



Scribbling for Success

Penned by the Deanery

Welcome Note

Welcome to our October/November issue of our newsletter, which will be the last for the year as the faculty starts finalising our exam activities for the year and preparations for 2025 begin. Next year we start with a bang, with the matric results scheduled for release on the 15th of January with the verification of the selection results starting the next day. For 2025, the faculty will also be moving back to a non-synchronised calendar with our different student years starting at the different points, which we had previously changed to meet COVID requirement.

In the last month we have also had a number of discussions with staff at departmental meetings, in our smaller snack and chat groups or in our larger forum and most recently with the welcoming address of our new VC. The one aspect that has been common with the current discussions is noticeable change in our staff willingness to share their views. This a welcome change and one that is moving us in a very positive direction, after our staff highlighted the lack of robust debate as an area for attention in the most recent climate survey.

Our Faculty

- ❖ First PhD awarded in 1931
- ❖ 250 degrees awarded in 2023
- ❖ 283 Professional and service staff
- ❖ 100 years of excellence

Within the Box



★ **Director the OVAH:** [Congratulations to Dr Alfred Kgasi on his appointment as Director of the OVAH.](#) With his marketing background we look forward to his initiatives aimed at improving client recruitment into the hospital. We wish him well in his new position and also [would like to thank Dr van Dam](#) for giving up his retirement and gardening time to assist us during the past year.

★ **100 years of BVSc training:** As mentioned in our previous newsletter the graduating class of 2024 will be the 100th BVSc class to graduate from the faculty. Please join us in celebrating this achievement at the upcoming oath taking ceremony. [You can RSVP on the link that has been sent on the OPinfo.](#)

★ **PQM matters:** The Faculty, student administration and institutional planning has been working on the ideal naming of our degrees. Going forward the faculty will be offering a single Master of Science in Veterinary Science or Doctor of Philosophy degree [for fully research students](#). In contrast our coursework masters' programme including the MMedVet will have their own names that is linked to the field of study e.g. MMedVet in Veterinary Toxicology.

"Even when life places you on a short leash, let your determination lead you to boundless opportunities. Like a dog who greets every challenge with unwavering loyalty and courage, face life's obstacles head-on, knowing they're just markers on the trail to your dreams."

Faculty of Veterinary Science

Fakulteit Veeartsenykunde
Lefapha la Disaense tša Bongakadiruiwa

Outside the Box

- ★ **Clinical Positions:** Through the hard work of both our acting HODs in CACS and PAS, we are slowly managing to recruit veterinarians into clinical positions into the departments and the OVAH. While we have seen many faces change at the faculty, [we are also happy to welcome our next generation of academics and veterinary specialists into the faculty.](#)
- ★ **Stakeholder Engagements:** The faculty advisory board had their annual meeting recently. The discussions were very positive with good suggestions on how the faculty can move forward. [One of the requests has been to bring back OPNews as an alumni magazine so that our alumni can feel part of the faculty.](#) Please look out for the first issue of the magazine.
- ★ **UP Academic Achievers Awards:** UP recently hosted the academic achievement awards for staff who recently received their NRF rating or renewals of ratings. [Congratulations to staff who have been recently rated.](#) The faculty would like to encourage all staff, academic, extra-ordinary or professional, who meet the NRF requirements to apply for their ratings.
- ★ **Chinese Embassy:** The faculty hosted a delegation from the Chinese embassy. The Chinese government has made available funds for rural development, [and the team was exploring opportunities of working with the faculty in the field of primary animal health,](#) following a recent media publication covering training activities being undertaken with PAS and E@UP.



Imploding the Box

★ **Veterinary Act:** We have been informed that the [veterinary council has requested permission to make changes to the veterinary act.](#) We await feedback on the decision from the minister's office and any consultation process that may follow.

★ **Food poisonings in the country:** A very concerning problem has emerged in the country with contaminated food being sold by vendors. Based on our expertise in food hygiene and toxicology, we would like to see staff also playing a role in future proactive management. [We would thus like to encourage staff to get involved if offered the opportunity.](#) A concern that is likely to come up next is the sale of poor quality eggs and meat, especially with the emergence of antimicrobial resistant strains of bacteria.

- ★ **OVAH Website:** As mentioned in the previous issue, we are moving ahead with a new webpage for the OVAH. We are working towards appointing a marketing intern from January under the guidance of the UP marketing team at Institutional Advancement.
- ★ **Post-grad student recruitment:** Being a comprehensive veterinary school, in addition to recruiting undergraduate students we need to be active in recruiting BSc Hons students into our research Masters' programmes. Without our own honours pipeline, we'll be piloting a project next year whereby we'll be hosting 10 UNISA honours students in campus laboratories to see if this could be a valuable recruitment tool. [Please reach out to your HODs if you think you could contribute as a project member.](#)

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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