

from the alumni office

Dear MatiesAlumni



In this edition, the Rector, Prof Russel Botman, describes the exciting process of renewal which the University has embarked upon (see p. 12). Stellenbosch University will not only grow in terms of academic excellence, but will also make better use of its expertise to contribute more significantly to the development of our community and continent.

The extent of our Alma Mater's influence is already impressive. Our academics are involved in no less than 80 projects with more than 100 partners in 30 African countries. These projects focus on, among others, research, education and capacity-building.

The Alumni Office feels privileged to maintain contact with 115 000 of you and to experience firsthand the contributions you make worldwide. We meet you at networking opportunities world-wide during which we share the University's plans for the future with you. We get to hear your opinions and acknowledge with great appreciation your contributions, financial support, backing and contacts.

Courageous conversations

The Alumni Office is taking part in a series of conversations in which the numerous challenges of the University is tackled with courage. At each networking opportunity we readily converse about the challenges in Higher Education in South Africa, the economy and its influence on opportunities for studying, exciting new opportunities offered by our changing society, expanding SU's international stature and many other matters of concern for our alumni and future alumni.

By sharing our diverse opinions and experiences - and by listening to one another - each one of you contributes towards establishing valuable new relationships and also consideration among one another. We look forward to even more participation as we expand our platforms of communication.

A question we are asked regularly is how alumni fit in with the new direction SU has taken. What do the United Nations' developmental goals have to do with us?

The Alumni Office believes that each of us who was privileged to have experienced higher education has a role to apply our knowledge and experience to contribute to solutions that create a better society. We are always happy to hear your inputs - Be it as pensioner, business woman in Johannesburg, doctor in Canada, engineer in Dubai, farmer in Robertson or homemaker in the French countryside.

Please feel free to air your views on this at the next Alumni function in your area.

Until next time
Heidi

New Network Coordinator in PE

MatiesAlumni network co-ordinators arrange gatherings in co-operation with the Alumni Office, pass on news events and help with the updating of address lists. Here is our newest co-ordinator. Visit www.matiesalumni.net for the full list.



Anton Ellis: Port Elizabeth (BA Human Movement Science, HED)

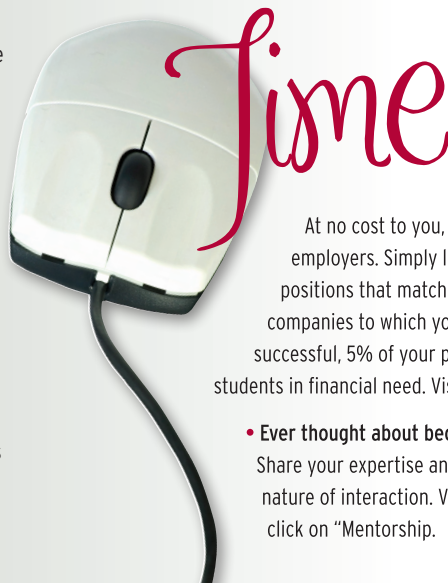
Anton grew up in Beaufort West and matriculated at Hoërskool Sentraal in 1983. At Stellenbosch he was a resident of the then Hombré where he was also head student for two years.

In 1990 he started work as a teacher at the DF Malan High School in Bellville after which he taught at the Newton Technical High School in Port Elizabeth and later also at the High School Despatch.

After his teaching career, he worked at Liberty Life for 10 years experiencing "all the radical but exciting changes in the insurance industry as a consultant for the company." He furthered his studies at Unisa and the University of Free State

where he obtained postgraduate qualifications in financial planning. Currently he is working for First National Bank as Area Manager of the Eastern Cape in the bank's Financial Planning and Advice Division. He shares his house with his three children.

- Contact Anton at cell no 083 375 3037 or via e-mail at aellis@fnb.co.za



FOR A CAREER CHANGE?

VISIT THE NEW MATIESALUMNI CAREERS PORTAL AT
WWW.MATIESALUMNI.NET

At no cost to you, MatiesAlumni can now be connected to prospective employers. Simply log on, place your CV and you'll receive job alerts for positions that match your profile (your CV will be made available only to the companies to which you have applied). If your application via this portal is successful, 5% of your placement fee will go towards a bursary fund for talented students in financial need. Visit www.matiesalumni.net for more information.

• Ever thought about becoming a Career Mentor?

Share your expertise and skills with a young Matie. You determine the frequency and nature of interaction. Visit www.matiesalumni.net and go to "How can I help SU" and click on "Mentorship."

HAVE BREAKFAST WITH THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL!

Matieweek 2008 is kicking off with an opportunity for former students to share stories and anecdotes from their student days with one another. The goal of this initiative is to bring MatiesAlumni together in a relaxed setting in the spirit of Matieweek.

The breakfast is scheduled for 28 July at Lanzerac in Stellenbosch.

The Chair of the Students' Representative Council and a member of the Rector's management team will briefly provide feedback on the current state of student affairs at Stellenbosch and also field questions.

Feel free to join us for the morning at Lanzerac. A limited number of tickets are available at R100 a person and includes a full buffet breakfast.

- Tickets and more information are available at Ms Tutu de Kock at tel 021 808 2493 or e-mail sr@sun.ac.za.

