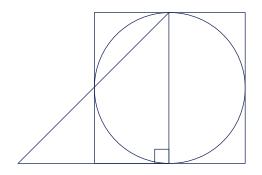
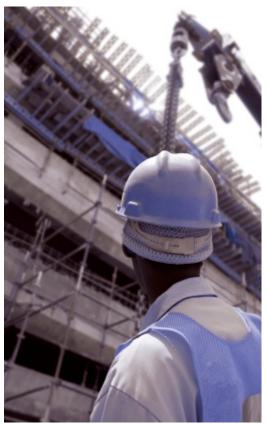
# Report 05/06



### Faculty of

## **Natural and Agricultural Sciences**









### Report 05/06

# Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

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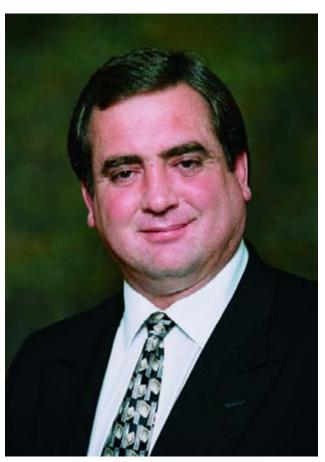
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Preface

## From the Dean's office



Prof. Herman van Schalkwyk.

he Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences at the University of the Free State (UFS) leads the way in the practising of natural and agricultural sciences in South Africa and the highest levels of quality and credibility are reflected.

Our commitment, however, reaches far beyond just this. It reaches beyond the borders of the country and across continents; its multi-disciplinary and practical approach is vested in all the disciplines presented by the faculty.

In 2005/06 the Faculty experienced significant growth in measurable outputs. A contributing factor was the comprehensive apparatus strategy and plan which was implemented in 2005. With this strategy, university funds were used to leverage other funds in order to obtain huge discounts from suppliers of apparatus. In this way the faculty managed to obtained almost R50 million worth of apparatus in 2005.

The strategy was continued in 2006 when an agreement to the value of R7 542 531 was reached with Shimadzu, according to which apparatus was supplied to the faculty at discount prices. The agreement, which is valid for three years, entails the free replacement of apparatus which is purchased during this period with upgraded versions.

The new apparatus forms part of the UFS vision to compete internationally with quality research outputs in certain niche areas, to provide leadership in advanced training to students from the African continent and to establish the university as a leader among South African universities.

Two researchers with a B rating from the National Research Foundation (NRF) were also appointed. Both of these initiatives bore fruit and in 2006 the faculty increased its total research outputs by

about 13%. As an example, the Department of Chemistry's outputs increased by 100%.

The faculty has been bursting at the seams over the past couple of years. Student figures rose from 3 935 undergraduate, postgraduate and occasional students in 2005, to 4 224 in 2006. There is also strong representivity of students from other African countries and in 2005/06 almost 600 students studied at the faculty.

An extended B.Sc. programme has been presented to students since 2005. The programme aims at providing students who do not comply with all the requirements for the B.Sc. programme with the necessary substructure to complete the B.Sc. degree successfully. A preliminary evaluation of the results indicates that the programme is delivering the desired results.

The alignment of the Qwaqwa Campus, which was incorporated into the UFS in January 2003, remains a challenge. Regular discussions are held with staff on the campus in order to make the faculty's programmes more sustainable and to align it with the broader strategic plan of the UFS.

On a national level, the faculty is in the process of making its mark in terms of teaching and community service. In 2005 the faculty again actively began utilising its

experimental farms. A three-way agreement between the UFS, the National Farmers Union (NAFU) and the Mangaung Local Municipality led to the establishment of the Lengau Agricultural Development Centre on the Sydenham Experimental Farm. The centre provides training and mentorship to small-scale upcoming farmers.

To be dynamic and progressive requires innovative thinking. It requires commitment and a desire to deliver excellent teaching and learning opportunities to students. It requires a willingness to form partnerships, and a multi-disciplinary and practical approach to the tertiary education environment in South Africa.

This report covers the faculty's activities in 2005/06. It is a reflection of two years' commitment on the part of a team of skilled and motivated academics and support staff.

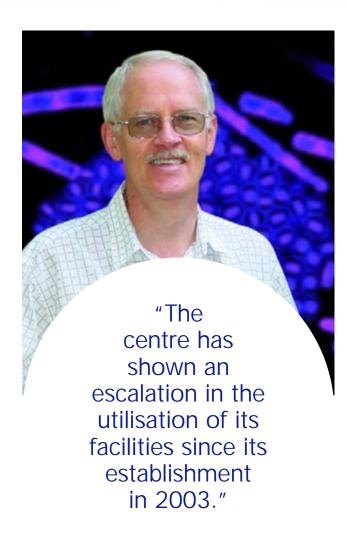
Prof. Herman van Schalkwyk

Dean: Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

University of the Free State

Centre for

# Confocal and Electron Microscopy



Prof. Pieter van Wyk.

#### Overview

Research and training outputs at the Centre for Confocal and Electron Microscopy (CCEM) are determined by the period of use of the apparatus and laboratories, as well as by the publications and conference presentations of the users.

The CCEM is a service facility of the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences available to departments and external users. Researchers and students of this faculty form the principal user group and several researchers and students from other universities and abroad periodically use the facilities through collaborated research projects. The centre has shown a steady escalation in the use of its facilities since its establishment in 2003, and the apparatus has been used by several postgraduate students for research and study purposes.

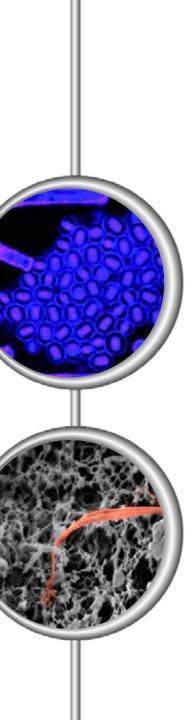
In 2005 the CCEM presented several courses to honours students in the departments of Zoology and Entomology, Microbial, Biochemical and Food Technology and Plant Sciences at the UFS. The duration of each of these courses is three days and they are presented separately to each group. Various postgraduate students from these departments used the apparatus for their research and study projects.

The new Shimadzu scanning electron microscope installed in 2006 was a welcome and useful addition to the centre. A workshop was presented to introduce the new microscope to researchers at the UFS.

A workshop was also presented in collaboration with the Department of Zoology and Entomology for researchers in the preparation of material for the confocal microscope to promote the application of this microscope. A guest presenter, Ms Anne Grobler, was invited from the North-West University.

The most recent microscope installed is a Nikon confocal laser scanning microscope, which produces three-dimensional images of fluorescing biological samples.

Several research activities culminated in a collaborated research project with the Lipid Biotechnology group of the Department of





The installation of the new Shimadzu scanning electron microscope. Staff of the centre undergoing training by the Japanese engineer.

Microbial, Biochemical and Food Technology. An international symposium was attended in Berlin by postgraduate students of this research group under the supervision of Proff. Lodewyk Kock and Pieter van Wyk, Director of the centre.

The outstanding quality of research at the CCEM was highlighted when one of the images photographed with the confocal microscope was published on the cover of an international journal for yeast research (Federation of European Microbiological Societies (FEMS) Yeast Research 6).

The centre was also honoured by a visit from Prof. George Lindsey, a researcher from the University of Cape Town (UCT), together with one of his Ph.D. students. They made use of the centre for the third consecutive year (2004-2006) for a confocal microscope research project.

Staff from the centre not only assisted researchers with their research and training outputs, they also presented a number of papers at the congress of the Microscope Society of Southern Africa held in Port Elizabeth in December 2006. Prof. Van Wyk delivered a presentation at this congress, entitled: Solving some yeast growth phenomena using confocal microscopy. He received the Leica prize as the best confocal microscope presentation at the conference.

Ms Beanélri Janecke presented a paper at the same congress entitled: *Creating a database for future identification of mammals from hair in leopard scats*. This is a project undertaken in collaboration with a M.Sc. student, Mr Jackson Chaka, from the Department of Animal, Wildlife and Grassland Sciences at the UFS.

#### Academic staff

**Associate Professor:** Prof. Pieter van Wyk

Research Officer: Ms Beanélri Janecke

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#### Research outputs

#### **Publications**

- Bareetseng, A.S., Kock, J.L.F., Pohl, C.H., Pretorius, E.E. & Van Wyk, P.W.J. 2005. Uncovering the first double brimmed hat-shaped ascospores in *Ambrosiozyma platypodis* Van der Walt. *Antonie van Leeuwenhoek International Journal of General and Molecular Microbiology* 87: 169-170.
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- Leeuw, N.J., Pohl, C.H., Bareetseng, A.S., Sebolai, O.M., Joseph, M., Strauss, C.J., Botes, P.J., Van Wyk, P.W.J., Nigam, S. & Kock, J.L.F. 2006. Oxylipin covered ascospores of Eremothecium coryli. Paper presented at the 2nd

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- Lyle, R. & Haddad, C.R. 2005. Tracheline sac spiders of the Afrotropical region, with a revision of the genus Thysanina Simon, 1910 (Araneae: Corinnidae). Poster presented at the 15th Congress of the Entomological Society of Southern Africa, Grahamstown, South Africa.
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- Pohl, C.H., Strauss, C.J., Van Wyk, P.W.J. & Kock, J.L.F. 2006. *Yeast "nanobots"*. Paper presented at the 3rd European Conference on Computational Mechanics Solids, Structures and Coupled Problems in Engineering, Lisbon, Portugal.
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- Strauss, C.J., Kock, J.L.F., Van Wyk, P.W.J., Lodolo, E.J., Botes, P.J. & Nigam, S. 2005. *Cell walls and yeast flocculation: The role of oxylipins*. Paper presented at the 24th International Specialized Symposium on Yeasts, Castellon, Spain.
- Swart, C.W., Botes, P.J., Van Wyk, P.W.J., Strauss, C.J., Nigam, S., Pohl, C.H. & Kock, J.L.F. 2006. *3-Hydroxy oxylipins associated with* Candida magnolia. Poster presented at the 2nd International Conference on Non-mammalian Eicosanoids, Bioactive Lipids and Plant Oxylipins, Berlin, Germany.
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- Van Marwijk, J., Van Heerden, E., Piater, L.A. & Gericke, M. 2006. *Biological synthesis of gold nanoparticles*. Paper presented at the Gold 2006: 4th International Conference on Gold Science, Technology and Its Applications, Limerick, Ireland
- Van Wyk, P.W.J., Kock, J.L.F., Van Heerden, A., Strauss, C.J., Pohl, C.H., Schoombie, S.W. & Nigam, S. 2005. *Macro-messages in a micro-bottle*. Proceedings of the 44th Annual Conference of the Microscopy Society of Southern Africa, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. pp. 35-36.
- Van Wyk, P.W.J., Strauss, C.J., Kock, J.L.F. & Nigam, S. 2006. Application of electron and confocal laser scanning microscopy in observing oxylipins in fungal cells. Paper presented at the 2nd International Conference on Non-mammalian Eicosanoids, Bioactive Lipids and Plant Oxylipins, Berlin, Germany.
- Verhoeven, R.L. 2005. *Phylogenetic development in Apocynaceae.* Paper presented at the 31st Annual Congress of the South African Association of Botanists, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa.

# Statistical data of the faculty

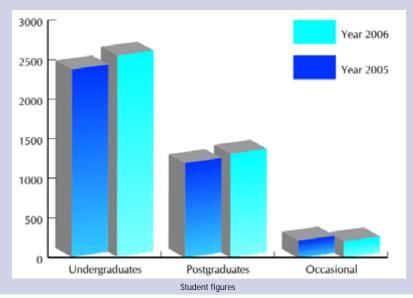


## Student figures Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, 2005/06

Male					
2005					
Description	African	Coloured	Indian	White	Total
Undergraduate	676	31	26	724	1457
Postgraduate	351	22	15	400	788
Occasional	84	3	4	17	108
Total 2005	1111	56	45	1141	2353
2006					
Description	African	Coloured	Indian	White	Total
Undergraduate	729	28	21	768	1546
Postgraduate	385	21	16	431	853
Occasional	68	2	2	23	95
Total 2006	1182	51	39	1222	2494
Female					
2005					
Description	African	Coloured	Indian	White	Total
Undergraduate	563	41	11	394	1009
Postgraduate	206	16	11	221	454
Occasional	101	5	2	11	119
Total 2005	870	62	24	626	1582
2006					
Description	African	Coloured	Indian	White	Total
Undergraduate	641	39	17	401	1098
Postgraduate	243	15	17	234	509
Occasional	103	2	2	16	123
Total 2006	987	56	36	651	1730
Total					
2005					

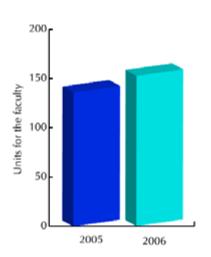
Nationality	2005	2006
Angola	1	
Asian countries	21	18
Botswana	20	20
European countries	6	6
Lesotho	142	142
Malawi	2	1
Mauritius		2
Mozambique	8	7
Namibia	40	42
No information	1	
North America	4	4
Other Africa	45	48
South Africa	3610	3893
South America		1
Swaziland	13	13
Zambia	4	6
Zimbabwe	18	21
Total	3935	4224

#### Description African Coloured Indian White Total Undergraduate Postgraduate Occasional Total 2005 Description African Indian White Coloured Total Undergraduate Postgraduate Occasional Total 2005



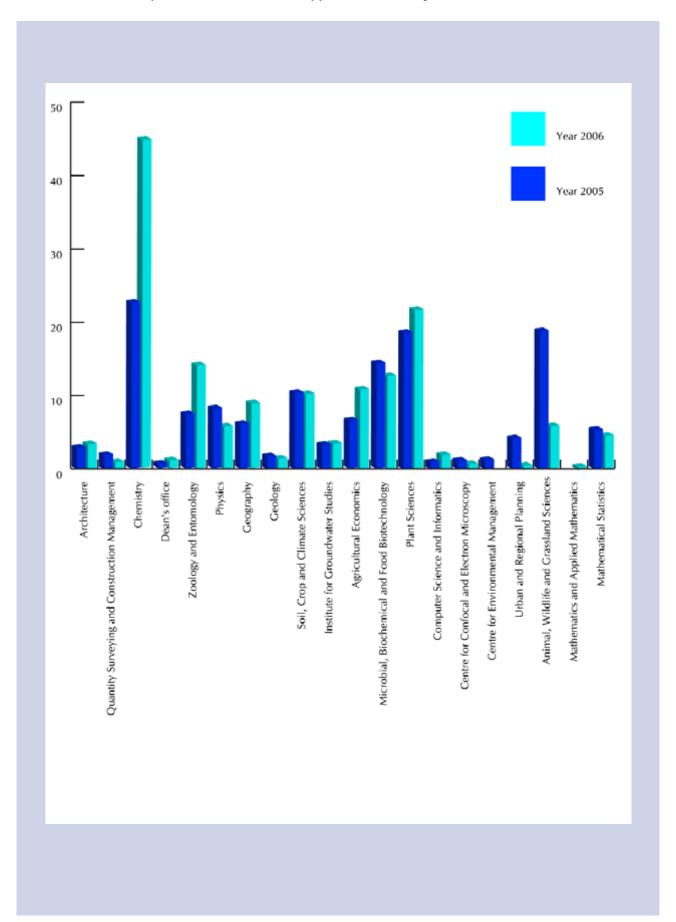
### Research outputs

for the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences



Articles published in accredited approved research journals.

# Departmental research outputs Articles published in accredited approved research journals, 2005/06



# Glossary



### Glossary

Α		FSRPO	Free State Red Meat Producers	N	
ACIAR	Australian Centre for International		Organisation	NaCOF	National Climate Outlook Forum
HOIM	Agricultural Research	G	3	NAFU	National African Farmers Union
AEASA	Agricultural Economics Association	GIS	Geographical Information Systems	NAMC	National Agricultural Marketing
	of South Africa	Glen ADI	Glen Agricultural Development		Council
ALPRU	African Large Predator Research Unit		Institute	NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
ARC	Agricultural Research Council	GM	Genetically Modified	NASSP	National Astrophysics and Space
ARMSCOR	Armaments Corporation of South	GMBA	Gauteng Master Builders' Association		Science Programme
	Africa	GMO	Genetically Modified Organisms	NCEE	National Council for Economic
ARS	Agri Risk Specialists	GWK	Griekwaland-Wes Koöperasie		Education
ASAQS	Association of South African		Chekwalana Wes Reoperasie	NDA	National Department of Agriculture
	Quantity Surveyors	Н		NECSA	National Energy Commission of
ASSA	Anatomical Society of South Africa	HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus		South Africa
ASTER	Advanced Spaceborne Thermal	HPCSA	Health Professions Council of South	NELSAM	Natural Earthquake Laboratory in
	Emission and Reflection Radiometer		Africa		South African Mines
AVS	American Vacuum Society	HPLC	High Performance Liquid	NERPO	National Emergent Red Meat
С		LICRONA	Chromatography		Producers' Organisation
CANSA	Cancer Association of South Africa	HSPCM	Health and Safety Programme for	NGO	Non-Governmental Oganisation
CATSA	Catalysis Society of South Africa		Construction Managers	NML	National Metrological Laboratory
CBD	Convention of Biological Diversity	I		NMMU	Nelson Mandela Metropolitan
CCEM	Centre for Confocal and Electron	IAGOD	International Association on the	NMR	University
	Microscopy		Genesis of Ore Deposits	NRF	Nuclear Magnetic Resonance National Research Foundation
CePHMa	Centre for Plant Health	IAH	International Association of	NUFU	Norwegian Council of Universities
	Management		Hydrogeologists	11010	Committee for Development,
CfPB	Centre for People and Buildings	ICCC	International Conference on		Research and Education
CIAT	International Centre for Tropical	ICEC	Coordination Chemistry	NWGA	National Wool Growers'
CIDD	Agriculture	ICEC	International Cost Engineering Council		Association
CIDB	Construction Industry Development Board	ICID	International Commission on	0	
CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat	ICID	Irrigation and Drainage	OABS	Optimal Agricultural Pusiness
CIIVIIVITI	Improvement Centre	ICP	Inductively Coupled Plasma	UABS	Optimal Agricultural Business Solutions
CIOB	Chartered Institute of Building	ICRBM	International Conference on Rodent	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-
CIOB-SA	Chartered Institute of Building -		Biology and Management	OLOB	operation and Development
	South Africa	ICRISAT	International Crops Research	Р	
CSACEE	Central South African Council on		Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics	-	Dit-li! Ai-tif
	Economic Education	IDC	Industrial Development Corporation	PARSA	Parasitological Association of Southern Africa
CSIC-INTA	Centro de Astrobiología	IGS	Institute for Groundwater Studies	PDMIW	Processing and Disposal of Mineral
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial	IITA	International Institute of Tropical	FDIVIIVV	Industry Wastes
	Research	INIOD D	Agriculture	POT	Peaks over Threshold
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and	INCRoP	Insects on New Crops Programme	PPP	Public Private Partnership
	Industrial Research Organisation	INTSORMIL	International Sorghum and Millet Research Support Programme	PRT	Protein Research Trust
D		IPMA	International Project Management	R	
DEAT	Department of Environmental	IFIVIA	Association	RICS	David Institute of Chartered
	Affairs and Tourism	IPMP	Intensive Project Management	RICS	Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors
DIMTEC	Disaster Management Training and		Programme	RIEP	Research Institute of Education
	Education Centre for Africa	IRDP	Institutional Research and	IVIEI	Planning
DMISA	Disaster Management Institute of		Development Programme	RNA	Research Niche Area
DCT	South Africa	IRWH	In-field Rainwater Harvesting	RPO	Red Meat Producers' Organisation
DST	Department of Science and Technology	IUCr	International Union of	S	•
_	recrinology		Crystallography	SA	South Africa
E		IUMS	International Union of Microbial	SAACE	South African Association of
EAAP	European Association for Animal	HIDAD	Societies	0, 0, 102	Consulting Engineers
FACA	Production	IUPAP	International Union of Pure and	SAB	The South African Breweries
EASA	Education Association of South	_	Applied Physics		Limited
ECA	Africa European Crystallographic	J		SACI	South African Chemical Institute
LOA	Association	JFM	Journal of Facilities Management	SACPCMP	South African Council for the
EIGG	Environmental Inorganic	L			Project and Construction
	Geochemistry Group	LExEn	Life in Extreme Environments		Management Profession
EPWP	Expanded Public Works Programme	М		SACPVP	South African Council for the
ESBES	European Symposium on	MIRCHEN	Migrapia Ingian Descuras Contra	020000	Property Valuation Profession
	Biochemical Engineering Science	MIT	Microbiological Resources Centre  Massachusetts Institute of	SACQSP	South African Council for the
ESREL	European Safety and Reliability	IVIII	Technology	SADC	Quantity Surveying Profession Southern African Development
ESRP	Economic and Social Rehabilitation	MRM	Mineral Resource Management	SADO	Community
	Programme	MSA	Master's Degree in Sustainable	SAFMA	South African Facilities
F			Agriculture		Management Association
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation	MSSA	Microscopy Society of Southern	SAFOI	South African Fryer Oil Initiative
FEMS	Federation of European		Africa	SAIP	South African Institute of Physics
	Microbiological Societies	MUCPP	Mangaung University Community	SAISC	Southern African Institute of Steel
FMP	Facilities Management Programme		Partnership Programme	0.4	Construction
FOTIM	Foundation of Tertiary Institutions	MURP	Master's Degree in Urban and	SAMSI	Statistical and Applied
	of the Northern Metropolis		Regional Planning		Mathematical Sciences Institute

SANCIAHS	South African National Committee for the International Association of	SEDA	Small Enterprise Development Agency	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
	Hydrological Sciences	SMME	Small, Medium and Micro	UNESCO	United Nations Educational,
SANCU	South African National Consumer		Enterprises		Scientific and Cultural Organisation
	Union	SRC	Student Representative Council	USA	United States of America
SANPAD	South Africa-Netherlands Research	SRL	Sustainable Rural Livelihood	USAID	United States Agency for
	Programme on Alternatives in	SSAG	Society of South African		International Development
	Development		Geographers	UTCHEM	University of Texas Chemical
SAPOA	South African Property Owners'	Т			Compositional Simulator
	Association	THRIP	South African National Research	UWC	University of the Western Cape
SAPS	South African Police Services		Foundation Thrust for Industry-	W	
SAQA	South African Qualifications		Related Projects	WARFSA	Water Research Fund of Southern
CACAC	Authority	TUE	Technical University Eindhoven	WARESA	Africa
SASAS	South African Society for Animal	U	•	WATOC	World Association of Theoretically
0110202	Science	UCT	University of Cons Toyen	WAIOC	Orientated Chemists
SASQUA	Southern African Society for		University of Cape Town	WFP	World Food Programme
CAVALL	Quaternary Research South African Association of Visual	UFS UJ	University of the Free State	WITS	3
SAVAH	Arts Historians	UK	University of Johannesburg	WRC	University of the Witwatersrand Water Research Commission
SBF	Sustainable Built Environments	UN	United Kingdom United Nations	WUA	Water Users' Association
SDE	Sustamable Dunt Environments	UN	Officed Mations	VVUA	Water Osers Association