

Speech at the OP Centenary celebration 2020 : Fiona Pillay

“Good morning to all students, staff and the honorary members with us today, the Dean and Deputy Deans and a warm welcome to Professor Kupe.

Thank you for affording me this opportunity to speak on behalf of our student body.

It is indeed my pleasure and honour to be speaking here today at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences Centenary celebration.

Over the years we have seen and been apart of great changes that has only improved our level of teaching and quality of the veterinary professionals that graduate through these doors. We have also made great strides in transformation, diversity and wellness among our students since 1920.

The creation of a university requires the emergence and empowerment of people of vision who become its Founders like Sir Arnold Theiler. However, they cannot become the university. The vision becomes a university only when faculty are brought forward to teach students. Over the years, it has been the role of hundreds of dedicated men and women to develop the academic programs we see today, shape the curriculum, and create the instructional and research opportunities for the students. The end result is this University we celebrate today.

When one thinks about how the world looked 100 years ago, the technologies and cultural trends that seemed innovative and transformative at that time have been surpassed beyond anything that could have been imagined. Given the incredible increase in the rate of change, innovation, and development, we will probably look even more primitive in the eyes of those who gather to celebrate the Bicentennial of this University, probably at this same site, in 2120.

I look forward to seeing how this faculty will continue to change and incorporate technology and advances in medicine in the near future.

I am proud to be apart of this faculty and I know we will have many more successful years to come.

Thank You”

Fiona Pillay

Chairperson

Onderstepoort Para-veterinary and Veterinary Student Committee (OPVSC)