

UNIVERSITY IYUNIVESITHI UNIVERSITEIT



FACULTY OF LAW

# NEWSLETTER NUUSBRIEF

FAKULTEIT REGSGELEERDHEID

# Table of Contents

News from the Dean's office	.3
lindaba ezisuka kwi-ofisi yoMphathi	.4
Nuus van die Dekaan se kantoor	.5
Research Chairs and Units   Navorsingsleerstoele en Eenhede	. 6
Research and Internationalisation	6
Anton Mostert Chair of Intellectual Property Law	8
HF Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights Law	.9
Law Faculty Trust Chair in Social Justice	12
DROP – Development and Rule of Law Programme	16
Faculty and students   Fakulteit en studente	. 17
Programme Matters	. 17
Recognition   Erkenning	.18
Faculty staff   Fakulteit personeel	21
An NRF Research Rating – A Personal Reflection	.22
New Appointments	.25
Farewell   Afskeidsgroet	26
Students   Studente	. 27
Graduation	
First-Year Pledge Ceremony 2022	29
Juridical Society   Juridiese Vereeniging (JV/S)	. 33
Social Impact   Sosiale Impak	.36
US Regskliniek   SU Law Clinic	.36
Legal Writing Development short course	.39
Ubuntu Learning Community	. 39
Alumni	41
Fakulteit Feesnaweek   Faculty Celebratory weekend	. 41
Golden reunion – Class of 1971	.44
Memorial   Herdenking	45

# News from the Dean's office

Given that we have been living, and working, in uncertainty for more than two years, one is inclined to declare that we must accept this. There was little certainty in the global and complex world before the pandemic, therefore we will have to adapt to a new world. However, universities are not exactly known for their agility; staff, students, and even our systems still often experience, quite understandably, challenges with hybrid working methods, changing protocols, and 'just-in-time' decisionmaking and regulation. However, another perspective that we are now constructively considering is that the opposite of certainty is not necessarily uncertainty, but rather openness, creativity, and opportunity for progress. Therefore, at the Faculty of Law, we do our best to stay focused on our people, programmes, and impact. One such example is the recent news that Professor Sandra Liebenberg, distinguished professor and the HF Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights Law, has been awarded an A1 evaluation by the NRF. This means that she is widely regarded as an international leader in her field - an outstanding achievement in challenging times.

The first half of 2022 was characterised, just like 2021, by a late kick-off of the academic year and a continuation of 'ARTLA' (Augmented Remote Teaching, Learning, and Assessment). Despite the state of emergency being lifted, many of the restrictive provisions still applied in our sector with the result that we could not make full use of our lecture halls (even with masks and good ventilation). However, we are grateful that all our students are back on campus, and can attend all their modules in person, albeit on a scheduled rotation basis, and complete all assessments in person. Our renewed law programme curricula (excluding the 3-year LLB) also kicked off, along with the expected concomitant administrative headache of phasing in new programmes along with phasing out pipeline programmes. The first semester saw the return of in-person as well as hybrid public lectures and events, as well as our Centenary Festival weekend, from 25 to 26 March. The latter was a special weekend, and we thank all alumni, staff, students, and friends of the Faculty who supported any of the events. You can read more about these events in the newsletter.

After this busy start to the year, Stellenbosch University and the Faculty were brought to a standstill by the events on campus during the last week of classes. The Faculty of Law rejects any action that disregards the human dignity of another, whether through racism, sexism, homophobia, or any other unacceptable conduct. The Faculty, therefore, also supports the complete and speedy completion of all internal SU processes. As our Faculty Committee wrote to our students (<u>click here</u>), those in our field, including academics, students, lawyers, and trained legal professionals, have a major contribution to make the dreams and aspirations in the Constitution a reality and create a free and equal society. That is why we choose the law – because the law can restore, the law offers hope, and that is exactly what we are committed to as a group. We should all self-examine and reflect on the role we play in this journey of transforming our institutions and our society so that we can do better.

As a Faculty, we are committed to continuing what we do well and, where we can improve, to putting in the necessary work – along with our students – to do better.



Dean, Professor Nicola Smit.

# lindaba ezisuka kwi-ofisi yoMphathi

yokuba besiphila, Ngenxa kwaye sisebenza, kwimeko yokungaqiniseki isithuba esingaphezu kweminyaka emibini, kuyanyanzeleka ukuba umntu abhengeze ukuba kufuneka sikwamkele oku, ukuba kwakukho imeko yokuginiseka kancinci kwimekobume yehlabathi jikelele kwa ngaphambi kwalo bhubhane kwa nokuba kuza kufuneka silungelelanise iindlela zethu ukuze zihambelane nemeko-bume yehlabathi entsha. Noko kunjalo, iiyunivesithi zona akuyonto zaziwa ngayo ncam ubuchule, apho abasebenzi, abafundi nkgu neenkgubo zethu, zisathi zikhawulelane, ngokuvakalayo, nemingeni kwiindlela zokusebenza ezingumxube, ukutshintsha kweenkqubo, nokuthathwa kwezigqibo ngokukhawulezayo nolawulo olungokukhawuleza. Noko kunjalo, enye inkalo ekungoku nje siyithathela inggalelo ngendlela eyakhayo yeyokuba isichasi sokuqiniseka akunyanzelekanga ukuba sibe kukungaqiniseki, kodwa singaba yimeko yokuba nenggondo evulekileyo, ubuchule, nethuba lenkqubela. Ngoko ke, kwiFakhalthi yezoMthetho, senza ngako konke esinako ukuhlala sinike inggwalasela kubantu bethu, iinkgubo zethu nefuthe lethu. Omnye umzekelo okumila kunjalo ziindaba zakutsha nje zokuba uNjingalwazi Sandra Liebenberg, oyinjingalwazi ebalaseleyo noSihlalo we-HF Oppenheimer kwezoMthetho ongaMalungelo aBantu, uye wawongwa ngovavanyo lwe-A1 yi-NRF. Oko kuthetha ukuba kumsebenzi wakhe abantu abaninzi bamthatha njengenkokheli yakumazwe ngamazwe - impumelelo ebalaseleyo kwimeko yamaxesha okuxakeka.

Isiqingatha sokuqala sika-2022 siye saphawulwa, njengo-2021, ngokuqala kade konyaka wezifundo nokuqhubekekakwe-"ARTLA" (uKwandiswakwenkqubo yokuFundisa, ukuFunda nokuHlola kwimeko yaKude). Ngaphandle kokurhoxiswa kwemo yonxunguphalo, yothintelo emininzi isasebenza imiggaliselo kwicandelo lethu nto leyo ikhokelele ekubeni singabi nako ukuwasebenzisa ngokupheleleyo amaholo ethu okufundela (nkqu nokuba sisebenzisa izifonyo kwaye umoya ungena kakuhle). Noko kunjalo, siyakuvuyela ukuba bonke abafundi bethu babe babuyile ekhampasini, kwaye banako ukuzimasa izifundo zazo zonke iimodyuli zabo ngobuqu babo, nangona bekwenza oko ngendlela yeshedyuli ejikelezayo, kwaye balugqiba lonke uhlolo lwabo ngobuqu babo. Inkqubo yeekharityhula zethu ehlaziyiweyo (ngaphandle kwe-LLB ethatha iminyaka emi-3) nayo iye yabachana abantu (nalapho kulindeleke intloko ebuhlungu ebangelwa lulawulo oluhambelana nolu hlaziyo lokungenisa iinkqubo ezintsha nokukhutshwa kweenkqubo ebezicwangcisiwe). Isimesta yokugala ize nokubuya kwezifundo zikawonkewonke nemisitho eyenziwa ubuso ngobuso nengumxube, kwa kunye nempelaveki yoMbhiyozo weMinyaka eliKhulu, eyayingomhla wama-25 ukuya kowama-26 kweyoKwindla. Loo mpelaveki yaba yimpelaveki ekhethekileyo, kwaye sibulela zonke izithwala-ndwe zamandulo, abasebenzi, abafundi nabahlobo becandelo lozoMthetho abathe baxhasa nayiphi na kule misitho ikule ncwadi yeendaba.

Noko kunjalo, iYunivesithi yaseStellenbosch nelicandelo lezoMthetho ziye zema ngxi ngenxa yemisitho ibisekhampasini ngelixa leveki yokugqibela yezifundo. Icandelo lezoMthetho iyalikhaba naliphi na inyathelo elingasithatheli nggalelo isidima somnye umntu njengomntu, nokuba kungendlela yobuhlanga, ucalucalulo ngokwesini, inzondo ebhekiswe kwabo bathandana nabantu besini esifana nesabo, okanye nako nakuphi na okunye ukuziphatha okungafanelekanga. Elicandelo, ngoko ke, iyakuxhasa kananjalo ukugqitywa ngokukhawuleza nangokupheleleyo kwazo zonke iinkqubo zangaphakathi e-SU. Nanjengoko iKomiti yale Fakhalthi yethu ibibabhalele abafundi bethu (cofa apha), abo bakolu hlobo lomsebenzi siwenzayo, kuquka izifundiswa. abafundi, amaggwetha, nabasebenzi bezomthetho abagegeshiweyo, banegalelo elikhulu ekwenzeni ukuba amaphupha nemingweno ekuMgagosiseko afezeke nasekudaleni imeko yoluntu olukhululekileyo nolulinganayo. Kungoko ke sikhetha umthetho - kuba umthetho unako ukubuyekeza, umthetho ubonelela ngethemba, kwaye ke leyo yeyona nto sizibophelele kuyo njengegela. Kufuneka xa sisonke sizihlole thina buqu size sizikise ukucinga ngendima esiyidlalayo kolu hambo lokuzisa iinguqu kumaziko ethu nakuluntu lwethu ukuze sibe nako ukwenza ngcono.

NjengeFakhalthi, sizibophelele ekuqhubekekeni noko sikwenza kakuhle kwaye, apho sinako ukuphucula khona, ekwenzeni umsebenzi ofanelekileyo – ngokusebenzisana nabafundi bethu – senze ngcono.

## Nuus van die Dekaan se kantoor

Nou dat ons vir meer as twee jaar digby met onsekerheid saamlewe en werk, wil 'n mens begin verklaar dat ons dit moet aanvaar, dat daar in elk geval min sekerheid in die globale en komplekse wêreld bestaan het voor die pandemie en dat ons by 'n nuwe wêreld sal moet aanpas. Universiteite is egter nie juis bekend vir hul vlugvoetigheid nie en personeel, studente en selfs ons stelsels, beleef nog gereeld, heel te verstane, uitdagings met hibriede werkswyses, veranderende protokolle en 'net-in-tyd'besluitneming en -regulering. Ander perspektiewe wat ons egter nou konstruktief inneem is dat die teenkant van sekerheid nie noodwendig onsekerheid is nie, maar openheid, kreatiwiteit en geleentheid vir vooruitgang. Die Fakulteit Regsgeleerdheid doen dus ons bes om op ons mense, programme en impak gefokus te bly. Een so voorbeeld is die onlangse nuus dat Professor Sandra Liebenberg, uitgelese professor en houer van die HF Oppenheimer Leerstoel in Menseregte, 'n A1 evaluering deur die NNS toegeken is. Dit beteken dat sy wyd as internasionale leier in haar veld gereken word - 'n uitmuntende prestasie in uitdagende tye.

Die eerste helfte van 2022 was gekenmerk, net soos 2021, deur 'n laat afskop van die akademiese jaar en 'n voortsetting van 'ARTLA' (Augmented Remote Teaching, Learning, and Assessment). Ondanks die opheffing van die noodtoestand het talle van die inperkende bepalings steeds gegeld in ons sektor met die gevolg dat ons nie ons lesinglokale (selfs met maskers en goeie ventilasie) ten volle kon benut nie. Ons is egter dankbaar dat al ons studente terug op kampus is, en op 'n geskeduleerde rotasiebasis al hul modules in persoon kan bywoon en alle assesserings ook in persoon kan voltooi. Ons hernuwe regsprogramkurrikulums (uitgesluit die 3-jaar LLB) het ook almal afgeskop (met die verwagte gepaardgaande administratiewe kopseer van die infasering van nuwe programme tesame met uitfasering van pyplynprogramme). Die eerste semester het die terugkeer van in-persoon asook hibriede publieke lesings en geleenthede gesien, asook ons Eeufees feesnaweek, vanaf 25 tot 26 Maart. Laasgenoemde was

'n spesiale naweek en ons bedank alle alumni, personeel, studente en vriende van die Fakulteit wat enige van die geleenthede ondersteun het. U kan meer oor hierdie gebeure in die nuusbrief lees.

Na hierdie besige afskop van die jaar is Stellenbosch Universiteit en die Fakulteit egter tot stilstand geruk met die gebeure op kampus die laaste week van klasse. Die Fakulteit Regsgeleerdheid verwerp enige optrede wat die menswaardigheid van 'n ander minag, hetsy deur rassisme, seksisme, homofobie of enige ander onaanvaarbare optrede. Die Fakulteit steun daarom ook die volledige en vinnige afhandeling van alle interne SU prosesse. Soos ons Fakulteitskomitee aan ons studente geskryf het (klik hier), het diegene in ons veld, insluitende akademici, studente, prokureurs en opgeleide regsberoepslui, 'n groot bydrae te lewer om die drome en strewes in die Grondwet 'n werklikheid te maak en 'n vrye en gelyke samelewing daar te stel. Daarom kies ons die reg - want die reg kan herstel, die reg bied hoop, en dit is presies waartoe ons ook verbind is as 'n groep. Ons almal behoort selfondersoek te doen en na te dink oor die rol wat ons op hierdie reis vervul om ons instellings en ons samelewing te transformeer sodat ons beter kan doen.

As Fakulteit is ons daartoe verbind om dit wat ons goed doen, voort te sit en daar waar ons kan verbeter, die nodige werk – saam met ons studente – in te sit om beter te doen.



#### Research Chairs | Units Navorsingsleerstoele | Eenhede

### **Research &** Internationalisation

The first semester of 2022 saw a more focused return to research as one of the core activities of academia by way of the Research Re-focus session on 17 March 2022. Given the Covid-19 pandemic and, correspondingly, ERTLA and ARTLA, a lot of attention was understandably placed on teaching and learning, with a view on concluding the academic year successfully, in time. It was in this light that a re-focus on research was emphasised in the Faculty. The Research Re-focus consisted of various presentations, starting with Professor Sandy Liebenberg relaying her very inspiring research journey and her passion for researching human rights and related matters. Notably, Professor Liebenberg, a distinguished professor, was awarded an NRF A1-rating, cementing her as a world leader in the field. Thala Msutu thereafter provided insight into the world of a young academic and the challenge to balance teaching and learning, as well as research and community interaction. Professor Jacques du Plessis, a distinguished professor, conducted the session on 'How to approach research and research projects', drawing on his vast research experience. Professor Shannon Hoctor concluded the session with a more 'hands-on' approach by providing hints and best practices for writing case notes. The workshop was well-attended and resulted in colleagues listing issues and concerns linked to research that may be dealt with by the Faculty and/or University, to promote research further and to enable, or create, conditions more conducive for research. These suggestions are in the process of being dealt with further.

All three departments have resumed research discussion sessions, namely buzz groups, and, in the case of Mercantile Law, presented dedicated research discussion break-aways in February and in May. The return to inperson research discussion sessions and public lectures was welcomed by staff and students alike.

Building on the SU Library Week, our colleague and law librarian, Pieter du Plessis, presented a session on 'Optimal utilisation of library resources' in the Faculty of Law on 18 May 2022, aimed at further capacitating staff, assistants, and postgraduate students in our collective endeavour to promote further quality research.

The Faculty of Law has embarked on a more formalised mentoring programme where younger colleagues have been linked to more seasoned, experienced academics. The programme formally commenced on 20 May 2022, with a combined mentor-mentee session in the CL Marais-building.

Staff and students were further involved in a variety of national and international conferences, undergirding sound research whilst simultaneously promoting internationalisation. A hybrid format seems to be the most prominent way of presenting and attending conferences nowadays, where some colleagues attend and present in person, whilst others participate online.

Various follow-up sessions linked to research and postgraduate studies are planned for the rest of the year, including a postgraduate orientation day on 19 July, where Shirle Cornelissen will provide information relating to the latest university systems in place regulating the admission of postgraduate students. This will be followed by a discussion of the supervisor role and corresponding duties and responsibilities, and concluded by setting out the new cycle of examination of postgraduate students under the 2022-Postgraduate Guide.

#### Professor Juanita Pienaar

Vice Dean Research and Internationalisation

#### FAKULTEIT REGSGELEERDHEID



# Student exchange programme

The Faculty manager, Karin Wiss, Angelo McKerry from the International Office, and Professor Juanita Pienaar conducted interviews with student applicants for the student semester exchange programme (final year LLB) on 7 and 8 March 2022. The largest yet outgoing cohort of students, a total of 23, will be spending the second semester at various law faculties in Europe, UK, and Scandinavia; including Leiden, Leuven, Amsterdam, Antwerp, Utrecht, Bologna, Bucerius, Helsinki, Bern, and Tilburg.

### Internationalisation

A Faculty Internationalisation Committee, a subcommittee of the overarching Institutional Advisory Committee on Internationalisation (IACIA), under the auspices of Professor Hester Kloppers, was constituted at the beginning of the year and consists of the Vice-Dean: Research and Internationalisation (Professor Juanita Pienaar), the Faculty manager (Karin Wiss), the manager: centre for global engagement (Sarah van der Westhuizen), the coordinator: internationalization support (Thami Mahlobo), and the programme manager: short term mobility (Werner de Wit). The committee is currently in the process of ascertaining the status of the various partnership agreements in place and exploring possible new partners. The possibility of summer schools hosted by the Faculty of Law is also being investigated.

Professor Juanita Pienaar

### Anton Mostert Chair of Intellectual Property Law

#### Intellectual Property Law Short Course

The Anton Mostert Chair of Intellectual Property Law hosted its annual Intellectual Property Law Short Course from 25 to 27 May at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies (STIAS).

This certificate programme is aimed at non-legal or non-IP practitioners; this year, the diverse group of attendees included practising attorneys, a recent LLB graduate, a university staff member, and representatives from various corporate entities. The Short Course is specifically designed to provide attendees with an introduction to intellectual property (IP) law and its practical application. Attendees gain a basic understanding of the various forms of IP protection and how relevant IP is to almost every commercial endeavour, and beyond. They particularly enjoy the opportunity to ask questions about specific aspects of IP related to their own working environments.

In addition to Professor Karjiker and Ms Gretchen Jansen, the presenters included practitioners from notable IP firms, such as Adams & Adams, Spoor & Fisher, and Von Seidels, providing the participants with valuable insights from practice. Annette van Tonder was, of course, everpresent, not only ensuring that the administration and presentation of the Short Course ran smoothly, but also that all the attendees (and external presenters) were warmly welcomed and had a pleasant experience. This all contributed to the Chair receiving very good feedback from the participants on the contents of the course, as well as the overall organisation of the Short Course. In fact, many of the attendees expressed a strong interest in applying for the postgraduate diploma in IP law offered by the Department of Mercantile Law.



The group of participants in the Anton Mostert Chair of Intellectual Property Law Short Course 2022 along with Prof Sadulla Karjiker, Gretchen Jansen, Annette van Tonder, and Bastian Koster, Rowan Joseph and Érik van der Vyfer, practitioners representing Von Seidels IP.

#### IP, Competition, Contract and Unjustified Enrichment Short Course

There is an exciting upcoming event for our Namibianbased alumni. The Anton Mostert Chair of Intellectual Property Law will be hosting a short course on IP, Competition, Contract and Unjustified Enrichment from 7 to 9 September, 2022, at the Windhoek Country Club.

### HF Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights Law

#### 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Human Rights Law Lecture

Dunstan Mlambo, Judge President of the Gauteng Division of the High Court, delivered the 16th Annual Human Rights Lecture at the Faculty of Law on the 24th of March 2022. The lecture was titled 'Transformative Social Change and the Role of the Judge in Post-Apartheid South Africa'. The lecture was organised by the incumbent of the H.F. Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights Law, Professor Liebenberg, together with the Dean, Professor Smit, and was sponsored by Webber Wentzel Linklaters. The lecture reached a broad audience as it was delivered in a hybrid format, accommodating in-person and online attendees. A wide range of South African and international academic institutions, civil society organisations, institutions of the State, different media houses, and South African advocates and judges attended the lecture.

Judge President Mlambo addressed several topical issues relating to the judiciary and constitutional democracy in the current political moment. He reflected that our 'Constitution is human rights-based, forward-looking, and arms us with developmental tools to advance its constitutional project'. He stressed that different transformative tools are available to all three arms of government and that courts and judges are but one of the branches of government that must engage the other branches of government to hold the others accountable within the boundaries of their power prescripts.

He highlighted that the State remains the duty-bearer

of realising the Constitution's transformative ethos by stating, 'For social and economic transformation, including growth to translate into social and economic parity and development, the state, as the duty-bearer, must adopt rights-informed legislation and social justice policies that follow a distributional pattern of focusing on the poor and ensure the availability of financial and human resources for the implementation of such policies'. On the judiciary's front, he called for a more transformed interpretation of the common law. Effecting such an interpretation, he suggested that the judicial mindset and conservative legal culture must be addressed to realise social and economic transformation.

The lecture also had considerable traction in the <u>media</u>, contributing to the debate on <u>constitutional</u> and parliamentary democracy.

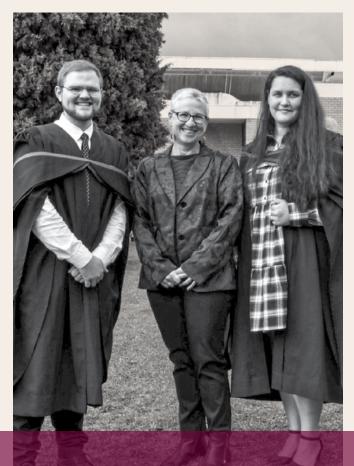
Prof Sandy Liebenberg, Judge President Dunstan Mlambo, Prof Nicola Smit and Prof Nico Koopman

Judge President Dunstan Mlambo with the team that assisted Prof Liebenberg in organising the lecture: Christiaan Van Schalkwyk, Sharnelle Paulse, Claire Rankin, Gideon Basson and Saaniya Yacoob.

## **LLM Research**

Two of Professor Liebenberg's LLM students by research graduated during the April 2022 graduation ceremony.

Marié Booyens evaluated to what extent the legal and policy frameworks governing the shift to communitybased mental health care for adults with psychosocial disabilities in South Africa comply with constitutional and international law standards relevant to the right to health care. The research draws on the human rights-based model of disability, which calls for institutionalisation to be scaled down, accompanied by sufficient investment in community-based goods, facilities and services. Her research found that the legal and policy frameworks generally align with the constitutional and international law standards. However, she pointed out that the translation of this framework into practice is deficient in a number of ways. Marié's research makes an important contribution to improving the alignment of South Africa's system of community-based mental health care with constitutional and international law standards. She makes recommendations to address the deficiencies of, amongst others, the absence of effective monitoring and information systems; insufficient resource allocation; the inequitable distribution of goods, facilities and services; a lack of clarity on the applicable standards for quality,



ethical care; and poorly functioning oversight and accountability mechanisms.

Gideon Basson developed poverty as a ground of unfair discrimination under South Africa's constitutional dispensation under the supervision of Professors Liebenberg and Botha. Gideon's study found that the stubborn nature of racialised and gendered poverty and inequality in post-apartheid South Africa results from four hundred-odd years of politically calculated spatial ghettoisation, infrastructural neglect, land dispossessions, privileged citizenship, elite capture, perpetual wealth hoarding, and unequal access to socio-economic goods. The study identified that due to these systemic factors, impoverished people continue to experience pervasive forms of discrimination such as violence, abhorrent prejudices, political marginalisation, and structural barriers to accessing basic needs. His study highlighted that despite these realities, there is a reluctance from various powerful stakeholders to fully recognise poverty as an entrenched ground of unfair discrimination under the Constitution and the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act 4 of 2000.

Gideon's research shows that recognising poverty as a ground for unfair discrimination is an urgent and necessary development within South Africa's emerging transformative constitutional democracy. He developed a reconsidered transformative substantive equality interpretative approach for equality and antidiscrimination protections to reckon with the pervasive forms of poverty discrimination that remain socially, politically, and economically embedded. This approach highlighted that poverty's racial and gendered fault lines should be recognised under an intersectional appreciation of discrimination. Ultimately, he found that impoverished people's right to equality and non-discrimination shows promise in transforming discriminatory social institutions, power relations, and the dynamics of market economies that create poverty and inequality.

Professor Liebenberg with Gideon and Marié after the graduation ceremony

#### Shaun Johnson Memorial Scholarship Recipient

Gideon Basson received the <u>good news</u> in April that he has been awarded the prestigious Shaun Johnson Memorial Scholarship (SJMS) of the Mandela Rhodes Foundation (MRF) to undertake his DPhil in Law in the United Kingdom from 2023 to 2027.

The SJMS was previously known as the Leverhulme Mandela Rhodes Doctoral Scholarship and was renamed in 2020. This opportunity is only available to alumni of the MRF programme, which makes it a compelling and prestigious supplementary offering to the Mandela Rhodes experience.

The programme invites alumni of the MRF Scholarship Programme for an extensive application process, focusing on a peer-reviewed research proposal, and after a rigorous selection process culminating in final interviews, to recommend two MRF Alumni to the Leverhulme Trust in London. The criteria for the SJMS focused on the originality of the proposed study, its potential to cross-fertilise interdisciplinary research, its potential impact on the development and betterment of the African continent, and its merit. The MRF stated that the pool of applicants for this year was of a very high calibre and that they are certain that Gideon will conduct doctoral research of outstanding quality and originality.

Gideon will build on his LLM study conducted at Stellenbosch University under the supervision of Professors Liebenberg and Botha. In his DPhil research, Gideon will investigate the extent to which poverty is recognised as a prohibited ground of discrimination under international and regional human rights treaties. His study will explore the potential for developing a coherent and integrated approach to poverty-based discrimination under international human rights law. It aims to develop a framework of substantive equality that can be used by international human rights monitoring bodies to interpret the prohibition of discrimination on the ground of poverty. In doing so, he will draw from a wide range of critical social theories in the field of global justice. He will explore approaches such as sub-Saharan African decolonial feminist perspectives, Black African Marxist expositions, and critical Latin-American and Latino studies to develop an appropriate account of substantive equality.

Ngwane of the Scholarship Programme.]





forward together sonke siya phambili saam vorentoe

The Faculty is excited to announce that the SU Law Trust Chair in Social Justice is now part of the 'Centre for Social Justice' (the CSJ) (Sentrum vir Sosiale Geregtigheid) within the Faculty of Law. The Director of the Centre is the Law Trust Chair in Social Justice, Professor Thuli Madonsela. The Centre was approved by Council following the establishment of the Council of Social Justice Champions and Governance Board to oversee the centre and an M-Fund. The CSJ will manage research, training, innovation, stakeholder management, and fundraising activities as part of the Social Justice M-Plan aimed at mobilising academic and broader civil society input to catalyse the ending of poverty and breaking the back of structural inequality by 2030 in pursuit of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the objectives of the National Development Plan (NDP). As such, the Centre is a platform that undertakes research, innovative policy tools design, training, and stakeholder management to promote social justice scholarship and consciousness, public policy design skills, and collaboration, in academia and society, to accelerate social justice reform. The vision of the Centre is to be a partner of choice in social justice research, public policy design, training and education, and for the monitoring and evaluation of social justice initiatives.

Professor Madonsela has recently been invited by the Rockefeller Foundation for the Bellagio residency. The Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center Residency Program offers academics, artists, policymakers, and practitioners a serene setting for focused, goal-oriented work, and the unparalleled opportunity to establish new connections with residents from a wide array of

### Law Faculty Trust Chair in Social Justice

backgrounds, disciplines, and geographies.

The CSJ is proud of Thembalethu Seyisi, one of the first ambassadors to join the Social Justice Team, who was a recipient of the 2021 Rector's Awards for Excellent Achievement in the Social Impact category. The Rector's awards recognise and celebrate the achievements of students in the areas of academics, sport, leadership, social impact, culture, and service provision.

Professor Thuli Madonsela was appointed as a member of the Global Justice Leaders. The Justice Leaders serve at the highest level and have first-hand experience of what it takes to transform justice systems so they better meet the needs of people, societies, and economies.

Dr Nicky Newton-King, one of the Council of Champions' board members summitted Mount Everest Base Camp, raising the #Action4Inclusion flag.

The CSJ welcomes Ms Sarah Sydenham to the social justice team.



# Events

Yasmin Sooka, a South African human rights lawyer who served as a commissioner on the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), delivered the third annual social justice lecture on Friday, 18 February 2022. Themed 'Restorative justice and restitution: unfinished business from the TRC', the Social Justice Lecture is an annual event that commemorates World Social Justice Day, a global day designated by the United Nations, for spotlighting social justice and mobilising the world to accelerate progress on ending poverty and inequality. Professor Nicola Smit, the Dean of the Faculty of Law, emphasised that the Social Justice Lecture is part of the University's commitment to lead in the advancement of social justice, including remedying the legacy of past injustices. She read out Stellenbosch University's restitutive statement in this regard.

Ms Sooka called on all South Africans to join hands in remedying the legacy of past racialised domination and dispossession, without blame apportioning, 'All of us need to make a concerted effort to create new pathways for social justice ensuring that everyone has a just and fair opportunity for success. As beneficiaries of apartheid and the transition, the next generation will ask the question of why we failed to do our bit to ensure a just transition in our

#### country'.

In closing the day's proceedings, Professor Thuli Madonsela remarked, 'What we can take from what Yasmin said is that our boat is going through perilous waters. It doesn't matter whose mistake it was. But if we want it to reach its destination I a South Africa based on democratic values, social justice, and fundamental human rights – where everyone's life is improved and the potential of every citizen is freed, as envisaged in the Constitution, we all have to work for it. We all have to invest in justice, including social justice, to save South Africa'.

Please click here for a copy of Yasmin Sooka's full speech.

WYCHNER HUT

### The Expert Roundtable on Social Justice, Economic Inclusion and Immigration

*The Expert Roundtable on Social Justice, Economic Inclusion, and Immigration* took place on Thursday 12 May 2022, from 9 am to 5 pm, as a hybrid event at STIAS.

This expert roundtable is part of the Chair's mission to promote social justice scholarship, consciousness, and collaboration to accelerate social justice reform in academia and society. The event explored the social justice implications of the resurgence in discontent toward foreigners in South Africa. It had regard of immigration policy, use of business opportunities, and employment in the formal and informal sectors of the economy.

The host of the event, Professor Thuli Madonsela, described the objectives for the event as threefold:

 To inform (about immigration law, human rights obligations, and social justice imperatives regarding immigration and shared humanity regarding work, wealth, and other dimensions of economic inclusion);

- To transform (to embrace shared humanity within a constitutional governance and accountability rubric); and
- To inspire (to appreciate social justice dynamics of immigration and economic opportunities in the country and the continent).

Speakers on the day (among others) included a representative for Labour and Employment Minister, Thulas Nxesi (Professor Marius Olivier); a representative for Home Affairs Minister, Aaron Motsoaledi (Mr Sihle Mthiyane, Chief Director: Policy and Strategic Management); and representatives from the German and Ghanaian diplomatic missions in South Africa.

Click here for more information.

### Short courses

The SU Law Trust Chair in Social Justice presented its first short course for 2022 on Administrative Law for State Functionaries, from 18 to 20 May 2022, at STIAS. Copresenters include Professor Thuli Madonsela, Professor Sope Williams-Elegbe, and Professor Geo Quinot.

The course was presented over three days and offered participants an opportunity to understand administrative law considerations that courts expect them and their principals to comply with and help them gain administrative law insights from court jurisprudence, Public Protector and Auditor General reports to minimise the possibility of having their decisions (or those of principals they advise) successfully reviewed by courts and administrative oversight bodies. The training aims to develop participants' competence by identifying the relevant administrative law issues that may emerge in typical areas of public administration, and considering how to address those issues and how a court or other oversight structure, such as the Public Protector or Auditor General, may assess such conduct. Finally, the training



builds competence regarding how to design approaches to decision-making that will manage the legal risk in such instances. The short course also provides basic leadership insights, including the understanding of lawyering as leadership, further aimed at improving good governance and minimising unproductive encounters with oversight bodies or personnel that lead to case hardening and related adverse outcomes.

## Our Social Justice Cafés have once again been met with great appreciation

The Law Trust Chair in Social Justice held three Social Justice Cafés in the first semester of 2022. The first one was on The Meaning of Social Justice, whilst the second café focused on the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus and the third on Social Justice, Economic Inclusion and Immigration. The cafés aim to engage with young people on social justice issues and human rights-inspired democracy and action for inclusion, rooted in the SDGs and National Development Goals, to harness the youth dividend in ending poverty and reducing inequality by 2030.

The first SJ Café took a pulse check of where we are on social justice. The presenters were our very own Chair, Professor Thuli Madonsela, two law students who also serve as social justice ambassadors, Mr Akhona Sandaza and Ms Sarah Sydenham, as well as Ms Katlego Letlonkane who works as SU's Human Resources and Transformation Programme Manager: Diversity Capacity Development, with our project manager, Mrs Marna Lourens, facilitating the conversation. In her presentation, Professor Madonsela outlined what social justice is and what it is not. The working definition underpinning the research of the Chair is that social justice is about the equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms regardless of human diversity reflected in the fair and just distribution of all opportunities, benefits, privileges and burdens in a society or group. For social justice to prevail, it should have a restitutive element, wherein the discriminated party is compensated to be on equal footing with the advantaged party. Professor Madonsela outlined how we are better off today than we were in the past when we were not equals. Social justice is grounded in constitutional precepts, it also links with Ubuntu to connect with our shared humanity. The other presenters placed social justice within transformative constitutionalism, emphasising the importance of a transformative ethos that is ongoing. They also linked social justice to access and participation.

The SJ Café on the WEF Nexus felt like an urgent discussion just a week after the devastating floods that cut off access to water, food, and electricity for whole communities in KwaZulu Natal. The effects of climate change are evident in the 2017 droughts and floods in KwaZulu Natal, all causing trade-offs between water, energy, and food. It is particularly devastating to the poor and further exacerbates inequality. Speakers included Dr Michele Dalla Fontana, a postdoctoral fellow and Ms Bronwen Qumbu, a doctoral fellow. They are both researchers on a project titled 'Water-Energy-Food communities in South Africa: multi-actor nexus governance for social justice'. The third speaker was Ms Nishai Moodley, a doctoral fellow, whose Master's thesis addressed water service delivery in Enkanini informal settlement and understanding the Stellenbosch Municipality as an agent of the developmental state.

The WEF nexus is particularly important as these three elements are the drivers of sustainable economic development. According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), by 2050, the demand for food will grow by 60%, requiring both water and energy to meet this growing need (FAO, 2014). Sustainable development will be impossible if the basic needs for water, energy, and food are not met. This will continue affecting the poor and indigent and will exacerbate inequalities that already exist in our society. This Social Justice Café was convened to open a dialogue on the social justice aspects of the WEF nexus.

The third Café took place on 18 May and the theme of the café was 'Social Justice, Economic Inclusion and Immigration: Exploring the social justice dimensions of polarising nationalism and xenophobia concerning employment and informal sector opportunities'. Click <u>here</u> for more information.



#### **Projects**

The #Action4Inclusion Campaign, in partnership with the Student Representative Council, continues its efforts to ensure that no student is left behind due to their financial circumstances. The Campaign has ensured that a group of 23 students benefitted in the 2021 registration period, clearing a debt of R1 337 779,68. Another group of 17 students were uploaded on the Feenix platform, with an accumulated debt of R584 732, 43. An amount of R114 804,88 was secured through a donation from the Thuli Madonsela (ThuMa) Foundation, in collaboration with the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA), enabling assistance to nine (9) undergraduate students to register in 2022. In addition, a further nineteen (19)

students requested assistance from #Action4Inclusion in 2022, of which sixteen (16) could thus far be assisted with registration.

#### The most recent fundraising activities included:

JAZZ NOTES by Billy Domingo - Director of the Cape Town Jazz Festival and ex-Director of Artscape Theatre and Don Vino Prins (Saxophonist/Songwriter from Cape Town). The event took place on 8 June, at Die STAL, and included wonderful music as well as Billy Domingo's inspiring life story. On 16 June, the annual Social Justice Walk, a collaboration with Visit Stellenbosch took place. The Social Justice Walk has become an annual pilgrimage for bridge building and fundraising opportunities.



### **Parliamentary submissions**

#### How do we ensure that government passes impact conscious policies?

were requested to also comment on the Social Relief of

drafted and submitted to parliament.

#### DROP **Development and Rule of Law Programme**

edition of the Environmental Law and Policy in Namibia, on NBC television on 19 April 2022. You can access the interview here.

Prof Oliver Ruppel was interviewed regarding the fourth To read more about the book launch of the fourth edition of the Environmental Law and Policy in Namibia, see the article in the Namibian newspaper, Allgemeine Zeitung Namibia, here.

Faculty and students Fakulteit en studente

#### Programme Matters

#### Renewed LLB programme commences

The start of 2022 academic year marked the first rollout of modules within the first year of the renewed LLB programme at SU. After many hours of planning and workshopping during the course of 2021, the first semester module of Legal Skills 114 was presented alongside two renewed year modules, in the form of Foundations of Law 178 and Introduction to Constitutional Law and Statutory Interpretation 178. The renewed curriculum is the culmination of the broader Faculty programme renewal initiative, which has seen ongoing planning and design since the Council on Higher Education's national LLB Review process was finalised in 2018, and further aligns with SU's programme renewal project (which commenced in 2017).

Whilst first-year students are exposed to the substantive law in Foundations of Law and Interpretation to Constitutional Law and Statutory Interpretation, they are simultaneously equipped with the necessary skills required of law students, in Legal Skills in the first semester. The programme design accordingly allows students who have otherwise had no exposure to what the law is about, sufficient time to acclimatise to what is expected of them,

before the commencement of the third substantive law module in the second semester, namely Law of Persons 144. Ms Alma Coertzen, the Faculty's Legal Education Designer who worked closely with the relevant lecturers, says of the redesign that 'Legal Skills as a subject was completely redesigned to introduce and establish the development of the skills and dispositions that a student will need to become a well-rounded law graduate. This is an iterative and ongoing process, as lessons learnt from this year are being used to shape and adjust the 2023 version of the module'.

Whilst planning for the second-year rollout, which will commence next year, is already in motion, a further project within the Faculty sees the plotting and imbedding of critical legal skills and dispositions across the entirety of the programme, both in terms of horizontal (within modules and across specific year-groups) and vertical (progressing from each year-groups) and vertical (progressing from each year-group to the next) alignment. The overarching purpose of the project is the longitudinal exposure, both explicitly and implicitly, of our students to what is required of them to become socially responsible citizens and jurists, and life-long learners.



#### Recognition Erkenning

#### Honorary Doctorate in Law awarded to Judge Fritz Brand

Stellenbosch University has awarded an honorary doctorate in law to one of our Faculty's most illustrious alumni, former Supreme Court of Appeal, Judge Fritz Brand. This is in recognition of his extraordinary dedication to the development of South African law, the strengthening of the judiciary in Africa through involvement in its highest courts and legal training, and his local and international scholarly contributions.

Fritz Brand commenced his legal studies at the University of Stellenbosch, where he was awarded the degrees BA (1970), LLB (1972) and LLM (1976). After a brief stint in academia as a senior lecturer at our Faculty from 1973 to 1976, he moved to legal practice, and he joined the Cape Bar where he practised as an advocate, and took silk in 1989. His judicial career, which spanned two decades, commenced in 1992 when he was appointed as a judge of the High Court of South Africa. This was followed by an appointment as judge of the Supreme Court of Appeal in 2001, a position he occupied till his retirement in 2015. In 2010 he also acted as justice of the Constitutional Court. He has written about 200 reported judgments, of which some, particularly those written whilst serving in the Supreme Court of Appeal and the Constitutional Court, became leading cases in various fields of law, and have been the subject of extensive academic commentary.

Judge Brand has also been involved in adjudication at an international level, especially within the African context, where he has acted on various occasions as justice of the highest courts of various African countries. Since his retirement Judge Brand is actively involved in various international commercial arbitrations.

Although Judge Brand moved from legal academia to legal practice early in his legal career, he maintained a strong interest in legal education and training, and he has had a lasting impact on generations of students, practitioners and members of the judiciary. Whilst he practised at the Bar, Judge Brand continued to lecture at the Faculty on a part-time basis, and he was also involved in the education of pupil members of the Bar. However, his most significant contribution to legal education has been his involvement in the training of judicial officers in South Africa and various other African countries. In 2016, he was appointed by the Chief Justice of South Africa as a member of the Council of the South African Judicial Institute, a body responsible for the education of all judicial officers in South Africa.

During his years of practice, Judge Brand retained his interest in the academic study of the law. His academic publications, which include titles on Defamation and Enrichment in The Law of South Africa (LAWSA), have made significant contributions to the field. He has also presented lectures at various universities in South Africa and abroad.

Since 2014 he has held the position of honorary professor in the Department of Private Law at the Faculty of Law, which continues to benefit from his mentoring and research capabilities. In addition, he is also a trustee of the Stellenbosch Law Faculty Trust, which supports the Faculty's activities on a variety of fronts.

#### Eredoktorsgraad in Regte toegeken aan Regter Fritz Brand

Die Universiteit Stellenbosch het 'n eredoktorsgraad in die regte toegeken aan een van ons Fakulteit se mees roemryke alumni, voormalige Hoogste Hof van Appèl, Regter Fritz Brand. Dit is ter erkenning van sy buitengewone toewyding aan die ontwikkeling van die Suid-Afrikaanse reg, die versterking van die regbank in Afrika deur sy betrokkenheid by die hoër howe en regsopleiding en deur sy plaaslike en internasionale wetenskaplike bydraes.

Alhoewel regter Brand vroeg in sy regsloopbaan van regsakademie na die regspraktyk beweeg het, het hy steeds belangstelling in regsopleiding gehandhaaf. Hy het 'n blywende impak op generasies van studente, praktisyns en lede van die regbank gehad. Terwyl hy by die Balie gepraktiseer het, het Regter Brand voortgegaan om op 'n deeltydse basis by die Fakulteit lesings te gee en hy was ook betrokke by die onderwys van pupille van die Balie. Sy belangrikste bydrae tot regsopvoeding was egter sy betrokkenheid by die opleiding van regterlike beamptes in Suid-Afrika en verskeie ander Afrikalande.

### Honorary Doctorate in Law awarded to Nicky Newton-King

Stellenbosch University (SU) bestowed the degree Doctor of Laws (LLD), honoris causa, on Ms Nicky Newton-King for her visionary leadership and contribution to the transformation and strengthening of the South-African economy; for her dedication to the development and implementation of South African financial law and regulation; for her commitment to the development of a new generation of leaders; and for her remarkable achievements in the business sector.

Newton-King commenced her legal studies at the University of Stellenbosch, where she was awarded the degrees BA (Law) (1987) and LLB (1989). Thereafter she graduated with an LLM (first class honours) from Cambridge University in 1994. She was awarded the Foundation Scholarship for Academic Achievement by Queens College. Her Master's studies focused on corporate finance, securities regulation, and administrative law and would lay the foundation for a focused and impressive legal and business career.

Newton-King started her career as a commercial lawyer, joining the law firm Webber Wentzel in Johannesburg where she quickly became one of the youngest partners at the firm's Financial Services Unit advising companies within the securities and financial services sectors. In 1996, she joined the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE). She was closely involved with writing the country's insider trading legislation (the Insider Trading Act, 1998) and concluded a number of high-profile insider trading cases in the late 1990s for the JSE.

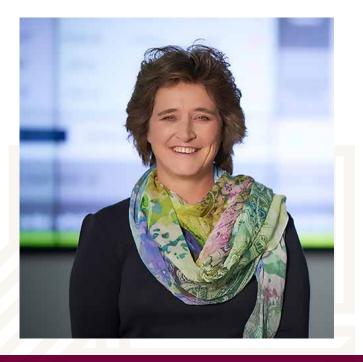
In due course, Newton-King became the Chief Executive Officer of the JSE. Newton-King was selected as one of the World Economic Forum's 100 Global Leaders for Tomorrow and is also a recipient of the South Africa's Businesswoman of the Year Award.

Newton-King was the first woman to run the JSE in its 125year history and she continues that trailblazing approach to life; she is the sixth woman to be awarded an honorary doctorate in law by SU. Since 'Covid-19 affected her gap year plans', she worked on initiatives such as Woza Matric to assist grade 12 learners in the poorest areas to obtain some level of academic support preparing for their final exams, with massive multi-stakeholder buy in, which required all involved contributing their resources for free. Woza Matrics could air on all three TV stations, four hours a day, for seven days a week for 3 months. To top this off, she and her husband recently climbed to Mount Everest base camp.

In her acceptance speech, Newton-King said it is an honour to be in the company of esteemed former *Continues on following page* 

 Nicky Newton-King

Daily Maverick



#### From previous page

recipients of honorary doctorates at SU. She lauded SU for 'charting a course that has this university consciously playing its part in the creation of a country that is there for all its people'. She also remarked on the significant changes that have and continue to take place, 'It is hard to think now that concepts of human rights or constitutional law never featured as substantial parts of our curriculum - instead, we looked at how administrative law and labour law were good starting places for concepts of natural justice and equity. Criminal procedure became a place for students to understand how equality before the law was a concept not felt in practice by many, many South Africans ... And although we certainly knew our law, we left Stellenbosch knowing the world we would enter was changing, that nothing would be left unchallenged and that we could be part of making that change happen'.

#### Ukuwongwa Kuka-Nicky Newton-King Ngesidanga Sobugqirha Kwezomthetho

UNewton-King waba ngowasetyhini wokugala ukuphatha i-JSE kwimbali yayo yeminyaka eli-125 kwaye uyaqhubekeka ngaloo ndlela yokukhawulelana nobomi ngobuchule; ungowasetyhini we-6 ukuwongwa yi-SU ngesidanga sobugqirha kwezomthetho; kwaye nanjengoko "i-Covid-19 iye yachaphazela izicwangciso zonyaka wakhe wokuthatha ikhefu", uye wasebenza kumaphulo afana neWoza Matric okuncedisana nabafundi bebanga le-12 kweyona mimandla ihluphekayo ukuze bafumane inkxaso yezemfundo ekulungiseleleni kwabo iimviwo zabo zokuggibela, nalapho kubekho intsebenziswano esuka kwabachaphazelekayo abaninzi, nto leyo iye yafunisa ukuba bonke ababandakanyekayo bafake igalelo lemithombo yabo yoncedo simahla, iWoza Matrics yayidlala kwizitishi zikamabonakude ezi-3, iiyure ezi-4 ngosuku iintsuku ezi-7 ngeveki kwisithuba seenyanga ezi-3; ukongeza koku, yena nomyeni wakhe basandula ukuqabela iNtaba i-Mount Everest kutsha nje.

> Kwintetho yakhe yokwamkela isidanga eso, uNewton-King waye wathi kululutho kuye ukuba phakathi

kwabanye abahloniphekileyo abathi bawongwa ngezidanga zobugqirha e-SU. Waye wayincoma i-SU "ngokuvula indlela ebangela ukuba le yunivesithi iqhubekeke nokudlala indima yayo ekudalweni kwemeko yelizwe elibakhathalele bonke abantu balo." Waye waphawula kananjalo nangeenguqu ezibonakalayo ezithe zenzeka neziqhubekeka zisenzeka, "Kunzima ukucinga ngoku ukuba iingcamango zamalungelo abantu okanye zomthetho womgaqo-siseko zange zaba vinxalenye enkulu yekharityhulam yethu - endaweni yoko, saye sajonga indlela umthetho wolawulo nomthetho wabasebenzi oyindawo elungileyo ngayo yokuqala iingcamango zobulungisa bendalo nomakulinganwe. linkqubo zolwaphulomthetho zaba yindawo yokuba abafundi bayiqonde indlela ukulingana phambi komthetho ekwakuyingcamango engazange yaviwa njengesebenzayo ngabemi boMzantsi Afrika abaninzi kakhulu ... Kwaye nangona sasiwazi ngokuqinisekileyo umthetho wethu, semka eStellenbosch sisazi ukuba ilizwe esasiza kungena kulo lalitshintsha, ukuba akukho nto yayingasayi kucelwa mngeni kwaye sasiya kuba yinxalenye yokwenza olo tshintsho lwenzeke."

Newton-King remains involved with SU in different capacities as presenter on the Leadership in Law cocurricular course, member of the Council of Social Justice Champions, and, from 2022, as SU Council Member.

#### Faculty staff Fakulteit personeel

The Faculty would like to extend warm congratulations to colleagues for several achievements, milestones and awards:

- Professor Sandra Liebenberg on the outcome of her recent NRF rating application. She was awarded an NRF A1-rating (also read her own reflection on reaching this milestone later in this newsletter);
- Attorney Nikita Stander, from the Stellenbosch University Law Clinic, for attaining her LLM;
- **Professor Sadulla Karjiker** with his appointment as HOD, Mercantile Law, with effect 1 January 2022;
- **Professor Zsa-Zsa Boggenpoel** with the successful STIAS Conference on 'Compensation through Expropriation without Compensation? Constitutional Amendment, Land Reform and the Future of Redistributive Justice in South Africa', held on 17 and 18 February 2022;
- The **Pavocat Stellenbosch Academy** with the new initiative 'Improving Integrity, Good Governance and the Rule of Law in Africa' in the form of the Stellenbosch Dialogue;
- Professor Philip Sutherland and Mr Thalalolwazi Msutu with their appointment as Regional Chairs for the Southern and East African Regional Chapter of the Academic Society for Competition Law (ASCOLA);
- **Professor Nicola Smit** with her appointment to the editorial board of the Industrial Law Journal (Juta) for a period of 5 years and as a member of the SU Council for a period of two years;
- Mr Thalalolwazi Msutu with his appointment as the Mary Kay Kane Fellow for the International Association of Law Schools (IALS) Evaluation, Assistance and Certification (EAC) Program; and
- **Dr Callixte Kavuro** (post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Public Law) with being admitted as an advocate of the High Court of South Africa.

OU HOOFGEBOU

### An NRF Research Rating – A Personal Reflection

Academics are constantly being assessed and evaluated – by their students on their teaching, for promotions or performance evaluations, in funding applications or when submitting articles for publication. So why should a researcher submit their work voluntarily to yet another system of rating and evaluation and go through the onerous process of applying for an NRF research rating?

This is a question that every researcher in the South African academic environment should weigh up for themselves. Here I offer a few personal reflections on the considerations that have prompted me over the years to apply for an NRF Rating, culminating in the news received at the end of March this year that I was awarded an A1 rating. This rating is awarded when all reviewers unanimously recognise a researcher as a leading scholar in their field internationally for the high quality and wide impact of their research outputs.

My research has focused on socio-economic rights as fundamental human rights both under the South African Constitution and international law. Particularly in the early phases of my career, these rights were not taken seriously and there was a lot of scepticism about their status as judicially enforceable human rights. I realised that if I was going to make a meaningful contribution to this field my research would have to be rigorous, and draw on a diversity of sources: international and comparative law, political theory, economics, philosophy, and development.

One way of measuring the quality and impact of my research over time was to apply regularly for NRF ratings. The process entails an assessment of a researcher's scholarship by a panel of national and international reviewers. The process of applying, as well as the feedback received, helped me to reflect on my research journey, and to set goals for the next period. It also provided access to incentive research funding which was extremely useful although of course the amount of this funding has been drastically cut by the NRF in recent years. A rating was also helpful in terms of applying for funding for research projects such as conferences or book publications. Essentially, however, my experience has been that holding a research rating from the NRF has been helpful, particularly in the context of developing a less-conventional research area that is not wellestablished in mainstream legal culture.

Throughout my career, I have been involved in a range of activities that aim to promote the practical realisation



of socio-economic rights. These include educational initiatives; supporting government institutions in drafting laws and policies that will help realise these rights; advising civil society organisations in campaigns and litigation aimed at protecting and advancing socio-economic rights; and serving on the boards of various organisations specialising in these rights. A highlight of my career was being elected a member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2017 – 2021). I also served for 2 years as Vice-Chair of this Committee. In this capacity, I could also help advance the protection of these rights in the international arena.

I have always found a mutual synergy between my practical engagements to advance socio-economic rights and my research. These engagements have shaped my research and helped it to be relevant and responsive to contemporary challenges. At the same time, I have been able to apply my research to help make a difference in how the law impacts the lives of disadvantaged and marginalised communities. In this respect, I believe my research praxis aligns well with Stellenbosch University's institutional strategic theme of 'research for impact'". I believe it also helped demonstrate the impact of my research when I applied for my recent research rating.

Receiving the news of my A1 Rating felt like a vindication of my decades of hard work. I regard the rating as a signal that the research field of socio-economic rights had come of age in South Africa and internationally. This is currently a flourishing area with many young scholars taking the field in new and exciting directions.

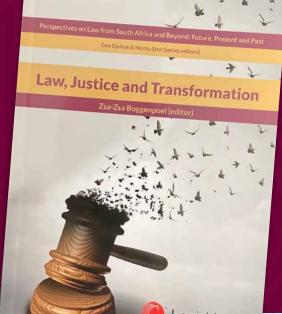
I understand that I am the third woman in law in South Africa to receive this rating. Whilst I am deeply honoured, I do feel that it is problematic and indicative of structural barriers that so few women in law have received this rating. It is an indication that more needs to be done to mentor and support women researchers in academic institutions, particularly black women. I am committed to playing my part in this regard through mentoring and training a new cohort of postgraduate researchers and early-career academics who can become future A-rated researchers.

#### Professor Sandra Liebenberg

HF Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights Law

### Law, Justice and Transformation (LexisNexis 2022) Editor Zsa-Zsa Boggenpoel

The first edition of a new series titled 'Perspectives on Law from South Africa and Beyond: Future, Present and Past', published by the SU Faculty of Law, is now available. Please visit the Faculty <u>website</u> for more information on the volume and series.



LexisNexis

#### Liber Amicorum Manfred Weiss (Juta 2021) Editors Marius Olivier, Nicola Smit, and Evance Kalula

Manfred Weiss (professor emeritus since 2008 of the Law Faculty of the JW Goethe University in Frankfurt) made an unprecedented contribution to the development of young scholars and labour law reform in Southern Africa. He has visited and taught at the Stellenbosch Faculty of Law on numerous occasions. It was therefore fitting that his lifelong work should be celebrated by some of his friends and colleagues from Southern Africa. The editors submit that 'Apart from acknowledging his extensive high-quality scholarship in international and regional labour law, it celebrates his outstanding influence as a remarkable mentor, teacher and scholar who has inspired over a generation of students and scholars in South Africa and other SADC countries. The contributions by scholars, judges, and legal practitioners are diverse and broad-ranging. They reflect on different aspects of labour law, employment relations and broader social protection themes, discourses, developments, challenges, and opportunities.'

The dean, Professor Nicola Smit, states that 'it says much about Manfred the person, scholar, and colleague that 25 well-known labour law scholars and practitioners contributed to this liber amicorum. It was a great privilege to be involved with this project'.



#### Prof Sope Williams-Elegbe

In March 2022, Professor Sope Williams-Elegbe completed a research project funded by the International Development Research Centre, Canada and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for research into government procurement and women's economic empowerment in East Africa. The report from the project was launched at the NGO side event of the United Nations Convention of the Status of Women conference on 23 March 2022. The conference was titled 'Tackling the Foundations of Inequality: Understanding Barriers to Women's Participation in Public Procurement in Eastern Africa'. Professor Williams-Elegbe was also a panellist at an event organised by the International Bar Association on 22 March 2022 on the topic of 'Unpacking the OECD's 'Combating of Foreign Bribery Recommendations' in South Africa'.



#### Staff Abroad

Professor Theo Broodryk recently completed his research sabbatical after having been awarded the Georg Forster Fellowship Award of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Germany. The Georg Forster Research Award is granted to academics of all disciplines in recognition of a researcher's achievements to date, including material findings, new theories, or insights that have had a significant impact on their discipline and

#### Prof Jacques du Plessis

On 29 April 2022, Professor Jacques du Plessis participated in a <u>seminar</u> in honour of Professor Niall Whitty of Edinburgh University's groundbreaking work on the law of unjustified enrichment. This title has appeared in the Stair Memorial Encyclopaedia Reissue series, which is the Scottish equivalent of LAWSA. The online seminar was arranged by the Edinburgh Centre for Private Law and the topic of Jacques' presentation was 'The consequences of illegal contracts'. Other presenters included Professor Sonja Meier (University of Freiburg), Professor Helen Scott (University of Oxford), and Professor Danie Visser (University of Cape Town). The seminar papers will appear later this year in the Edinburgh Law Review.

#### Prof Jacques du Plessis

Our staff publish widely, from highly acclaimed international publications (see above) to our local Drum magazine – read more about the comments made by Professor Jacques du Plessis here.

beyond and who are expected to continue developing research-based solutions to the specific challenges faced by developing countries. Award winners are invited to conduct a research project of their choosing in Germany in close collaboration with a specialist colleague.

Professor Broodryk conducted his research at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich. His research entailed conducting a comparative analysis of consumer collective redress in the EU, Germany, and South Africa. According to Professor Broodryk, 'collective redress in the EU and Germany is currently in a state of flux, especially following the recent issuing of the EU directive on representative actions for the protection of the collective interests of consumers. My research is aimed at analysing the nature of consumer collective redress in these jurisdictions to make recommendations regarding the continued development of the framework within which the South African class action mechanism operates'.



### **New Appointments**

### **Ms Rukshana Parker**

**Rukshana Parker** joined the private law department in January this year where she lectures on the law of succession. She holds a Bachelor of Social Science in Public Policy and Administration, an LLB, and an LLM from the University of Cape Town (UCT). Before moving to academia, she worked at Norton Rose Fulbright in the insurance litigation and employment law departments. Before joining Stellenbosch University, she lectured the law of succession at UCT and worked as an organised crime analyst to former presidents Kgalema Motlanthe, Joaquim Chissano and Cassam Uteem.

'I enjoy teaching the law of succession because it has a very practical and important value in our lives. It regulates a substantial portion of life's two certainties – death and taxation. And so, whilst we may happily pass through life untouched by several other areas of law, we will inevitably be affected by the law of succession,'

#### explains Rukshana.

Rukshana who is new to Stellenbosch admits that it has not taken her long to fall in love with the town and the university. 'The natural beauty, oak-lined avenues, Cape Dutch architecture, history, culture, and camaraderie have really captivated me. I look forward to a long and fruitful journey at Stellenbosch University,' she explains.

Her hobbies include playing scrabble, horse riding, mounted archery, and stargazing in Sutherland. She is also a doting fur mom. If she's not carting Cuddles (her 15-year-old Chow Chow) to physio for her arthritis treatment, she's running with Aza, her latest rescue who happens to be a working dog, along the Zevenwacht trails. Her 9-year-old cat, Mueeza, is the only four-legged child who displays some interest in the law. He enjoys listening to his mother read succession law material aloud and acts as a soundboard as she prepares her lectures and test papers. As payment for his services, he likes to feature in the Private Law 273 class exercises and tests.



#### FACULTY OF LAW

### Farewell Afskeidsgroet

#### **Dr Lize Mills**

'n Geliefde kollega, Lize Mills, verhuis in Julie na Engeland waar sy aangestel is aan die De Montfort University in Leicester. Lize was vanaf 2006 een van die staatmakers in die Fakulteit, nie net as dosent nie maar ook ten opsigte van verantwoordelikhede as lid van verskeie komitees. Dit is egter as dosent van die eerstejaars in Privaatreg dat sy haar merk gemaak het en waarvoor sy erkenning moet kry. Sy het absoluut alles moontlik gedoen om studente se oorgang vanaf Graad 12 na hul eerste studiejaar in regte te vergemaklik. Menige student kan getuig van eposse wat enige tyd van die dag of nag beantwoord is en 'n oopdeur beleid wat altyd gegeld het. Lize se passie vir veral familiereg en kinderreg het ook as aansporing gedien vir die toename in studente wat besluit het om hul nagraadse studies in die besondere dissiplines voort te sit.

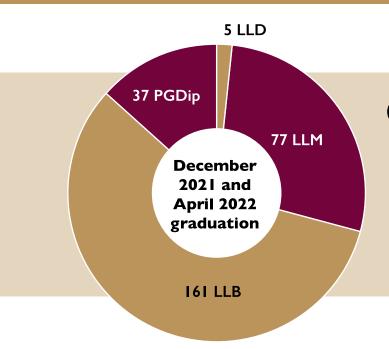
Natuurlik was Lize se lag, gesels en koffiedrink saam met haar ook belangrik vir ons as haar kollegas. Ons weet sy het opreg belanggestel in ons doen en late - dankie daarvoor Lize.

Lize, ons wens jou toe alles wat mooi is. Ons weet jy gaan jou merk maak in jou nuwe werksplek. Gelukkig groet ons nie heeltemal nie – jy weet jy gaan baie versoeke kry om as eksterne eksaminator of eksterne moderator op te tree!

#### Prof Sonia Human

Voormalige dekaan en familiereg kollega

#### Students Studente



### Graduation

During the Faculty's Centenary year, a total of 280 degrees and diplomas were conferred. The following degrees and diplomas were conferred during the December 2021 and April 2022 graduation ceremonies: 5 LLD, 77 LLM, 161 LLB, 37 PGDip. The Faculty is very proud of all the students who graduated and wish them every success.

#### Faculty of Law Welcoming Programme

In 2022, following changes to the Covid-19 academicgathering regulations at the start of the year, we saw an extended welcoming programme become a reality again. For the first time since 2020, the entire first-year law cohort were able to join the Faculty on the first day of the Programme, Wednesday 2 February, which was hosted in the Coetzenburg Centre.

Whilst maintaining the necessary social-distancing, the first-years were divided into smaller groups, and had the opportunity to engage with one another and various members of staff (including the Dean), and the Faculty's student representative body, the JVS. Whilst the fundamental aim of the day is geared towards preparation for the commencement of the academic year, it is an important opportunity for the new first-years to meet and socialise with their prospective peers; this is premised on the significant benefits to be had in a communal approach to the first year of tertiary studies. In terms of engagement, the topics of discussions that followed the formal welcoming by the Dean, included the anticipated differences between school and university, what the academic calendar of the year ahead will look like, the weekday of the 'ideal law student', consequences of misbehaviour as a student (and the possible impact of this on future career options), requirements to be admitted as a legal practitioner, and the nature of the various support services that are available on campus.

These discussions were facilitated by the JVS and senior, postgraduate law students, and were geared towards making the students aware of the SU values and graduate attributes of the Faculty of Law. In particular, the students were urged to explore and grow as persons, devoid of any preconceived prejudices they might arrive with, and to be mindful of how their thinking might have been shaped by others - and to thereby use their exposure to their peers and staff (and their viewpoints/ beliefs) as an opportunity to foster change. This focus on the necessary adjustments required in terms of what is to be expected during their first year at University shifted towards what lies ahead in their programmes. A series of questions pertaining to children's rights (with due reference to the Constitution) were provided, which the first-years collectively researched and worked on during

#### Continues from previous page

the communal lunch that was enjoyed in the Centre. An interactive guest lecture by the former Dean (Professor Sonia Human) followed the break, where the first-years were exposed to their first taste of substantive law. Thereafter, Dr Gillian Arendse, the former Deputy Director, Centre for Student Recruitment and Career Advice at SU, delivered an inspiring address on the transition into University life, by urging the first-years to seize hold of all the opportunities that are going to be on offer to them. The day ended with a short hike up Coetzenburg's slopes to the stone dam, where the traditional 'Maties Law' chant was undertaken by the group under the watchful eyes of Dr Bradley Greenhalgh (Legal Education and Student Coordinator), Mrs Karin Wiss (Faculty Manager) and Prof Richard Stevens (Vice Dean Teaching & Learning).

The Wednesday session was preceded by the second virtual meeting between the Dean and parents, on the evening of Tuesday 1 February. The Dean introduced key staff members and spoke about what can be expected of the year ahead and how parents and guardians can offer support to their children and wards.

Whilst the 2022 iteration of the Faculty's programme was extended in comparison to the 2021 offering, the significantly lower contact time brought about by the limitations placed on in-person gatherings (when compared to 2020 and before), saw the main cohort divided into the respective programme groups for the remainder of the Welcoming. As such, a single inperson academic preparation session under the title 'Thriving in Law', involving the Faculty Manager, Mrs Karin Wiss, and the Student Coordinator, Dr Bradley Greenhalgh, was then presented to each group. These sessions provided more detailed information regarding the academic system (and how to navigate it), the responsibilities of the students (and their lecturers), realignment of academic expectations, who key personnel are – along with support structures – and how to engage with them, and how to approach their academic endeavours to ensure that the first-years can best reach their full potential in the first year of tertiary education.

Over and above the in-contact sessions arranged through the Faculty, the first-years of 2022 also had access to the central 'onboarding' module on the SU learning management system, SUNLearn, where a wealth of University and Faculty of Law information was shared with our prospective students. In addition, the Telegram group that had been operating since November 2021, was used to communicate with the law students in realtime to assist with any specific questions they might have had regarding the Welcoming period, or in terms of what to expect upon their arrival. Lastly, the various student societies, who usually have interaction time with our firstyears during the extended programme, were requested to put together videos and social-media-related information pieces, which were then shared virtually. In addition, sign-up and information tables were made available to the SLSJ (Students for Law & Social Justice), the Moot Society, the USDV (SU Debating Society), and the BLAsc SU (Black Lawyers Association Student Chapter) on Friday 4 February, where law students could engage with the various committees and also enjoy a complimentary cup of coffee, care of one of our law firm sponsors.

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# First-Year Pledge Ceremony 2022

Friday 11 March saw approximately 270 first-year law students, from the class of 2022, gathering in the Quad of the Old Main Building to participate in the annual Faculty of Law Pledge Ceremony. The Faculty's student representative body, the JVS, assisted in monitoring the social-distancing compliance. The ceremony commenced with a word of welcome from the Dean, Professor Nicola Smit.

The Dean spoke to the importance of our students' striving to adhere to the wording of the Pledge document, and how the Pledge is to be seen as the basis of the ongoing relationship between the Faculty and its students, in terms of how the values and sentiments expressed therein can enhance both one's learning experience and growth as a person and law student. Professor Smit emphasised that the first-year students entered the Old Main Building through the front entrances, and thereby passed in between and through the Faculty's Constitution installation, which sees the wording of the Preamble depicted in English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa. She accordingly urged our law students to reflect on the meaning and importance of

those words, encompassed by the central themes of unity and diversity, and to acknowledge how this is reflected in the wording of the Pledge that they were committing to. In drawing the students' attention to how the Pledge Ceremony coincided with the appointment of a new Chief- and Deputy Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court, thereby marking an important further step in South Africa's continued progression as a constitutional democracy, the Dean then spoke to the words contained in the Constitution booklet that all our students receive in return for handing over their signed Pledge documents. Here our law students are tasked with setting a high standard for themselves - to learn, explore, dream, and grow together, but they are also cautioned that what is done today might influence their future in terms of the expected behaviour of legal professionals.

Miss Ila Alberts, the Chair of the JVS, then welcomed our law students, and reiterated that degree programmes should be treated as a group project, and not approached as an individual challenge. She also reminded the students of all the various support structures that are in place at Stellenbosch University, and within the Faculty.



Following Miss Alberts, it was the turn of one of our alumni and current lecturer, Mr Thalalolwazi Msutu (who lectures Insolvency Law 312 and Mercantile Law 292) to address the first-years on the significance of being a 'fit and proper person'. Mr Msutu commenced his address from the perspective of how one cannot separate who one is at home, from the person one is in class, or in one's residence, or as part of one's broader society. He emphasised that 'all of those people are you, and that is all part of being what a fit and proper person is'. He then linked this again to the wording in the front of Constitution booklet, in referencing the case of General Council of the Bar of South Africa v Jiba [2017 (1) SACR 47 (GP)], where it is guoted that 'a successful practitioner should possess and display certain gualities, most of which cannot be acquired through learning'. In expanding on this, Mr Msutu emphasised how a law student's classroom experience goes beyond what one learns in lectures, and thereby urged the students to be active participants in the myriad of opportunities that will be presented within the Faculty, and the University, in order to develop and grow as people. Coupled hereto, as future jurists, he emphasised that they would be interacting with others in any number of capacities, and that a central aspect involves working with people regardless of what their initial motivation was for studying law.

Here, in quoting from the late Advocate George Bizos, Mr Msutu relayed how the 'fit and proper test' does not succeed in keeping unwanted elements out of the legal profession, nor does it guarantee moral goodness merely by reading the Constitution, or learning about it in lectures - rather, it is through 'giving the Constitution life' as law students, that the biggest difference can be made. By way of example, in making others aware of what is contained within the Constitution, and helping others to strive towards its values, to acquire and protect their constitutional rights, this is how law students can fulfil the significant responsibilities that are associated with being taught as jurists. That in this way, again in reference to Advocate Bizos and his views on how lawyers cannot act like the rest of society, but must strive to be better than society, acting as men and women of impeccable character and sound judgment. Mr Msutu reiterated that lawyers do not just occupy a position within a particular profession, but that they serve the public; thus, he noted that, as law students, their role of assisting those around them is already going to commence in their first year at Stellenbosch.

Finally, Professor Madonsela, the Law Faculty Trust Chair in Social Justice, addressed the first-years on ethics and integrity in the context of lawyering as leadership. Key to Prof Madonsela's address was how jurists and legal practitioners can become agents of change to assist South Africa in fulfilling the Constitution, with this being framed against the fundamental importance of being true to one's own moral compass in terms of the ethical, social-justice standards expected of our students. In speaking to what it means to lead as a law student, she emphasised that leadership involves both thinking and acting, and that the challenge that faces first-year students is aligning wanting to lead and moving in the right direction with the internal integrity of the self. On this point, Professor Madonsela stated that integrity is not just how one represents oneself to the world, but is underpinned by thinking and acting in resonance with what is right - and that this new generation of jurists are being counted on to serve as special guardians of the Constitution. Coupled hereto, the Constitution serving as a guardrail to the continued development of the South African democratic order was highlighted, and the jurists' role, based on the knowledge of the law and the Constitution, is particularly important herein. She cautioned, however, that this knowledge and responsibility could also be abused, but that a foundation in ethics and integrity would guard against this likelihood. Professor Madonsela then reminded the first-year students that in all that they do and are, they are to be guided by the Constitution; further, the Preamble (as contained in the Pledge) will serve as a 'lodestar', in guiding the ship forward to a brighter future for all. She concluded by speaking on the concept of 'ubuntu', its interconnectedness of humanity and its value of human dignity, and urged our law students to commence with process of 'ubuntunisation', to convert oneself into a human that respects oneself and the accepted rules and norms of society, but more importantly, to respect the humanity of every person.

Hereafter, a variation of the annual First Year Law group photo was taken, before the first-years handed over their signed Pledge document to the Vice-Dean: Research and Internationalisation (Professor Juanita Pienaar) and Mr Msutu; in return, they received their copy of the Faculty of Law's Code of Conduct from the Dean, and a personalised Faculty of Law version of the Constitution from Professor Madonsela. Light refreshments were served before the group dispersed to reflect on a wonderful experience shared by the first-year class of 2022.

## Law Trust Prize Regstrust prys

The alumni(ae) of the Faculty annually fund various bursaries for financially needy and academically deserving students. However, until 2020, exceptional academic achievement has never been recognised specifically. In 2020, the Law Faculty Trust first introduced a prize (amounting to R200 000, which approximately covers the tuition cost of a legal qualification) to an academic top achiever.

Following the 2021 academic year, we can now announce the second recipient of this award: Mieka Loubser. Mieka is a BAccLLB graduate, and we congratulate her on being awarded the SU Law Trust Top Academic Achiever Award for 2021. She currently works as a financial risk analyst at a boutique investment firm in Cape Town. Later this year, Mieka will join the Saïd Business School and the Oxford Faculty of Law as part of a class of 45 selected and enrolled for the MSc in Law and Finance. Congratulations, Mieka!

We sent Mieka some questions, posed by current law students, to hear more about her experience at the Faculty:

- 1. As jy 'n alternatiewe studie- en beroepsrigting moes kies, wat sou dit wees?
- Ek sou seker 'n wiskundige of 'n sielkundige geword het.
- 2. If the Stellenbosch Faculty of Law were to be wine, which wine would it be?
- A Shiraz mature and just a little bit spicy.

3. Wat is jou gunsteling studieplek op, of buite, kampus? *Ride In Café in Jonkershoek.* 

4. What is your fondest memory of studying at Stellenbosch University?

Walking through Victoria Street on an autumn afternoon.

5. Hoekom het jy die Stellenbosch Fakulteit Regsgeleerdheid gekies?

Ek het Stellenbosch gekies vir die BRekLLB-program, sowel as vir die studentelewe wat dit bied.

6. Who was your favourite lecturer, and why? Professor Garbers – 'People, welcome to real law'. I loved his approach to Labour Law and his very real perspective Die alumni(ae) van die Fakulteit befonds jaarliks verskeie beurse vir finansieel behoeftige en akademies waardige studente. Tot 2020 is uitsonderlike akademiese prestasie egter nooit spesifiek erkenning verleen nie. In 2020 het die Regsfakulteitstrust vir die eerste keer 'n prys (ten bedrae van R200 000, wat ongeveer die onderrigkoste van 'n regskwalifikasie dek) bekendgestel wat aan 'n akademiese toppresteerder gegee word.

Na die 2021 akademiese jaar kan ons nou die tweede ontvangervan hierdie toekenning aankondig: Mieka Loubser. Mieka is 'n BRekLLB-gegradueerde, en ons wens haar geluk met die toekenning van die US Regsfakulteitstrust Top Akademiese Presteerder-toekenning vir 2021. Sy werk tans as 'n finansiële risiko-ontleder by 'n boetiekbeleggingsfirma in Kaapstad. Later vanjaar sal Mieka by die Saïd Business School en die Oxford Fakulteit Regsgeleerdheid aansluit as deel van 'n klas van 45 wat vir die MSc in Regte en Finansies gekies en ingeskryf is. Baie geluk, Mieka!

on the challenges faced in labour law. He also takes time to invest in his students. I am not sure I would have had the courage to apply for studies abroad had he not encouraged me.

7. Hoe het jy die hibriede stelsel van in-persoon en aanlyn klasse gevind?

Uitdagend. Aanlynklasse vereis meer dissipline as inpersoon klasse, want dit is makliker om weg te raak en moeiliker om met die dosent of ander studente besprekings te hê. Ek het dit ook moeilik gevind om binne 'n enkele dag tussen aanlyn en in-persoon klasse te wissel.

8. What was your most enjoyable module and why?

I loved Contract Law for its rigour and at times almost ethereal quality (to which Professor Du Plessis would no doubt comment, 'Ethereal? Are you sure you want to use such a strong word?').

9. Waarom moet 'n gematrikuleerde student regte kies? Regte leer jou baie oordraagbare vaardighede. Jy hoef nie 'n prokureur te word om hierdie vaardighede te gebruik nie. Die vermoë om aanbiedings te maak, te argumenteer en noukeurig te ondersoek sal jou 'n gewenste kandidaat in baie industrieë maak.

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10. Do you listen to music when you study? If so, who is your favourite artist or favourite genre for studying?

Yes! The genre depends on the time of day. Mostly I listen to jazz lounge music, but in the evening when I am sleepy and I have more work to do, I interrupt my jazz music with a burst of adrenaline-inducing Britney Spears.

11. Watter raad sal jy aan 'n mede-regstudent gee wat sukkel om die werklading te hanteer? En wat is jou benadering tot groot volumes werk?

Om klas toe te gaan en aantekeninge te neem is die twee belangrikste dinge om te doen. Nie alle dele van die werk, ook nie die sake in 'n gegewe vak, is ewe belangrik nie. Deur klas toe te gaan, sal jy weet watter deel van die werk om te prioritiseer. Oorweeg watter sake die meeste in die klas beklemtoon is en gebruik die meeste van jou tyd om daardie sake te verstaan.

My benadering tot groot volumes werk was om te oorweeg watter assessering die meeste krediete het. Byvoorbeeld, as die Belastingreg-eksamen 6 krediete is terwyl die tweede Bewysregvraestel 4 krediete is, sal ek 'n bietjie meer op die Belastingregvraestel fokus.

12. Did the pandemic teach you any life lessons that you can use in your future law career?

The importance of boundaries between work and personal life. During the pandemic, I really struggled to maintain the boundary between work and my personal life because everything happened in the same space. I became a less productive student because I struggled to switch off and claim enough me-time. It showed me that if I want to be the best lawyer I can be, I need to be the best me, which can only happen when I maintain proper work boundaries.

13. Glo jy dit is belangrik om 'n studie/sosiale lewensbalans te hê?

Absoluut. Jy is die totaliteit van verskeie aspekte van jou lewe. Byvoorbeeld, jy kan op enige gegewe tyd 'n vriend, broer of suster, kunstenaar en 'n student wees. Die lewe gaan daaroor om daardie verskillende rolle te balanseer. As jy nie jou studies met jou sosiale lewe balanseer nie, loop jy die risiko om die waarde van jou ander rolle te verminder, wat weer daartoe lei dat jy jou studies oorwaardeer. Jy is meer as net 'n student.

14. What are your interests outside of law and is it important to have such interests?

I am interested in wellness so I spend a lot of time reading about health and trying new sports. I also enjoy sketching and attend weekly art classes. I definitely recommend having an interest outside of law because it can only make you a better lawyer.

15. Het jy 'n familie-/vriende-ondersteuningstelsel gehad tydens jou studies, en hoe het dit tot jou sukses bygedra?

My ondersteuningstelsel was die grootste rede vir my sukses. My familie het my dikwels aangemoedig om 'n tree terug te gee wanneer ek oorweldig gevoel het. Net so het my vriende altyd geweet wanneer ek 'n blaaskans nodig het en sou hulle plesierige en ontspannende aktiwiteite reël.

16. What is the most valuable skill/attribute/knowledge you took from your law studies?

I cultivated a very high level of discipline during my studies because of the nature of the BAccLLB-programme. I now also read any text more meticulously, often without even realising, and I am always surprised with how much more coherent my arguments have become compared to before I commenced with my legal studies.

17. Watter raad wens jy dat jy as eerstejaarstudent gegee is?

Moenie na senior studente luister nie! In my eerstejaar het ek my ore aan senior studente uitgeleen – almal het vir my gesê dat Privaatreg 171 onmoontlik is. Ek het verskrik die eerste toets geskryf en dit het gewys – ek het skaars geslaag. Wat ek nou weet, is dat elke student sy eie teëspoed het om in 'n spesifieke module te oorkom en elkeen se ervaring sal beslis anders wees. Vertrou jou eie intuïsie.

18. What is your favourite Social Media App to use as procrastination from studying?

Instagram and its French Bulldog videos.

19. As jy vir jou jonger self raad kon gee, wat sou dit wees? Ontspan! Daar is baie min dinge in die lewe wat werklik binne jou beheer is. Die lewe sal onvermydelik kurweballe in jou rigting gooi. Al wat jy kan beheer, is hoe jy reageer. Fokus op die proses en die uitkoms sal volg.

20. MyBrew or DCM coffee? Trick question, the law students are at Häzz.

21. Wat is jou planne vir die toekoms?

Ek sal later vanjaar die Universiteit van Oxford bywoon om 'n MSc in Regte en Finansies te studeer. Daarna beoog ek om my praktiese regsopleiding te voltooi en 'n regspraktisyn te word.

#### Juridical Society (JS) Juridiese Vereeniging (JV)

### Accountability,

visibility,

### and vitality.

At the start of our term as the Juridical Society of Stellenbosch, these three words summed up our goals for the year. In the past semester we are extremely proud to say that, in spite of many challenges, we believe we are fulfilling our goals.

We kick-started the year with a successful Welcoming Programme for the Newcomer Law students at Coetzenburg and on campus. As a team, it was an honour to be able to welcome them to their new intellectual home and ensure that they are well-integrated and supported through our Mentorship programme.

One of the highlights of our term thus far was the annual Law Week (the first in-person one since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic), which took place from the 7th to 11th of March. It was a huge success, with many students taking part in a range of traditions and events, such as the Toga Party, Quiz night, and Legal Shebeen. Between challenging debates and seeing our lecturers play soccer on the Sports Day, it was great fun and a good reminder that a law education is as much about the people you meet as the theory you learn. We are also particularly proud to have been the team behind the first in-person Career Fair in South Africa since 2019, and received a lot of positive feedback from the firms and NGOs that were in attendance.

The first-year law students also each had the opportunity to sign their pledges and receive a copy of the Constitution from Professor Thuli Madonsela at our Welcoming Ceremony, which ended the week on a very meaningful note.

Another exciting project that the JV/S has initiated is the 'Grad Prep' programme, sponsored by Standard Bank, that aims to equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills to take on the world when they graduate and explore all the options available to them with a law degree.

To end off a very busy semester, we also organised the biggest law dance yet with 470 attendees! We look forward to ending off our term in the same way that we started it – with passion, dedication, and vision as we continue to serve the students we represent.





## Legal Shebeen

The Transformation Officer portfolio of the Juridical Society is held by Saaniya Yacoob, a final year 'postgraduate' LLB student. As part of the goal to create a more inclusive and diverse space within the Faculty of Law, the portfolio hosts termly critical engagements that tackle contentious legal issues.

One such engagement is the Legal Shebeen, the initiative was created by previous JV/S members, Liam Erasmus and Peter Brink. Ms Yacoob hosted the Legal Shebeen in March of 2022, and it entailed a legal debate between Faculty of Law staff and students. Accordingly,

four different discussions took place and the topics were as follows, 'Land Reform and Expropriation: Amendment of S25 the Constitution?' facilitated by Professor Zsa-Zsa Boggenpoel; 'Gun Control in South Africa: The Firearms Amendment Bill,' facilitated by Dr Delano Cole van der Linde; 'COVID 19 and the restriction on our civil liberties: Was lockdown just?' facilitated by Professor Sandra Liebenberg; and lastly 'South Africa will not be less violent until it is more equal,' facilitated by Mr Gideon Basson. This critical engagement was informative for all involved and allowed thought-provoking conversations that were both enriching and necessary.



Social Impact Sosiale Impak

### US Regskliniek | SU Law Clinic |

### Collaboration with the Black Sash Trust

The first semester of 2022 has seen continued successful collaboration between the Stellenbosch University Law Clinic and the Black Sash Trust. The Clinic and Black Sash co-facilitated a stream based on the Debt, Credit, and Consumer Rights Guide authored by the Clinic at the 6th Annual Dullah Omar School for Paralegalism. The theme for this programme, which took place from the 13 to 18 March, was 'Poverty, Patriarchy and Pandemics: A Sector's Response'. The aim of our joint presentation was to equip paralegals to uplift marginalised communities and to inform South Africans about their responsibilities and rights. Attorney Odwa Nweba and candidate legal practitioner Tsavo Raath represented the

Clinic on this occasion.

The Clinic collaborated with Black Sash again on the 12th of April, by participating in a dialogue on the Black Sash report titled 'Social Grants: Challenging Reckless Lending in South Africa'. The Clinic, represented by Stephan van der Merwe, Odwa Nweba, and Tsavo Raath, discussed amongst other matters practical legal avenues to alleviate the reckless lending pandemic, legal opinion on the potential harmonisation of the National Credit Act, the South African Social Security Agency Act and the Social Assistance Act, and reported on various constitutional and consumer rights training events. The dialogue was also attended by representatives from the London School of Economics and various relevant government departments, regulators, and ombuds.



Candidate Legal Practitioner Tsavo Raath and Attorney Odwa Nweba of the Law Clinic, with Paralegal Fieldworker Zoleka Ntuli and National Education and Training Manager, Amanda Rinquest, at the 6th Annual Dullah Omar School for Paralegalism.

# Important, precedent setting pending litigation

The Clinic remains committed to ensuring access to justice for the thousands of consumers affected by the conduct of Lifestyle Legal, a company associated with several websites that apply so-called 'dark pattern' marketing methods. Consumers are misled into concluding agreements for what appear to be loans or loan-finding services, whereafter significant amounts are deducted from their bank accounts for unwanted services. Further, customers who successfully reverse the

debits against their accounts, are subsequently harassed or threatened with legal action or blacklisting. Such exploitative conduct has had a severe impact on vulnerable consumers. The Clinic's class action application was certified by the Western Cape High Court on 21 July 2021. The certification is groundbreaking for a number of reasons. It represents only the tenth South African class action to be certified successfully, as well as the first certification involving a South African University Law Clinic, and the first successfully argued consumer law class action to be certified by a court.

On 3 November 2021, the

Western Cape High Court refused the respondents' request for leave to appeal against this certification. Judge Gamble held that 'the respondents have failed to show that they have reasonable prospects, on appeal, of persuading another court to set aside the certification of the applicants' class action'. The respondents have since approached the Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) to request it to grant leave to appeal against the certification. The Clinic opposed this application and is currently

awaiting judgment from the SCA.

On 21 November 2019, judgment was handed down by the Western Cape High Court in the appeal of Phillips v Grobler. The Respondent in the appeal, Mr Grobler, instituted eviction proceedings in terms of the PIE Act in the Somerset West Magistrate's Court in 2009, when Ms Phillips was 73 years old and had been living on the property since 1947. After opposing the application in the Somerset West Magistrate's Court, an eviction order

Om verskeie redes is die sertifisering 'n baanbreker. Dit verteenwoordig slegs die tiende Suid-Afrikaanse klasaksie wat suksesvol gesertifiseer is, sowel as die eerste sertifisering wat 'n Suid-Afrikaanse Universiteitsregskliniek behels en die eerste verbruikersreg-klasaksie wat suksesvol betoog is om deur 'n hof gesertifiseer te word.

was granted against Ms Phillips and her family on 19 December 2016. The Clinic noted an appeal against the Magistrate's Court's decision and the Court found that the eviction order should not have been granted, as, when viewed through a constitutional lens, it was not just and equitable to evict Ms Phillips when taking into account the peculiar circumstances of her right to occupy the property for the duration of her lifetime. On further appeal, on 14 July 2021, the SCA, with all judges concurring, ruled in favour of the Clinic and its client, Ms Phillips, by dismissing the appellant's appeal. Mr Grobler

has launched a further application against the decision of the SCA for leave to appeal to the Constitutional Court. The leave to appeal, and the appeal itself, was heard on 10 May 2022.

This matter is particularly significant due to the precedent that it is sure to set for the South African law of tenure. In future, it could likely serve as the locus classicus in matters where vulnerable occupants stand to be evicted due to no fault of their own.

### National Prosecuting Authority Community Dialogue

On 26 March, the clinic participated in the National Prosecuting Authority's (NPA) Community Dialogue on the Maintenance Act 99 of 1998 as held at the NPA offices in Cape Town. The dialogue strengthens the existing knowledge of professional legal bodies on important topics related to maintenance to improve and expedite service delivery to clients. The topics included the claiming of maintenance from a deceased estate, mediation in a maintenance setting, drafting of parenting plans, variation of maintenance orders, financial abuse and the proper way of filling out interdict applications. The dialogue is held monthly and focuses on new topics each month. These workshops will be beneficial to both legal professionals and members of the public in the long run.



From left to right, are the organisers, Advocate Deon Ruiters and Mr Eugene Opperman, the Clinic's family law attorney Ms Josie Parks, and candidate legal practitioner Ms Abulele Mkhize

### SU Law Clinic features on SABC1

Stephan van der Merwe appearing on Yilungelo Lakho with presenter Alicia Jali and consumer rights activist, Elias Shamatla.

SABC

#### CONSUMERS PURSUE JUSTICE AGAINST DUBIOUS LOAN FINDER FIRM

On the 26th of April, senior attorney Stephan van der Merwe appeared as a guest on the SABC1 programme, Yilungelo Lakho ('It's Your Right'). The discussion focused on how false and misleading advertising puts consumers at a disadvantage, with reference to the class action lawsuit the Law Clinic is currently pursuing against Lifestyle Legal. The programme also featured a pre-recorded snippet by Clinic attorney Odwa Nweba. The episode can be viewed here. IFAKALTHI YEZOMTHETHO

### Legal Writing Development *short course*

Are you a legal practitioner in need of a refresher course to improve your legal writing?

Sign up for this course if you want to improve general writing skills in an academic environment and develop an effective and concise writing style in a legal context.

The next offering starts on 15 August 2022. Click on the date to apply.

## **Ubuntu Learning Community**

The face-to-face activities of the Ubuntu Learning Community (ULC) have started up again for the first time since March 2020. The initiative, which started in 2018, is an educational partnership between SU and the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) – the first of its kind in South Africa. Its aim is to rehumanise learning by focusing on learning's social, ubuntu-focused dimensions – collaboration, community-building and connectedness. It conceives of collaborative education as the 'practice of freedom' (Paolo Freire) – a tool for transformation and empowerment. ULC has three

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components: an educational partnership between SU and the Department of Correctional Services (DCS); social support and reintegration for incarcerated participants post-incarceration; and a student-led initiative aimed at educating and sensitising SU students (and the wider community) about the incarceration system.

The ULC's educational partnership component, the interdisciplinary SU-accredited Ubuntu Learning short course, kicked off on 21 April and will be running in Brandvlei Correctional Facility until October. It entails 20 students from SU and 20 incarcerated participants from Brandvlei learning with and from each other under SU academics. The majority of SU Ubuntu Learning short course participants this year are law students, but students from any year and field of study may apply. Colleagues from the departments of history, economics and English, along with two colleagues from the Faculty

of Law, Dr Mary Nel and Ms Rukshana Parker, present the course. Participants have about 10 hours of exposure to each discipline. For the law component, participants will be assessed using a mock trial, which includes the preparation and presentation of oral and written arguments. The Ubuntu Learning short course aims to empower participants not only by helping them to gain disciplinary knowledge, but also to recognise the value of perspectives of those from different backgrounds and life experiences and develop an increased commitment to the active promotion of social justice.

The ground-breaking work of the Ubuntu Learning Community has been recognised by the awarding of a \$60 000 grant from the Bard Prison Initiative in the US. This will enable us to expand ULC activities, particularly to support the reintegration of formerly incarcerated participants and to provide bursaries to those (both inside and outside of prison) who want to study further.



#### Alumni

# Fakulteit Feesnaweek

On Friday evening, 25 March 2022, alumni, current students, staff and friends of the Faculty joined to celebrate the beginning of a new centenary, good company and a bright future for our Faculty. Professor Juanita Pienaar delivered a brief but inspiring speech and toast.



#### FAKULTEIT REGSGELEERDHEID

Panel (Richard Stevens, Andreas van Wyk, Gerhard Lubbe); Chris Otto (below)

Saterdagoggend, 26 Maart 2022, het twee alumni die gehoor toegespreek (Jeanette Traverso (klas van 1968) en Wim Trengove (klas van 1973)). Daarna het Professor Andreas van Wyk en Professor Gerhard Lubbe 'n gesprek gevoer oor die boek Die Stellenbosse Regsfakulteit: vanaf 1921 tot 2021 / The Stellenbosch Law Faculty: from 1921 to 2021. Professor Richard Stevens het die gesprek gefasiliteer. Die boek is beskikbaar om aan te koop en die opbrengste sal aangewend word vir beurse. Mnr Chris Otto (Voorsitter van die SU Regsfakulteitstrust - Law Trust (sun.ac.za)) het van die projekte wat die trust befonds uitgelig (insluitende die werwing van uitstekende personeel en die 100-jaar boek oor die Fakulteit) en alumni aangemoedig om die Fakulteit steeds en toenemend te ondersteun.

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12:30

18:00

The gala dinner hosted in honour of our belated centenary (or 101-celebration), on Saturday 26 March 2022, was a beautiful affair. It was wonderful to spend time together as colleagues and friends of our Faculty. Prof Nicola Smit opened the event, Prof Hester Klopper (Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Strategy, Global and Corporate Affairs) welcomed the guests, and Schalk Burger SC (class of 1971) delivered the keynote address.

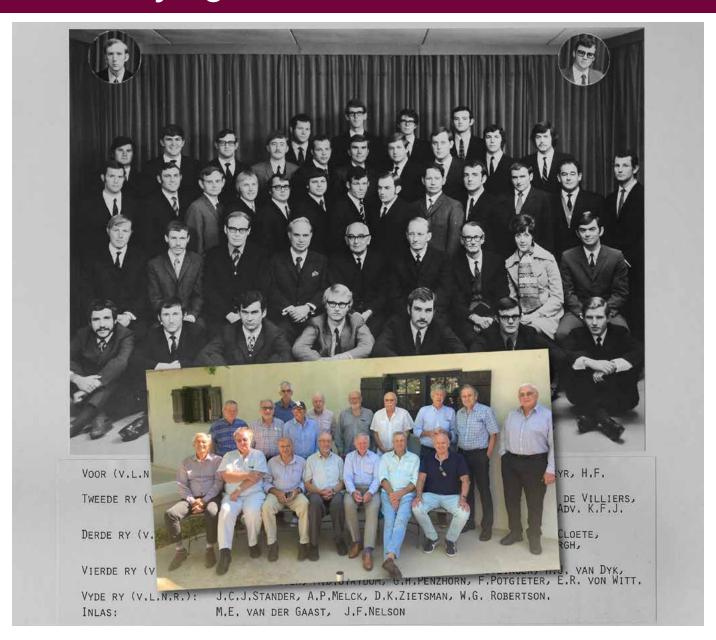
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### Golden reunion – Class of 1971 Goue Reünie – Klas van 1971 Ukudibana kwakhona okunexabiso – IKlasi yango-1971



In 1971, a group of 40 students (all male, except for one) were enrolled in the Stellenbosch Faculty's final year LLB class. The year 1971 was a significant year, for example, rock bands that were formed in 1971 include the Eagles and Queen. It was also the year that the first ever email was sent. The NASDAQ stock market index opened for the first time and the first brain-scan that used x-ray computed tomography (CT or CAT scan) was performed in London. Equally important, some may argue, is that on 9 December 1971, 29 young graduates and on 9 March 1972, a further 8 graduates of the 1971-class, were awarded the Stellenbosch University LLB degree. They went on to have remarkable and quite dissimilar careers, and several left their mark in the law. Around 50 years later, on Friday 25 March, Bruce Burman SC coordinated the golden reunion lunch for this special group; special, because their golden reunion coincides with the Faculty's

#### IFAKALTHI YEZOMTHETHO

centenary of 1921. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Faculty's centenary as well as the 1971-class reunion were, however, postponed to March 2022. (The golden

Ewe belangrik, sal sommige meen, is dat op 9 Desember 1971 die Universiteit Stellenbosch LLB-graad aan 29 jong gegradueerdes toegeken is en op 9 Maart 1972 aan nog agt gegradueerdes van die 1971-klas toegeken is. Hulle het voortgegaan om merkwaardige en heel uiteenlopende loopbane te hê, maar verskeie het hul merk in die reg gelaat. Ongeveer 50 jaar later, op Vrydag 25 Maart, het Bruce Burman SC die goue reünie-

One graduate of the class of 1971, Schalk Burger SC, delivered a speech at the Faculty's centenary (or technically, the Law101) gala dinner on Saturday evening, 26 March. Although conveyed with some humour, he very accurately described the style of teaching (what we would now call the teaching strategy of a colleague) of one of their lecturers at the time, as follows:

'Ihe] explained it [a difficult branch of the law] in typical Stellenbosch Faculty of Law fashion: by distilling the principles, ordering them, and then applying them to a hypothetical factual situation. As opposed to the common law approach of starting with 20 reported cases each with a different set of facts, and then to try to distil some vague principle from the mayhem, only to distinguish that principle with reference to the facts at hand'.

It appears as if some things really don't change. Bruce Burman recalls that lecturers were considered to have gravitas, that students were eager to learn and reunion of the 1972-class group will take place later this year, namely on 22 October.)

middagete vir hierdie spesiale groep gekoördineer; besonders, want hul goue reünie val saam met die Fakulteit se eeufees van 1921. As gevolg van die COVID-19-pandemie is die Fakulteit se eeufees sowel as die 1971-klas-reünie egter tot Maart 2022 uitgestel. (Die goue reünie van die 1972-klas groep vind later vanjaar plaas, naamlik op 22 Oktober.)

that people, like JC de Wet, emphasised the need to understand the principles of law as you would then be able to answer any question. Bruce reflects that some may have viewed JC de Wet as 'intimidating' whereas he had considered him as 'illuminating'. Schalk Burger's speech entertained the guests at the dinner but also provided us with food for thought. He concluded by stating that in his lifetime, the future has always been uncertain. This should, however, not keep the Stellenbosch Faculty of Law from producing 'well equipped lawyers of all shapes and sizes to address the new challenges posed to us all in this exciting and beautiful land'.

It was a great pleasure to welcome so many of the 1971 class back to their academic home. We acknowledge without hesitation that this time we were the ones who were the students, and they were the teachers who generously and graciously shared their wisdom, camaraderie, and hopes for our Faculty.

Dit was 'n groot vreugde om soveel van die 1971-klas terug te verwelkom by hul akademiese tuiste. Ons erken sonder huiwering dat dit hierdie keer ons was wat die studente was, en hulle was die onderwysers wat mildelik en elegant hul wysheid, kameraadskap en hoop vir ons Fakulteit gedeel het. Kwaba yinyhweba enkulu kakhulu ukwamkela uninzi lweklasi yango-1971 kwakhona kwikhaya labo lezifundo. Siyakuqonda ngaphandle kwamathandabuzo ukuba kwesi sihlandlo yayisithi abangabafundi, kwaye bona babengootitshala abathi ngobubele nangobabalo babelana ngobulumko babo, ubuhlakani, namaphupha abo ngefakhalthi yethu.

#### SAVE THE DATE WE ARE COMING TO WINDHOEK!

Date: Thursday, 8 September 2022

**Time**: 18:00

Venue: To be confirmed

The Faculty is excited to meet up with alumni and friends of the Faculty in Windhoek, Namibia in September. **Please look out for the formal invitation**, which will be circulated in due course.

Amongst others, the Faculty will be represented by Prof Jacques du Plessis, Prof Sadulla Karjiker and Prof Philip Sutherland – who promise that there will be no oral examinations at the event.

#### TEKEN ASB. DIE DATUM AAN – ONS KOM WINDHOEK TOE!

Datum:Donderdag, 8 September 2022Tyd:18:00

Plek: Word bevestig

Die Fakulteit sien daarna uit om alumni en vriende van die Fakulteit in Windhoek, Namibië in September te ontmoet. **Wees asb. op die uitkyk vir die formele uitnodiging** wat binnekort gesirkuleer sal word.

Onder andere sal die Fakulteit deur Prof Jacques du Plessis, Prof Sadulla Karjiker en Prof Philip Sutherland verteenwoordig word – wat belowe dat daar geen mondelinge by hierdie geleentheid sal wees nie.

#### Memorial Herdenking

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge and express our sincere condolences with the loss of parents, grandparents, and other loved ones of colleagues and students since the last newsletter.

Die Fakulteit getuig ook ons medelye met die afsterwe van **CJ Veldtman** (klas van 1964) en **GAC Pretorius** (klas van 1966) wat heengegaan het.



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forward together sonke siya phambili saam vorentoe

#### Contact us

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#### Visit us

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