



Stellenbosch, say goodbye!

Time's up for the third year students of the Tygerberg Campus of the University of Stellenbosch. The Maties there were under the scrutinizing eye of Andries van Niekerk for the duration of their short course in deafness and Deaf culture.

Though it is one of numerous courses he's been in charge of, he was surprised at their reaction to some of the signs, but all in all he is satisfied with what's been achieved this year.

"The strange thing is that they were all ladies," says Van Niekerk. But providing training for individuals who are used to studying, has the advantage of listening being part of their makeup, he noted.

For two of the classes he received the assistance of Dirkie Ebersohn, as it helps provide context and seems more

natural to the learner when a Deaf person signs. Those learners also then feel more compelled to use signs while communicating, says Van Niekerk. He hopes to provide similar training at another tertiary institution who has enquired about the course.

"The Deaf are everywhere - they go to doctors, go to school, visit social workers and lawyers," says Van Niekerk. Therefore he thinks it is important that anyone working in a profession where they deal with people should be aware of deafness and Deaf culture.

The next course on his itinerary is at the Nuwe Hoop Centre.



Action! Here (left) Dirkie Ebersohn and Marilese Tope are hard at work behind the scenes to produce an American Sign Language introduction guide for Burundi. Below are Altus van Rooyen, Assistant to Ferdinand Kapp (camera man and Director), Fabien Hamissi Irakoza, Jean Louis Mutendela and Rev Smit, handing over the DVD DeafNET made with 500 Sign Language signs used in Burundi that can be copied and distributed in the country. However the guide will be more cost effective to reproduce and distribute - not to mention that it will be more accessible to the broader community.



'Accessability is independance.'
- Fanie du Toit, Promotion and Awareness meeting



Sad to see you go: DeafNET recently said goodbye to Lisa Piek - a face that has become synonym to editing. Here she celebrates Dirkie Ebersohn's birthday with him.

Teaching the elementaries to Elim

While DeafNET had time for a short break, one of us was hard at work in the small but active town of Elim.

Hanlie Visser, SoCoMo Development Officer, had to teach personnel at the Elim Home the basic skills of SoCoMo. Beat Reyenecke assisted her with the training. The two of them recently went back to present the participants with their diplomas.

"Fourteen personnel were trained and everyone enjoyed it tremendously while they learned a lot. I would really like to provide training for the rest of the personnel as well. I will follow up with them and ensure that we stay in contact with each other."

The home cares for more than 50 multiple disabled children, providing them with a safe environment in which to develop. Their ages range from youngsters as young as seven, but also provides a haven for others of up to 45 years of age. Some have cerebral palsy, whilst others are Deaf or physically disabled - all cared for in different programmes.



Strategic planning was the reason Mr Coetzee Bester of the Africa University recently paid DeafNET a visit. Talks with him continue.

Overdrive? No, olympian!

The boy who in his own words became a "spontaneous runner" today finds himself an Olympian in Taipei. Sweating and panting, *DeafNET News* caught up with Tim Stones in the days counting down to the Deaflympics.

"One day, for no real reason, I got up and went for a run. I remember it was about 10 km. By the end of Grade 10, I had run up to 33 km with a local club during weekend training, and the bug had firmly bit.

"It is an adrenalin rush, which feeds my competitive nature. It is also a way of life in which lifelong friendships are made, and in which I feel most fulfilled," says Stones, his red beard making you ponder man's anatomy as the hair on his head is quite a dark brown.

"Running is like being given a taste of a nourishing, succulent, and life-transforming fruit. Once you have tasted it, you need to have more."

Sports and running, runs in the family with his dad representing his home country in athletics and swimming and his grandfather at one stage holding the record for the mile - not to mention his great-grandfather playing football for Leeds. "It (athletics) is a sport in which you will learn much about your own inner strength and resources, and, as such, you will find yourself rejuvenated to give of your best in all aspects of your life.

"My close friends and running buddies call me Overdrive. I have had this nickname since school days. There are two reasons I have this name. In Grade Ten I was run over by a car. A teacher made the comment, 'Are you feeling a bit run down today?' (!), and the name Overdrive came into being. More so, however, in my early days of competitive athletics at school, I had a tendency to go out really fast from the start. My friends used to say I was a man on a mission, 'running in overdrive' - and hence the name Overdrive stuck! I like to think that I am still a man on a mission, just pacing myself more intelligently over each obstacle I face."

His time on the road provides him with the necessary space to reflect on life's challenges, find answers and strength to persevere.

"For me it is a vital resource for relieving stress, stamping out my frustrations and fears on the tarmac, and thus giving me the ability to focus completely on providing for and nurturing my family."

In preparation for the Deaflympics one often saw Stones take a jog during 13:00 and 14:00, providing some feeling of guilt as you quickly wolf down your lunch to make the most of the break. But he doesn't believe in a special diet, however, a bowl of pasta the night before the race is a must.

And on race day... "I do a bit of stretching, focus on my breathing, have a quick look at my fellow competitors to size them out, and, above all, I try to visualise the race, seeing myself enjoying the experience, running through whatever pain I will feel, and performing to the best of my ability.

"I thrive on the competitive aspect of athletics, and in this it is the desire to be the best that I can be that keeps me training and racing hard. Although I mostly train alone, I love the social vibe at races, and the light banter amongst athletes. We are a friendly bunch, who live life to the full. I cannot imagine my life without running ..."