



Scribbling for Success

Penned by the Deanery

Welcome Note

Welcome to the July issue of our newsletter. Spring is definitely in the air and sure you're also looking forward to mornings with less smog. We've also recently had our first snack and chat. I would like to thank everyone who was able to attend, and for their willingness to have an open discussion. A major point of discussion was the second Veterinary Faculty. At this point, all we know is that a second Faculty is in consideration and that four Universities have indicated their willingness to host a new Faculty.

Our Faculty

- ❖ First PhD awarded in 1931
- ❖ Five Departments
- ❖ 283 Professional and service staff
- ❖ Salmon pink graduation gown
- ❖ Two satellite facilities

Within the Box



★ **Puppies, puppies and more puppies:** With the kind assistance of ClinVet, the Faculty will be receiving 15 Beagle puppies to revitalise our current OTAU colony. It was an extremely generous donation and shows how the veterinary industry can contribute to veterinary training in South Africa. [Would you like to name our new puppies..... Feel free to send us your suggestions.](#)

★ **Wildlife clinics to the rescue:** The Hospital recently had to attend to a mass poisoning of vultures. The animals were transported from the Mpumalanga province. Our dedicated staff and students on the wildlife rotation were able to receive 18 vultures after midnight, and went the extra-mile to provide the necessary care.... and by morning, they had successfully pulled them through, and in the process marshalled a number of the hospital's mobile dog cages to house that many vultures. [To quote one of the volunteers \(a senior attorney\) who brought in the birds "I want to extend a sincere compliment to Sr Llamani.... It was clear that the birds' comfort and wellbeing was important to him."](#)

★ **Faculty Day:** The Faculty recently hosted our annual Faculty Day. The event was tremendously successful with a very inspirational keynote address from Dr Mark Penning, an alumnus of the Faculty. Congratulations to all our presenters on the day, and special congratulations to [Researcher of the year: Prof L McGaw: Emerging Researcher of the year: Dr J Hanekom: Best Oral Presentation: Aneliza Smit: Best Poster presentation: Megan Antrobus; and our Best VRE Student: Le Roux Pepler.](#)

"Even in the confinement of life's limitations, let your spirit soar like a vulture breaking free from its box. Embrace the challenges within, for they are but stepping stones to the limitless skies of your dreams."

Faculty of Veterinary Science

Fakulteit Veeartsenykunde
Lefapha la Disaense tša Bongakadiruiwa

- ★ **Teaching, learning and postgraduate:** The new postgrad information hub (called OPPIHUB = Onderstepoort Postgraduate Information Hub), collated by the PGSA is now available on ClickUP for all staff and students to access (to enroll, email op.pgsa@gmail.com). The hub is now a one stop destination for any post-grad information required. Likewise, undergraduate information, can be found at: https://clickup.up.ac.za/ultra/courses/175588_1/outline

Outside the Box

- ★ **Faculty Funding:** As mentioned in the previous edition, we have been in discussion with the DHET to look at Faculty funding. The Deanery is currently busy with 3 National Skills Fund applications to source more funding for the Faculty. We've also submitted a new application to the HWSETA for WIL funding for all our final year students.
- ★ **Faculty Evaluation:** The Faculty will be going through the University's quinquennial review in April next year. The process of collating an SER has begun. **The Faculty will need to nominate senior academics from international veterinary schools to participate in the evaluation.** If you have any suggestions, please feel free to send us some names.



Imploding the Box

- ★ **Partnerships:** The startup company Easichicken has approached the Faculty as a potential research partner in Public Health and Biosecurity. The company has permission from DALRRD to sell mobile chicken abattoirs. They want to operate a business model where small-scale producers partner in groups of 10 and buy a unit. They are looking to the Faculty for research support in terms of evaluating effectiveness, veterinary health aspects, biosecurity and potential for carcass contaminations.



- ★ **Student Electives:** The Faculty is investigating the potential options for private practices to be more involved in final year student training. The (Tygerberg) Animal Hospital (TAH) group has shown interest in offering opportunities for our students to rotate throughout their various facilities.

- ★ **Animal Protections Act:** The Department of Agriculture will be embarking on the major task of repealing the Animal Protection Act. **They're looking into creating a more proactive legislation that will advise on how to care for animals as opposed to only stipulating penalties for welfare concerns. They envision the new Act to cater for animal research as well.** They have approached the Faculty to become involved in the process. This is a great initiative and one we think the Faculty should support. As soon they're ready to start, we'll be hosting them for a most open discussion with staff who would be interested in assisting.
- ★ **Farming for our own food:** Black Inc – Gary Taylor, a philanthropist, has obtained the rights to use the wedge of land adjacent to the Faculty, and has agreed to allow us to use the land. While we cannot afford to fence the area for pastures, the Faculty with NAS Faculty can now consider plans to establish pastures for harvest so that we can grow our own good quality feed.

Questions

Drop The One (aka Neo) a question and we'll make sure we answer. Don't be afraid to challenge us, give us direction or suggest strategies to take the Faculty forward: neo.mashitisho@up.ac.za

**Faculty of
Veterinary Science**

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