

## FACULTY OF MILITARY SCIENCE

*Prof Edna van Harte*  
*Dean: Faculty of Military Science*



The Faculty of Military Science is dependent on two authorities – Stellenbosch University and the Department of Defence. Since both are compelled to deal with ever-changing environments, our Faculty is likewise heavily affected by the change management and transformation activities relating to our core business in the delivery of professional military education.

We are keen on collaboration with our fellow faculties. The objectives we foresee for such multidisciplinary work are to contribute to knowledge building and management; to enhance good governance and leadership; to promote and help sustain results-based collaborative arrangements with the security sector on the continent; and to conduct high-quality coordinated Africa-wide leadership training. Our Faculty contributes to the University's HOPE Project through the Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa (SIGLA @ Stellenbosch). In particular, we embrace two development themes from the HOPE Project, namely promoting democracy and promoting peace and security.

The Interim Director of SIGLA @ Stellenbosch was Lt General (ret.) LM Fisher, who played a crucial role in opening doors on the African continent for the University and for the faculties involved with SIGLA @ Stellenbosch. The management committee finalised efforts to appoint a new Director for SIGLA @ Stellenbosch, which will enable our Faculty to play a larger role in the HOPE Project. Through community interaction we have embarked on collaboration with Kenya on a water project.

Our residential students are all soldiers of the Department of Defence whose primary role is peace-keeping operations on the African continent. As a result, our core activities constantly involve us in the promotion of peace. A large number of young people gain access to tertiary education through the Defence Force, and therefore we are contributing to the eradication of poverty through education, training and development. Given that we educate the future leaders of the Department of Defence, our core business also prepares our Faculty and learners to be in the best position to contribute to the HOPE Project.

The focus on the building of research capacity over the past few years has paid off, as we experienced an increase in our research output in 2010. It is with pride that we report on our new NRF C1-rated scientist, Lt Col (Prof) Ian van den Waag of the School of Security and African Studies. Two junior faculty

members completed their master's degrees – Ms Marianne Roos in Auditing and Capt Abednigo Themba in Industrial Psychology.

We launched initiatives to strengthen the research capacity of our postgraduate students. Two of our postgraduate students attached to the School for Science and Technology collaborated with Russian scientists in the area of nuclear physics. Others delivered papers independently of or through co-presentation with their lecturers at national and international conferences. Various Faculty members delivered papers at international conferences, and two of our academics were promoted to Associate Professor.

Our international research interaction remains strong and we have an annual exchange programme with the French Department of Defence in terms of which they send three or four French cadets from the French Military Academy at St Cyr to complete a three-month postgraduate research module in the School for Security and Africa Studies. We interact with our Romanian partners through the South African-Romanian Bilateral Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Technology.

In 2010 the Faculty of Military Science focused on deepening our academic ethos with reference to teaching and learning. At our annual Faculty work session, the emphasis was on teaching vulnerable students and on pedagogical concerns for students studying through interactive telematic education. A second focus was our proper alignment with the Department of Defence to ensure that we meet the needs of the client.

Through a close working relationship we finalised the infrastructure to lay a solid foundation for our First-year Academy. With the help of the Centre for Teaching and Learning, a part-time person was appointed to coordinate the Academy's activities and we are looking forward to an increase in the throughput rate for undergraduates in 2011.

We have initiated discussions for the possible implementation of a PhD programme.

Finally, we express our gratitude to all stakeholders who helped us accomplish our mission during 2010.