



# ACADEMIA UPDATE

April 2022



## Dear Parent/Guardian

The saying time flies when you're having fun could not have been more appropriate for the first term at Academia. Having our students back in residence after a long break has been amazing and a lot of fun.

Here's a quick update on what's been happening in the first term...

### Welcome to a huge first-year intake

We welcomed almost 500 first year students this year. They came from all over. The majority are studying in the Economic and

Management Sciences faculty, with a large cohort in Engineering. A very lively bunch indeed!

The Welcoming Programme was very well attended and that is always a good start to the year and the students' academic careers. The annual "Monitors' Report" issued by the University to all residences (addressing areas of concern and highlights) was very complimentary about our Welcoming Programme.

"Vensters" returned partially to its former glory and our students performed excellently. As always, "trollies" was a highlight.

## LOAD SHEDDING CONTINUES

The return of load shedding was a very unwelcome surprise this year. We understand the frustration, but just to place matters in perspective: given the size of our campus and number of students, it is not feasible to provide generated power to each block at this stage. Our focus had been on ensuring continued safety: to that end we installed an inverter to feed power to our security gates, biometric system and electric fence and we, in addition, supply generated power to our street lights to ensure that Academia is not in the dark.

More recently we have replaced the generator which supplied power to the deli and study centre with a large inverter system. This will ensure that there is uninterrupted SU wi-fi available

in the study centre and deli during load shedding and should significantly improve the online experience for our students. The longer term plan is that we will be included in the power grid from a mega generator at the Engineering faculty that will serve the entire campus. This will indeed make life a lot easier and more predictable.

Unfortunately, the SU intranet points do not function during load shedding. This is the case throughout campus. The University continuously advises students of the venues on campus where they supply power to internet points so that students who need to write a test, or need urgent internet access, know where to go.

**WIFI IS  
COMING**

Academia is in the fortunate position that it is supplied with free SU data by way of the stable and fast fixed points in units. All students on campus have to pay a small annual fee to have their laptops and other devices registered on the SU network.

While this has worked well for many years, we do understand the desire to have wi-fi as opposed to fixed-point internet access. We have completed a pilot programme and are finalising the design of an Academia-wide wi-fi rollout.

## MAINTENANCE IS AN ONGOING FEATURE

We maintained and cleaned our units and terrain over December and January. We are revamping our office somewhat, spending time and effort on our gardens and painted and fixed all walkways and stairs. Please remind your child to “log a fault” if there is any maintenance issue in his or her unit.



## LEADERS AND DISCOM PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE

We have a very dedicated group of student leaders under the stewardship of Jurgen van der Merwe. The disciplinary committee, consisting of Academia students under the guidance of Bantu Louw, one of our assistant resident heads, is convened and functioning. The focus of our disciplinary code is on fostering values that encourage harmonious community living and not on punishing or labelling transgressors. If your child is called to a disciplinary hearing, please be assured that the matter will be handled fairly and with due regard to the student’s rights.

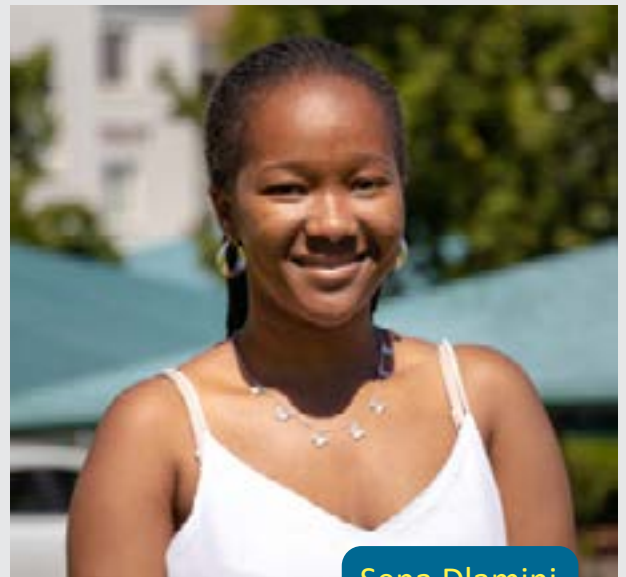
We have also this year focused on training of our block leaders (these leaders are elected annually by residents of each block) and this is paying off. The block leaders certainly take their responsibility seriously and communicate well with the students in their respective blocks.



**Jurgen van der Merwe**

# Mentors help with the transition to university

Our mentors, under the very skilled leadership of Sena Dlamini, are doing an excellent job of checking in with first years to ensure that they are well integrated.



Sena Dlamini



## Merit awards for deserving students

Our students performed academically with excellence last year and we will be awarding academic merits to around 12 students in April, 5 of them graduated cum laude! Our students continue to outperform the PSO students and are well placed in the residences log. Merit awards will also be made to our sports performers and our outstanding leaders.

## Recycling and composting

Recycling is high on our list of priorities and we have a competition among the blocks. There is, of course, a correlation between the number of bottles and the number of kilograms of recycling....



## Communication is mainly online

As Academia is filled with under 25s, we find that Social Media is an excellent way of communicating. Academia uses Instagram and Facebook as our main social media platforms. Our weekly upcoming events as well as our students' achievements are posted on Instagram. Photos of our significant events are posted on Facebook.

If you want to stay in the loop and know what's going on in the ACA community, then follow us on:

**Instagram:** @acastellies

**Facebook:** AcademiaStellenbosch



# SPORT AND SOCIALS BRING THE GEES

Our sporting year kicked off with a bang on all fronts. The rugby team has a new coach (Erhardt Muth who also coaches the Paul Roos Gymnasium first team) and there is a lot of enthusiasm. Social tennis and volleyball are both very well attended and enjoyed.

Our men's and women's soccer teams did extremely well in the pre-season tournament and ended in third place. Well done!

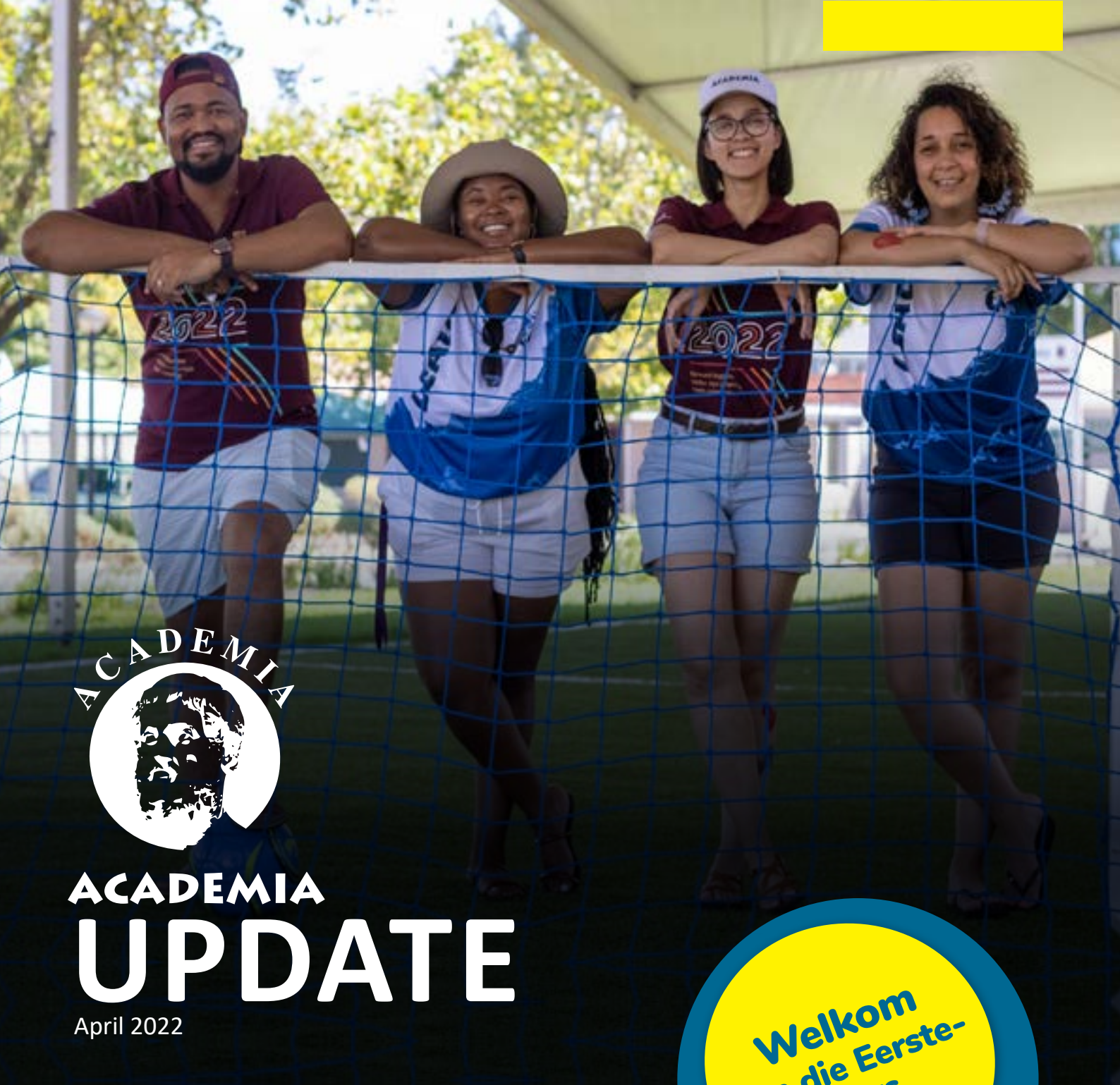
We are planning a trail running /mountain bike day for later in April, an Academia golf and Boule day at the Stellenbosch Golf Course on 2 September, pilates in our hall, table tennis and many

other activities to get our students to remain fit and to encourage participation in team sports.

The 5-a-side soccer pitch is constantly busy, as is the volleyball court. The annual Interhouse Sports Day will take place on 8 May and the houses will compete in netball, soccer, e-sports, chess, volleyball, etc. It is usually a very competitive and fun day which ends in a braai.

The First Years' Dance will have taken place in our hall on 8 April. If the actual event is half as exciting as the buildup has been, it will have been a resounding success!





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## Beste Ouers/Voogde

Die studente se gesegde time flies when you're having fun is baie beslis van toepassing op die eerste kwartaal by Academia. Dit is wonderlike en baie pret om ons studente na so 'n lang afwesigheid terug te hê.

Hiermee 'n vinnige verslag oor wat in die eerste kwartaal by ons gebeur het...

### Welkom aan die Eerstejaars

Ons het amper 500 eerstejaars hierdie jaar verwelkom. Hulle kom van oraloer. Die meerderheid studeer in die Besigheids en Bestuurswetenskappe fakulteit, met 'n verdere groot

aantal studente in die Ingenieursfakulteit, hulle is inderdaad 'n lewendige lot.

Die Verwelkomingsprogram is goed bygewoon- dit is altyd 'n goeie begin van 'n jaar en ons studente se akademiese loopbane. Die jaarlikse "Monitors' Report" wat deur die Universiteit uitgereik word ten opsigte van alle koshuise (die verslag spreek hoogtepunte en ook aspekte wat kommer wek aan) was baie komplimenterend oor ons program.

"Vensters" het gedeeltelik na die vorige glorie teruggekeer en ons studente het uitstekend opgetree. Soos gewoonlik, was die trollie-resies 'n hoogtepunt.

## BEURTKRAG DUUR VOORT

Die terugkeer van beurtkrag was 'n baie onaangename verassing hierdie jaar. Ons verstaan die frustrasie, maar net om die kwessie in perspektief te stel: gegewe die omvang van Academia en die aantal studente, is dit nie lewensvatbaar om gegengereerde elektrisiteit aan alle blokke te verskaf nie. Ons fokus is op die versekering van veiligheid: met dit ten doel, het ons verlede jaar 'n groot batterygedrewe sisteem geïnstalleer om krag aan ons sekuriteitshekke, biometriese toegangstelsel en elektriese heining te verskaf tydens beurtkrag. Daarbenewens verskaf ons opgewekte krag aan straatligte om seker te maak Academia is nie in donkerte gehul nie.

Meer onlangs het ons die kragopwekker wat elektrisiteit aan die deli en studiesentrum verskaf het, vervang met 'n kragtige battery-sisteem. Hiermee verseker ons dat daar ononderbroke US wi-fi beskikbaar is in die deli en studiesentrum gedurende beurtkrag. Hierdie verbetering

behoort 'n betekenisvolle positiewe verandering aan die aanlyn ervaring van ons studente te bring.

Die langtermyn plan is dat Academia ingesluit word by die US se elektrisiteitsnetwerk wat voorsien sal word deur 'n reuse kragopwekker opgerig te word by die Ingenieursfakulteit. Hierdie kragopwekker sal die hele kampus bedien. Dit sal beslis die lewe baie makliker en meer voorspelbaar maak.

Ongelukkig werk die US se intranet punte nie gedurende beurtkrag nie. Dit is die geval oor die hele kampus. Die US laat voortdurend studente weet watter lokale op kampus van gegengereerde krag na internetpunte voorsien word sodat studente wat 'n toets moet skryf of dringend internet toegang nodig het, weet waarheen om te gaan.



Academia is in die gelukkige posisie dat ons van gratis US data voorsien word by wyse van die stabiele en vinne vaste intranetpunte in eenhede. Alle studente op kampus moet 'n klein jaarlikse fooi betaal om hul rekenaars en ander toerusting te laat registreer op die US netwerk.

Terwyl dit vir baie jare goed gewerk het, verstaan ons die begeerte om wi-fi (teenoor die vastepunt intranet toegang) te hê. Ons het 'n konsep getoets en is tans in die proses om die ontwerp van 'n wi-fi installasie vir die hele Academia te finaliseer.

## INSTANDHOUDING

Ons het alle eenhede en ons terrein oor Desember en Januarie instandgehou en skoongemaak. Verder is ons in die proses om ons kantoor op te gradeer, spandeer ons tyd aan die tuine en het ons alle gange en trappe waterdig gemaak, geverf en opgeknop. Herinner asseblief u kind om die "log a fault" fasiliteit op die webwerf te gebruik as daar 'n instandhoudingskwessie in sy of haar eenheid is.



## LEIERS EN DISKOM SPEEL 'N BELANGRIKE ROL

Ons het 'n toegewyde span leiers onder die bestuur van ons primarius, Jurgen van der Merwe. Die dissiplinêre komitee, bestaande uit Academia studente onder die leiding van Bantu Louw (een van ons assistent inwonende hoofde) is bymekaargeroep en funksioneer. Die fokus van die dissiplinêre kode is om waardes wat harmonieuse samelewing bevorder vas te lê en is nie gemik daarop om te straf of etikette aan oortreders te gee nie. As u kind 'n dissiplinêre verhoor moet bywoon, wees verseker dat die saak met regverdigheid en met inagneming van die student se regte hanteer sal word.

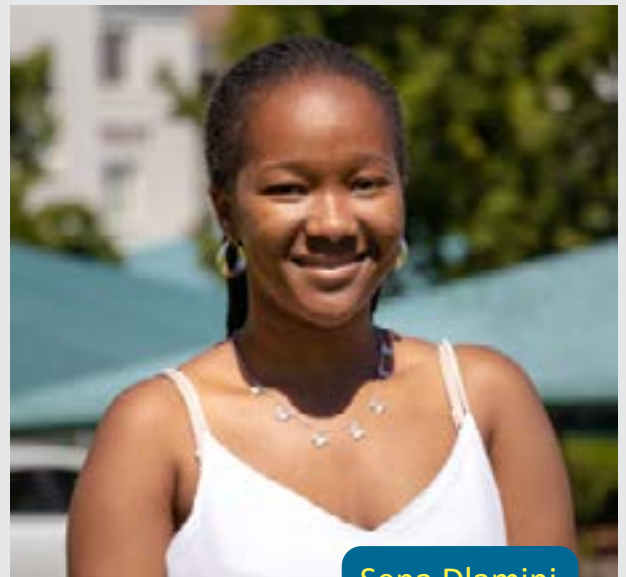
Ons het ook hierdie jaar gefokus op die opleiding van blok-leiers (hierdie leiers word elke jaar deur die inwoners van die onderskeie blokke verkies) en dit werp beslis vrugte af. Die blok-leiers neem hulle verantwoordelikhede ernstig op en kommunikeer uitstekend met die studente in hulle blokke.



Jurgen van der Merwe

# Mentors help met die oorskakeling na universiteitslewe

Ons mentors, ondeir die bekwame leiding van Sena Dlamini, verrig hulle taak om seker te maak dat ons eerstejaars goed intergreer, uitstekend.



Sena Dlamini



## Meriete toekennings vir presteerders

Ons studente het uitstekend akademies geprester in die laaste jaar en ons gaan akademiese toekennings aan 12 studente oorhandig in April, 5 van hulle het hul grade cum laude geslaag! Ons studente doen steeds beter as ander PSO studente en is goed geplaas op die koshuise se prestasielys. Meriete toekennings sal ook vir sport en uitstaande leierskap gemaak word.

## Herwinning en kompos

Herwinning is hoog op ons prioriteitslys en ons het 'n kompetisie tussen die blokke. Daar is natuurlik 'n korrelasie tussen die aantal glasbottels en die aantal kilogramme van herwinning.

## Kommunikasie is aanlyn

Siende dat Academia gevul is met onder 25's, vind ons dat sosiale media 'n uitstekende manier van kommunikasie is. Academia gebruik Instagram and Facebook as ons belangrikste sosiale media platforms. Ons weeklikse program van gebeure en ook ons studente se prestasies word op Instagram geplaas. Foto's van betekenisvolle funksies of gebeure word op Facebook geplaas.



As u wil weet wat aangaan by Academia, volg ons op:

**Instagram:** @acastellies

**Facebook:** AcademiaStellenbosch

Volg ons, sodat u niks mis nie!



# SPORT AND SOSIALE AKTIWITEITE

Die sport jaar het baie goed begin. Die rugbyspan het 'n nuwe afrigter (Erhardt Muth wat ook Paul Roos Gimnasium afrig) en die manne is baie entoesiasies.

Sosiale tennis and vlugbal word goed bygewoon en geniet. Ons mans en dames sokkerspanne het uitstekend gevaar en elkeen 'n derde plek behaal in die voor-seisoen toernooi. Goed gedaan!

Ons beplan 'n bergfiets en "trail running" dag vir later in April asook 'n Academia gholf en boule dag by die Stellenbosch gholfklub op 2 September. Verder is daar pilates in ons saal, tafeltennis en heelwat

ander aktiwiteite in die pyplyn om te verseker dat ons studente fiks bly en om hulle aan te moedig om deel te neem aan spansport. Die 5-aan-'n kant sokkerbaan is permanent in gebruik en so is die vlugbalbaan. Die jaarlikse interhuis sportdag vind op 8 Mei plaas en die huise sal kompeteer in netbal, sokker, skaak, vlugbal, e-sport, ens. Dit is gewoonlik 'n baie kompeterende dag vol pret en plesier wat afgesluit word met 'n braai op die gras.

Die Eerstejaarsdans vind op 8 April in ons saal plaas. As die dans halfpad so opwindend is as die aanloop, moet dit 'n reuse sukses wees!

