



UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA FREISTATA

IN
VERITATE
SAPIENTIAE
LUX



INAUGURATION
AND
WELCOMING
OF

PROF
FRANCIS PETERSEN

14th Rector and Vice-Chancellor of the
University of the Free State

2017



QWAQWA CAMPUS

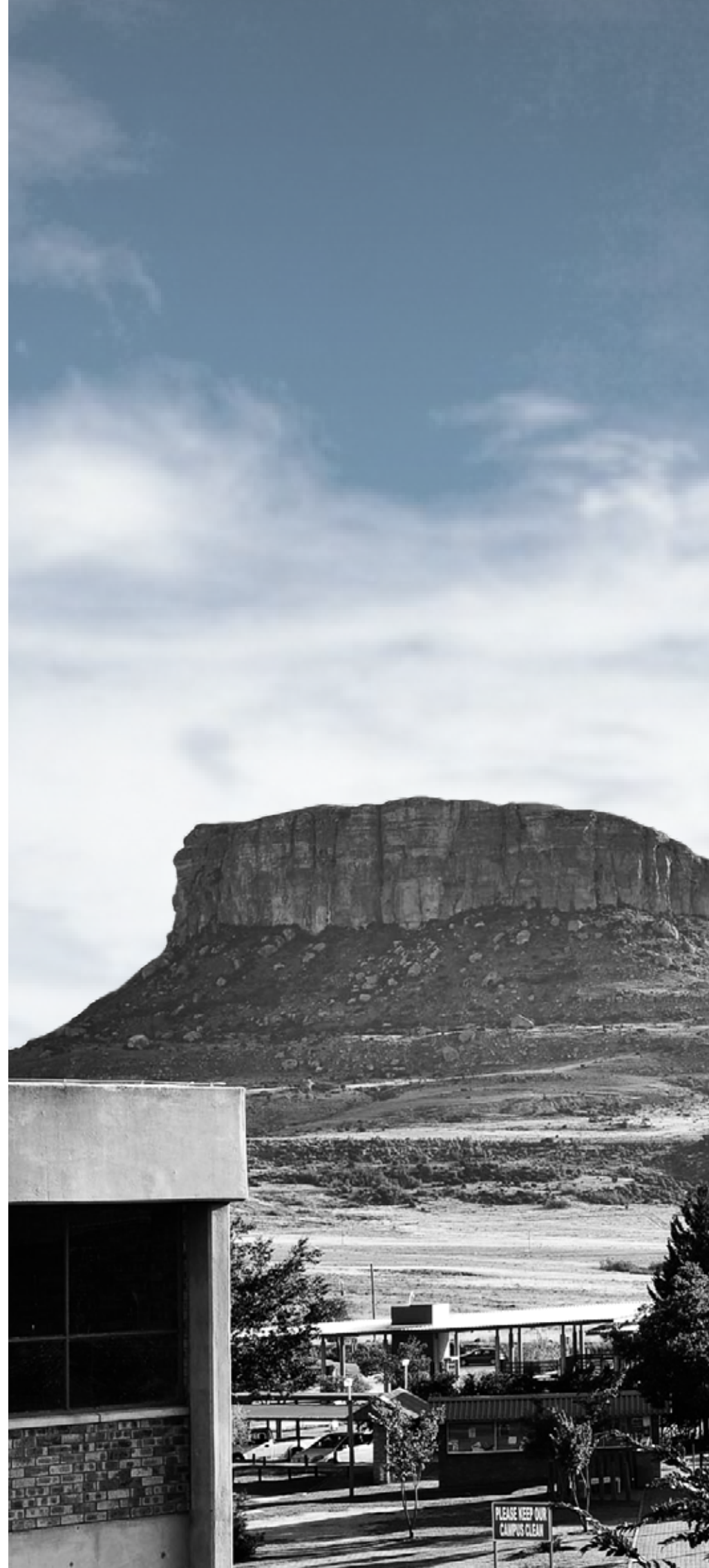


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INAUGURATION CEREMONY AND DINNER

19 MAY 2017



INAUGURATION CEREMONY



“I will devote every fibre of my being over the next five years to this great university and its importance to the City of Bloemfontein, the Free State Province, the country, and the continent.” – Prof Francis Petersen





Ms Surprise Manyaiyi, Deputy President of the Bloemfontein Campus SRC; Mr SK Luwaca, President of the Bloemfontein Campus SRC; and Mr Pura Mgolombane, Dean of Student Affairs.



Dr Susan Vosloo, member of the UFS Council, Justice Faan Hancke, former Chairperson of the UFS Council, and Mr Willem Louw, current Chairperson of the UFS Council.



On Friday 19 May 2017, the University of the Free State celebrated the inauguration of its 14th Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Prof Francis Petersen. The formal inauguration was held in the Odeion Theatre on the Bloemfontein Campus.

During his inaugural speech, Prof Petersen committed himself to developing the UFS into an institution that would have an even greater impact than before.

“This institution I am striving to establish will be one that responds positively to inclusivity, diversity, and transformation, and which can incorporate these values into our curriculum, scholarship, and research in a productive way.” – Prof Francis Petersen

Present at the inauguration ceremony were, among others, vice-chancellors and representatives of several universities, members of the university’s executive team, captains of industry, members of staff, and the Student Representative Council of the Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa Campuses, as well as members of Prof Petersen’s family.

Dignitaries attending the event included Dr Khotso Mokhele, UFS Chancellor, and Madam Justice Mahube Molemela, Chancellor of the Central University of Technology and Judge President of the Free State High Court. Also present were Justice Steven Majiedt, Chancellor of the Sol Plaatje University and Judge of the Supreme Court of Appeal; Madam Justice Mandisa Maya, Acting President of the Supreme Court of Appeal; Mr Willem Louw, Chairperson of the UFS Council; Dr Jeanine Nothnagel, local Councillor representing the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality; Prof Ahmed Bawa, Chief Executive Officer of Universities South Africa; and Prof Crain Soudien, CEO of the Human Sciences Research Council. Mr Matshela Koko, Eskom Chief Executive Officer, Mr David Noko, Executive Vice-President of AngloGold Ashanti, and Mr Andile Sangqu, the Executive Director and Executive Head of Anglo American South Africa, were also present.

Vice-Chancellors from universities in South Africa also attended the event. Former vice-chancellors of the university, Prof Francois Retief and Prof Frederick Fourie, and the former Chairperson of Council, Justice Faan Hancke, honoured guests with their presence. Also in attendance were members of the UFS Council, UFS Rectorate, President of the UFS Convocation, deans and acting deans, Kowsie Alumni Society, and the SRC Presidents of the Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa Campuses.

In his speech, Prof Bawa said: “We congratulate both Prof Petersen and the UFS on an excellent appointment. He brings with him significant experience as an academic, as an academic administrator, and as a professional engineer. Prof Petersen will bring with him techniques to produce the most beautiful solutions to a university as a social institution. On behalf of the 26 public universities and their vice-chancellors, I wish Prof Petersen every success. We commit ourselves as Universities South Africa vice-chancellors to working closely with him and to support him whenever necessary.

Several congratulatory messages were delivered at the inauguration dinner. David Noko, a former colleague and friend of Prof Petersen, said: “Together we served on the board of Royal Bafokeng Platinum. The broader business, especially the mining fraternity, are standing proud that today we can say one of our own is leading an institution of learning. Prof Petersen, we look up to you and your type of leaders for guidance to find lasting solutions.”

Dr Khotso Mokhele also delivered a congratulatory message. He said: “I do not believe there is currently a vice-chancellor of any university in this country that comes from an engineering background and who also has technikon experience, research-council experience, private-sector experience, and academic-university experience at dean and deputy vice-chancellor level. I want to congratulate the Chairperson of Council and your colleagues on the Council for an incredibly inspired choice in Francis Petersen as the Rector and Vice-Chancellor of this university.”



Prof Petersen with previous rectors of the UFS, Prof François Retief, 1989–1997 (left), and Prof Frederick Fourie, 2003–2008.



Dr Khotso Mokhele, UFS Chancellor; Prof Petersen; and Mr Willem Louw.



Prof Lis Lange, Vice-Rector: Academic.

Dr Nthabeleng Rammile, Vice-Chairperson of the UFS Council.





Prof Ahmed Bawa, CEO of Universities South Africa (USAf).

“Most importantly, we must work together to infuse each campus with the values that we have identified as essential if we are to make our mark as a united University of the Free State. Academic excellence, diversity, inclusivity and innovation.”

- Prof Francis Petersen





Present at the inauguration ceremony were, among others, Vice-Chancellors and representatives of several universities.

From the left, front, are: Prof Norman Duncan, University of Pretoria; Prof Sechaba Mahlomaholo, Walter Sisulu University; Prof Ingrid Woolard, University of Cape Town; Prof Francis Petersen, University of the Free State; Prof Ahmed Bawa, CEO of USAf; and Prof Nico Koopman, Stellenbosch University;

back: Prof Henk de Jager, Central University of Technology; Prof Yunus Ballim, Sol Plaatje University; Prof Dan Kgwadi, North-West University; and Prof Christopher de Beer, Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University.





INAUGURATION DINNER



Mrs Mary Petersen celebrating the inauguration with her son, Prof Francis Petersen.

The inauguration ceremony was followed by a formal dinner, held in the Reitz Hall of the Centenary Complex on the Bloemfontein Campus. Several congratulatory messages were delivered at the dinner.



Prof Crain Soudien, Chief Executive Officer of the Human Sciences Research Council; Mrs Cheslyn Petersen; Prof Petersen; and Prof Chris de Beer, interim Vice-Chancellor of Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University.





Mr David Noko, Executive Vice-President of AngloGold Ashanti.

“Seasons may change, times may change, work may change,
but nothing will ever change your greatness, Professor.”

– Mr David Noko



Dr Khotso Mokhele, Chancellor of the UFS; Dr Nthabeleng Rammile, Vice-Chairperson of the UFS Council; Prof Petersen; Madam Justice Mahube Molemela, Chancellor of the Central University of Technology and Judge President of the Free State High Court; and Prof Dan Kgwadi, Vice-Chancellor of North-West University.



Mr Clayton Petersen, Mrs Petersen, Prof Petersen, and Mr Curtis Petersen.



“In my vision, I would like to work very hard over the next five years to see how close we can get to that ideal and even better”.

Prof Francis Petersen



Prof Ingrid Woolard, Dean of Economics at the University of Cape Town.



Prof Crain Soudien; Prof Henk de Jager, Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Technology; Prof Petersen; Prof Corli Witthuhn, Vice-Rector: Research at the UFS; and Prof Ahmed Bawa.



Justice Steven Majiedt; Dr Khotso Mokhele; Prof Petersen; Ms Itumeleng Pooe, member of the UFS Council; Prof Yunus Ballim, Sol Plaatje University; and Mr David Noko.





“It is generally accepted that education is a weapon of change, and if education is a weapon of change, you are the one dishing out these weapons. You must be a general.”
- Prof Dan Kgwadi





Mr Njabulo Mwali, President of the Qwaqwa Campus SRC.



“You give a lot of people hope at this university. You give them hope because you listen. This is one of your strong points we have been privileged to get to know in a short period of time.”



Prof Danie Vermeulen, Dean: Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences.





W E L C O M I N G C E R E M O N I E S

The week of 11-19 May 2017 was one of the highlights in this year's calendar for staff and students of the UFS, with various ceremonies taking place to welcome Prof Francis Petersen. The festivities culminated in the official inauguration ceremony at the Bloemfontein Campus on 19 May 2017.

The Qwaqwa Campus welcoming ceremony took place on Thursday 11 May 2017, attracting a wide spectrum of community leaders from the area. Prof Petersen was welcomed by representatives from the two trade unions, National Education Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) and UVPERSU, as well as representatives from the Student Representative Council (SRC), the Thabo Mofutsanyana Education District, and the House of Traditional Leaders. Paramount Queen Mopeli of the Bakoena Royal House bestowed a special honour upon Prof Petersen by clothing him in a traditional Basotho blanket and hat. She said, "From our heart of hearts, welcome, Prof Francis ..., and all Godspeed during your tenure."

The South Campus in Bloemfontein hosted a welcoming ceremony on 18 May 2017. The ceremony included a number of vocal performances and messages from various stakeholder groups. The same afternoon, the Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice (IRSJ) also facilitated a panel discussion, titled 'Diversity, inclusivity, and social justice and the renewed call for decolonisation', on the Bloemfontein Campus.

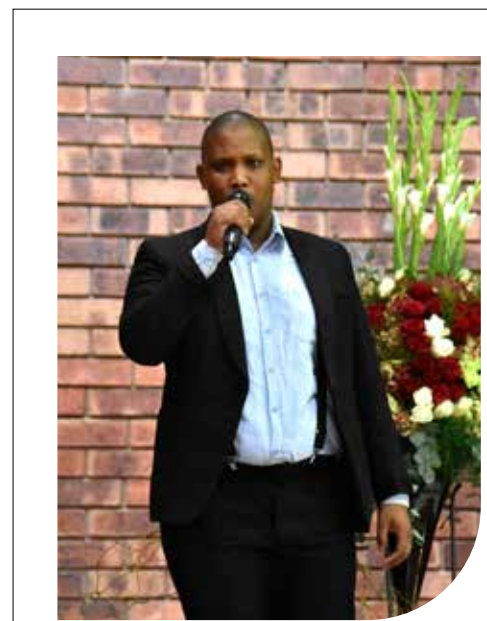
The welcoming ceremonies culminated in an event in the Callie Human Centre on Friday 19 May 2017 at the Bloemfontein Campus, with a number of performances by musicians associated with the UFS, marimbas, drum majorettes from Jim Fouché Secondary School, the Grey College Gumboots, and school choirs from Eunice Secondary School, Brebner Primary School, and Willem Postma Primary School. Representatives from key stakeholders such as Nehawu, UVPERSU, the Campus Ministries Forum, SRC, Alumni, Convocation, and the UFS Council had the opportunity to convey their messages of welcome to Prof Petersen.



QWAQWA CAMPUS WELCOMING

11 MAY 2017







Mathokoana Mopeli of the Bakoena Royal Council; Mr Willem Louw, Chairperson of the UFS Council; and Prof Francis Petersen during the welcoming ceremony on the Qwaqwa Campus. The Basotho blanket is worn by kings, and the university hopes the symbolism will be a source of inspiration.





Prof Prakash Naidoo, Principal of the Qwaqwa Campus; Prof Petersen; Mrs Petersen; Mathokoana Mopeli of the Bakoena Royal Council; and Mr Willem Louw.



Prof Petersen and Mr Willem Louw with the Qwaqwa Campus Student Representative Council.



Dr Gift Vinger, Registrar: Governance and Policy; Ms Lacea Loader, Director: Communication and Brand Management; Prof Prakash Naidoo, Principal of the Qwaqwa Campus; Dr Elsa Crause, Vice-Principal: Academic, Qwaqwa Campus; Prof Petersen; Mrs Cheslyn Petersen; Prof Corli Witthuhn, Vice-Rector: Academic; Mr Teboho Manchu, Vice-Principal: Operations, Qwaqwa Campus; Mr Willem Louw; Mr Pura Mgolombane, Dean: Student Affairs; Prof Nicky Morgan, Vice-Rector: Operations; and Mr Temba Hlasho, Director: Student Affairs, Qwaqwa Campus.



SOUTH CAMPUS WELCOMING

18 MAY 2017





Prof Nicky Morgan, Vice-Rector: Operations.



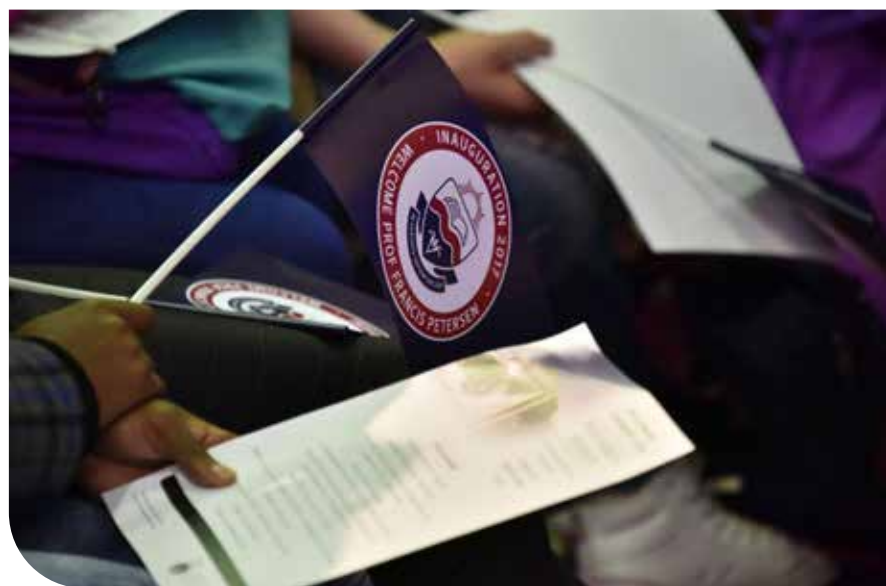
Tshego Setilo, Programme Director of the Welcoming Ceremony.



Ms Surprise Manyaiyi, Deputy President of the Bloemfontein Campus SRC.



Prof Daniella Coetzee, Principal of the South Campus.



Dr Gift Vinger, Registrar: Governance and Policy, handing a gift to Mrs Cheslyn Petersen.



Prof Petersen and Mrs Petersen with the South Campus management team.

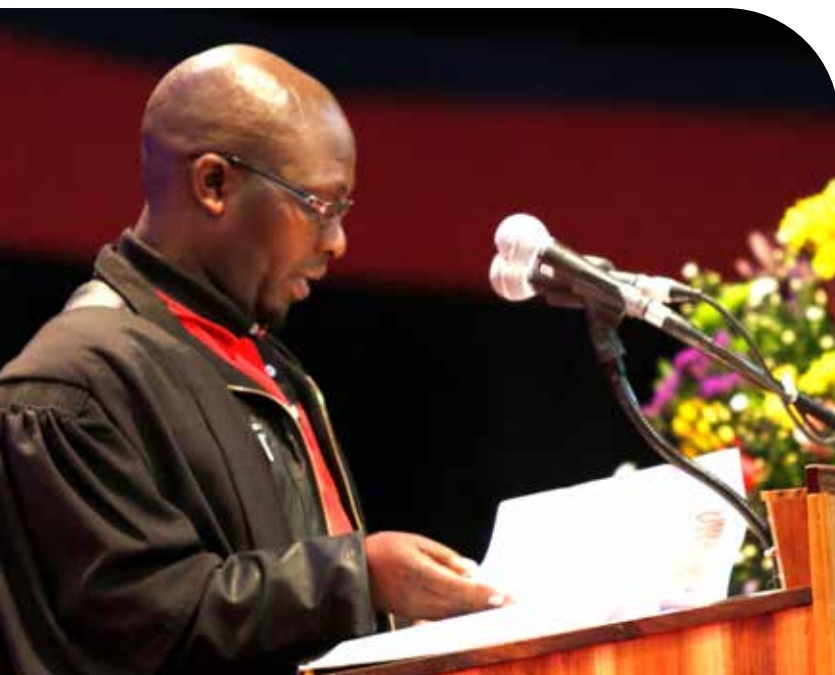




Grey College Gumboots.



Ms Anita Lombard, Chief Executive Officer of UVPERSU.



Mr Thabang Sepeame, Deputy Chairperson of NEHAWU.



Eunice Vitae Cantamus Choir.





Mr Alistair Kingwell, Chairperson of the Campus Ministries Forum.



Prof Johan Grobbelaar, President of the Convocation.



Mr SK Luwaca, President: Bloemfontein Campus SRC.

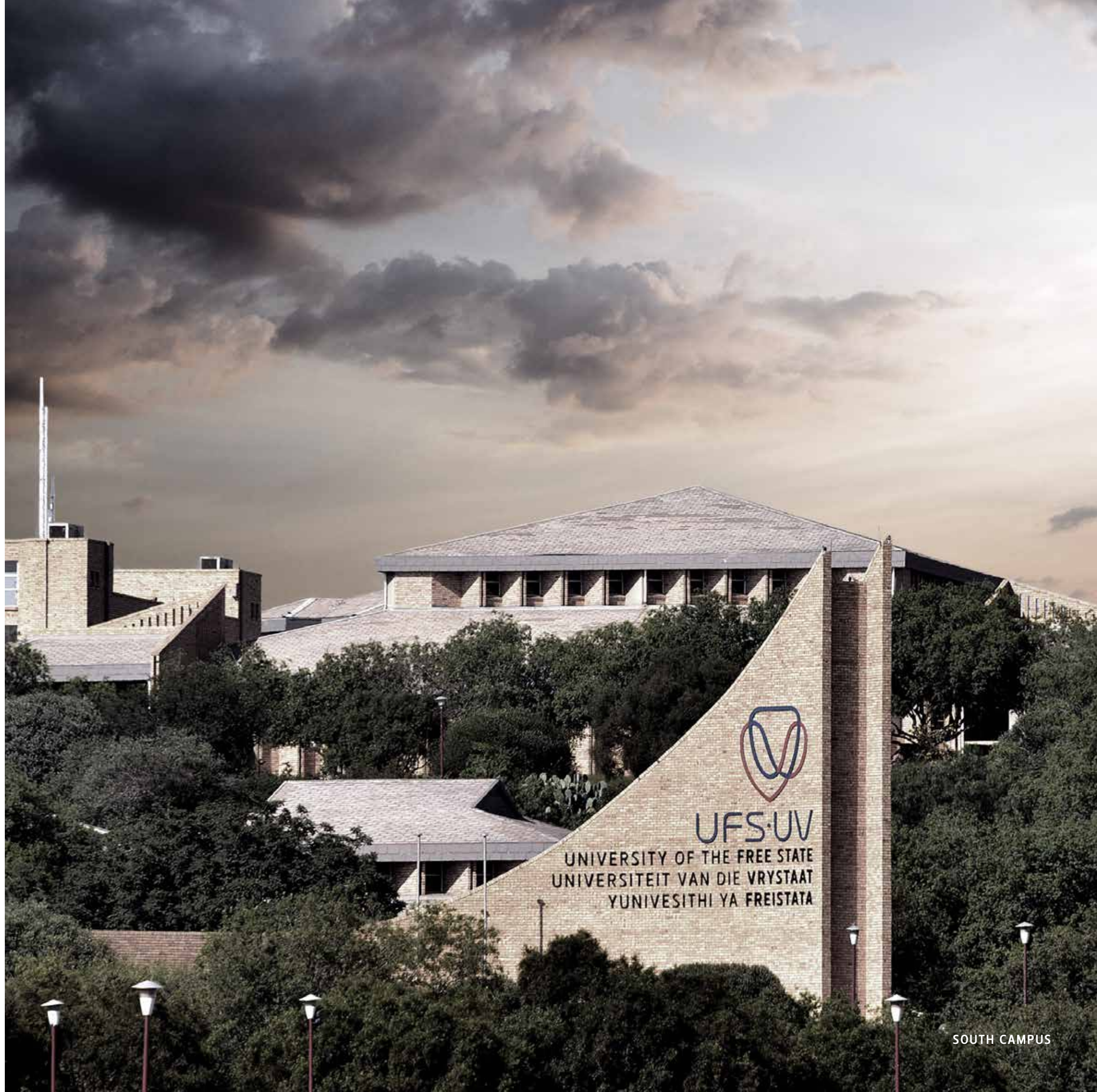


Dr Pieter du Toit, Chairperson: Kopsie Alumni Society.



Dr Karen Lazenby, Registrar: Systems and Administration, handing a gift to Mrs Cheslyn Petersen.

IN
VERITATE
SAPIENTIAE
LUX



SOUTH CAMPUS

