Construction of the new research and seminar centre of the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS) commenced towards the end of 2006. STIAS was established in 2000 as the first institute for advanced study in Africa. The goal of the institute is to promote high-level, interdisciplinary and relevant research, providing knowledge that makes a difference to the world. The building of the centre on the historic site of Mostertsdrift next to the homestead was made possible by a generous grant of the Marcus and Marianne Wallenberg Foundation of Sweden. STIAS is also home to the DST/NRF Centre of Excellence in Epidemiological Modelling and Analysis (SACEMA). Admiring a scale model of the Mostertsdrift research centre at the launch of the SACEMA Centre of Excellence, were Prof Chris Brink, Rector and Vice-Chancellor of Stellenbosch University, Dr Phil Mjwara, Director in the Department of Science and Technology, Prof Ekkehard Kopp, Chair of the SACEMA Trust and Mr Derek Hanekom, Deputy Minister of Science and Technology.