



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

# OPVSC

newsletter

For the students, by the students

Issue 2 : Autumn 2018



*Delegates at one of our community outreach projects that took place during the IVSA symposium.*

## Onderstepoort students continue to excel at IVSA with a new President-elect

Magda Jannasch, a student in the Faculty of Veterinary Science, was elected as President of the International Veterinary Students Association (IVSA) at the IVSA symposium in December. We asked her to write about her achievement, her experience at the symposium and her role as President.

"No matter what anyone tells you, thoughts and ideas can change the world!" These are very famous words spoken by actor Robin Williams in the film *Dead Poets Society*. So often, we feel that we cannot make a difference and that we are just small fish in a very large pond. I want to tell you today that, regardless of what you think, you have the potential to change the world. I know this might sound very cliché, but sometimes I wonder if cliché is not exactly what this world needs.

IVSA is a student-driven non-profit organisation that focuses primarily on improving veterinary education worldwide. It is made up of a network of local and national member organisations that are involved in a number of different projects, both locally and internationally. The mission of IVSA is to benefit the animals and people of the world by harnessing the potential and dedication of veterinary students to promote the international application of veterinary skills, education and knowledge.

My IVSA journey started during my second year of studying veterinary science at Onderstepoort in the Faculty of Veterinary Science. I embarked on an adventure to Romania to attend the annual IVSA symposium. I boarded the aeroplane with no idea what to expect when I reached the other side. I left there 11 days later a changed person. Not only did I get to experience the culture of a country that I would never have visited otherwise, I also realised that IVSA is so much more than

I expected. It is a network of incredibly motivated students, all with the same interest in mind – improving the lives of the animals and the people, especially the veterinary students, of this world. I also realised that I have found a new family – my IVSA family.

After attending this symposium, I decided to get more involved in my local IVSA environment. I was blown away by the different areas that IVSA South Africa was (and still is) involved in. These projects include the Medical and Veterinary Rural Integration and Collaboration initiative, the Onderstepoort Primary Tutoring programme, SPCA Donation Wars, Global World Rabies Day, anti-rhino poaching projects, anti-dog fighting projects and IVSA Standing Committee on Veterinary Education (SCoVe) Vet Talks, just to name a few.

In December last year, IVSA South Africa had the honour of hosting the 66th IVSA symposium, sponsored by Ascendis Animal Health at Onderstepoort. The entire event was organised by 20 highly motivated veterinary students who put in hours of work to make the event a reality. We started off by taking the delegates on a three-day safari experience to Sondela nature reserve. Here, discussions focused on conservation and the current wildlife situation in South Africa. Among others, the sessions included lectures by Dr Richard Burrows, Dr Christine Steyn and

Dr Adrian Tordiffe, all from the Unniversity of Pretoria's Faculty of Veterinary Science. The rest of the programme took place at Onderstepoort Campus. The lectures and workshops mostly centered on showcasing the diversity of veterinary medicine in South Africa and I am proud to say that the delegates really took a lot of new knowledge home with them. The students found the lectures and workshops incredibly informative and interesting, and the discussions were very productive. This once again reminded us how privileged

we are to have such incredible lecturers at Onderstepoort.

During this event, I was also elected as the new President of IVSA Global. This is a chance for me to learn from those who know more than what I do, and teach those who do not. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be an IVSA ambassador. As an organisation, IVSA has had a tremendous impact on my life, and I am grateful for the chance to play a role in making a difference in other people's lives.



*Organising committee of the 66th IVSA symposium.*

## Message from the Chairperson

To all those new Opiates among you, welcome to OP!  
To the battle-hardened veter(inari)ans, welcome back!  
Your OPVSC wishes you success for the coming year!

This year has already started with a bit of a delayed bang. The NewVs are already working in the anatomy hall with bright eyes and enthusiasm. The third-years scoff with hard-earned pride at the NewVs, while the fourth-years count their hours of sleep and wonder whether McDonalds is hiring employees. The fifth-years start their day with mixing feed and look forward to their 40-day countdown to clinics, while the final-years – the royalty of OP – recount the days of class and wonder why they didn't study harder when they had infectious diseases. As you can see, everyone is already extremely busy!

Your OPVSC has also been hard at work. The new multi-faith prayer facility has become established and this year has also seen the establishment of our brand new

senate. We expect much on this front in the future. The dance floor was broken in at the annual Hawaiian party and we introduced office hours so that you can approach us on a personal level with any suggestions or complaints you might have. Last, but definitely not least on our list of activities for the year: We are in the process of finalising our wellness committee and our internal RAG. One thing is for sure, your OPVSC is looking out for you. Remember, you can approach us about anything at any time!

My year has certainly been interesting thus far, and we haven't even reached the half-way mark yet. I have learned so much of the workings of OP, as well as the hidden gems that lurk here. I love working with OP students, because their biggest fault is caring too much for others.

This is our second edition of the OPVSC Newsletter, compiled by our very own Alex Hollender and edited and produced by Mr Chris van Blerk. We try to keep everyone updated about what is happening on campus, as well as in the clubs and societies. All of this makes the OPVSC Newsletter the pulse of OP.

In the words of Isaac Newton in 1675: "If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants."

Let us make this year an excellent year.



*Riaan Crafford  
Chairperson of the OPVSC*

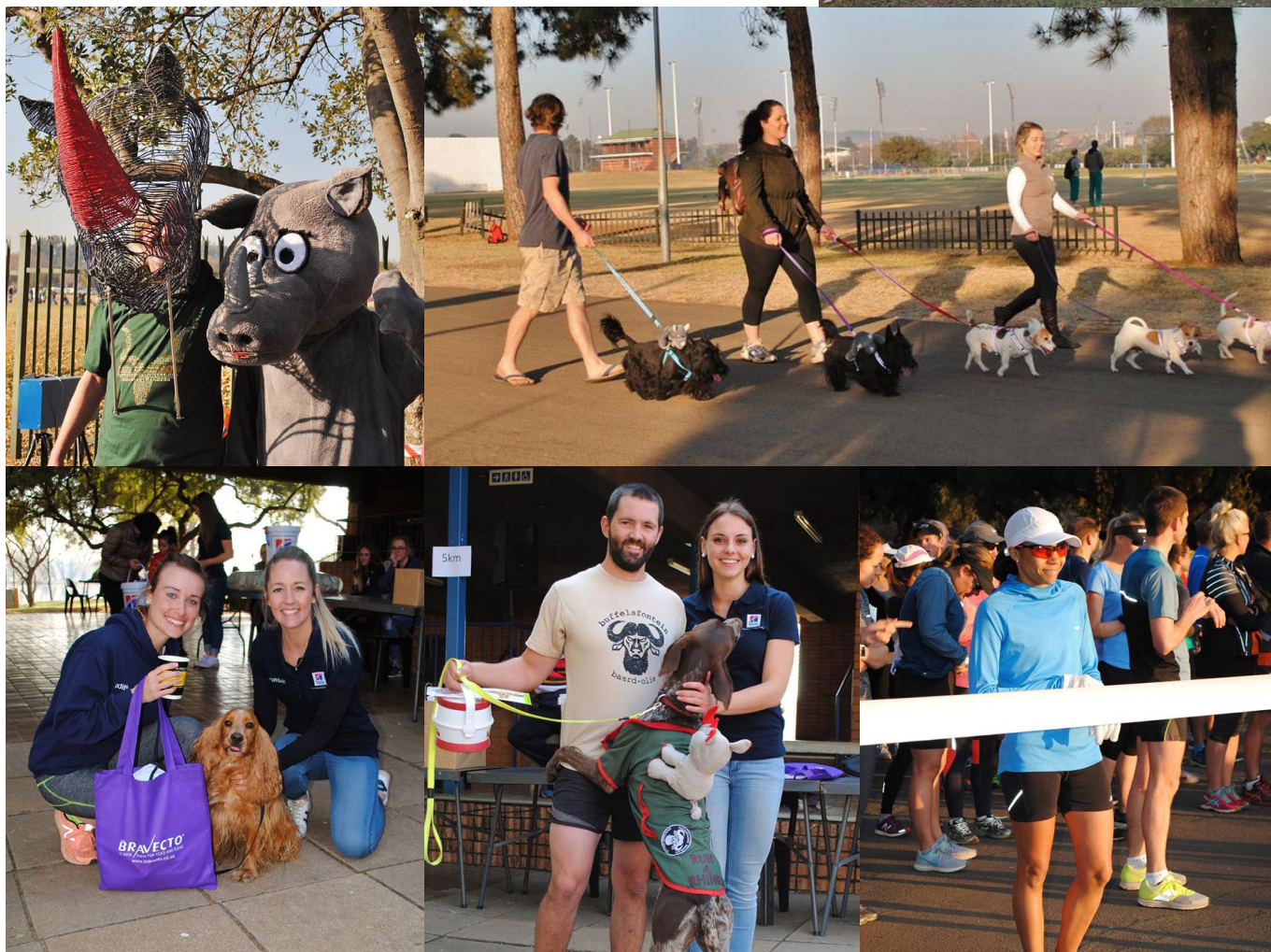
**Riaan Crafford**  
Chairperson of OPVSC

# Run4Rhinos

Run4Rhinos is a student initiative to raise funds to help answer the plight of rhinos. The Run4Rhinos fun run/walk (5 km and 10 km) has been held every year since 2013 at the University's Hillcrest Campus, and has since grown to a fun run with near 1 000 participants. All proceeds generated at this event go to selected organisations that make it their mission to protect and save this beautiful species. The proceeds of the 2017 Run4Rhinos will be shared between RhoDIS and Saving the Survivors.

RhoDIS is the Rhino DNA Index System, a project that was initiated by the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory (VGL) of the University of Pretoria. The VGL is collecting DNA samples of rhinos across the country to create a database using the unique DNA profile of individual rhinos. The goal is to document every single rhino on the system according to its genetic profile. This will then deter poachers and assist in forensic prosecutions. RhoDIS is a non-governmental organisation and is the only one of its kind in the country. It costs R600 for a rhino to be added to the database (excluding the darting and sample collection costs). The funds raised for this organisation through the Run4Rhinos project will contribute to this.

Funds donated to Saving the Survivors will be used to attend to injured rhinos that have fallen victim to poaching or other traumatic incidents. Many poaching victims have been given a chance of survival after undergoing various interventions and surgical procedures performed by the Saving the Survivors team. Saving the Survivors is fortunate to collaborate with world-renowned clinical specialists, conservation groups and the unwavering support of the public.



Great fun at Run4Rhinos.

# Wollies Donations

This year, the OPVSC is involved with a community outreach to Wollies Animal Shelter once again.

Wollies Animal Shelter is a place familiar to many Onderstepoort students. If you don't know about it yet, you're bound to volunteer there at some point during your time here at OP. Packed with roughly four hundred cats and six hundred dogs that are looking for "forever homes", Wollies is

constantly in need of food and support to be able to feed and care for these animals. Recently, Wollies sent out a message asking for help, as they were running out of food. Within a few days, OP students managed to raise over R3 000, and donated about 90 kg of food!

We thank you all so much for contributing to this cause and rallying together for those who needed our support! A lot of hungry bellies are now full because of your help. To those who would still like to donate, please do!  
"Be good. Do good."

		<b>Banking Details</b>	
		Account Name :	Wollies Animal Project NPO
<b>Contact Details</b> Cilla : 083 339 1692 Sandra : 082 808 2412 Amanda : 078 865 8634 Nicole : 078 270 3233 Office 1 : 079 916 4602 Office 2 : 061 605 0002 Innocent : 084 886 9315		<b>Address</b>	
		101 Rooikat Street Hestea Park Pretoria North 0182	
		Monday :	09h00 – 16h00
		Tuesday :	09h00 – 16h00
		Wednesday :	09h00 – 16h00
		Thursday :	09h00 – 16h00
		Friday :	09h00 – 16h00
		Saturday :	09h00 – 16h00
		Sunday :	09h00 – 12h00
		Public Holidays :	09h00 – 12h00



OPVSC members with bags of donated food for Wollies Animal Shelter.

Contact Donavin (072 755 0169) or Nabeelah (071 349 0683) to contribute through the OPVSC.

# Nothing says "aloha" to the new academic year better than the OPVSC's annual Hawaiian party!

The event was held on 5 February at ChewnZ in Pretoria North, and approximately 400 students attended. The atmosphere of comradery among the students was amazing.

It was heartening to see how the students put in so much effort to dress up in colourful Hawaiian regalia, how they all came together. This year, a sense of excitement was especially apparent in the NewVs and first-year veterinary nurses who gave it their all on the dance floor – perhaps in an attempt to prove themselves as competent party-goers to the senior students.

The Hawaiian party, the first official social of the year, provides our newest recruits with the opportunity to meet and socialise with the seniors. It was also clear to see that the seniors looked forward to the opportunity to meet fresh faces, and practically jumped at the opportunity to



A band of students dressed up for the Hawaiian party.

introduce themselves to the NewVs and first-year veterinary nurses. Although a few names have probably been forgotten from hazy memories, lasting bonds and friendships have been made among the students that will, hopefully, extend in to their professional careers.

The night was a great success, and the students danced well into the early morning hours. The best part of it all was seeing the tired, yet happy, faces of students who put on a brave face and showed up to class despite being deprived

of sleep. The halls of the Arnold Theiler Building were alive with the tales of the previous night's escapades.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the staff of ChewnZ who were so generous and accommodating of the Onderstepoort students. I would also like to thank the OPVSC members for all their help in ensuring that the night ran smoothly and efficiently.

Until next year!

*Written by: Sarah Olivia-Nunn*    *Forming lasting friendships.*



# The Onderstepoort Jujitsu Club is about training members in the martial art of Jujitsu.

Jujitsu involves many different self-defence techniques, including throws, punches, kicks and grappling. We have a Sensei that comes from Hatfield's dojo for the practice sessions on Saturdays and informal training sessions take place on Wednesdays.



*Members of the Onderstepoort Jujitsu club.*

Our members enjoy the freedom of getting to learn Jujitsu in an expectation-free environment, where the only rules that apply are to participate in order to learn

something and to have fun. If members want to compete in competitions or get graded, the club is very supportive, but there is no obligation to do either.

Gradings take place in June and October, and members are afforded the opportunity to participate in the Arnold Classic, as well as the national competition!



# Onderstepoort Diving Club

The Onderstepoort Diving Club is a society that aims to open up the underwater world to veterinary students, and to share the amazing experience that is scuba diving at an affordable rate for students. It also serves to help form friendships and bonds that can only be created on trips such as these.

In 2017, the Onderstepoort Diving Club committee organised two trips to Mozambique to a dive centre on Barra beach called Barra Reef Divers. Barra beach is near Inhambane.

A total of 27 people attended the two trips. The first group went to Mozambique during the April recess, the second group went during the July recess. Both groups reported that they had a wonderful experience.

We are planning another two trips for 2018, but this time we are looking closer to home. We are planning to dive at Sodwana bay in KwaZulu-Natal or just across the Kosi Bay border at Ponta do Ouro in Mozambique. These trips are open to any students at Onderstepoort and accommodate both experienced divers and beginners. Beginners will be allowed to learn the ropes of scuba diving and come out of it with an internationally recognised open water scuba licence, while

advanced divers can hone their skills and have fun while doing so!



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## Onderstepoort Riding Club (OPRC)

The riding club welcomes all horse lovers, whether you know how to ride or not.

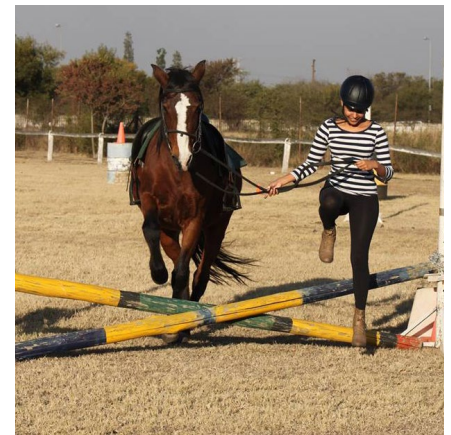
We aim to continuously provide the many equestrian-orientated students with the opportunity to pursue their passion, while at the same time enriching the lives of the Nootgedacht ponies at Onderstepoort.

We provide opportunities for riders to have fun with their allocated ponies, while getting to know their fellow riders and senior students at the same time. We host training shows in various disciplines, as well as fun days. Assisting the Faculty of Veterinary Science in the training and backing of young horses, as well as assisting students who want to learn how to do this is part of our calling. This aspect of the club has grown considerably, with many riders making great progress with their young horses.

For those members with a talent for teaching beginner students, we welcome you with open arms! We have a growing

group of eager beginners to whom we offer lessons. This enables many people with no equine experience to gain a new skill, as well as knowledge and confidence in handling horses. If you would like to learn more, contact any of our committee

members or follow us on Facebook. This year, we have another great range of events coming up such as a pizza and wine event, grading, a lunging seminar and many more!



Contact Nathalie Vogel (Chairperson) on 072 407 2354 or [ntvogel@gmail.com](mailto:ntvogel@gmail.com).

# Important Dates

## January

1 New Years Day

## February

28 Purim Jewish

## March

1 Purim Jewish  
 25 Palm Sunday Christian  
 29 Maunday Thursday Christian  
 30 Good Friday Christian  
 30 Pesach Jewish  
 31 Pesach Jewish

## April

1 Easter Sunday Christian  
 2 Easter Monday Christian  
 5 Pesach Jewish  
 6 Pesach Jewish  
 7 Pesach Jewish  
 10 Wellness week  
 11 Wellness week  
 12 Wellness week  
 13 Wellness week  
 Laylatul Meeraj (Eve)  
 I want to be a vet weekend  
 14 I want to be a vet weekend  
 15 I want to be a vet weekend

## May

1 Laylatul Baraat (Eve) Islamic  
 10 Ascension Day Christian  
 17 Ramadaan Islamic  
 19 Shavuot Jewish  
 20 Shavuot Jewish

## June

14 Eid-ul-Fitr Islamic

## July

21 Tish'a B'Av Jewish  
 22 Tish'a B'Av Jewish

## August

21 Youmi Arafah Islamic  
 22 Eid-ul-Adgha Islamic

## September

9 Rosh Hashanah Jewish  
 10 Rosh Hashanah Jewish  
 11 1st Muharram Jewish  
 18 Yom Kippur Jewish  
 19 Yom Kippur Jewish  
 20 10th Muharram Jewish  
 24 Sukkot Jewish  
 25 Sukkot Jewish  
 30 Shmini Atzeret Jewish

## October

1 Shmini Atzeret Jewish  
 Simchat Torah Jewish  
 2 Simchat Torah

## November

## December

2 Hanukkah Jewish  
 3 Hanukkah Jewish  
 4 Hanukkah Jewish  
 5 Hanukkah Jewish  
 6 Hanukkah Jewish  
 7 Hanukkah Jewish  
 8 Hanukkah Jewish  
 9 Hanukkah Jewish  
 10 Hanukkah Jewish  
 24 Christmas Eve Christian  
 25 Christmas Christian