



JANUS

Leading active public lives: excellence and engagement in the Department of Journalism

This year has again been a busy one for the Department of Journalism. We worked hard to maintain our reputation for excellence across the core areas of teaching and learning, research and public engagement, while also embarking on some exciting new ventures.

On the teaching and learning front, our current cohort of Honours students are moving towards their final assessment period and have recently completed their annual publication project under the guidance of their course coordinator Anneli Groenewald.

This year our students pioneered a new publication format that embraces journalism's digital future, while remaining anchored in the skills and values of legacy journalism. You can explore the project at <https://thesmfproject.co.za/>.

Another highlight for this year's class was the annual media tour to Gauteng, where they learnt more about the world of financial journalism. They also undertook an excursion to media houses in Cape Town to get a glimpse of life in a newsroom, and received visits from several industry experts who came to share their expertise and experience.

We are also proud of the group of students from last year whose documentary *For His Sake* earned a coveted spot at the Durban International Film Festival (DIFF).

Our staff remain active on research terrain. Several new publications have seen the light, including the books *Reconsidering the history of South African journalism: The ghost of the slave press* by Prof Gawie Botma, *Whatsapp in the World: Disinformation, Encryption and Extreme Speech* (co-edited by Prof Herman Wasserman and prof Sahana Udupa), and Prof Mehita Iqani's

Johannesburg from the Riverbanks, Navigating the Jukskei (co-edited with Renugan Raidoo). Prof Iqani also went on a (literal) research exploration when she went on a voyage on the SAS Agulhas II to Marion Island as part of the Artist Writers Programme for the South African National Antarctic Programme.

Another research ambassador, Dr Marennet Jordaan, undertook a four-country European research trip to establish and enhance academic collaborations on behalf of the department. We launched a new research centre, the Centre for Information Integrity in Africa (CINIA), which held its inaugural Information Integrity Summit in July.

Dr Meli Ncube helped organise a colloquium in Canada on 'Reporting News in a Disbelieving Age' and represented the department at a panel discussion titled "Making Sense of the New World Order – Journalism's Role in a Shifting Global Landscape" during the Africa Media Perspectives conference held in Stellenbosch in July.

As part of our commitment to public engagement, the Department hosted its annual Press Freedom Day event in May, on the theme 'Navigating Independence and Sustainability'.

Several industry experts discussed the sustainability crisis facing news media, and its impact on journalism's independence and freedom. We also hosted several book launches, guest lecturers from the media industry and other universities, and public talks.

Read more about these and other highlights of the year elsewhere in this year's *Janus*. As always, we welcome news and updates from our alumni. Please do stay in touch, and if you find yourself in Stellenbosch, please drop by for a coffee and a chat!

- Herman Wasserman, **Department Chair**

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“We endeavoured to find stories and people that often go under the radar, and to provide a platform for these important narratives. We were challenged to think about what it means to be an active citizen in a time when it seems like only negative news makes the headlines. Just as we were challenged to question the ways in which we can live a more active public life, we hope our readers will be too.”

- Class of 2025



The Journalism Honours class of 2025 presenting their SMF Project, "Active Public Lives" at the Stellenbosch University Museum.

Annual graduation celebration all about GOOD NEWS

The Department of Journalism celebrated all its 2024 graduates in style after the official ceremony on Monday 24 March. Guest speaker Paul Herman, Good News editor of News24, inspired attendees with some recent stories about South Africans doing amazing things in supporting each other towards success and achievements.

The event served as recognition of all students – on doctoral, master's and honours level. Prizes were also awarded to the top-performing BAHons Journalisms students.

This event is a highlight on the department's annual calendar to bring our alumni back "home" and to share a moment in the limelight with their loved ones.

We offer a big thanks to Mrs Elizabeth Newman and Noxolo Mbazini who helped with the arrangements to make the night special to all. Thanks also to alumna Karla de Bod for taking the photos.



◀ The graduates from the BAHons Journalism class of 2024, with their mentor and lecturer, Anneli Groenewald (top right).

◀ Paul Herman, Good News Editor at News24, explained the value of newsworthy stories that are all about good news in South Africa.

▼ Ubaid Abrahams with his mom, Najma and aunt, Azba, also known on social media channels as Tietie and Nanna.



◀ The prize winners from the BAHons Journalism class of 2024 are (at the back from left) Kara le Roux, Anneli Groenewald (mentor and lecturer), Maliza Adendorff, Eugene Marais and Nicola Amon and in front, Shérie Vollenhoven and Antoinette Steyn.

▼ Lisa Lottering (left) and Zimasa Jam-Jam, MA graduates, with their supervisor, Dr Marenet Jordaan (middle).



Karla van der Merwe and Jako Krige, MA graduates, with their supervisor Prof Gawie Botma (left).



Dr Andre Gouws, who graduated with a PhD, with his supervisor, Dr Marenet Jordaan.



Jacky Tshokwe, MA graduate, with her supervisor, Prof Mehita Iqani (right).



Khosi Zwane-Siguqa, MA graduate, with her supervisor Prof Herman Wasserman.

Ubaid Abrahams, the creative force behind the hit cooking duo Tietie and Nanna, celebrated his graduation with an Honours degree at Stellenbosch University. Juggling his mom and aunt's viral cooking project while pursuing his degree, Ubaid has shown the world that passion and hard work can truly pay off. Read the full story of his journey from social media stardom to academic achievement [here](#).



INTRODUCING CINIA

The Centre for Information Integrity in Africa (CINIA), based in the Department of Journalism, is a new research hub dedicated to tackling misinformation and harmful online content through evidence-based research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and public engagement.

CINIA's standout research project in 2025 involved exposing how a right-wing news aggregator based in Poland, and run by South Africans, pushed global conservative narratives. The investigation into Visegrád24, which blends far-right, anti-migrant, and anti-Islam rhetoric with influence operations targeting African and Middle Eastern politics, highlighted how the site was backed by Polish State Funds and protected by tax breaks in the United States. The report was produced collaboratively by CINIA researcher Yossabel Chetty, Polish journalist Tadeusz Michrowski, CINIA Director Prof. Herman Wasserman, and Murmur Intelligence. You can read the full investigation into Visegrád24 [here](#).

CINIA aims to build networks that connect organisations, researchers, and policymakers promoting information integrity in the region. In June, the first annual CINIA Summit brought together more than 40 participants from organisations such as Meta, the Independent Electoral Commission, Media Monitoring Africa, SANEF, and the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies for two days of discussions on Africa's information ecosystem.

CINIA has also become a trusted voice in the media on issues related to information

integrity. This year, CINIA Director Prof. Wasserman has engaged with media outlets such as *News24*, *Daily Maverick*, *Democracy Now!*, *Al Jazeera English*, *Newzroom Afrika* and *Netwerk24*, amongst others. You can view CINIA's public engagements [here](#).

CINIA's monthly podcast, *For Facts' Sake*, delves into major issues shaping the fight against misinformation. Hosted by Tebadi Mmotla, it features expert interviews on topics such as genocide denial, Meta's child protection lawsuit in South Africa, and the impact of media literacy programmes. The podcast is available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and other major platforms.

CINIA also produces a monthly newsletter, *Under the Influence*, which provides a roundup of CINIA's work and all the major talking points from the world of information disorder and information integrity.

You can read the previous editions and subscribe to *Under the Influence* [here](#).

Earlier this year, CINIA was awarded a grant of over R20 million by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The grant will support a three-year project to facilitate collaborations between various research organisations, practitioners and activists in Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, Latin America and Asia. The research will focus on issues such as disinformation, media literacy, technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TGBV), and generative AI. The collaborative efforts will begin with a meeting, featuring all the organisations taking part in the research efforts, in Stellenbosch in early 2025.



Prof Herman Wasserman (Director of CINIA), with Karen Allen (senior researcher) and Yossabel Chetty (researcher) at CINIA's Inaugural Information Integrity Summit.

SciCom

A Season of Creativity, Scholarship, and Collaboration

This year has been a vibrant season for the **CENTRE FOR SCIENCE COMMUNICATION (SciCom)**, marked by exciting book launches, local and international collaborations, publications, and creative ventures that highlight the power of interdisciplinary engagements.

CENTERING JOHANNESBURG'S JUKSKEI RIVER

In July and August 2025, the Centre proudly launched the compelling volume *Johannesburg from the Riverbanks: Navigating the Jukskei*, edited by Mehita Iqani and Renugan Raidoo. This book explores the multifaceted role of the Jukskei River in shaping Johannesburg's cultural, social, political, artistic, and scientific stories. It builds on the interdisciplinary conversations of the 2022 Riparian Urbanism Conference, which brought together scholars, artists, activists, and community members to reflect on the city's complex relationship with this vital waterway. An [excerpt](#) has been featured in the Johannesburg Review of Books.

The official launch took place in July at Exclusive Books in Rosebank to a full house, where contributors reflected on the book's significance for understanding rivers in urban, rural, and cultural life. Community events followed on 1 and 2 August, in partnership with [Water For The Future](#) and [Alexandra Water Warriors](#).

These gatherings celebrated the communities whose insights and clean-up efforts shaped the book, marked the opening of a new community library in the inner city, and included a tour of ongoing clean-up initiatives along the Jukskei.

Both events drew strong attendance from local government, [HSRC](#), and international partners, underscoring the importance of community-led river stewardship and collaborative knowledge-making.

Launches were also held at Exclusive Book V&A in Cape Town and Stellenbosch University's Department of Journalism, which were very well attended. At both events, there was a shared sense of solidarity and understanding that the work done at the Jukskei has a wider impact on how society perceives rivers. This also motivated researchers, scientists, and academics to examine local rivers more closely and explore the histories and narratives they contain. All five launches attracted over 200 attendees.



A LAST-MINUTE CALL TO THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

When a last-minute berth on the SA Agulhas II opened up, Prof Mehita Iqani stepped aboard with just five days' notice as part of the Artist Writers Programme (AWP) pilot voyage. This initiative saw her spend a month at sea during the 2025 Marion Island takeover. Amid the vast, raw beauty of the Southern Antarctic, she worked on a forthcoming season of *The Academic Citizen*, a poetry chapbook, a novelette, and a set of short stories inspired by Antarctic science. This experience not only expanded SciCom's creative horizons but also deepened its engagement with global environmental narratives.

CREATIVITY CONTINUES TO FLOW WITH FICSCI

In July, SciCom held its fourth FicSci Writers' Workshop, bringing together thirteen creative writers with Quaternary Geologist and Speleologist, Dr **Tebogo Makhubela**, whose research focuses on fossil-bearing deposits in the Cradle of Humankind UNESCO World Heritage Site. Their creative responses to his provocations will form the fourth FicSci anthology, to be launched in 2026.

This followed the publication of the third anthology, *sea-ice*, which features responses to Dr **Tokoloho Rampai's** explorations of sea ice.

The collection includes short stories, musical notations, and a music video, works as deep and dynamic as the waters that inspired them. Through FicSci, the Centre continues to build bridges between scientific research and creative expression.

TEACHING AND LEARNING BEYOND BORDERS

This year, Prof Iqani also taught internationally, representing Stellenbosch University at the Venice International University's Summer Sessions. Her course, Consumption and the Environment: African & Global South Perspectives, engaged students from around the world in exploring how consumer culture intersects with environmental issues, from cobalt mining to performed luxury feminism. This work highlights the Centre's and the University's growing global academic footprint.

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

SciCom's Communications and Projects Officer, Fumani Jwara, completed his joint MSc/MA in Global Media with UCT and LSE. His research focused on creative authorship, intellectual property, and the media's role in shaping the public domain. His creative project, which explored music as a storytelling tool for marginalised communities and included an accompanying EP, was recently featured in UCT News.

It has also been a prolific publishing year for the Centre, with five new journal publications. Highlights include the special issue *Affective Encounters: Storying in South African Environmental Communication* (edited by Mehita Iqani and Meghan Judge), which explores the global relevance of

South Africa's unique challenges in environmental communication from a decolonial perspective, and *The Uses of Evidence: Multidisciplinary Insights on Oppression and Empowerment in the South African Journal of Science*, unpacking the complex role of evidence in entrenching oppression and fuelling liberation, which emerged from the Evidence & Power series. Together, these publications deepen conversations around environmental storytelling, power, and knowledge. A complete list of our publications can be found here.

Spanning from riverbanks to research vessels, and from classrooms to community gatherings, these accomplishments showcase the Centre's continuous dedication to connecting research, creativity, and community involvement.

TIES TO SLAVERY OF EARLY COLONIAL PRESS REVEALED IN NEW BOOK

Gawie Botma

After years of research, Prof Gawie Botma published the book *Reconsidering the History of South African Journalism: The Ghost of the Slave Press* with the international publisher Routledge. The book challenges conventional views of early South African press freedom by revealing its deep ties to slavery. Focusing on the period from 1800 to 1838, Botma shows how early newspapers, such as *The Cape Town Gazette* and *African Advertiser*, were complicit in supporting and sustaining the colonial slave economy.

By investigating ideological and economic aspects of the early press industry, the book challenges the traditional view which positions journalism's origins within discourses of liberation. This critical historical intervention invites scholars and readers to rethink the legacy of journalism through the lens of colonial complicity, offering fresh insights into ongoing debates

around media freedom and historical accountability.

The book was first launched at the 2025 bi-annual conference of the International Association of Media and History (IAMHIST) at the UCT Graduate School of Business in Cape Town on Tuesday 1 July. Around 150 delegates from all over the world attended the conference. A second book launch followed and took place at the Journalism Department at the end of July of this year.

From the left: Dr Ron Irwin of UCT, the facilitator, the photographer Paul Weinberg, who also launched his book *Between the cracks*, and Prof Botma at the event.





Dr Jordaan visits Europe to support academic collaboration

Dr Marenet Jordaan, senior lecturer and researcher in the Department of Journalism, recently undertook a four-country European research trip to establish and enhance academic collaborations on behalf of the department.

Jordaan visited Brussels (Belgium), Groningen (Netherlands), Hamburg (Germany) and Kristiansand (Norway) to engage with colleagues and present her insights and ongoing research projects. "This was one of the most fulfilling and productive academic visits of my career," said Jordaan. "In-person engagements such as these will

always lead to fruitful exchanges and also offer opportunities to better understand international contexts."

This trip was specifically focused on discussing and developing ideas on the third wave of the Worlds of Journalism Study (WJS3) an academically driven comparative research project on journalistic roles, safety and the precarity of the industry. Jordaan is the South African researcher on this project. In Brussels, she took part in the World Press Freedom Day Academic conference, organised by UNESCO. In collaboration with Prof Terje Skjerdal, Africa coordinator of the WJS, Jordaan presented initial comparative findings on the African data of this study.

While visiting universities and institutes in the other countries, Jordaan presented a talk titled: "The value (and challenges) of collaborative and comparative journalism research: a South African perspective". This presentation was informed by the South African leg of the WJS3, and each time compared the local data with preliminary findings from the respective countries.

At the University of Groningen, with whom Stellenbosch University has an institution-wide agreement, Jordaan engaged with Prof Sandra Banjac, Prof David Cheruiyot and other colleagues from the Centre for Journalism and Media Studies. She also attended a talk by visiting scholars from Makerere University in Uganda, about their ethnographic research.

In Hamburg, Jordaan was hosted by Prof Wiebke Loosen from the Leibniz Institute for Media Research | Hans-Bredow-Institut (HBI). Loosen is part of the German team of the WJS3. Other projects led by Loosen, includes the ComAI project on the automation of journalism – a subject Jordaan has also published on. Together they attended the opening of the annual Mediendialog in the Hamburg City Hall.

On the final stop of her trip, Jordaan spent time with Skjerdal at the NLA University College in Kristiansand to plan Africa-focused publications that will flow from the WJS3. Prof Franz Krüger, a South African researcher formerly from Wits University and now at NLA, was also part of some of the engagements.

Jordaan was also lucky enough to experience the 17 May Constitution Day celebrations, which is one of the highlights on the Norwegian calendar.

"I would like to thank the Division for Research Development for their support in making this visit possible," said Jordaan. "Hopefully we can host some of the colleagues in Stellenbosch next time."



CLASS OF 1985
40 years since graduation



CLASS OF 1995
30 years since graduation



CLASS OF 2005
20 years since graduation



CLASS OF 2015
10 years since graduation

Checking in
with the Alumni

MASTERS OF ARTS

MY MA JOURNEY: A PATH OF RESILIENCE

Likhapha Thaathaa



I am Likhapha Thaathaa, born and bred in a village of Hanger's Drift in Berea District, Lesotho.

Pursuing my Master of Arts in Journalism at Stellenbosch University was one of the most important and transformative chapters of my life, both academically and personally. While the coursework itself was demanding and intellectually stimulating, it was the personal challenges I faced along the way that truly defined my journey. There were moments when life outside the classroom felt really overwhelming.

I was faced with health setbacks, family responsibilities, and moments of self-doubt that made me question whether I could see it through. Balancing academic demands with personal upheaval often felt like

walking a tightrope.

But I learned to lean into resilience. I sought support from my supervisor and peers, carved out moments of quiet to reflect and recharge, and reminded myself why I started this journey in the first place. Each challenge however, became a lesson in perseverance, and every small victory whether completing a tough assignment or simply showing up for meetings with supervisor was a step forward.

Looking back, I'm proud not just of the degree I earned, but of the strength I discovered within myself. My MA wasn't just a qualification, it was a testament to growth, grit, and the power of pushing through.

Looking back, I'm proud not just of the degree I earned, but of the strength I discovered within myself. My MA wasn't just a qualification, it was a testament to growth, grit, and the power of pushing through.

LIFE AFTER MASTER'S: STAMPING PASSPORTS AND CHAMPIONING SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

Zimasa Jam Jam



The year 2025 began with one of the greatest joys of my life, welcoming my second daughter, Langaletu, whose name means "Our Sunshine." At the same time, I was preparing for a year filled with milestones: completing my Master's, returning to work, and stepping into motherhood all over again. What I didn't know then was that life after my Master's would take me far beyond lecture halls and the library; it would stamp my passport, connect me with global leaders in science, and fuel my passion for science communication even more.

After months of hard work and determination, I proudly graduated with my Master's in Journalism from Stellenbosch University in March 2025. Shortly after, an incredible opportunity arrived: I was invited to attend my first international symposium as a delegate, the 6th Africa Biennial Biosciences Communication (ABBC) Symposium in Lusaka, Zambia.

The theme, "The War on Science: How Can We Overcome the Burden of Misinformation and Disinformation?", could not have been more relevant. Engaging

with scientists, researchers, policymakers, and science communicators from across the continent was inspiring. It reminded me that science communication isn't just about sharing information, it's about building trust and bridging worlds. The journey doesn't stop there. In November 2025, I headed to Ghent, Belgium, to represent South Africa at the 17th International Society for Biosafety Research (ISBR) Symposium.

These experiences have shown me that science communication travels across borders, cultures, and communities. They've also given me the chance to carry South Africa's voice onto the global stage and bring back collaborations, insights, and energy for our local science ecosystem.

In my line of work at Biosafety South Africa, I ensure that the biosafety of GMO products, innovations, and biotechnology within the bioeconomy is communicated clearly and responsibly.

My mission is simple but powerful:

- To help the public understand and trust scientific advancements.

- To combat misinformation with clarity and compassion.
- To make sure that the work of scientists is not just seen but also valued.

As I grow in my journey, I carry with pride the legacy of the Master's in Journalism class of 2024. I am more than just a graduate; I am a storyteller, a bridge-builder, and a champion of science!

A REFLECTION ON MY MA

Nobuhle Magadzire

This master's journey has been more than just an academic pursuit or an opportunity to contribute to the body of knowledge. It has been a deeply transformative experience, shaping not only the way my mind engages with data and information but also the way I understand myself as a person.

I did not anticipate how much self-reflection this process would require. Along the way, I have had to cultivate discipline, build confidence, and learn to push forward even in moments of low motivation.

The deadlines, readings, and long writing hours have taught me resilience and persistence, showing me that we are often capable of much more than we initially believe. Equally valuable has been the sense of community that this program fosters. The friendships formed with fellow students, the support from the department, and the accessibility of knowledgeable mentors have been critical to my growth.

The structure of the program, which emphasizes collaboration and engagement, has reminded me of the

power of collective learning.

While this journey has been challenging, it has also been incredibly rewarding.

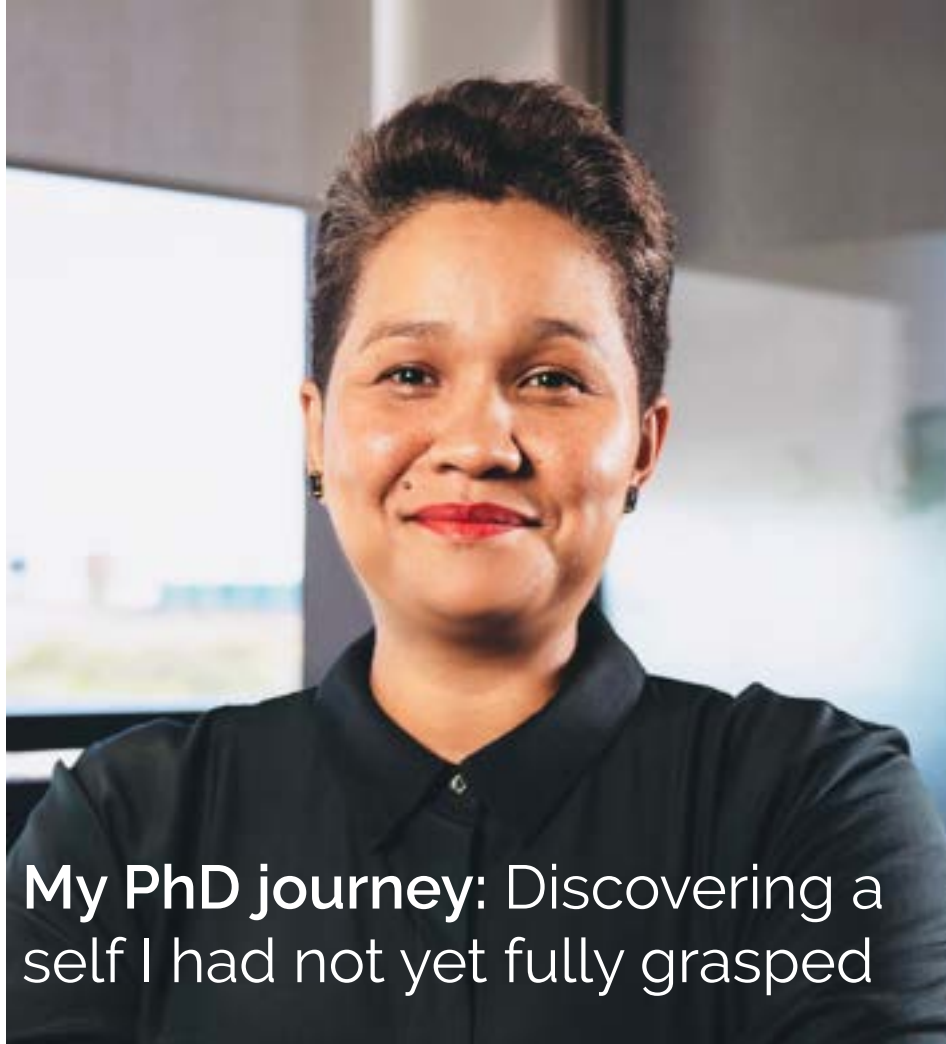
Each completed chapter, each research milestone, and each discussion has revealed how far I have come from the person who began this degree.

This experience has been about intellectual growth, yes, but also about personal transformation, resilience, and community.

Ultimately, I leave this stage of my journey not only with new knowledge, but with a deeper appreciation of my own strength and a new community.



PHD



My PhD journey: Discovering a self I had not yet fully grasped

Florence de Vries

Words are not inert. They can humanise or harm. They carry weight, intention, and consequence. When it comes to mental illnesses, words can stigmatise, often starting with punctuation framed in fear, repeated in headlines and echoed through images.

In my years as a journalist and working in the field of medicine and health sciences, I'd become interested exploring how reporting works when it involves people with mental illnesses. Why does our media inflict unnecessary harm and why does "exercising care" seem like a lost cog in a much larger, indifferent machine?

My PhD journey began with a "tearful" Japanese American tennis player, Naomi Osaka sitting courtside and American gymnast, Simone Biles' "medical issue" being shooed off the vault. I was struck by their courage but confused by the media's treatment of them, as if their reasons for leaving the world stage were invalid.

My research explores how the South African media frames mental illness, with News24 as the case study. Grounded in framing theory and care ethics theory, my research examines news frames and whether journalists exercise care in their reporting on the topic. My findings reveal a complex interplay of stigmatising and non-stigmatising frames, showing both the persistence of harmful stereotypes and the potential of careful journalism to challenge stigma.

This incredible journey has reshaped my understanding of mental illnesses, stigma, media, and society. It has gifted me discipline, insight and resilience. It has been transformative but profoundly humbling only because these gifts lie just beyond the reaches of everything I thought I understood. It changed my life because it required a willingness to sit down and unravel thousands of words, a self I had not yet fully grasped and the cultivation of a different kind of patience to hold onto it all until it started to yield meaning.

BLINDE GELUK, WYSHEID EN DIE MEDIABEDRYF

Pieter Bruwer
(1995)

Toe ek Marenet se epos ontvang met die versoek om 'n bydra te lewer tot die nuusbrief was ek huiwerig om dit te doen. Ná bykans twee dekades in mediaskakelwerk het ek gewoon geraak daaraan om agter die skerms te wees en wil ek nie raakgesien word nie, maar die vervulling en vrug wat ek geput het uit die een enkele jaar se studies daar in Crozierstraat noop my om darem iets oor dit te sê.

Ek wou van kleins af skryf vir 'n lewe, soos baie van ons wat die loopbaan gekies het, en is dankbaar dat ek ná 30 jaar steeds dit as my hoofzaak het elke dag, al is dit om namens kliënte stories te skryf, die genot wat ek kry as ek een van my stories in die media sien het nog nooit verdwyn nie. Ek is oortuig daarvan dat George Claassen, wat in 1995 die hoof van die Departement van Joernalistiek was, baie meer verdienstelike aansoeke as myne gekry het om die BAHons Joernalistiek te doen, maar hy het my die kans gegee, dankie George. Ons het jare later saam by *Die Burger* gewerk toe die begin van die einde reeds vir koerante aangebreek het en moes saam 'n paar moeilike herstruktureringstappe bestuur en ek is dankbaar vir die geleentheid om ook professioneel saam met hom te kon werk. Sy hoflikheid en uiters ingeligte en professionele optrede het my baie geleer.

In ons honneursjaar het ek 'n goeie en diep vriendskap met Johan de Meyer begin, wat tot vandag toe staan. Ons loopbane het ook oor en weer gekruis en ons het verskeie kere saamgewerk, by *Beeld* as verslaggewers en later toe ek 'n mediaskakelagentskap begin het, het Johan my gereeld bygestaan met raad en om te help skryf aan moeilike opdragte van kliënte. Dit is vreemd dat die eerste gedagte wat by my opkom oor die jaar een sal wees van ons een dosent wat almal Dr. T genoem het, Billy

Trengrove. Ek kan nie die opdrag onthou nie maar die eindproduk was 'n vreeslike emosionele storie wat ek geskryf het oor hoe mooi die Kalahari vir my was, en waarvoor ek 'n baie slegte punt gekry het van Dr. T met die kommentaar dat ek nie so soetsappig moet skryf nie. Hy het die manier gehad om goeie raad te gee sonder om mens se eer te krenk. Dit is een van vele lesse in skryf wat ek in die betrokke jaar geleer het, wat steeds as rigtigwyser dien as ek 'n stuk aanpak. Dit verbaas my soms hoe baie van die een jaar se lesse ek steeds gebruik. Soms was dit selfs net weggooi kommentaar wat 'n dosent gelewer het wat vasgesteek en bly staan het.

Ek ag myself baie gelukkig om in die mediabedryf te kan werk. Die een jaar se studies daarin het gesorg vir 'n ongelooflike opwindende en vervullende loopbaan, wat ek hoop nog lank kan aanhou. Ek het by *Volksblad* gewerk as algemene verslaggewer onder Mike van Rooyen as nuusredakteur. Mike was die storieboekweergawe van 'n "nuushond" en een van die mees karaktervolle mense wat ek mee kon saamwerk. Toe ek skuif na *Beeld* en van nuuts af leer hoe om 'n finansiële verslaggewer te word, het Flip Meyer en David van Rooyen as redakteurs my onder die vlerk geneem en ver meer in my lewe ingesaai as net hoe om te skryf. Flip het my ook gereeld op middagetes gevat en aan sy netwerk van bronne voorgestel, wat 'n reuseverskil gemaak het aan die kwaliteit van stories wat ek aan *Beeld* kon bied, dit was meer as wat van hom verwag kon word.

Ek het die voorreg gehad om ook aan die bestuurskant van joernalistiek te werk, eers as hoofbestuurder van *Die Burger* en later hoofbestuurder van *Sake24*, wat al Media24 se sakepublikasies ingesluit het. Dit is so opwindend soos skryf, net baie meer morsig. In 2009, met die wêreld se ekonomie

ALUMNI

Die een jaar se studies daarin het gesorg vir 'n ongelooflike opwindende en vervullende loopbaan.

ten volle in die knyp en koerante wat op alle vlakke bloei, was dit vir my duidelik dat ek 'n ander pad in die mediabedryf moes soek as ek wil betrokke bly. Met meer blinde geluk as wysheid kon ek 'n mediaskakelagentskap begin wat steeds vir my 'n lewe bied.

Ek staan werklik verstom hoe die een enkele jaar van studies in joernalistiek 'n leeftyd van vervullende en goeie werk vir my gebied het.

Words are not inert. They can humanise or harm. They carry weight, intention, and consequence. When it comes to mental illnesses, words can stigmatise, often starting with punctuation framed in fear, repeated in headlines and echoed through images.

'MICHNELLE' VEREER VIR UITNEMENDE JOERNALISTIEK

Michelle van der Spuy 2011



Michelle van der Spuy het onlangs die Hortgro Izithelo-mediatokenning vir uitnemende joernalistiek ontvang.

Michelle van der Spuy, senior joernalis van Landbouweekblad, is 12 September bekroon met die vrugteprodusente-organisasie Hortgro se jaarlikse eerbewys vir uitnemende joernalistiek.

Michelle, onder haar kollegas ook bekend as "Michnelle" omdat sy haar vinger so vinnig op die knoppie het, is Vrydagaand bekroon met die Hortgro Izithelo-mediatokenning.

Sy het voorgraads BA met politiek, filosofie en ekonomie gestudeer, waarna sy haar honneurs in joernalistiek en ook in 2020 haar meestersgraad in dié dissipline verwerf het.

Daarna het sy by News24 Nigeria en MSN Africa as inhoudsvervaardiger, asook *Eikestadnuus* as senior verslaggewer gewerk. In 2018 het Michelle as digitale joernalis by die *Landbouweekblad*-span aangesluit en sedertdien oor 'n verskeidenheid landbouverwante onderwerpe geskryf – van misdaad tot droogte- en mensestories. As senior multimedia-joernalis spits sy haar deesdae toe op marknuus asook bedrywighede in die plaaslike vrugtebedryf.

"Die landbousektor is dinamies en interessant. Daar is geen einde aan boere se kennis en vindingrykheid nie en 'n mens leer elke dag iets nuuts. Ek kry gereeld die geleentheid om 'n nuwe gedeelte van die sektor te verken en word voortdurend verras deur die insigte van die mense wat dit so merkwaardig maak.

"Die plaaslike vrugtebedryf is vir my veral indrukwekkend. Dit is heerlijk om aan die einde van elke jaar te skryf oor dié bedryf se planne vir die volgende jaar – en dan te beleef hoe daardie doelwitte ondanks struikelblokke danksy slim planne en vasberadenheid behaal word.

"Die toekenning wat ek vanaand ontvang het, is beslis nie net 'n pluimpie vir my nie, maar ook die bedryf wat dit vir my so maklik maak om my werk te doen."



A JOURNALIST'S JOURNEY SHAPED BY 26 CROZIER STREET

Dalaine Krige, 2017

Following my undergraduate studies, I was accepted into the Honours in Journalism programme in 2017. During that year, I helped launch *MatieMedia*, the department's first online news platform run by students. In 2018, I completed an Honours in International Studies with a focus on "Rape and Consent in International Law: How the International Criminal Tribunals in Rwanda and Yugoslavia Aided in the Creation of the Rome Statute."

In 2019, I began a Master's in Political Science, which culminated in a dissertation titled *#EndRapeCulture: The Successes and Failures of Task Teams in Bringing About Change*. I completed this degree while living and teaching in South Korea.

My partner and I moved to South Korea in 2020, during the height of the pandemic. We spent our first year in Paju, a city about 35 minutes north of Seoul. On clear days, we could see the mountains in North Korea. We later moved to Gyeongju, where we lived and taught for two years. While there, I began an MPhil in Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Africa through the

University of Pretoria.

Over the next two years, I completed the MPhil through coursework and submitted a mini-dissertation titled "Recognition of Sexual Pleasure as a Human Right: A Critical Analysis of the Maputo Protocol."

In 2023, Daniel and I left South Korea and returned home to South Africa. We travelled across the country and through parts of Europe, getting engaged in Paris, an especially meaningful city for me.

We married in 2024 at Die Boekklub in Pniel, a venue that was perfect. In 2025, we packed our bags again and headed off for Auckland, New Zealand, where we've now been living for nearly five months.

I work as the Academic Planning Lead at Whitecliffe College and contribute theatre reviews and sponsored content to the *New Zealand Herald*.

I think often about my journalism year and am immensely grateful for my time at Crozier Street.

What I learned there continues to shape how I live and work. It also opened the door to freelance writing, my entry into New Zealand's vibrant theatre community.

STELLENBOSCH TOT BEIJING

Denique Daniëls, 2016

Ek is nou al amper 10 jaar in die joernalistiek en sjoe, hoe beskryf mens die pad tot hier? Opwindend, maar dit verg ook harde werk! Toe ek aan die begin van 2017 by Netwerk24 as intern begin het, het ek nooit gedink dat ek eendag met my joernalistiekgraad in Beijing, China, gaan opeindig nie.

Maar, as ek terugdink aan my dae by die Universiteit Stellenbosch – veral Crozierstraat – onthou ek die opwinding om deel te word van 'n ruimte waar stories saak maak. Ek het toe nog nie geweet hoe diep joernalistiek my sou verander nie –

nie net as 'n professionele mens nie, maar ook as persoon. Ek het daardie graad aangepak met nuuskierigheid en 'n liefde vir stories, gretig om te leer hoe om vrae in stories en stories in betekenis te verander.

My honneursjaar by Stellenbosch het my geleer om dieper te dink, stadiger te kyk en die groter prentjie van joernalistiek te verstaan. Dit het nie meer net oor beriggewing gegaan nie; dit het gegaan oor konteks, etiek en impak. Die lesse wat ek in Crozierstraat geleer het, dra ek steeds saam met my. Ná my studies het ek my internskap

by Netwerk24 begin, waar ek besef het dat teorie en praktyk twee baie verskillende dinge is. Daarna het ek by 'n gemeenskapskoerant in aangesluit, waar plaaslike stories my geleer het hoe belangrik gemeenskapsstemme is. 'n Jaar later het ek teruggekeer na *Die Burger* as 'n bylae-joernalis. Daardie vier jaar saam met die bylae-redakteurs was waardevol – ek het van alles en nog wat gedoen en só ook my vaardighede geslyp. Vir daardie deursettingsvermoë is ek uiteindelik beloon toe ek bevorder is tot redakteur van die Gesond- en Jip-bylaes.

'n Jaar gelede het ek 'n nuwe geleentheid gekry – 'n pos as subredakteur by CGTN se digitale span. Om ja te sê, het beteken ek moes my lewe oppak en al die pad Beijing toe trek. Nooit het ek gedink dat die dinge wat ek in Crozierstraat geleer het my regoor die wêreld sou neem nie. As ek terugkyk, sien ek hoe ver ek gekom het sedert my studente dae. Joernalistiek het my veerkragtigheid en empatie geleer. Dit was 'n reis van groei, uitdaging en onverwagte avonture – een waarvoor ek net dankbaar kan wees.

"Nooit het ek gedink dat die dinge wat ek in Crozierstraat geleer het my regoor die wêreld sou neem nie." Denique se pad in die mediabedryf het haar op uiteenlopende paale genem.



CROSSING TO THE “DARK SIDE” — AND USING STORYTELLING TO SPARK CREATIVE CHANGE

Mike Wright, 2019



I'm a bit hesitant to share this with the Journalism Department, but I decided to join the “dark side” last year! Yes, I know, but fear not, it is to help spread the light. After a short stint at Network 24, then Espresso Show, I re-studied at Red & Yellow last year to step into advertising and marketing. As someone who wants to build things in the world, marketing and advertising were puzzle pieces I felt I needed before changing the world through positive creative projects and brands. I'm currently working at Engage Video Group, where I work on case study videos and campaign reports. My formal title is “Insight and Storytelling Specialist”, a nod to the past (and future).

My latest external creative project involved a print-first guerrilla campaign with 22-year-old Will Linley, a singer who wanted to promote his new song in a unique, non-TikTok way. I shared a concept called the “physical to digital feedback loop” with him, the belief that people have digital fatigue and are more likely to share photos of themselves holding a tangible product on their social media pages than to share one of his digital posts to their story. So, in just seven days, the 8-page “Gingerbread Times” came to life.

The campaign was a huge success, driving over half a million views on Will's social media alone, with radio moments and high levels of “earned media”, helping JBICY become one of his best song launches yet.

Watching the pages print at ABC Press was a surreal moment, recognising that the entire paper came from my hands thanks to the paths I have walked, and a reminder that if you do what you find interesting, you will find your way in life.

My formal creative career would not have been possible without the Journalism Department. My love for print stems from Dala Watts' introductions to InDesign and heading up LIP and SMF as Production Manager. My time as a television director and, now, case study creative director, wouldn't have been possible without Multimedia Journalism. My career as a whole wouldn't have been possible without the Journalism Department. It has been a fascinating journey, and I'm excited for what's to come.



ON THE GROUND AT THE UN: LESSONS IN TRUTH, COLLABORATION, AND GLOBAL JOURNALISM

Victoria O'Regan, 2020

In August, I had the honour of being chosen as a 2025 Dag Hammarskjöld Journalism Fellow, to report on the deliberations of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York. I'm three weeks into my 10-week stint at the UN and it's been one of the highlights of my career so far. I've been able to sit in on Security Council discussions, get up close and pose questions to various heads of state during the UNGA high-level week, and see the US President Donald Trump's infamous Escalator-Gate incident in action! It's such an incredible privilege to be able to have an experience like this so early on in my career.

Aside from deepening my understanding of the UN through first-hand observation of its working sessions,

it's been wonderful to learn from and collaborate with my fellow Dag Hammarskjöld colleagues. We've shared ideas, pitched stories together and exchanged perspectives that have broadened my understanding of international reporting and the global media landscape. Collaboration between journalists and media workers is more important than ever right now.

Everywhere, truth is under attack. The importance of information integrity has been a big theme of the 80th UNGA, with Nobel Prize laureate and Rappler co-founder Maria Ressa calling it “the mother of all battles” during her speech to the UN on its 80th anniversary.

Being able to report on the ground at the UN has reinforced my belief that bearing witness is fundamental to maintaining information integrity.



WHEREVER I GO, THE STORY GOES TOO.

Jess Holing, 2023

Ever since walking out of 26 Crozier Street back in November of 2023, the path(s) I've taken have not been particularly conventional. In the almost 2 years of life since the melting pot of challenge and creativity that 2023 brought, I have lived in a children's village in Durban, walked the Camino with my mom, freelanced, and worked as a photographer for a media company that has sent me all over Africa, documenting organisations tackling issues of health, education, motherhood and justice, while also studying to be an English teacher. I wouldn't call my personality particularly “niche”. However, whether I found myself in the hallways of a school, the slums of Uganda, the hills of Rwanda, the house of a foster mother, the warm waters of Tanzania, the universities of Zambia or the albergues of Spain, there has been one constant — a

pen, a notebook or a camera has almost always been tightly glued to my hand. I am so grateful for the skills and confidence instilled into me during my year at Crozier Street and beyond, equipping me with everything I needed to dive into a life full of beauty, pain, resilience and hope. I often find myself thinking back to moments from 2023, recalling funny moments with classmates, remembering challenges overcome and recollecting priceless nuggets of wisdom and experience passed down to a class of wide-eyed aspiring storytellers. Storytelling has followed me around (or maybe I've followed it?), and, with all the beautiful faces and places I've been impacted by bundled up and stored in notebook and harddrive and heart, I'm looking forward to keep bringing stories that remind us of our purpose on earth to life in the future. I look forward to a visit to Crozier Street soon!



Class of 2025

Van slangetjies en leertjies na GAME OF THRONES

Rentia Weber

Ek tik gister 'n Whatsapp en vang myself dat ek seker maak die afkappingsteken duik na links. (Dit doen, terloops.) Dit, tesame met 1001 nuwe vaardighede – of eerder, obsessies – het deel geword van my identiteit hierdie jaar: Luister behoorlik. Beplan vooruit. Bepaal jou invalshoek. Doen dit reg. Moenie eers dink aan kortpad vat nie. *Kill your darlings*. Maak nogmaals seker. Dit was min of meer die instruksies wat ek met moedersmelk ingekry het. Behalwe miskien die *kill your darlings*-deel.

Toe ek op 27 Januarie by die deure van Crozierstraat 26 instap, kompleet met 'n vars gelamineerde studentekaart, was ek redelik seker dat hierdie 'n buitengewone jaar gaan wees. Vir 'n magdom redes, maar hoofsaaklik: Joernalistiek is opwindend, uitdagend, altyd aan die verander, dinamies, stimulerend, en soortvan sexy. Maar hoe sou ek ooit kon voorspel dat hierdie honneursgraad (en industrie) terselfdertyd duiselingsekkend, onvoorspelbaar en genadeloos sou wees, en die reeks *Game of Thrones* na kinderspeletjies laat lyk?

Adobe-ongediertes, nekspasmas, sosiale vervreemding en algehele disoriëntasie was sedertdien aan die orde van die dag. Ons was kniediep in hierdie riller, *come hell or wildling*, en sprake van omdraai was nie. Anneli sou dit in elk geval nie toelaat nie, sy is immers *The Mother of Dragons*.

Maar, strydkrete tersyde, was hierdie jaar ook vir my 'n surrealistiese wonderwerk: ek kon wraggieswaar uitkom by my droom om joernalistiek te studeer, ná jare van reis en werk en kinders grootmaak. Wat 'n geleentheid, wat 'n voorreg!

Om nou 'n lang storie kort te knip en van uitermatige soetsappigheid te beredder: Dave Pepler sê graag dat om die wêreld beter te maak, moet ons by onself begin. Hy noem dit: Selfrespek.

So ek sê vir myself, ten spyte van en desondanks ons wonde en letsels: Hou aan met lees. Hou aan met leer. Ons moet werk en ons moet speel. Ons moet voel, ons moet nooit vergeet wie en wat ons gevorm het nie. Maar bowenal, moet ons leef, en liefhê, want hierdie is ons storie.

Op daardie noot gaan ek groet. Nog 'n dag, nog 'n *deadline* –op die rug van 'n draak.



Liewe Alumni van Crozierstraat 26

Marise Schoonraad

Hierdie jaar het ek 'n ou graad klaar gemaak en met 'n nuwe een begin. Ek het klasse wat oor die hele kampus strek verruil vir die geboutjie wat van buite af piep klein lyk. Min het ek geweet hoe groot en vol hy sou wees.

Vol kennis en ervarings, maar eers was daar die belangrike les: jou storie moet blykbaar 'n *angle* hê. Myself dood gestres vir die eerste *news meeting* en of my storie aan hierdie belangrike vereiste gaan voldoen. Ek moes ook gou-gou leer om die foon op te tel en mense te bel, iets wat enige Gen Z-er bloet sal laat sweet.

Crozierstraat 26 het my ook hierdie jaar al op vele avonture gestuur. Ek het oor heinings geklim vir die perfekte foto en berig gelewer oor elke gevalle boom in Stellenbosch.

Klasuittappies het ingesluit 'n kuier by die SABC, KFM en RSG. Daar was egter nog vele meer mediahuise. 'n Hoogtepunt vir my was 'n driegang-maal by die parlement, waar ons almal kritiese denke veruil het vir 'n

bakkie (of drie) lensiesop. Vir die Springbok-sewesspan het ons monde ook oopgehang.

Ek was ook baie gelukkig om my lyf kadetjoernalis by die KKNK te hou. Daar het ek my mediakaart misbruik en myself by parkeerareas bô my vuurmaakplek ingekry. Ek het beter geword met resensies skryf en al die produksies wat drie tot vyf sterre verdien, uitgewys. Ek het selfs 'n vinnige gesels met Frank Opperman gehad.

Op soek na stories het ek vinnig 'n Facebook-tannie geword – altyd handig wanneer jy 'n storie kort. Ek het berge geklim en agter fietsryers aan gehol. Ek het foto's geneem in 'n optog en dramastudente vir 'n week agtervolg. Op 'n uistappie om melk te gaan koop in my Crocs het ek op 'n skiettoneel afgekom. Ek moes daarvoor ook berig lewer, nooit weer! Ek was by Trekklavier is GROOT en het gesien hoe gemeenskappe saamkom om 'n tuin te plant.

Hierdie graad is rof, maar hierdie graad is goed. En so is ek ook nou amper aan die alumni-kant van hom.

JOHANNESBURG:

A media tour for the ages

Kuhle Tshabalala

Fresh from a hectic two weeks of assessment, my classmates and I took a sho't left to the hustle and bustle of Johannesburg, courtesy of our Journalism department. We embarked on a four-day educational media tour, spending three days in the city of gold and almost half a day within the Free State province, just south of the city. The itinerary read like a well-balanced meal plan, with just the right portions of free time, travelling and workshops. And, similar to our first class trip in February, there was a compulsory assessment attached to it, of course.

FIRST STOP: CONSTITUTION HILL

Known as a living museum and archive that shares South Africa's journey from oppression to democracy, Constitution Hill carried an atmosphere of a painful history and hope for the future. Our tour, under the guidance of our tour guide, Brenda Tukisi, explored the Old Fort, Number Four and the Women's Jail and we were given the opportunity to walk inside the cells that once housed Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu. Our walkabout concluded with a visit to the country's first Constitutional Court, the highest court in South Africa, where tables and chairs are more than just furniture and serve as a platform where judges sit to interpret and enforce the Constitution.

NEWS24

Touching down at the offices of SA's biggest news site, we were welcomed by our very own financial journalism lecturer, Ahmed Areff, in his workplace - but not for Accounting 101, rather a behind the scenes tour of the newsroom. Although a lot of the journos were out on

stories, we got the chance to hear from the different teams and how they operate on a daily basis.

We were excited to see one of the journos edit a news piece in Adobe Premier Pro - a programme my classmates and I once found intimidating, but have slowly grown to enjoy.

THE COURTYARD HOTEL: OUR HOME FOR THE NEXT FOUR DAYS

After a long and productive day, we finally checked in at the beautiful Courtyard Hotel. From taking off at Cape Town International to collecting our luggage at O.R. Tambo, it was a full day of travelling and discovery. The evening ahead was free, and thanks to Rosebank Mall being a stone's throw away, there was no need to travel further for food and entertainment.

Not only did this save us money, but it ensured that we could get enough rest for our early 06:45 call time for the Eskom national control centre and a walkabout at Lethabo Power station, just outside of Johannesburg.

FINAL STOPS

Our media tour ended with visits to SABC, Multichoice, the Press Council and CNBC Africa, each giving us a unique glimpse into the country's media. We concluded our final night with dinner at Parea in Sandton before our final visit to Bloomberg and the JSE the next morning, and thereafter headed back to our respective homes for recess. Spending a few days in the media hub of South Africa was inspiring. Each visit gave us a front-row view of the media landscape unfolding in real time, from the lens of various newsrooms and sectors.

The journey we shared at 26 Crozier Street

Daniela Botha

Walking into 26 Crozier Street for the very first time in January, I was overcome with a wave of emotions. Was I wearing the right outfit? Had I packed the correct stationery? Was I even capable of completing this degree? That last question echoed in my mind throughout the first semester, as I imagine it did for many of us. What I never expected, however, was that the 25 other nervous faces I met that day would become my anchors throughout this journey.

Although we come from different paths and will walk very different ones when we leave the department for the final time, the past nine months have bonded us in ways I never thought possible. Together, we have celebrated, struggled, and grown in ways that only those who have walked these halls can truly understand.

There are the unforgettable big moments—like staying in the department until 2 a.m. trying to finish the SMF project, only to discover that QR codes must be grayscale, not CMYK, in order to print. Or braving

the icy Joburg winter on media tour, when we all came back sick but somehow richer for the experience. These challenges pushed us, exhausted us, and ultimately united us.

But just as meaningful have been the smaller moments. The coffee trips squeezed in between classes, the laughter in the corridors, and the running joke every time a lecturer called Kyla "Kayla." It is in these seemingly ordinary interactions that I found extraordinary comfort, encouragement, and joy.

As our final deadline approaches, I know we are all eagerly awaiting the relief and celebration of finishing this chapter.

Yet, what I will miss most are the 25 people who stood beside me in lecture halls, computer labs, and late-night deadlines. We arrived as strangers, bonded as classmates, and will leave as friends who shared something unforgettable. 26 Crozier Street will always hold a piece of who we became together.





A sketch by artist Cora Coetzee of 26 Crozier Street

26 Crozier Street

a story in pictures

By Lizette Rabe, departmental chair from 2001 to 2011 (with Gawie Botma acting chair from April 2009 to December 2009); and again from 2015-2017 and 2021-2022.



Besides being head of a very busy postgraduate department of journalism with an intensive Honours programme, a Master's programme, and a doctoral programme – and myself at the time the only full-time academic appointment – it felt as if I was not only also facilities manager (if the Southeaster blew off a gutter, it was my business to have it fixed), and then on top of it, for many years, also building project manager – for three main projects (and some smaller ones in between).

The academic part can speak for itself, but with regards to the building projects, I might as well have come to work with a hard hat on.

Fact is, 26 Crozier Street, our beloved and so gracious old Edwardian lady, was slowly crumbling into a ruin. It was built with raw clay bricks, with only a layer of river stones as foundation – on what used to be a tributary of the Eerste River (cut off long ago). In 2005, one of the chimneys was on the brink of collapsing on top of where then departmental secretary Mrs Leona Amoraal was sitting. In the Honours' working area, there were wires all over the place. With every new electronic gadget, those wires could not be installed into the walls because of those crumbling raw clay bricks.

Eventually, out of despair, I invited our then vice-rector prof Russel Botman for a visit. And asked: With all these wires everywhere, should a



Above: "Protea" in 1978 when the department was founded. It was formerly a university boarding house.

Left: The first three heads of department: The first, Piet Cillié (far right), the second, Hein Grosskopf (far left) and his wife Santie, and the third, George Claassen (middle) and his wife Hanneltjie.

student first be electrocuted before something is done about the situation?

So then Restauration Project 1 started. It was estimated that about 40 per cent of the building needed to be restored. In the end it was more than 80 per cent. That was also because of something called "cement fatigue". Interestingly, grass blades of more than a century ago were still to be found in the raw clay bricks when it was released from under its cement layer.

And oh yes, we expanded into the one side of the loft. That was a dream ever since 1978, when we tried to convince then head of the department, Piet Cillié, that we ourselves could convert it into a "chill room" (I was a member of that very first "prehistoric" class).

Well, besides the fact that some notorious parties were held on the flat roof between the two gables, nothing came of our "chill room". (One student once fell off and landed in one of Piet's rose bushes. The student was ok. The rose bush not.)

So, in 2005, half the loft was transformed – not into a chill room, but a couple of offices, a seminar space, and soundproof booths. The next year, we "did" Project 2, the other half of the loft.

And then Prof Russel became rector. And introduced his "Hope" project. All and sundry were invited to submit proposals. One might just say eight years of undiluted begging coincided (or collided) with the "Hope" project.

Our proposal was for an annexe custom built for our needs. That was 2008. And ... we were rewarded with a sum of R9 million to do everything we dreamt of within that budget, including the architect's costs, etc.

Part of our rationale included the words of Dr Abdul Waheed Khan, UNESCO's then assistant director-general, Communication and Information: "Fostering journalistic training institutions in Africa is key to Africa's development as a whole, whether for tackling poverty, ushering in democratic practices or promoting social change."

It also helped that we could quote that our department was recognised as one of top twelve journalism schools in Africa in a UNESCO survey, and that it was one of SANEF's three "Centres of excellence" in journalism training in its 2007 skills audit.

Our goals were spelled out as offering exceptional multimedia education and training on a professional, vocational level, and exceptional research on relevant media issues of the day to make a difference in media practice, the public's understanding of the role of the media, and to deepen democracy and development.

Interestingly, the architect for our project turned out to be the son of Cillié's friend of way back and professor in Latin, Prof Frans Smuts. The two of them, with a dark sense of humour, decided on our department's motto.



Three heads of department with then faculty dean in December 2000, with the appointment of Lizette Rabe. From left to right, Hein Grosskopf, Izak van der Merwe (dean), Lizette Rabe and George Claassen.



Zolile Nqayi, first recipient of the Percy Qoboza Bursary in 1997



But first, out with the old, and in with the new



Restauration, inside and outside, in 2005 (during the students' holiday breaks), as well as the refurbishment of the left half of the loft



This was the dream as it was planned by Lizette Rabe together with the architect throughout 2009. This is how the entrance was visualised.

The motto? Plane et probe, of course. It is from the comedy Asinaria, or Comedy of the Asses, by Plautus (250-184 BCE). Part of the dialogue is the "contract" between a pimp and his client – the client stressing that what is expected should be "plain and clear". (The coat of arms was designed by the, at the time, famous heraldic artist Cor Pama.) Imagine a department simply creating its own identity and heraldry in today's higher education bureaucratic jungle. But let's not digress. So, the story of 26 Crozier Street, over its three major building projects up to Building Project 3, our state of the art Mediafrika Annexe, looks more or less like this in pictures: In 2006, the other half of the attic was refurbished. But still, we needed more space. We sat on one another's laps, more or less. And then ... the Hope Project arrived.



How the courtyard was visualised between the annexe (left) and the existing building (right).



And in our digital dis-, mis- and malinformation era, in a continuous 24/7 news cycle, more than ever before – the first piece of "installation art" our students saw upon entering the new building.



A sequence of photos of what was happening behind the mesh fence, day after day, week after week, throughout 2010, with the Class of 2010 stoically enduring the building noise



Department of Journalism: Sign up to newsletters and event information



Sign up to newsletter and event information [here](#).

GLOBAL GROWTH: 52 CHAPTERS AND COUNTING

Stellenbosch University's Alumni Chapters continue to grow, now standing at 52 worldwide. We currently have 12 regional chapters across South Africa as well as global chapters in the rest of Africa, Europe, North America, the Middle East, Asia and Australasia!

Earlier in 2025, our Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Prof Deresh Ramjugernath, set out to meet alumni across the globe, visiting Africa, Australia, Europe, and parts of SA to connect with graduates and also help launch new Chapters in Zambia, Abu Dhabi and Uganda.

If you would like to join your local chapter, and you are not receiving chapter information or invites, please update your profile by sending an email to matiesalumni@sun.ac.za with you current country and town/city.

You can also join the chapter WhatsApp group for the latest updates and to connect with fellow Maties.

Want to volunteer and get involved? Reach out to us via alumni@sun.ac.za and we will put you in touch with one of our 52 chapters globally!

Be part of the network that makes Maties around the world such a vibrant community.