



## November / December 2009

Lees Afrikaanse weergawe

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> You can also alternate between the Afrikaans and English versions by clicking on the link with your language choice at the top of the page.

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## Season's greetings

**The TuksAlumni Office would like to wish all alumni an invigorating period of rest and a peaceful festive season. Enjoy the time with family and friends and drive safely.**

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### 1. Alumni honoured at Laureate Ball

In demonstration of its ongoing support to its alumni, the TuksAlumni Association annually rewards alumni and friends of the University with a Laureate Award to recognise outstanding achievements in diverse fields nationally and internationally. Six recipients were honoured in this way at the prestigious Laureate Ball on 14 November 2009. [Read more...](#)

### 2. UP thanks donors for making scholarships possible

Corporate and private donors play an enormous role in providing scholarships at the University of Pretoria. As a token of its appreciation and to give donors and bursary holders an opportunity to meet each other, the Department for Institutional Development at UP hosted a function for donors at the Edoardo Villa Museum on 18 September 2009. [Read more...](#)

### 3. New home for Plant Science

The construction of a new three-storey building with basement parking for the Department of Plant Science to the value of R100 million is due to start early in 2010. This building, to be located to the north of the existing Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), will consolidate all the department's teaching staff and research laboratories in one central building. [Read more...](#)

## 4. Improving safety and security on UP campuses

In August this year, the University of Pretoria improved its safety and security with the establishment of a new Operational Management Centre, which will serve as the hub of the Department of Security Services. This centre has advanced electronic surveillance equipment that contributes significantly to the safety of the 46 000 students, staff and visitors that enter the University's premises each day. [Read more...](#)

## 5. Give the gift of life

August was Organ and Tissue Donor Month, and the University of Pretoria's National Tissue Bank made use of this opportunity to make an urgent plea to members of the public to register as donors. The National Tissue Bank was established in 1986 and is located in the Faculty of Health Sciences. It is one of two units countrywide that serves as a central storage and distribution centre for tissue. [Read more...](#)

## 6. Woordpoort: Pretoria's first literary art festival

From 24 to 27 September 2009, Gauteng's very first literary art festival, Woordpoort, took place at the University of Pretoria. Woordpoort is the brainchild of Linette van der Merwe and an initiative of the FAK, in cooperation with the University of Pretoria. The plan is to present the festival annually from 24 to 27 September. [Read more...](#)

## 7. New veterinary science degree programme

The University's Faculty of Veterinary Science is the only veterinary faculty in South Africa. As such, it is important to ensure that the degree programme that allows graduates to register and work as veterinarians in South Africa is relevant and world class. [Read more...](#)

## 8. New deans appointed

The terms of office of the deans of four of the University's nine faculties came to an end during the course of 2009, and recruitment and appointment processes were initiated to renew the terms of office of existing deans, where applicable, or to recruit new candidates for these positions. [Read more...](#)

## 9. New developments in the Faculty of Education

The Faculty of Education at the University of Pretoria is one of the largest and most diverse facilities in South Africa for the initial and advanced training of education professionals from across the world. In order to ensure that it maintains this reputation, the University continually investigates best practices elsewhere and embarks on quality assurance reviews. [Read more...](#)

## 10. Alumni active in various events and functions

The University's campuses are a hive of activity, and its alumni are enthusiastic in their support of a variety of events. These include a jazz concert, a conference on women and entrepreneurship that celebrated women in excellence, and a business breakfast with Gary Bailey as guest speaker. Several regional functions and other events provided an opportunity for alumni to interact with their Alma Mater. [Read more...](#)

## 11. News from TuksSport

The University of Pretoria has enjoyed an exceptional year on the athletics track. The highlight was when 18-year old Caster Semenya snatched the gold medal in the 800 m for women at the 12<sup>th</sup> IAAF World Championships in Berlin, Germany, in August right in front of the noses of her surprised competition. TuksSport ended off an exceptional year of highlights on a high note when it honoured its star performers at the annual Absa TuksSport banquet on 23 October. [Read more...](#)

## 12. Alumni career portal is relaunched

The alumni career portal is being relaunched after the recession drove recruitment levels down significantly and forced companies to find more creative ways of recruitment. The new alumni portal will allow job-seekers to respond directly to companies' job advertisements via the website. [Read more...](#)

## 13. Alumni news and profiles

Welcome to *Alumni news*, a regular item in the *TuksAlumni-ePOS* in which you can read all about the latest achievements of fellow alumni. We also meet Cobus du Toit, who is establishing himself as a leading flutist, and Skuta Ndlangomandle, who obtained his BEd degree with the assistance of Mr

Ben Alberts, a distinguished alumnus of the University. [Read more...](#)

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