



OP News

Volume 8 • No 2 • Summer 2008 • Official newsletter of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria

Onderstepoort centenary celebrations

Ken Pettey

The centenary celebrations are over. International guests, speakers and delegates appeared to be impressed by what they had experienced. This was to be expected. The planning committee, under the leadership of Dr Johan Grobbelaar, had been meeting on a monthly basis for three years to make sure that nothing was overlooked and that the celebrations would be a fitting tribute to the past century.

The year 2008 heralded the centenary of the University of Pretoria, the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (OVI) and Onderstepoort Biological Products. The Department of Agriculture and the South African Veterinary Association (SAVA) joined hands to assist in planning and organising the event. The organising committee also had Prof Morkel Terblanche as vice-chairman, with the following subcommittees: scientific (Dr Daan Verwoerd), fundraising (Dr Jacob Modumo), strategic (Dr Johan Grobbelaar) and publicity (Prof Ken Pettey). SAVETCON was appointed as the official congress organiser.

A veterinary museum, housed at the OVI and initiated by the History Committee of the SAVA under the leadership of Dr Rudolph Bigalke, was completed in time to be opened by Dr Steven Cornelius, Head of the Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment, at the cocktail evening that formed part of the opening

function. A book on the history of Onderstepoort was compiled by Dr Daan Verwoerd and Dr Bigalke. It was officially released during the centenary celebrations, together with a special postage stamp and first-day cover.

Marquees were erected next to the veterinary museum to accommodate all the guests at the cocktail evening. Entertainment was provided by a lively marimba band.

The Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs, Lulu Xingwana, opened the congress and,

later the same morning, unveiled a bust of Dr Jotello Soga – the first South African to qualify as a veterinary surgeon – in the garden of the veterinary institute. Soga's great-granddaughter, Carole Gallagher, and her husband travelled from the United Kingdom to attend the celebrations. Descendants of Sir Arnold Theiler, the pioneering veterinarian who was instrumental in starting Onderstepoort, came from Switzerland and the USA to attend the celebrations. His granddaughter, Elizabeth Theiler Martin, presented the Theiler Award to Prof Ivan Horak at the gala dinner.

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President Motlanthe in discussion with Prof Calie Pistorius, Vice-Chancellor and Principal.



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Faculty of Veterinary Science



From the Desk of the Dean

It is almost unthinkable to acknowledge that we have again arrived at that point in time when the hourglass is letting through the last few grains of sand for 2008. Although it has not been without its unique challenges in the University of Pretoria's centenary year, the faculty can look back on an exciting and successful year. A few highlights and important developments are worth mentioning.

Against the background of its vision and mission, the faculty's affairs are conducted according to the philosophy and value system of the University of Pretoria. Similarly, the faculty plan is aligned with the strategic thrusts of the University. In order to bring the structure of the faculty in line with the University's new management model, it is proposed to create three governance pillars to oversee the core functions of the faculty. It is envisaged that the current position of Deputy Dean will be responsible for teaching and learning, that of Dean for research and postgraduate training, and that of Director: Clinical Services for community engagement. The current faculty plan is the first to be devised under UP's new integrated management model. A new Director: Clinical Services, Dr Henry Annandale, was recently appointed and seconded to the Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital (OVAH) for a period of two years. We wish him all the best in his new position. I am confident that he will take the OVAH on an exciting new trajectory, building on the achievements of his predecessor.

Faculty Day was once again a great success. Dr Gideon Brückner delivered an excellent and very thoughtful Arnold Theiler memorial lecture. He reminded us of our global responsibility as

veterinarians to combat emerging and re-emerging diseases, the challenges facing the veterinary profession due to environmental and climatic changes, the expectations of society on the delivery of veterinary services as public good and the importance of veterinary professionals retaining their identity in the 'one health' concept. Congratulations to all the award winners in both teaching and research. Your excellence serves as an inspiration to us all.

The Pan-African Veterinary Conference that took place from 6 to 9 October to mark 100 years of veterinary excellence, and which coincided with the University's centenary celebrations, was a huge success. It emphasised future challenges facing training institutions, and the role of technological developments such as the design and production of vaccines and diagnostic methods to combat animal diseases on the continent. The presence of the new President, Mr Kgalema Motlanthe, highlighted the importance of the conference with regard to the impact of animal diseases on food security and the economic development of Africa. I want to thank and congratulate everyone who was involved in the arrangements for successfully hosting this conference.

On 1 August 2008, the faculty hosted three deputy ministers: Advocate Dirk du Toit (Agriculture and Land Affairs), Mr Enver Surty (Education at that time) and Mr Derek Hanekom (Science and Technology). The visit was historic in itself, as it was the first time that the faculty had received such a high-profile delegation from three government departments at the same time. The Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Calie Pistorius, welcomed the delegation, after which I had the opportunity to present a brief background of the faculty. A very successful meeting and discussion took place relating to some key issues such as the Wonderboom Airport and its risk to the faculty, veterinary research, and recruiting and training students from designated population groups.

The development of strong national, regional and international collaboration and partnerships are critical in strengthening the faculty's postgraduate and research programmes. It is also one of the strategic objectives of the faculty to establish new and strengthen existing partnerships with institutions that can add value to the overall reinforcement of these programmes. Earlier in 2008, I visited the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech): more specifically,

Publication information

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

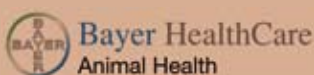
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www.jses.co.za

Printing:
Business Print Centre

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



the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. In turn, the faculty received a visit from Dr Roger John Avery, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies at Virginia Tech. His visit signified an important phase in formalising a cooperation agreement between the faculty and the Virginia Tech College of Veterinary Medicine.

The proposed cooperation between our faculty and Virginia Tech will focus on, among other things, the computer-based, point-to-point audio- and video-conferencing of resident rounds in certain speciality areas, participation in a programme for visiting academics, research collaboration, and establishing a working relationship and collaboration in the faculty's Veterinary Wildlife Programme.

The relevance of international relations between institutions and networking partners are well described on the website of the Virginia Tech College of Veterinary Medicine: "As increased technology and travel, economic integration, and environmental interdependence diminish the barriers among nation states, the imperative to know about other societies and cultures increases." (Internationalizing the campus, *A User's Guide*, American Council of Education 2003)

While it is of the utmost importance that we position ourselves as an internationally accredited seat of veterinary excellence through the effective internationalisation of the faculty, extensive networking and partnerships, the faculty must also be locally relevant. We, therefore, fully subscribe to the notion of the University to become more responsive to the needs of South Africans through community programmes and projects. The Mnisi community programme will commence towards the end of 2008 and is envisaged to have a duration of at least 15 years. It is, furthermore, envisaged that the programme will be extended to address the needs, on a lesser scale, of specific communities in Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal at the interface with conservation areas.

The broad integrated veterinary perspective of the programme is to improve the health and welfare of the community at the interface between wildlife, domestic animals and humans.

The animal health clinic at Hluvukani in the Mnisi traditional area, close to the Orpen Gate of the Kruger National Park, has been made available to the faculty so that it can manage the community programme from there. Clinical services will be offered there, it will be the base for an ambulatory service, and it will be used as the local headquarters for the research programme. This facility provides a physical presence for the



The faculty hosted a high-profile delegation comprising (from left): Prof Calie Pistorius, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Mr Enver Surty (former) Deputy Minister for Education, Prof Gerry Swan, Dean, Mr Derek Hanekom, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology, and Advocate Dirk du Toit, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs.



Sister Sarah Johnson escorted the delegation through the veterinary hospital.

programme and instils a feeling of permanency that gives identity to the long-term commitment of the University in the area. A clinic and community programme will also be part of a project that is being planned for the Mamelodi Campus.

In conclusion, I again wish to stress the fact that, as staff members, we hold an important part of this faculty's future in our hands. We can ensure that we not only do work of remarkable quality, but that our commitment to service delivery is unquestionable. My appreciation goes to each and every staff member and student for your contribution to the success of this faculty during 2008.

I believe that, as a faculty, we can confidently look forward to a fruitful and productive new year in meeting our stated goals. I conclude with a very compelling thought that was beautifully put into words by Marian Wright Edelman: "I'm doing what I think I was put on this earth to do. And I'm really grateful to have something that I'm passionate about and that I think is profoundly important."

It is the wishes of my wife, Lina, and I, that your festive season and those of your families be blessed and joyful, and that 2009 may be successful and prosperous.

Prof Gerry Swan
Dean



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A few days before the celebrations, Minister Xingwana had some concerns and insisted that some changes be made regarding speakers participating in the scientific programme, the master of ceremonies for the gala dinner and items on the gala dinner menu. This necessitated the reprinting of the programmes, proceedings and menus.

The Sir Arnold Theiler Building provided the ideal venue for the presentation of the scientific programme and exhibition area for industry. Teas were served in the exhibition area and lunches were served in the cafeteria. The audiovisual backup provided by Richard Maluleke, who was always close at hand, was excellent. The session chairpersons managed their speakers well and the time management was good.

The scientific papers that were presented emphasised future challenges concerning veterinary training, the role of technological developments such as the design and production of vaccines and diagnostic methods. Important issues around trade and transboundary diseases were also discussed.

Shortly after President Kgalema Motlanthe arrived at the gala evening, the master of ceremonies, Ms Njabulo Nduli, called for the national anthem. Everyone stood up. The musicians were still in the



Ms Lulu Xingwana, Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs

process of setting up inside the venue after playing outside the venue to welcome delegates and the President. The person controlling the background music and microphone sound activated 'anthem' in a computer play list. The music to the previous South African anthem, *Die Stem*, played.

No-one sang but everyone remained standing while the music played. This indicated respect for the anthem that had served Onderstepoort for many of the hundred years being celebrated.

A while later, when Minister Xingwana got up to speak, everyone in the venue spontaneously

stood up and sang the new national anthem (a mixture of *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika* and *Die Stem*). This was a special moment because it again proved that there was unity, respect, enthusiasm and support for the present and future. President Motlanthe's speech indicated that he was well informed and interested in veterinary-related matters.

To everyone involved with the planning of the activities and programmes linked to the centenary celebrations – congratulations on a job well done. It was a privilege to be involved.

Bust of first black South African veterinary surgeon unveiled

Dr Jotello Festiri Soga, the first South African veterinary surgeon, is one of the great sons of Africa and it is only fitting that his contributions to veterinary research be honoured in this way, said Ms Lulu Xingwana, Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs, at the unveiling of a bust in his memory on 7 October.



Dr Soga was well known for his use of traditional medicine to treat a variety of animal diseases. That is why it is so fitting for his bust to be erected in front of his garden at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (OVI), said Ms Xingwana.

"This garden contains many of the traditional plants and herbs that Xhosa tribesmen used to cure diseases that were found amongst their herds. Dr Soga also made extensive use of these plants in his research. In fact, one of his scientific

breakthroughs was based on the use of these plants." The unveiling formed part of the Pan-African Veterinary Conference.

Dr Soga was born in 1865 at the Mgawli Mission in the Transkei, but was educated in Scotland, where his father, Rev Tiyo Soga, met his mother, Janet Burnside. Rev Soga was the first black South African to be ordained as minister in the United Presbyterian Church.

Dr Soga studied at the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Edinburgh and

completed his degree in 1886. He had a special interest in botany and won a gold medal for best student in the subject while studying at the University of Edinburgh.

After completing his studies, he returned to South Africa where he spent most of his time helping rural farmers in the Eastern Cape. He died in 1906 at the age of 41.

According to Ms Xingwana, Dr Soga will be especially remembered for his research on rinderpest and other bovine diseases.

The strategic importance and outcomes of the Onderstepoort centenary celebrations

Dr Johan Grobbelaar, Chairman: Organising Committee



Dr Johan Grobbelaar

Onderstepoort's contribution to the economic growth and food security of the country is certainly inestimable. The benefit of its research, diagnostic services, vaccines and veterinary training to South Africa, the region and other African nations play a vital role in sustainable livestock production.

The Pan-African Veterinary Conference was not only part of the inauguration of the Onderstepoort Veterinary Laboratory. It also heralded a series of similar conferences in African countries during the first half of the 20th century. It was thus appropriate for us to celebrate the centenary of Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (OVI), as it is known today, with a commemorative conference on combating animal diseases on the continent.

The event celebrated accomplishments over the past 100 years, but emphasised future challenges concerning veterinary training, the role of technological developments such as the design and production of vaccines and diagnostic methods. It also engaged in profound issues around trade and transboundary diseases.

The conference enabled policy-makers to review the role of veterinary science in food safety, trade in animals and animal products, regional trade integration and a healthy national herd. It emphasised the vital role of Onderstepoort in veterinary science and in promoting human health and welfare through the critical supply of quality and residue-free animal protein, disease

control and the value of veterinary science to the economy of Africa's community, country and continent. It promoted the role of veterinary science in Africa's food safety, bio-security and livestock development. Finally, it preserved the heritage and history of veterinary science. It strived to contextualise vital concerns around trade in animals and animal products and achieve long-term benefits by initiating expert discussions. A follow-up programme on animal health in the 21st century on policy and trade issues was drafted and the conference recommendations were accepted for integration in the region. A veterinary science museum was also recognised as a national heritage repository.

All speakers were by invitation only and were selected on academic merit and international standing. The conference also produced a special edition of the *Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research*, to be published in March 2009. It contains the proceedings of the conference and will be distributed worldwide. In addition, 1 000 copies of an illustrated book on the history of Onderstepoort were published by the South African Veterinary Association, and miniature sheets and commemorative envelopes were produced by the philatelic division of the South African Post Office.

The South African Veterinary Museum was opened at the OVI on 6 October 2008. The congress also produced a DVD and CD, which received exposure in the print and electronic media.

The beneficiaries of the Pan-African Veterinary Conference were policy-makers, livestock and game producers, reputable veterinary scientists and practitioners who bear a real interest in the health care of draft, food, fibre and wildlife animals as a veritable means to sustain the economy of South Africa, the region and, indeed, our continent.

The conference promoted an awareness in the political leadership of the important role of the veterinary profession through research, training, diagnostic services and the production of vaccines to ensure food security and food safety for all population groups in the country.

Small-scale, often subsistence farmers, are likely to reap the most vital benefits of research and cutting-edge thinking on vaccines, more appropriate veterinary practices, marketing and trade policies for the developing world.

Cross-border transport and trade stand to receive invaluable policy and process directions.



Prof Ivan Horak receives the Arnold Theiler Award from Elizabeth Theiler Martin at the gala dinner.

Ivan Gerard Horak



Prof Ivan Horak (left with his wife, Petra) received an honorary doctorate from the University of the Free State.

One of the faculty's elder scientists has proved that age should be no barrier to achievement. Prof Ivan Horak, born in 1934, is an emeritus and extraordinary professor in the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases. Although he retired in 1996, his work in the department and at the faculty has continued unabated.

The year 2008 has been an exceptional year even for this distinguished scientist. It started with him presenting a short course on tick identification at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Eduardo Mondlane University, Maputo, Mozambique, and a similar course at the University of the Free State, as well as a spell in Belgium as examiner of a PhD candidate at the University of Gent. He also undertook field trips to the Eastern Cape, the Free State and to Tete Province, Mozambique, to collect and identify his beloved ticks.

The 250th article of which he was either sole, senior or co-author was published in a peer-reviewed journal during the course of the year. He received a Leading Minds research medal from the University of Pretoria, and shortly thereafter was appointed as a senior research fellow in the Unit of Advanced Studies at the University.

During October, he received a DSc (*honoris causa*) from the University of the Free State for his published works on ticks over the past 20 years, a thesis comprising some 940 pages. At the recent centenary celebrations he received the Theiler Memorial Trust Medal for excellence in veterinary science, the highest veterinary award that can be bestowed on an individual.

A 2008 achievement of which he is probably more proud than any of the others is the landing of the biggest tiger fish he has ever caught, weighing 6.7 kg on a kitchen scale, but judged by most who have seen photographs of the fish (below), to be closer to 8 kg (a real fisherman's tale).



Veterinary librarians celebrate 100 years

Erica van der Westhuizen

If you think librarians are just books, think again! The Department of Library Services celebrated the University's centenary on Saturday 21 June this year at the Merensky Library on the Hatfield Campus.

As part of the programme, library staff were invited to share their hobbies by way of an exhibition on Level 3. The Veterinary Library staff enthusiastically joined in as usual. These items were then brought back to the Veterinary Library and exhibited there for about three weeks, over the winter recess.

Amelia Breytenbach's creative greeting cards, wedding dresses made by Marguerite Nel and Antoinette Lourens, a quilt and embroidered pictures by Barbara Kellermann, and paintings and pottery by Tertia Coetsee were exhibited.

Each faculty library also had to present a display on a day in the life of their library. Barbara Kellermann designed and made the Veterinary Library's display.



Exhibiting their hobbies were (from left): Antoinette Lourens, Marguerite Nel, Amelia Breytenbach, Erica van der Westhuizen, Barbara Kellermann and Tertia Coetsee.

The Onderstepoort Centenary

Pan-African conference

Dr Daan Verwoerd, Chairman: Scientific Committee



Dr Daan Verwoerd, Scientific Committee

The official opening of the Onderstepoort bacteriological laboratory in 1908 was accompanied by a Pan-African veterinary conference. It was therefore appropriate that the centenary celebrations of the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute should be celebrated in a similar manner. The final programme featured 30 speakers from eight countries and the conference was attended by 205 delegates.

The first day was dedicated to historical reviews of important contributions made at Onderstepoort to control animal diseases. In his keynote address, Dr Rudolph Bigalke coupled the phrase 'Spirit of Onderstepoort' to both the person and the philosophy of Arnold Theiler. Peter Roeder examined rinderpest from its early introduction to Europe to the African pandemic and subsequent eradication campaigns. Dr Colin Cameron summarised the economic importance of the discovery by Theiler and co-workers of the etiology of lam-siekte (botulism). William Amanfu discussed progress in controlling and eradicating lung sickness or contagious bovine pleuropneumonia. Fanie Kelleman concluded the session with an overview of research into poisonous plants in South Africa.

The next session dealt with trypanosomosis, the most economically important cattle disease in Africa today. The theme was introduced by Alexandra Shaw, an economist with vast experience in the economic impact of the disease and possible control measures. Andy Tait discussed the genetics of African trypanosomes, including evidence for genetic exchange between the three subspecies of *T. brucei* based on genome sequencing. Albert

Ilemobade and Glynn Vale discussed more practical aspects of disease control.

Two sessions on tick-borne diseases formed the mainstay of the second day. As keynote speaker, Brian Perry set the scene with a well-balanced but critical review of progress made over the past century. D McKeever summarised recent information on the genotypic diversity of *T. parva* and its effect on the development of candidate subunit vaccines. Tony Barbet concentrated on the persistent infections in different tick-borne diseases, such as babesiosis, anaplasmosis and heartwater, in which antigenic variation is playing a role. Johan Schoeman stressed the striking clinical similarities between canine babesiosis and human malaria, especially in terms of hypoglycaemic, endocrine and cytokine responses in the patient. Ivan Horak reviewed a century of tick taxonomy. Guy Palmer reported on the completion of the genome sequencing of the *Anaplasma* central strain isolated by Theiler almost 100 years ago and used worldwide as an effective vaccine. The identification of a surface proteome shared with a wide range of virulent *A. marginalis* strains provides a new-approach to the development of new-generation vaccines. The final word belonged to Basil Allsopp, who reviewed recent progress in developing new-generation vaccines for heartwater.

On the third day, the future of veterinary research, education and services were discussed, with the emphasis on specific problems in Africa. Mary-Lou Penrith reviewed recent progress made in combating African swine fever. Baltus Erasmus and Daan Verwoerd presented historical reviews of research on African horsesickness and blue-tongue at Onderstepoort over the past century. Prof Gerry Swan surveyed veterinary education in Africa, challenges and the need for closer collaboration. Mike Modisane and Clive Marwick discussed the role of veterinary field services and private practitioners.

The last session examined policy and trade issues. Gavin Thomson made a plea for a change in the international approach to animal disease control from a geography-based to a commodity-based approach. Jeffrey Mariner pleaded for participatory disease surveillance and community-based animal health programmes. Gideon Brückner reviewed the mandate and activities of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). Concluding the session, B Hulman sketched the recent restructuring of SADC and the formation of a Directorate of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources with the mandate to improve food security, enhance rural livelihood and promote the trade in livestock products, while Eric Mitema addressed the need for improved control of veterinary drugs and pesticides.



The Veterinary Museum was opened at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute during the centenary celebrations.

Conference acknowledgements

Upon conclusion of the Pan-African Veterinary Conference, Dr Peter Roeder of Taurus Animal Health, United Kingdom, delivered the following closing acknowledgements:

"Mr Chairman, friends and colleagues, I speak, I trust, for all of us who were invited to participate in the Onderstepoort centenary celebrations.

"Many of you, like me, have long cherished relationships with the world-class colleagues working at the Onderstepoort complex. I first visited Onderstepoort in 1970 when working as a field veterinarian in Botswana and was in awe of the scientific expertise. Little did I think then that I would be back here 38 years later and privileged to give this vote of thanks. For others, it was their first time to experience the institute at first hand, but I am sure that they will return.

"We wish to express our appreciation of the invitation and the hospitality we have received, as well as the efforts of the organising team who worked so hard to make these celebrations a success. There are so many people involved that it would be ridiculous for me to try to identify everyone, but let me just mention Dr Grobbelaar and his team, together with Ms Petrie Vogel and Ms Zandile Mabena and the rest of the team. Last, but not least, we would like to thank Richard Maluleke for making the presentation facilities function so well.

"Thank you all, and may Onderstepoort have another 100 great years of contribution to veterinary science."

Meeting the Theiler and Soga descendants

Erica van der Westhuizen,
Veterinary Science Library

During the Pan-African Veterinary Conference, the Veterinary Science Library presented a display featuring various collections in the electronic institutional repository, UPSpace. These include the Arnold Theiler collection.

Special posters were designed by Ria Groenewald to highlight the Open Access research articles in OpenUP, the Arnold Theiler Collection of Memorial Lectures in UPSpace, Christine Seegers' biomedical illustrations in UPSpace, and slide material from various departments in the faculty. A powerpoint presentation designed by Antoinette Lourens ran throughout the conference, explaining the importance of digitising unique information sources.

The librarians were thrilled to meet the direct descendants of both Sir Arnold Theiler and Dr Jotello Soga.

Faculty Day 2008

John Soley



Dr Gideon Brückner (left) received the Sir Arnold Theiler Memorial Lecture Certificate from Prof Gerry Swan, Dean.

Faculty Day 2008 took place on 4 September this year. It was a special occasion and formed part of the faculty's contribution to the University's centenary celebrations. In the spirit of change and progress, this year's Faculty Day programme sported a completely new look with the front cover displaying a pencil sketch of Sir Arnold

Theiler drawn by the talented Estelle Mayhew. Prof Gerry Swan's opening address emphasised the importance of the day as an advert for the progress being made by the faculty in pursuit of its research goals.

Befitting the occasion, the Sir Arnold Theiler Memorial Lecture was presented by Dr Gideon Brückner, a highly respected South African veterinarian who graduated from the faculty in 1972. Dr Brückner is currently the Deputy Director-General: Animal Health and International Trade of the World Organization for Animal Health. His lecture on new challenges for the veterinary profession in global animal disease control and the trade in animals and animal products highlighted the challenge for veterinarians, politicians and the public in addressing the rapid global spread of highly infectious diseases. The student and faculty awards were announced after the guest lecture. Prof Johan Schoeman received the Pfizer Animal Health lecturer of the year award, while the newly

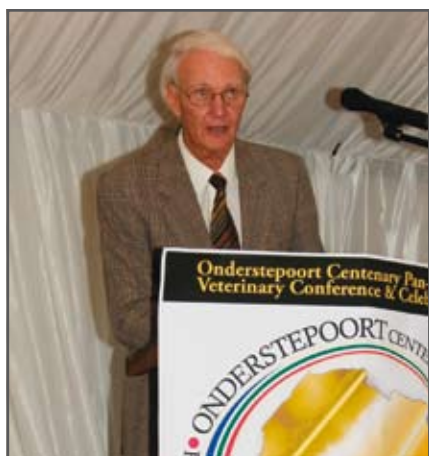
instituted Instavet young lecturer of the year award went to Dr MR Cole. The nursing lecturer of the year was Ms PL Mabeta, the Bayer Animal Health researcher of the year was Prof Johan Nöthling and the Onderstepoort Biological Products young researcher of the year was Dr E Dvir.

During the evening cocktail function, the Bayer Animal Health award for the best oral presentation went to Dr A Goddard, while the award for the best poster, also sponsored by Bayer Animal Health, was presented to Dr AO Jenkins.

The day was again made possible by generous support from the commercial sector. The various companies not only provided the financing of the event, but also created an exciting atmosphere by manning a number of colourful and informative stands throughout the day. The involvement of the students in a parallel session, where appropriate presentations by industry were presented, was again most successful and enthusiastically attended.

Involvement of the History Committee of the SAVA in the Onderstepoort Centenary Celebrations

Dr Rudolph Bigalke, Chairman: History Committee



Dr Rudolph Bigalke, History Committee

The launch of a book on Onderstepoort's history, edited by Dr Daan Verwoerd and Dr Rudolph Bigalke, and the opening of a veterinary museum formed part of Onderstepoort's centenary celebrations.

The book comprises the common and specific history of present-day Onderstepoort. The first part covers the general history of Onderstepoort as a single institution, including the later period when it was named the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute. The second part contains the history of the faculty from 1920, with emphasis on the period after its independence from the institute. The third part deals with the shared, discipline-based sections, including vaccine production. Much time-consuming historic research, involving 18 authors, was required. The preface was written by Dr Gideon Brückner, Deputy Director-General of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

Upgrading the museum was made possible through contributions by Dr Steven Cornelius, Head of the Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment, and the Theiler Memorial Trust. A modern approach to museum planning was followed with the enactment of a specific storyline depicting the history of veterinary science in South Africa.

The history starts with the local Khoi-San who developed ethno-veterinary medicine when they adopted a pastoral lifestyle some 7 000 years ago. Veterinary medicine made remarkable empirical progress in the Middle East and Egypt

some 5 000 to 4 000 years ago. However, it was only when the first veterinary schools were established in the late 1700s, first in France and then in other European countries, that veterinary medicine became a science.

In South Africa the veterinarians D Hutcheon and his assistant Jotella Soga made significant contributions to the establishment of a scientific ethos for veterinary service.

However, it was due to the efforts of Sir Arnold Theiler that veterinary science got off its feet in South Africa. Considerable attention is therefore devoted to Theiler, the birth of his research institute at Onderstepoort in 1908 and his many research triumphs. South Africa's proud record in veterinary education includes the history of the veterinary faculty at Medunsa. Over the years, state veterinary medicine also played a very important role in South Africa in controlling serious diseases like East Coast fever and many others. The first state veterinarians were appointed in the latter half of the 19th century in the colonies of Natal and the Cape of Good Hope.

The history of the SAVA naturally enjoys considerable attention, as does the development of private practice as the main vocation of local veterinarians compared to the absolute

predominance of state employment before World War II. The South African Veterinary Board, now the South African Veterinary Council, also features. The veterinary pharmaceutical industry has become a considerable force in this country.

Local vaccine production originated at Onderstepoort as a function of the laboratory in which it was developed, climaxing in the current completely independent state corporation known as Onderstepoort Biological Products.

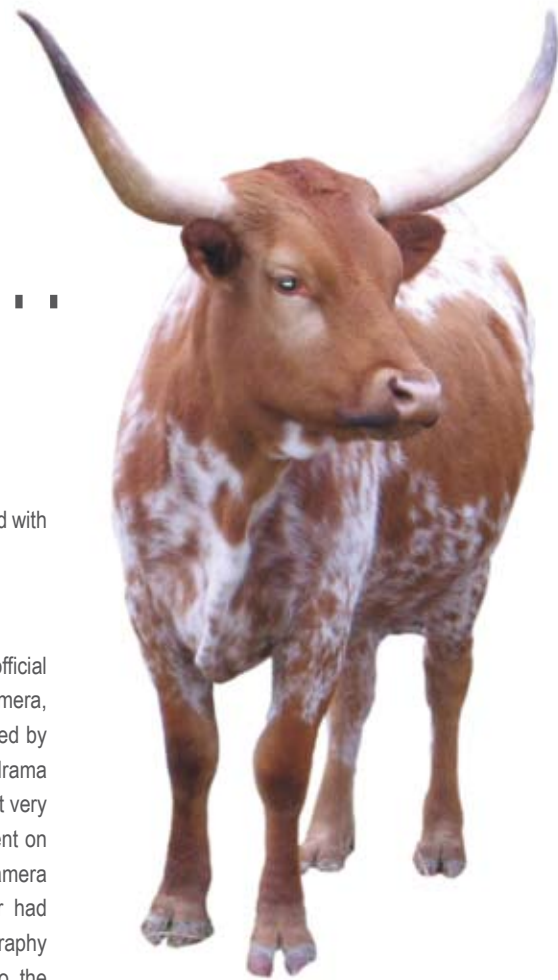
The main part of the museum also houses four cabinets containing various memorabilia. The four other rooms of the museum complex will be finalised when sufficient funds are realised. Two rooms are dedicated to the Theiler Collection. The other two rooms represent an old-fashioned laboratory and surgery cum clinic for small animals.

At the cocktail evening, which formed part of the centenary celebrations on 6 October 2008, Dr Bigalke presented the key to the museum to Dr Shadrack Moephuli, President and CEO of the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), parent body of the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute.



Dr Steven Cornelius, Head of the Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment (left), and Dr Shadrack Moephuli, CEO and President of the ARC, opened the door to the museum.

'Tails' from the OVAH...



Sr Sarah Johnson, Hospital Liaison and Client Communication:
Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital (OVAH)

Production animal clinic

It is not unknown for bulls to break their jaws (due to swinging gates and other bulls, among other things). The treatment, however, is costly and labour-intensive, and involves the creation of a *rumen fistula* under local anaesthetic, and placement of a *canula*, so the bull can be fed food and rumen fluids three times daily. The jaw is then either left as is (in the hope that, in time, the bones will fuse together) or additional expensive surgical dentistry is performed and the fractured bones are wired together. Food and water is always made available, so that the bull can attempt to eat. Unfortunately, the prognosis is usually very poor, as in almost all cases, the fracture site becomes infected in spite of antibiotics and daily disinfection, and the bull ends up being slaughtered. One tough bull beat the odds this year, though. A Bonsmara bull arrived with a badly fractured jaw in April, and slaughter was advised – which the owner refused. The bull was hospitalised and fed via the *canula* three times daily, with other non-surgical supportive treatment given as normal, with very little hope that the jaw would heal. A week or so later, the bull was observed trying to eat, and a day or two after that, was chewing his lucerne as though nothing was wrong.

Equine clinic

If there was ever any doubt about which is harder: a horse's head or a person's leg, then the jury is out no longer! Equine clinician Dr Cynthia Donnellan fractured both bones in her lower leg a few months ago. This was not, as one would naturally assume, due to a kick by a difficult horse, but due to a thump delivered by her patient-to-be swinging its head! The horse had collapsed in the horsebox on the way to the OVAH, and Dr Donnellan went into the box to assess the recumbent animal, when it suddenly took fright at a noise nearby, lifted its head and swung it around fast and hard. The rest, as they say, is history! The horse went on to recover without Dr Donnellan's

ministrations, as she was otherwise occupied with urgent medical attention for her broken leg!

Diagnostic Imaging Section

Not long after the excitement of the official celebration of the new equipment (gamma camera, CT scanner and digital radiography) acquired by the Diagnostic Imaging Section, there was drama of a different kind, when a very pleasant, but very hyperactive German shorthaired pointer went on a private mission to revamp the gamma camera – and nearly succeeded too! The pointer had spent the night on the floor of the scintigraphy isolation area because it could not fit into the biggest cage available. Clearly, it had other accommodation ideas. During the night, it trashed the room, managed to open the door, which led to the small control room just off the big gamma camera room, chewed up a couple of lead jackets, various computer leads, some keys off a keyboard, and tried very hard to open the door to reach the gamma camera itself – fortunately with no success! Once the cables had been repaired and reconnected, the gamma camera still did not work, so Diagnostic Imaging staff spent a few very tense hours until it did! Needless to say, the pointer was fine, in spite of having to be checked for lead poisoning and a potential foreign body. It was discharged, post haste, that same afternoon.

Quick tidbits...

The Physiotherapy Unit that had long been a dream is finally a reality, and so far boasts a custom-made swimming pool and a treadmill. Currently, only medicine and surgery patients are treated, but future plans include advertising to private veterinarians in order for them to refer patients specifically for physiotherapy.

The upper outpatients day ward, which has shared space with the procedure room, has been combined with the lower general ward so that all the cages are in the lower ward.

The procedure room now has much more space available to work on patients, and the couple of remaining cages are utilised only by patients recovering from anaesthetic.

The cattery of the Onderstepoort Teaching Animal Unit (OTAU)/blood bank has been home to the cats for nearly six months now, and although it is quite small, there is a lot of shelving, which gives the cats plenty of space to climb and get away from each other. Magic and Mystery, the two black cats that have lived in the 'fishtank' (the atrium in the middle of the OVAH) for over a year, have settled in extremely well with the other cats.

A baby chimpanzee made headlines some months ago when it was rushed by ambulance from the Johannesburg Zoo, via Milpark Hospital (for a CT scan) to the OVAH. The unfortunate youngster had been swung around roughly by older chimps and suffered severe head trauma. The theatre recovery room became a specialised ICU for 24 hours, while the chimp was maintained on a ventilator, and expertly tended by Dr Leon Venter and Dr Lynette van Aswegen. Unfortunately, after performing an EEG, zero brain function was revealed, so the baby was euthanased. Post-mortem confirmed massive bleeding and brain stem damage – and no hope of recovery.

feedlot challenge

The 2008 Onderstepoort Feedlot Challenge once again turned out to be a very exciting experiential learning opportunity for students in Bovine Health and Production 500. The challenge started with an auction on 23 May after students received some information and pictures of the calves for sale. This was followed by preconditioning of the calves on the same day, and a backgrounding period of 52 days. Processing took place on 14 July, the first day after the winter holidays, followed by two months of planning, monitoring and hard work. Apart from all the physical work, students had to select which calves they wanted to buy, design strategies for preconditioning, processing, treatment protocols, and the various feeding stages, as well as arrange slaughter and marketing, to experience the entire production system of a modern beef feedlot.

The winners of the 2008 challenge were Group 1, led by Marguerite Rudolph. Their unique strategy of an ultra-short standing time (43 days) worked out perfectly, and assured that they were the only group to make a profit this year. Although they paid a bit more for their calves, they were determined to buy older calves that had been weaned for some time, and this paid off well in the end. An average daily gain (ADG) of 2.35 kg was realised, partly thanks to good preconditioning and processing strategies. As soon as it was noticed that growth had started to slow down, the calves were marketed early to avoid feeding them at a higher cost. This also coincided with the end of the month, and a very high meat price could be negotiated through the excellent marketing skills of Ferdi Greyling. With this year's relatively high feeding cost, the group benefited from the fact that only 25% of their total expenditure went towards feeding, compared to the class average of 30%.

In second place was the mostly female Group 2, led by Candice McFarlane. This group put in a tremendous effort and had the heaviest carcasses to market at 209 kg, with

one carcass weighing 233 kg. Buying very well at the auction, they paid only R11.69 per kilogram live weight for their calves. Growth was also strong and one of their calves grew at a tremendous 2.78 kg a day. This was the only group to use Zilmax in their ration, which seemed to have paid off, leading to a cost of gain of R11.54 per kg live mass gained.

Group 3 was led by Estee Huysamen, and fed the most uniform group of calves. They received a prize for the best feedlot management with only 55 kg of raw materials and 220 kg mixed ration left. They spent the least on transport and veterinary costs. The cost of their ration was also the lowest.

Kathleen Davis of Group 4 received the leadership prize. Her group also received the prize for the best team spirit. Their selection strategy to buy calves was excellent, but unfortunately the auction turned out quite expensive for them, followed by a relatively higher feeding cost, as well as other expenses.

Group 5, led by Helen Anthelme, came up with the best innovation this year when they processed dung from their feedlot into garden compost, and as a result, made an extra R120. Unfortunately their calves grew poorly during the backgrounding phase and despite having the best Feed Conversion Ratio (FCR), their ration worked out too expensive to realise this into profit for the feedlot.

The panel of evaluators consisted of four lecturers, three private feedlot veterinarians and experts from the pharmaceutical industry. Students feel that the feedlot challenge adds value to the veterinary course, and that they gained a lot of experience from this. It was made possible by Pfizer and Bayer. The 2008 feedlot challenge was also supported by the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Bellevue Auctioneers and Kemira GrowHow. The project has earned Dr Dietmar Holm an Education Innovation Laureate Award from the University of Pretoria.



James Taylor and Erna Meyer demonstrate how to handle a calf.



Kleiber gets a cuddle from Kathleen Carter.



Dr Patrick Page of Bayer hands a special prize to Estee Huysamen of Group 3.



BAYER:

science for a better life

Bayer, founded in 1863, is a global enterprise with core competencies in the fields of health care, crop protection and high-tech materials. Its products and services are designed to benefit people and improve their quality of life. At the same time, it strives to create value through innovation, growth and high earning power.

It is firmly aligned to its mission statement, Bayer: science for a better life, and continues to optimise its portfolio, concentrating its activities in three high-potential subgroups with largely independent operations: health care, crop science and material science. These provide access to major global growth markets and are supported by Bayer's service companies.

As an inventor company, employing over 100 000 people, it continues setting trends in research-intensive areas. Innovation is the foundation for competitiveness and growth, and thus for the company's success in the future. Its knowledge and its products are helping to diagnose, alleviate or cure diseases, improve the quality and adequacy of the global food supply, and contribute significantly to an active, modern lifestyle. Its expertise and innovative capability also enable it to offer solutions for protecting the climate and addressing the consequences of climate change.

Bayer is committed to the principles of sustainable development, and its role as a socially and ethically responsible corporate citizen. For the company, there is a clear link between technical and economic expertise and corporate social responsibility. It defines as its responsibility working for the benefit of humankind, becoming socially involved and making a lasting contribution to sustainable development. Bayer regards economy, ecology and social commitment as objectives of equal rank.

Animal health

Its mission is animal health: to protect animals while benefiting mankind.

In this capacity, Bayer Animal Health is among the leaders worldwide. It has attained this leadership position by continuously researching and developing products for animal health and pest control since 1919. A responsible relationship between humans, companion animals, and livestock requires ensuring the health of animals.

Dogs, cats and horses are human companions. The role they play as they accompany man through life is growing in significance. Keeping this close relationship healthy is not just an obligation to man's animal companions; it also protects humans from the transmission of disease pathogens. To this end, Bayer is constantly developing innovative products and improved dosage forms. Bayer Animal Health is not only focused on companion animals, though. Bayer protects millions of farm animals as well, by offering effective, safe animal health care products.

Effective health care requires a healthy environment for both man and animal. Maintaining a healthy environment prevents diseases that can be transmitted to animals or humans by way of pests such as insects or rodents. This is another area in which Bayer excels – for instance, by delivering products that control malaria-carrying mosquitoes and pests that contaminate or destroy foods.

Responsible care

The manufacturing standards Bayer enforces for its products in terms of quality, effectiveness and safety are just as stringent as those applied to pharmaceuticals for humans. What is more, it has made a long-term commitment to the maxims of responsible care. Responsible care is a voluntary campaign spearheaded by the chemical industry. It obligates Bayer Animal Health to generate constant improvements in the areas of health, safety and environmental protection. In so doing, its objectives often surpass all legal requirements.

Global presence

Bayer Animal Health is represented in well over 100 countries and in all major markets worldwide. This customer proximity and the knowledge of the special needs and problems of each particular country and region enable Bayer to rapidly communicate experiences from the field in order to offer targeted, expert advice and deliver comprehensive information. Global partnerships and customer-oriented solutions and services are its goals.

Fields of operation

Each species of animal and its associated diseases require specific health care solutions. In order to better allocate its expertise and products, Bayer concentrates its efforts on two fields: companion animals and farm animals. Key Bayer Animal Health products are Baytril, Advantage, Advantix, Drontal, Bayticol, Drastic Deadline, Catosal, Baycox and Legend.

Increasingly, animal lovers are coming to expect the same quality of health care for their four-legged friends that they expect for themselves. The demands placed on animal health and medical care are increasing. Bayer responds to those demands with new and innovative products. The effectiveness of products for each individual animal species is confirmed in extensive trials conducted over many years. Simultaneously, safety is examined for animals, mankind, and the environment. Safety, effectiveness, and the responsible use of its products protect the healthy relationship between man and animal.

In perfect health and in top form

These are its goals in promoting animal health and just one way that the Animal Health Division, part of Bayer HealthCare AG, is responding to the challenges posed by the market and its customers' needs. As one of the world's leading suppliers of veterinary solutions, the division produces and distributes around 100 different animal health and care products for farm and companion animals worldwide ensuring 'science for a better life'.



Bayer HealthCare

Animal Health



Crocodile crisis

in the Kruger National Park

Dr Jan Myburgh: Department of Paraclinical Sciences



The recent mortality of crocodiles in the Olifants Gorge is obviously a big concern for the managers and veterinarians of the Kruger National Park, as well as for tourists, wildlife enthusiasts and crocodilian scientists all over the world. Within four months, this population of Nile crocodiles (*Crocodylus niloticus*) was decimated and nearly all of them lost. This high-density crocodile population in the Olifants Gorge is considered to be very unique in Africa.

About 150 carcasses were counted in the gorge between June and September this year. As this is a remote area, it is possible that large numbers of carcasses were missed. It is most likely that the number of crocodiles that died is closer to 500. The total crocodile population in the gorge was estimated to be just over 1 000. Another big concern is that nearly all the dead crocodiles were more than three metres in length and mature animals. This loss of most of the reproductively active animals may seriously influence the ability of this population to recover in the near future.

Post-mortem and histopathological investigations indicated that the crocodiles died of a condition called pansteatitis. All the dead crocodiles from the gorge were very fat due to an over-abundance of food in the gorge. Except for the fat lesions, no other pathology was observed. Clinical signs include a general hardening of body fat and a change in colour from white to yellow. These changes in all body fat deposits cause the crocodiles to become stiff, causing a reduction in mobility and inability to swim properly. Affected crocodiles become reluctant to enter the water and do not move away when approached.

This leads to a slow death due to exposure, starvation and even drowning. Pansteatitis was also diagnosed a year ago in five mature crocodiles that died in Loskop Dam after a fish die-off. Pansteatitis is more commonly diagnosed in farm crocodiles and is always associated with the consumption of rancid fish.

At this stage it is not yet clear what triggered the pansteatitis outbreak in the Olifants Gorge. No fish die-off was observed in the gorge before the outbreak. The only major change before the crocodile die-off was that water from the Massingir Dam pushed into the Olifants Gorge after the high rainfall that was received last summer. This changed the gorge environment from a shallow rocky river with deep pools into a stagnant deep reservoir or dam, and obviously also influenced the fish species in the gorge. It is thought that the pansteatitis in the Olifants Gorge crocodiles could have been started by illegal fishermen from the Massingir Dam using their gill nets in the gorge. They most probably dumped unwanted fish or intra-abdominal organs in the water. Consumption of rancid fish most probably triggered the peroxidation reaction in the fat deposits of a number of crocodiles. The large volume of oxidised fat in a sick crocodile is most probably enough to trigger the reaction in other crocodiles feeding on a pansteatitis case. This is the most logical explanation for the ongoing crocodile mortality in the gorge.

Numerous laboratories in South Africa and Europe have tested water and sediment samples collected in the gorge, but could not confirm a specific pollutant as the trigger or cause of the crocodile die-off.

The Mnisi Community Programme: an integrated interface programme

The Centre for Veterinary Wildlife Studies manages the faculty's wildlife-related activities on a matrix basis. One of its current focus areas is the development and implementation of what has become known as the Mnisi Community Programme.

Guiding principles

Diseases sustained by wildlife are transmissible to domesticated animals and to humans and may have substantial socio-economic consequences. These are of particular importance at the interface of communities (often those that are extremely poor) and conservation areas, and often lead to conflict.

There are numerous factors that affect the health and welfare of human communities at the interface with conservation areas. The unifying concept of 'one health' (also referred to as conservation medicine) that addresses the interrelationship between human, animal and environmental health is the guiding principle when dealing with these matters.

Diseases at interfaces are also of particular importance in the context of the development of transfrontier conservation areas (or peace parks, such as the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Park) that have the potential to cause substantial changes in the nature of borders, ecosystems and the movement of animals and humans.

The important impact of these factors at interface areas is increasing. At the wildlife/livestock/human interface, emerging and re-emerging diseases, zoonoses, access to ecosystem services, varying land-use options and the needs of rural agriculture are critical matters that need to be investigated and addressed. The issues of food safety and security, poverty relief and the future of wildlife conservation become critical in these contexts.

Numerous policy documents deal with the broad context of biodiversity, sustainable environment, poverty alleviation, land-use options, ecosystem services and the impact of climate change. Little, if any, information is available that deals with diseases of free-ranging African wildlife that are transmitted to those living at the interface, and vice versa. This information is needed to guide policy development to manage these diseases at the interface, taking the needs of conservation and sustainable livelihoods into consideration.



Onderstepoort veterinary students provide the Mnisi community with assistance.

From a veterinary perspective, food safety and security, sustainable livelihoods, land-use, and conservation initiatives (particularly those involving transboundary conservation areas) are critical matters to deal with. These are driven by the consequent changing disease dynamics and their impact on the socio-economic integrity of communities in the relevant areas.

Wildlife plays a pivotal role in the occurrence and further spread of the economically important diseases that they sustain. Obtaining information about the consequences and developing management practices for conservation and subsistence farming is a critical focus of this programme.

The partners in the programme include the Mnisi Traditional Authority, the faculties of Veterinary Science, Natural and Agricultural Sciences, and Health Sciences of the University of Pretoria, the Directorate of Veterinary Services of Mpumalanga, the Institute for Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium, the National Emergent Red Meat Producers' Organisation, the Southern African Centres for Disease Surveillance and the South African National Defence Force.

With a focus on interface issues, primary animal health care, public health and land-use options, and the socio-economic consequences, the programme supports formal undergraduate and postgraduate training. The integrated research programme incorporates animal health, wildlife and domesticated animals, environmental health and sustainability, agricultural production systems, human health, including food safety, indigenous knowledge and socio-economics.

It is envisaged that this programme will have a duration of at least 15 years. It is currently in an advanced planning stage and the clinical activities commenced at the beginning of October 2008. Dedicated MSc and PhD students are involved in the process and data collection will commence in early 2009.

The Mnisi community

The study area is close to the Orpen Gate of the Kruger National Park. The community is well structured and managed by the Mnisi Traditional Authority. It participates in small-scale subsistence agriculture and reflects various levels of poverty. The study area comprises 29 500 ha, has a perimeter of 85.5 km, of which 69 km borders either the Sabi Sand, Timbavati or Manyeleti game reserves, which are open to the Kruger National Park, and the Andover Provincial Park. It supports an estimated human population of 35 000. A thousand stockowners collectively own 11 500 cattle, 5 700 goats, 250 pigs, and numerous chickens and donkeys.

The clinic at Hluvukani

The Directorate of Veterinary Services in Mpumalanga has made this clinic (a rural animal health centre) available to the University of Pretoria, and specifically to its Faculty of Veterinary Science, so that it can manage the community programme from there. Clinical services will be offered here, it will be the base for an ambulatory service and it will be used as the local headquarters for the research programme. This facility provides a physical presence for the programme and instils a sense of permanency that gives identity to the long-term commitment of the University in the area.

Onderstepoort

Maireschka Smith (BVSc I)

invades Magalies Park

This year there was a new dynamic to the notorious battle between the female students and lecturers on the golf course. It was decided that a mixed golf day would be more entertaining and would further improve relationships between students and lecturers, as well as between colleagues and support staff. It was purely coincidental that this occasion was celebrated on National Women's Day, the 9th of August 2008.

The students were very enthusiastic to play, especially the guys who now had the opportunity to join in the fun and display their golfing talent. The co-ed fourballs gathered at Magalies Park Country Club near Hartebeespoort Dam at midday, sporting brightly coloured team shirts. Champagne and orange juice was eagerly welcomed by those wanting to calm their nerves before teeing off for the nine-hole game of golf awaiting them.

The first tee-off proved entertaining, as usual, with a mixture of both experienced players and 'first-timers'. The advice and encouragement from the former was greatly appreciated by the team members who seemed to be struggling. Nonetheless, some balls still flew off in every imaginable direction. I can testify to a golf ball of a certain Floris Coetzee ricocheting off an inconspicuously placed rock and landing right back in the tee-off area!

As the day progressed, the players' 'natural talent' began to reveal itself as many put down respectable scores, while others played from one hazard to the next. Prof Duncan proved to be highly entertaining throughout the day and was voted the most 'golfy challenged' player.

The players welcomed the water refreshments supplied by Hatfield Bird and Animal Hospital, as well as the 'Jager-bombs' poured by the lovely ladies of Bev Meekel Consulting. For the remaining holes, driving under the influence was given a new meaning. All in all, everyone seemed to make it to the last hole in one piece without injury. Only the last two fourballs couldn't finish their holes due to darkness creeping up on them, but they didn't mind, as the thought of food succeeded in overpowering all feelings!

A superb supper was served by Magalies Park Catering. The Magalies Park staff were very supportive and friendly, and they really went out of their way to make the players feel at home.

A small awards ceremony was held to acknowledge the deserving players and present the prizes. The fifth-best fourball team was Instavet representatives. The fourth-best fourball team was that of Maireschka, Amelia, Floris and Conrad. The third-best team comprised Koba, Robyn, Drew and Omar. In second place was the team of Laurian, Jenny, Prof Van Vuuren and Ruan (from Imperial Bank). The prize for the best fourball team was well deserved and presented to Jean-Lynn, Janneke, Johan and Nicky.

The traditional 'manly prize' was won convincingly by Koba Grobler. This year a 'tinkerbelle prize' was introduced, which will be established as another OP tradition. This prize was awarded to Floris Coetzee.

A huge thank-you goes out to the Fun-raising Club (FRC) members, Tania Heuer, Anri Louwrens, Tania Smith, Koba Grobler and Jean-Lynn van Heerden, for all their support and hard work to ensure the success and organisation of this day.

On behalf of the FRC, I would like to thank all the participants for joining us at Magalies Park Country Club for a hugely successful day that was enjoyed by everyone.

A special thank-you goes to all the sponsors who helped make this day a reality. We appreciate all that was done to support our cause. Thanks Royal Canin, Scientific Veterinary Diets (Nola), Iams/Eukanuba, Hill's, Crocs, BBRAUN Medical, Instavet, Afrivet, Bev Meekel Consulting, Dr Kenyon and Hatfield Bird and Animal Hospital, Priority Pet Food, Imperial Bank, Dr Gerhard Klopper of Vetmed Surgical Supplies and, last but not least, Dr S Nagel and her mother, and Dr Z Visser (MD) for sponsoring the golf shirts, as well as their huge financial contribution to the fund.

For those of you who missed out on all the fun and action, next year is your chance to show off your golfing skills. The aim is to host this event annually and we hope to see you all again next year.

Thank you again for an awesome day. Get your golfing shoes ready for next year, it's going to be just as amazing!



Tania Heuer (back), Maireschka Smith, Anri Louwrens, Tania Smith (middle from left), Koba Grobler and Jean-Lynn van Heerden (front from left).

Alcatraz

Kylene Kelbe



Have you heard of Alcatraz? No, it's not a military fortification or a federal prison, but an Onderstepoort Res corridor said to be doing some amazing things. Not only are they participating as a group in events, but they are collecting old clothes for charity and becoming a family.

It all started in 2005 when the then current house committee, encouraged by Mrs Myburg, gave each corridor the right to be named and the tenants at that time had the awesome duty of doing so. Block B2 thought of names like Milky Lane, Chicken Run, Sanity's End, Snake Pit, BSE and Dragon Alley, but eventually concluded that Alcatraz was the most fitting. Not being very active that year but still proud of their corridor, Alcatraz started to become a family. In 2008 the whole of Block 2 became Alcatraz, with Alcatraz-Upper Level the instigator of it all. Each prisoner has a profile picture taken and a form to fill out, including their prisoner personal profile (stating their yard name, crime committed and years served), psychiatric evaluation and information such as number of courtyard brawls and preferred prison duty. Prisoners were ranked according to things like how involved they had become and if they had given money to charity. There are some high hopes for Alcatraz in 2009, which include planting trees, encouraging Res participation, going to events together, getting Alcatraz overalls and making the corridor green with pot plants. Watch out World! Alcatraz girls are making a name for themselves.



The initiative was well supported by the Alcatraz girls who collected food, clothing and sports equipment for Nellmapius, an after-school centre.

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 (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 Stegman (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.