

# PROF ROUX DE VILLIERS IS *an inspiration*



Prof Roux de Villiers and a learner from Bruckner de Villiers  
(Photo: Eikestadnuus)

At the age of eighty, Prof Roux de Villiers, former professor in Applied Mathematics, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Vice-Rector: Operations, is helping to overcome the backlog in the training of learners and teachers in Mathematics. The President of the Convocation, Prof Pieter Kapp, tells us more.

For a long time, Prof JWR (Roux) de Villiers was concerned about the inability of previously disadvantaged schools in particular to perform better in Mathematics and he offered his services to Bruckner de Villiers Primary in Idas Valley in Stellenbosch. Here he first offered classes to the teachers and later daily to the learners as well - free of charge.

For a man who is used to working with the most complicated mathematical problems and who was known as a brilliant lecturer, it was a particularly enjoyable challenge to introduce learners to the secrets of Mathematics.

His approach was a disciplined, simple but also educationally-philosophical profound one: What you need to do Maths is an understanding of numbers. He led the teachers and learners deeper into the wonderful world of numbers through all sorts of games. The result? The school's performance in Mathematics rose from an average of 32% to 65%.

But it did not end there! Prof de Villiers set about acquiring better aids for the school and his inspiring example opened doors and wallets. He also has obtained recognition from the Western Cape parliament and the Western Cape Minister of Education.

## CONVOCATION PROJECT

As a result, the Executive Committee of the Convocation has challenged MatiesAlumni to use their knowledge and experience to help uplift people. The Executive Committee has made a submission to the SU management to launch an official project. The project is also wholeheartedly supported by the Western Cape Education Department and the Western Cape Minister of Education.

- For more information and to register your involvement with a school, contact Dr Michael le Cordeur, Area Manager of the Western Cape Education Department, and the member of the Executive Committee of the Convocation who manages the project, at tel. 021 887 0135, e-mail address [mlecorde@pgwc.gov.za](mailto:mlecorde@pgwc.gov.za) or postal address: 5 Blom Street, Die Braak, Stellenbosch 7600. Further details are available on the Convocation website at [www.matiesalumni.net](http://www.matiesalumni.net).

## Free Convocation publication

Members of the Convocation can still obtain free copies of the booklet, *Verantwoording*. In it, the Executive Committee reports fully on all the most important documents in which it set out standpoints on the University's language policy over the past five years.

- Write to Prof Christo Viljoen, Vice-President of the Convocation, at 6 Hof Avenue, Stellenbosch 7600, to receive a booklet. Letters should be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped (R4,10) A5 envelope.



CLOCKWISE FROM  
THE LEFT:  
Dr Marie Heese,  
Mr Koos Bekker and  
Dr Adelbert Scholtz.

## CONVOCATION ELECTS BEKKER, HEESE AND SCHOLTZ AS MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

The Convocation of the University has elected Mr Koos Bekker, Managing Director of Naspers, as the Convocation's representative in the University Council for a third term. Another two representatives of the Convocation, Dr Marie Heese (a freelance educationist) and Dr Adelbert Scholtz (a psychologist and labour consultant), will join him in the University Council.

Dr Paul Cluver, who is currently serving on Council, and Mr Jannie Mouton, founder of the PSG Group, were earlier unanimously elected to the University Council as the two donor representatives. Dr Cluver was also elected Chair of Council on the retirement of Dr Edwin Hertzog in March this year.

Members of the Convocation could vote for candidates by ordinary postal votes, fax, online voting or SMS.



## CONVOCATION MEETING

This year's Convocation meeting takes place in the HB Thom Theatre in Victoria Street, Stellenbosch at 19:00 on 6 November.