



FACULTY OF ECONOMIC AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

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Dean of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences continued to grow in 2009. There were 7 524 students in the Faculty (*in comparison with 7 262 in 2008*). A total of 4 526 of these students were undergraduate (*4 541 in 2008*) and 2 831 were postgraduate (*2 561 in 2008*). It remains a challenge for the Faculty to continue providing these growing numbers of students with quality teaching despite limited resources.

The Faculty's students continued to excel in 2009. Ninety-nine percent of our students of 2008 passed the qualifying examination of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants on the first try in 2009 (*the highest percentage of all universities*). Four of our students, Alison Phillips, Charné Joubert, Liezel Reitz and Floris Steenkamp, passed the examination with honours.

Our former students also fared excellently in the examinations of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (*CIMA*). Pieter Schoeman was named the best achiever from South Africa and the fifth best achiever worldwide in the final test of Professional Competence in Management Accounting. Fahmida Johannes was named the best achiever from South Africa in the final test on Organisational Management, and also in the final test on Information Systems and Integrated Management.

Our lecturers receive acknowledgement from the students for good teaching. The First-year Academy asked the 30 best first-year students of the University to each nominate the lecturer who had had the most positive influence on their development. The following staff of our Faculty were nominated: Ms Ivona Contardo (*Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science*), Prof Rachel Jafta, Dr Sophia du Plessis and Ms Pietie Horn (*Department of Economics*), and Ms Eloise de Jager and Mr Roelof Baard (*Department of Accounting*).

The research done in the Faculty is being extended even further. The Department of Accounting achieved a milestone in that Prof Wilna Bruwer became the first member of the Department to receive a research rating from the National Research Foundation. International liaison is also extended continuously. The Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science hosted the 2009 conference of the International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics, which welcomed participants from 16 countries.

The Faculty is involved in five projects of the University's Overarching Strategic Plan (*OSP*).

Prof Jan du Toit is Director of the Africa Centre for HIV/AIDS Management. In addition to formal academic programmes, educational theatre is an important initiative undertaken by this Centre. A travelling theatre production was put on for more than 200 000 people in 2009, 165 000 of whom now know their HIV status. The production will be translated into all 11 official languages and will be staged countrywide in collaboration with the Ecumenical Foundation of South Africa. The Centre has completely outgrown its current facilities and an *OSP* project is aimed at creating facilities for it.

Two of the *OSP* projects are based at the Business School. Mr Daniël Malan is Head of the Unit for Corporate Governance in Africa, which does research on effective corporate governance and how ethical conduct can be encouraged within this framework. Prof Barney Jordaan is Head of the Africa Centre for Dispute Resolution, the aim of which is to help people resolve disputes by way of mediation and arbitration rather than resorting to violence or expensive legal processes.

Prof Mark Swilling of the School of Public Management and Planning is the head of Tsama Hub, a Centre for Transdisciplinarity, Sustainability, Analysis, Modelling and Assessment that analyses sustainability. A transdisciplinary PhD programme, in which academics from seven faculties are involved, has been established in the Tsama Hub. The first ten students for this programme were selected at the end of 2009.

The Faculty is participating enthusiastically in the *OSP* project for the development of multilingual teaching. By presenting the first year of our undergraduate programmes parallel in Afrikaans and English and by supporting students by means of language acquisition modules, the Faculty wishes to empower students to effectively join the multilingual teaching in the second and third years of study (*in which lectures are offered primarily in Afrikaans and use is made largely of international learning material in English*). The overarching objective is to present programmes that empower students to be able to function effectively in both Afrikaans and English.