



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

ALUMNI

2016

*Chancellor's Distinguished
Alumni Awards Dinner*

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BOTHA, ANNA (Mrs)

Affectionately referred to as Tannie Ans, Ans Botha is perhaps best known as the woman who guided athletic champion Wayde van Niekerk to Olympic victory in Rio de Janeiro. However, Tannie Ans is somewhat of an athletic legend, having begun her journey as an athlete herself prior to venturing into coaching.

Originally from Namibia, Tannie Ans first began coaching in the 1960s, starting initially with her own daughter Herma before being sought out by other up-and-coming athletes such as the renowned Namibian sprinter Frankie Fredericks. Following her family's move to Bloemfontein in the late 1980s, Tannie Ans's coaching career began to soar to great heights. She joined Kovsies in 1990 as head track and field coach. It was here that she started coaching three of South Africa's fastest sprinters – Wayde van Niekerk, Thuso Mpuang and Gideon Trotter.

With the philosophy “you're never too old to learn”, Tannie Ans has no intention of hanging up her coaching hat. While her heart may be in athletics, she is also an avid Kaizer Chiefs and Manchester United fan.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Chancellor's Distinguished Alumni Executive Management Award (2016)
- South African Sports Awards: Coach of the Year nominee (2016)
- Coach: South African 100m record holder Akani Simbine (2013 to present)
- Coach: South African Olympic record holder Wayde van Niekerk (2012 to present)
- Coach: Namibian Olympic medallist Frankie Fredericks (1992)



CALITZ, TANYA (MS)

As a student, Tanya received academic merit certificates for academic achievement in all years of her studies in addition to awards for top performance in Labour Law, Roman Law, Legal History and Legal Practice. She not only excelled in the academic project; by giving her time to community upliftment across Africa, Tanya displayed commitment to the human project as well.

Her selflessness and humility earned her respect among her peers and the UFS senior management during her 2012/2013 tenure as SRC Member: First-generation Students, and as a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society. Moreover, Tanya's passion and integrity inspired those around her.

The five-time recipient of the Dean's Merit Certificate in the Faculty of Law obtained her qualification summa cum laude while raking up a list of achievements. At present Tanya is a law researcher in the Constitutional Court, where former Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke appointed her. She plans to pursue a postgraduate legal qualification in human rights.

QUALIFICATIONS

- LLB from the University of the Free State (2015)

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Chancellor's Distinguished Alumni Award for Young Alumnus of the Year (2016)
- Kopsie Dux Award recipient (2015)
- Van Schaik Book Prize – Best Student: Labour Law (2015)
- LexisNexis Butterworths Prize – Best Student in Legal Practice (2014)
- Golden Key International Honour Society Service Award recipient (2014)
- DH van Zyl Award – Best Student: Roman Law and Legal History (2012 – 2013)



ESTERHUYSE, ANTON (MR)

Antonie Christiaan Esterhuyse was born in Kuruman, and has been the music leader in the Universitas Dutch Reformed Church in Bloemfontein since 2001. An expert pianist, arranger and composer, Anton is also a flute and pan flute player who regularly composes musical pieces using fascinating instrument pairings. Moreover, Anton is the accompanist for the Bloemfontein Children's Choir; highlights include his 2015 arrangement and musical direction of the choir accompanied by South African singer Laurika Rauch, as well as "*Coenie & Lucas in Simfonie*", in which Coenie de Villiers and the late Lucas Maree performed their compositions with a symphonic orchestra.

The passionate musician has made a significant contribution to the Free State music and theatre landscape over the past 15 years. He has produced, arranged and performed in over 20 productions for the Free State Arts Festival, as well as a further 27 productions for the Sand du Plessis Theatre.

In addition to functioning as the musical director for all graduation ceremonies on the Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa campuses of the University of the Free State, Anton regularly collaborates with high-profile entertainers such as Sibongile Khumalo, PJ Powers, Jannie Moolman, Sonja Herholdt and fellow Kovsie alumnus Thabo Hlongwane. He also regularly provides live musical accompaniment for various events on UFS campuses.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- BMus from the University of the Free State (1999)

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Chancellor's Distinguished Alumni Executive Management Award (2016)
- Organist and pianist at official UFS openings (2014 to present)
- Musical Director: Judge Goldstone honorary doctorate ceremony (2012)
- Musical Director: Oprah Winfrey honorary doctorate ceremony (2011)
- Musical Director: Universitas Dutch Reformed Church (2001 to present)
- Member: Music Students' Association of the University of the Free State (1996)



MOLEMELA, MAHUBE BETTY (MME JUSTICE)

Widely hailed for her fair and impartial approach to cases, the driven Madam Justice Mahube Molemela is the first woman in South Africa to hold the Judge President of the Free State High Court Division post. Born and bred in the City of Roses, she embarked on her legal journey after matriculating from Thaba Nchu's Albert Moroka High School in 1981.

Her professional career commenced in 1987 with her appointment as a prosecutor at the Thaba Nchu Magistrate's Court. She later served her articles of clerkship, being admitted as an Attorney, Conveyancer and Notary in 1993, April 1996 and October 1996 respectively. Moreover, she has functioned as a director at various law firms and served on several legal bodies, both in the Free State and nationally.

Subsequently, she had a stint as a part-time educator at the Lediboho Adult Education Centre, and later at the University of the Free State. Madam Justice Molemela is an in-demand panellist and Conveyancing examiner who is both highly motivated and displays an admirable dedication to the legal profession.

QUALIFICATIONS

- LL.M from the University of the Free State (2000)
- LL.B from the University of the Free State (2000)
- BProc from the University of Fort Hare (1992)
- BA from the University of Fort Hare (1987)

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- UFS Chancellor's Distinguished Alumnus of the Year (2016)
- First female Chancellor at Central University of Technology (2016)
- Acting Judge in the Constitutional Court (2015)
- First female Judge President of the Free State Division of the High Court (2014)
- Appointed permanent Judge of Appeal in the Labour Appeal Court (2014)
- Appointed permanent Judge of the Free State Division of the High Court (2008)



Photo: Charl Smith

POWELL, NEIL (MR)

Born Johannes Daniel Powell in 1978 in the Namibian city of Windhoek, Neil and his family relocated to Bloemfontein in 1982, where he would go on to matriculate from Hoërskool Sentraal and later study at the University of the Free State with his brothers Jimmy and Corné.

Neil began his rugby career as a Kovsie student and went on to have a successful career spanning the Super 12, Currie Cup, Vodacom Cup and the Sevens World Series; he was a member of the Springbok Sevens squad that won the HSBC Sevens World Series in the 2008/09 season. Neil was also a Commonwealth Games bronze medallist in 2010.

Following his retirement from actively playing rugby in 2012, Neil was put through coaching development training by the South African Rugby Union. Neil first took charge of the BlitzBokke (the Springbok Rugby Sevens squad) in 2013, and using his vast experience as a player he has since led the team to several victories and a host of awards.

QUALIFICATIONS

- BA (Hons) Human Movement Sciences from the University of the Free State (2001)
- BA Human Movement Sciences from the University of the Free State (2000)

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Chancellor's Distinguished Alumni Cum Laude Award (2016)
- Summer Olympics Rugby Sevens Bronze Medal (2016)
- SA Rugby Awards Coach of the Year nominee (2015)
- Commonwealth Games Rugby Sevens Gold Medal (2014)
- SA Rugby Awards Coach of the Year nominee (2014)
- SA Sports Awards Coach of the Year nominee (2014)
- Captain: Springbok Sevens (2002, 2007 – 2008)
- Currie Cup champions: Blue Bulls (2006)



SEEKOE, EUNICE (PROF)

A nurse by profession, Professor Eunice Seekoe is the current acting Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Fort Hare, as well as the Overall Programme Director of the Albertina Sisulu Executive Leadership Programme in Health (ASELPH). Under her leadership at the University of Fort Hare, experiential learning and competence of undergraduate and postgraduate students, including academic staff, has been achieved through formal mentoring programmes. Eunice is also responsible for the launch of the Faculty of Health Sciences, a first for the University of Fort Hare.

Her specialties in mentoring for sustainable rural public health and evaluation of health policies and health facilities have seen her hold several management positions in public health, as well as leadership positions within nursing professional bodies. Additionally, Eunice has been the recipient of scholarship awards from the Human Sciences Research Council, the National Research Foundation and the Medical Research Council.

With enthusiasm and commitment, she supervises Master's and PhD students while featuring regularly at local and international conferences as a speaker or panellist, or to present research papers. She is a member of editorial boards and a reviewer in accredited local and international journals.

QUALIFICATIONS

- DCur (Doctor of Nursing) from the University of Johannesburg (2009)
- MBA from the University of the Free State (2004)
- MSocSc from the University of the Free State (1999)
- Diploma in Psychiatric Nursing Science from the University of the Free State (1992)
- BA (Cur) from the University of South Africa (1990)
- Diploma in General Nursing and Midwifery from the Pelonomi Nursing School (1990)

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Chancellor's Distinguished Alumni Cum Laude Award (2016)
- Businesswomen's Association Eastern Cape Winner: Government Category (2016)
- Most Active Committee Leader: Academic Leadership Development Academy (2011)
- Travelling and Conference Award: Best Paper at the University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia (1997)



STRAUSS, ROLENE (MRS)

Former Miss World Rolene Strauss has been quoted as saying, “Beauty fades, but it is your heart that influences people’s lives”. No truer words could be spoken by an icon who is widely recognised for her selflessness, humility and genuine compassion.

Raised in the small Mpumalanga town of Volksrust, Rolene displayed a keen interest in academics, sport and leadership at a tender age. Her beauty saw her embark on a modelling career during which she came to the realisation that she would rather be a role model than a model.

The medical student cites her passion for women, education and health as her core characteristic, and has ensured that she used her reign, both as Miss South Africa 2014 and Miss World 2014, to carve a path embodying the “beauty with a purpose” slogan, as well as to bring about change in developing communities across the globe. The newlywed and expectant mother hopes to start a women’s health centre and continue to actively transform lives. At present she serves as Patron of the Mother and Child Academic Hospital, a role that ensures she continues to lead a purpose-driven life.

QUALIFICATIONS

- MBChB in progress at the University of the Free State

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Chancellor’s Distinguished Alumni Award for Ambassador of the Year (2016)
- Patron: Mother and Child Academic Hospital (2016)
- YOU Spectacular Award nominee (2016)
- ANN7 South African of the Year nominee (2015)
- Cofounder and Chairperson: The Strauss Foundation (2014)
- Miss World 2014 (2014)
- Miss South Africa 2014 (2013)



STROEBEL, GARY (MR)

Described as a media pioneer, Gary's vision has remarkably altered central South Africa's media landscape. Under Gary's leadership the OFM, Mahareng Publishing, Redstar Agency, Central Outdoor and Digital Platforms brands have become central South Africa's frontrunners in print, digital, outdoor advertising and event management. Moreover, Gary's sales expertise led to the creation of Brandwave, a radio sales solution for SMMEs, which is currently being utilised by two local radio stations and one international station.

The self-described "media junkie, rookie dad, expert loafer and enthusiastic golfer" was an active Kopsie student involved in the Student Representative Council, campus radio, debating and sport. He continues to explore his love for sport as a freelance journalist specialising in rugby and cricket commentary.

It is Gary's ability to do business with integrity, to lead innovatively and to positively contribute to his community that has earned him admiration from both industry peers and leaders. Likewise, his uncanny ability to identify and nurture potential has won Gary immense respect from budding media practitioners.

QUALIFICATIONS

- MBA from the University of the Free State (2009)
- BA Communication from the University of the Free State (1996)

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Chancellor's Distinguished Alumni Cum Laude Award (2016)
- Best of Bloemfontein Readers' Choice Awards: Best Local Radio Station for OFM (2016)
- Launched the first annual OFM Music Awards (2015)
- Appointed Chairperson: Wild Olive Estate (2014)
- Appointed Director: Pendering Awards (2010 to present)
- Appointed Director: Redstar Agency (2008 to present)
- Appointed Director: Mahareng Publishing (2006 to present)
- Appointed Director: Central Media Group (2003 to present)
- Member: Student Representative Council (1996)
- Director: Radio Shimla, now known as Kopsie FM (1996)



VAN NIEKERK, WAYDE (MR)

When former standout athlete Odessa Swarts first gazed at her newborn son who weighed just over 1kg, she could not have dreamed that she was looking into the eyes of a future Olympic champion.

Initially a rugby player, Wayne also displayed a knack for athletics as a youngster. He would earn prominence as a 19-year-old, following his 200m win with a personal best of 20,57 seconds at the South African Athletics Championships in 2011. The following year, Wayne became the first athlete ever to run 100 metres in under 10 seconds, 200 metres in under 20 seconds, and 400 metres in less than 44 seconds.

His performance at last year's Beijing World Championships is ranked the fourth fastest in history, while his 2016 400m Olympic record has made it obvious that Wayne is in the business of athletic excellence. While sport may be his forte, Wayne is also passionate about philanthropy, teaming up with Cartoon Network for an anti-bullying campaign and making financial contributions to several causes close to his heart.

The Olympic flag-bearer's humble demeanour and soft-spoken nature have certainly earned him a place in the hearts of South Africans.

QUALIFICATIONS

- BCom Marketing in progress at the University of the Free State

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Chancellor's Distinguished Alumni Award for Ambassador of the Year (2016)
- South African Sports Awards: Sport Star of the Year nominee (2016)
- South African Sports Awards: People's Choice Awards nominee (2016)
- South African Sports Awards: Sportsman of the Year nominee (2016)
- IAAF Male World Athlete of the Year nominee (2016)
- ANN7 Sportsperson of the Year nominee (2016)
- ANN7 South African of the Year nominee (2016)
- Best of Bloemfontein Awards: Best Local Sports Hero (2016)
- Summer Olympics 400m Champion and World Record Holder (2016)
- Audi Sport Ambassador (2016)
- YOU Spectacular Award nominee (2016)
- KovieSport Sportsman of the Year (2015 and 2016)
- IAAF World Championship 400m gold medallist (2015)
- South African Sports Awards: Sport Star of the Year (2015)
- South African Sports Awards: People's Choice Awards (2015)
- South African Sports Awards: Sportsman of the Year (2015)



Spanning 34 years,
the annual
**Chancellor's
Distinguished
Alumni
Awards**

are held to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our alumni provincially, nationally and internationally.

These alumni have not only placed the **University of the Free State** on the world stage, but have inspired the next generation of Kovsies and their communities at large.

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