we visited Ha Lesala (a neighbouring village) to look at some of their sick animals.

We spent four mornings there chasing animals around a small, manure-filled kraal attempting to catch and inject the animals with what little sponsored medication we had under the direction of a newly qualified vet. The people are really interested to learn how to care for their animals and we hope to hold farmer's days there in future.

On previous outreaches the medical students and doctors held clinics for people in the area and they are aiming to get sponsorship to rebuild the hospital in order to service the area.

This project has been a wonderful opportunity and an amazing blessing – to those we met in Lesotho and to everyone who has joined us.

We especially want to thank Prof Swan and the many other lecturers for their support, time and advice, as well as every student and staff member who has supported us by way of donations, prayers and encouragement.



*Students attempting to help the animals in a kraal at Ha Lesala.*

Another huge thank-you to all our other sponsors, including Daimler Chrysler and Toyota South Africa – without them and their almost brand-new Colt and Hilux bakkies we'd never have been able to go to Semonkong.

Daimler Chrysler has also promised us two permanent vehicles for people who will be staying in Semonkong permanently in the future.



*The orphans with their sponsored blankets.*



# OTAU sheep sponsored with latest electronic ear tags



The ear tag with the unique IFS code that can be scanned from a distance.

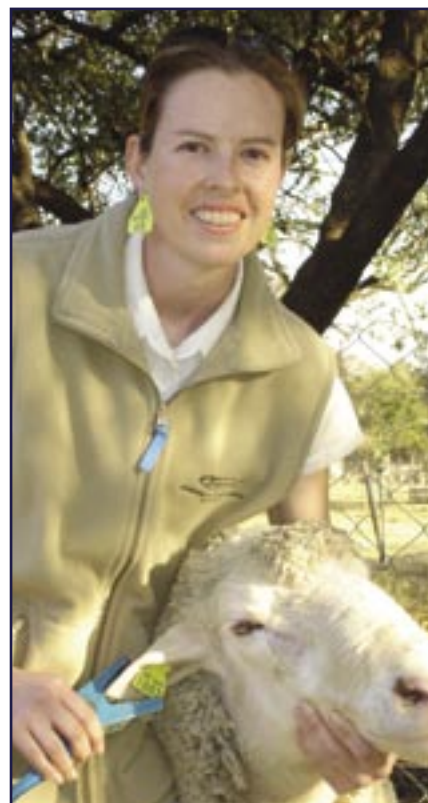
The Onderstepoort Teaching Animal Unit (OTAU) at the Faculty of Veterinary Science will in future be able to use a unique ear tagging system on their 48 sheep, courtesy of a generous sponsorship by Intervet South Africa.

Intervet's latest top quality tags carry a unique IFS code, which can be scanned and entered into an online data base. Through this state-of-the-art technology the management of livestock, their treatment, vaccination record and weight from birth can be recorded. A personal record number can also be added.

The tags provide a unique identity or 'fingerprint' for each animal, and thus enable the ongoing monitoring of individual animals. Another advantage of these tags is that they can provide proof of ownership by linking to DNA. The system's software can easily be integrated into existing computer systems.

The software for the ID tags has been installed on one of OTAU's computers by Dr Sunelle Strydom of Intervet.

For further information, contact Dr Paul van Dam at 012 529 8203 or 082 875 1721.



Dr Sunelle Strydom demonstrating how to insert eartags into a ram at Onderstepoort.

## OVAH registers 200 000<sup>th</sup> patient



The Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital (OVAH) registered its 200 000<sup>th</sup> patient on the computer system recently. The computer system has been in operation for less than a decade. The patient was a four-year-old Ile de France ram that was hospitalised for suspected heartwater. The ram is doing well. So is the OVAH as staff look forward to the 400 000<sup>th</sup> case!

Final-year students Mohamed Shariff, Tasho Makunike and Chris Swanepoel examine OVAH's 200 000<sup>th</sup> patient, a four-year-old Ile de France ram.

# The classes of 1932 and 1933

by RD Bigalke,

Chairperson: Veterinary History Committee of the South African Veterinary Association

The composition of the class photographs of the graduates of 1932 and 1931 differ from their more recent predecessors in respect of the three staff members who appear in it. Apart from the Dean of the Faculty, Dr (Prof) PJ du Toit, Dr (Prof) G de Kock – presumably the acting Dean – and the head of the students' hostel, Mr WO Neitz, also feature. It is not clear why Du Toit and De Kock are identified as doctors rather than professors in the photographs. It was probably to distinguish them from Neitz who, in contrast to the other two, had not obtained a doctor's degree. It must be kept in mind that it was only in 1945 that South African veterinarians decided in favour of using the courtesy title of 'doctor' for veterinarians with a BVSc or an equivalent degree.

## The Class of 1932

### TF (Tom) Adelaar

TF (Tom) Adelaar was born in Pretoria on 26 March 1909 and matriculated at its Oost

Eind Hoërskool in 1926. After qualifying in 1932, he joined the Division of Veterinary Services as a state veterinarian, serving in Potgietersrus until 1938 and at the research station on the farm Armoedsvlakte near Vryburg (probably doing research on lamsiekte) until 1942. He was then transferred to the Virology Section at Onderstepoort, but succeeded Prof DG Steyn as Head of the Toxicology Section in 1947, also serving as senior lecturer in Toxicology.

He alone was responsible for training students in Toxicology for 26 years until 1973, when the faculty became entirely independent from the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute and he opted to stay with the latter.

Tom served as Head of the Toxicology Section until he retired in 1974. He was an impressive, tall man with an outgoing personality and was a popular teacher with a wealth of practical experience. He was probably the best diagnostician the institute had in those early days, and

anecdotes of his many correct field diagnoses, when everyone else was stumped, are legion. He died on 4 December 1980, aged 71.

### JHL Cloete

JHL Cloete was born in 1910 and received the Reyersback Memorial Prize for the best matriculation science pass in the Union of South Africa in 1927. After qualifying in 1932, he initially served as state veterinarian for the Division of Veterinary Services at Rustenburg and Ermelo, where he succeeded Richard Clark (a 1928 graduate) in 1936.

He then transferred to Onderstepoort, where he lectured in Comparative Anatomy and Embryology. He was awarded a DVSc degree in 1939 for a thesis entitled *The estimation of the age of Merino foetuses*. This earned him the prestigious Junior Gold Medal of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. Early in 1940 he resigned his post to take up



The final-year BVSc students and staff of 1932: standing from left are WD Malherbe, HP Steyn, JH Scoeman and PJ Meara; and sitting are Dr G de Kock, JHL Cloete, Dr PJ du Toit, TF Adelaar and Mr WO Neitz.

a part-time appointment as veterinary officer to the municipalities of Springs and Brakpan and to run a private practice in Springs. However, within a few months, he moved back to Pretoria as Acting Municipal Veterinary Officer, an office he was supposed to have filled for the duration of World War II. This promising young man had also just assumed the editorship of the *Journal of the South African Veterinary Medical Association*, and had been elected to the Council of the Association when he died prematurely on 7 November 1940 after a short illness at the age of only 30.

### **WD Malherbe**

WD Malherbe or 'Klein Jackie' or 'Texas', as he was later nicknamed, was born in Pretoria on 20 April 1910. On graduating in 1932, he immediately joined the Division of Veterinary Services. As state veterinarian, he was stationed at Middelburg (Cape), Wellington and Potchefstroom. In 1942, he was transferred to Onderstepoort, where he lectured in Medicine under Prof BS Parkin, replacing him as professor and Head of the Department of Medicine when Parkin died suddenly from a coronary thrombosis in 1950.

Prof Kaizer van der Walt replaced Malherbe in 1958, when the faculty was restructured to accommodate its first full-time departments, of which Medicine was one. Malherbe was then placed in charge of the Clinical Pathology component of Medicine, but transferred to the Onderstepoort Research Institute's Toxicology Section in 1973, when the faculty became fully independent from the former. He retired two years later at the age of 65 and died at the age of 78 on 24 January 1989.

### **PJ (Pat) Meara**

PJ (Pat) Meara was born on 17 March 1912 and matriculated first class from Dale College, King Williamstown, in 1927 at the age of only 15. He qualified at Onderstepoort at the age of 20 and started his career as state veterinarian in the Division of Veterinary Services at Umtata in 1933. However, in 1937 he was transferred

to East London, where he was placed in charge of meat inspection for the export of beef and mutton to the United Kingdom. This appointment diverted his career into the field of public health and shaped his future. After doing postgraduate studies at Cambridge University in 1938 and 1939, he was transferred to Onderstepoort in 1939 as veterinary research officer. In 1946 he was awarded a DVSc degree for his thesis entitled *Postnatal growth and development of muscle, as exemplified by the gastrocnemius and psoas muscles of the rabbit*.

In the same year Pat took up an appointment with the City Council of Johannesburg, first as assistant veterinarian at the abattoir until 1948, and then as supervisor of abattoir operations and veterinarian in charge of the milk laboratory from 1949 to 1958. In 1958 he was promoted to Assistant Director of the City Health Department and in 1960 to Director of the Abattoir and Livestock Market Department. After 14 years in this post, he took on the position of chief veterinarian of the City Health Department. He retired from service with the City Health Department of Johannesburg on 17 March 1974, aged 66. He was 79 years old when he died on 17 March 1991 after a long illness.

### **JH Schoeman**

JH Schoeman was born on the farm Schoemanshoek, Oudtshoorn, on 19 June 1907 and obtained a BSc degree from the University of Stellenbosch before enrolling for the BVSc degree at Onderstepoort. He first joined the Division of Veterinary Services and served as state veterinarian at Umtata, the Armoedsvlakte Research Station and at Vryheid, in the heart of the East Coast fever campaign in Natal (now KwaZulu-Natal).

He then went into private practice, first in Johannesburg, then in Springs for 18 years, followed by Potgietersrus and Letsitele soon after that for seven years, where he also farmed with citrus. His great hobbies were flying and boating. He died from a heart attack

on 9 March 1967, at the age of almost 60 years, while travelling by car between Gravelotte and Letsitele.

### **HP ('Lang') Steyn**

HP ('Lang') Steyn was born in Upington on 1 March 1909 and matriculated with first class honours in the first matriculation class of the Upington High School. After qualifying, he joined the Division of Veterinary Services as state veterinarian for North Waterberg in 1933. He was transferred to Kimberley in 1934 and then to the Armoedsvlakte Research Station near Vryburg where he worked – probably on lamsiekte – from 1935 to 1937. In 1937 he was appointed as lecturer in the faculty's Department of Surgery and Obstetrics at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute, where he also studied and published on reproductive problems in horses and sheep.

In 1945 he resigned to start a private practice in Johannesburg. Steyn was elected as President of the South African Veterinary Medical Association (now the South African Veterinary Association) in 1958. He eventually served in this influential position for eight successive years until 1966, which is close to the record nine years established by ST Amos, who was in office from 1936 to 1945. Steyn was also a member of the Veterinary Board (now the South African Veterinary Council) from 1958 to 1971, when he resigned because of the 'autocratic' behaviour of its chairman.

He was also the founder and first chairman of the South African Veterinary Foundation and the Equine Practitioners' Group. He retired from practice in 1965 to devote himself to his farming interests, which comprised mainly poultry farming and stud Dohne-Merino breeding, a lesser interest, on the outskirts of Johannesburg. Dr Steyn was awarded the prestigious President's Award of the South African Veterinary Association in 1993. He died in Johannesburg in 1995 at the age of 86.



## The Class of 1933

The Class of 1933 was the smallest in the history of the Onderstepoort Faculty of Veterinary Science. It even surpassed the two-man class of 1932 by having only one student for much of the BVSc course. The customary class photograph consists of only four people. Mr GC van Drimmelen, sitting on the left, is specifically identified as 'graduate', while the Dean, Dr (Prof) PJ du Toit, is the only person standing. The other two staff members are Dr (Prof) G de Kock, who was apparently the acting Dean, and the head of the students' hostel, Mr WO Neitz, who qualified in 1929.

### GC (Govert) van Drimmelen

GC (Govert) van Drimmelen was born in Zeerust on 27 September 1911 as the second child of his parents (his father was a minister in the Dutch Reformed Church) who had emigrated to South Africa from the Netherlands. When his father died in 1919 from Spanish flu, his mother temporarily returned to her homeland with her family. However, she returned a few years later with the result that Govert matriculated at

the Oost Eind Hoërskool in Pretoria in 1928. When he enrolled for his first year at the Transvaal University College (TUC), he was one of 27 students, but for the greater part of the rest of the five-year veterinary course at Onderstepoort his was a one-person class. His first appointment was as a state veterinarian at Allerton Laboratory in Pietermaritzburg, where he was mainly occupied with the dreary task of examining approximately 36 000 East Coast fever (ECF) smears, which were in arrears. He was then transferred to Umtata in the Transkei, an ECF hot spot, and then to Carolina where the disease was also still present. In 1938 he landed up in Bloemfontein, where he conducted research on artificial insemination in chickens in his spare time, keeping the experimental animals in his backyard because there were no facilities at the state veterinarian's office. His thesis on the subject earned him a DVSc degree in 1947. The next phase in his career started in 1948 when he was posted to the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute and placed in the Bacteriology instead of the Poultry Section, which he preferred. His main tasks were general diagnostic bacteriology and research on brucellosis of cattle and sheep. He

was also involved in teaching Bacteriology and Bacterial Diseases on a part-time basis – all teaching posts were part-time in those days – first as lecturer, and from 1958 as associate professor in the faculty's part-time Department of Infectious Diseases.

He published more than 40 scientific articles in his career. In 1966 a completely new phase dawned when Govert was appointed as South Africa's agricultural attaché in Washington DC in the USA. From 1972, when he returned to South Africa, until his retirement the following year at the age of 63, he was a special advisor to the regional laboratories of the Division of Veterinary Services. He was awarded the prestigious South Africa Medal (Gold) by the South African Association for the Advancement of Science in 1965 and the equally sought-after Senior Captain Scott Medal of the South African Biological Society in 1969. Govert's interest in science never waned in his later years: it included palaeontology, dendrology, herpetology and bird-watching. He died on 17 June 2003 at the ripe old age of almost 92.



*The only graduate of 1933, Mr GC van Drimmelen (left) with staff members (from left to right): WO Neitz, Dr PJ du Toit and Dr G de Kock.*

# Horse of the Year 2007

by Heleen Els



*Anette van Veenhuyzen and Studvet Francis.*

The 2007 Horse of the Year show was held at the Kyalami Equestrian Park from 14 to 18 February. The University's Faculty of Veterinary Science at Onderstepoort entered five horses in the in-hand and riding classes and came home with two reserve championships, three first places, one second and one fourth.

First in the ring was a great horse-rider combination in the form of Simone Steyn and Studvet Cloud. They took the reserve championship in the working hunter category. Second up in the adult prelim dressage test was Nootra K Excalibur, brilliantly ridden by Bronwyn Thomen. Naturally they came away with top honours.

After an adrenalin rush, the in-hand classes got off to a very interesting start. Samuel Motaung showed Studvet Cazza to her potential and they were placed first in the Nooitgedacht filly class. In the Nooitgedachter mare classes Studvet Frances, showed by Anette van Veenhuyzen, and Studvet Chellie, showed by Simone Steyn, held the Onderstepoort name high with their presence. Chellie was placed second in that class and Frances fourth. Chellie also took the reserve championship in the category.

The Onderstepoort horses were definitely the best groomed and cared for at the show. A sincere word of thanks to Anette van Veenhuyzen, Samuel Motaung and William Maluleka for their

continuous efforts and after-hours training, often starting at 06:30 in the mornings. The two riders' dedication and commitment is much appreciated.

Dr June Williams also needs recognition for her assistance and support. Let's go for the Pretoria Show and kick some butt!



*Samuel Motaung and Studvet Cazza.*



# The Republic of Onderstepoort copes in adverse circumstances



*The romantic multistation exam for PAS 300.*

As with other republics close to Onderstepoort, power failures (or is the politically correct word outages?) and the increasing petrol price are causing problems!

Power failures during exams can cause havoc, but quick thinking saved the multistation examination for the PAS 300 BSc III subject. Candles were placed at each station. Recently, Dr Paul van Dam (acting Faculty Manager) had to resort to a cost-effective way (donkey cart) to carry out his duties and get to meetings on time!

When *OP News* asked the President of the Republic of Onderstepoort for his comments, he remarked: "Onderstepoort is adapting to change and coping well ... students usually utter derogatory remarks about exams; now our students exit from an exam starry-eyed and say they found it romantic! Donkey carts are environmentally friendly and cheap to run. The cart is low maintenance and 'die donkie is 'n wonderlike ding!'"



*Dr Paul van Dam (acting Faculty Manager) on his way to inspect fencing near the student residence. Heleen Els (acting Manager of the Onderstepoort Teaching Animal Unit – standing) and Esme van Heerden (Administrative Officer of the Unit – seated) accompanied him. Lana Botha (Senior Technical Assistant – Production Animal Studies) took the reins.*





# Calendar **girls** (and **boys**) at OP!

The first ever Onderstepoort calendar was launched this year by the Rag Committee in order to raise funds for Rag. The proceeds that were raised went to the community veterinary clinics in Mashashing and Kleinmond.

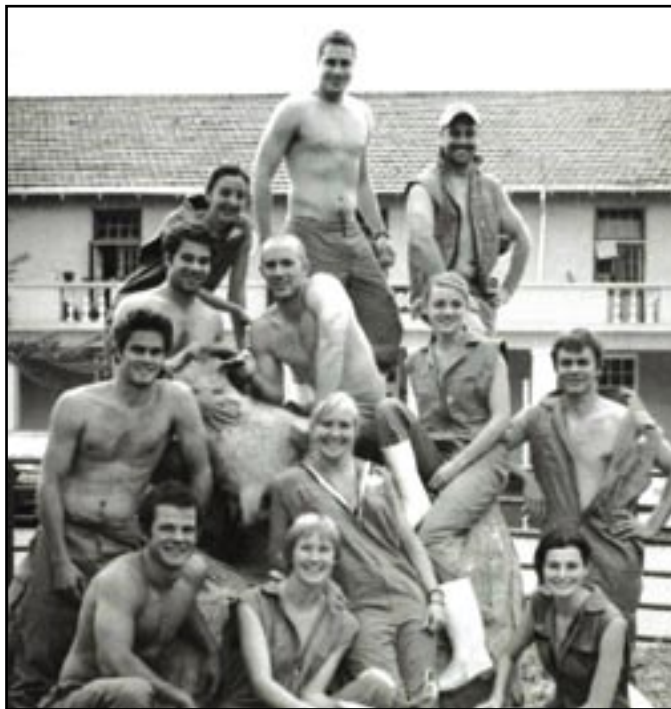
The calendar was an Onderstepoort interpretation of the 'calendar girls', and involved groups of OP students (girls and boys) showing off their hidden talents.

Nic Stirk was the devoted photographer and spent many hours slaving behind the camera trying endless shots and poses.

This endeavour was sponsored by Merial and Hill's. Without their support, the calendar would not have been possible.

There are still a few calendars available. They are being sold on a first-come-first-served basis. They cost R50 each and have really helped Rag make a considerably larger donation to the community veterinary clinics. It is hoped that the calendar will become an annual tradition at Onderstepoort.

To purchase a calendar, contact Sarah Louw on 082 545 2203 or Tiffany Harries on 082 831 2929.



*The February calendar girls and boys.*

## Onderstepoort **art** exhibition

by Keri-Lee Dobbie



*Enjoying a glass of wine at the art exhibition are (from left to right): Kirsty Barnard, Kate Moseley, Anna-Lena Vogel, Julia Swanevelder and Willem van Wyk.*

The House Committee's first cultural event of 2007 took the form of an art exhibition in the foyer of the Arnold Theiler Building on 8 March 2007.

It was a showcase of the incredible talent at Onderstepoort. The occasion was well supported, with no less than 16 exhibitors and around 90 guests.

Despite the copious amounts of wine, the evening was, indeed, very civilised!

A special thank-you to Prof Swan, Prof Terblanche, Dr van Dam and Dr Myburg for showing your support and attending the event.

Those of you who missed it certainly missed out!



# Dean's cultural evening 2007

by Keri-Lee Dobbie



Keri-Lee Dobbie, organiser of the event, with Willem van Wyk, master of ceremonies.

Onderstepoort's biggest cultural highlight of the year was a huge success. It was held across the road from the faculty at the lapa of the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute and was well supported by staff and students. The programme this year was a treat: a variety performance, which was an appropriate representation of culture at Onderstepoort. The audience was entertained throughout the evening by many talented performers, doing everything from singing, dancing, playing instruments (guitar, clarinet, saxophone, violin, flute and piano) and speaking (monologue and poems). Willem van Wyk was the master of ceremonies for the evening and did an excellent job keeping everyone occupied between performances and introducing the various acts. Three staff members performed this year: Prof Jacques Godfroid was a firm favourite with his breathtaking performance of guitar finger-picking. Dr Martina Crole stunned the audience with her saxophone-playing, while Dr June Williams read a thought-provoking poem. Another popular performance was a re-enactment of the *Goon Show* (a former BBC

radio programme), which was performed behind a white sheet and boasted sound effects and a multitude of different voices and accents by the very talented Willem van Wyk, Kerri French and Crystal Millard.

The vibrant and astounding dance performance *This is for Our People* was thoroughly enjoyed by all. It was choreographed especially for the evening and the troupe of dancers (from the BSc III, BVSc I and DVN I classes) had been practising for two months prior to the show.

The chief choreographers were Maya Dahlberg and Susan Hill (both BSc III) and the audience was treated to a bit of sokkie, ballet, hip-hop and cha-cha.

The evening went off without a hitch and was a true celebration of the talent we have in our faculty. Thanks must go to the House Committee and the OPVSC for their sponsorship of the evening and to the performers, without whom there would not have been a show.

## Just in case • Emergency numbers

• Security Services (main campus)	6911	420-2310
• Flying Squad 6022	10111	
• Police Pretoria North	6022	10111
• Ambulance: - Rosslyn	6003	541-3421/6
- Pretoria	6002	326-0111
• Fire Brigade (Wonderboom)	6024	543-0335
• Tygerberg Poison Centre	6179	(021) 931-6129
• Emergency Medical Help: OP		
- Sr Amanda Hamman (VAH)	8064	083 269 8874
- Sr Riani de Kock (VAH)	8149	082 802 3329
- Ms Anne-Marie Human (VAH)	8216	082 540 4833
- Prof Frik Stegnam (VAH)	8279	8148 (operating theatre)
- Mr Chris Neetling (Feed Store)	8004	8004 (roving phone)
- Prof Ken Pettey (Ethology/Physiology)	8449	082 882 7356
- Mrs Daléne Meyer (Anatomy/Physiology)	8212	082 374 1583
- 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
- Mrs Susan Myburgh		083 235 6778

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