

# AKTUA TIMES

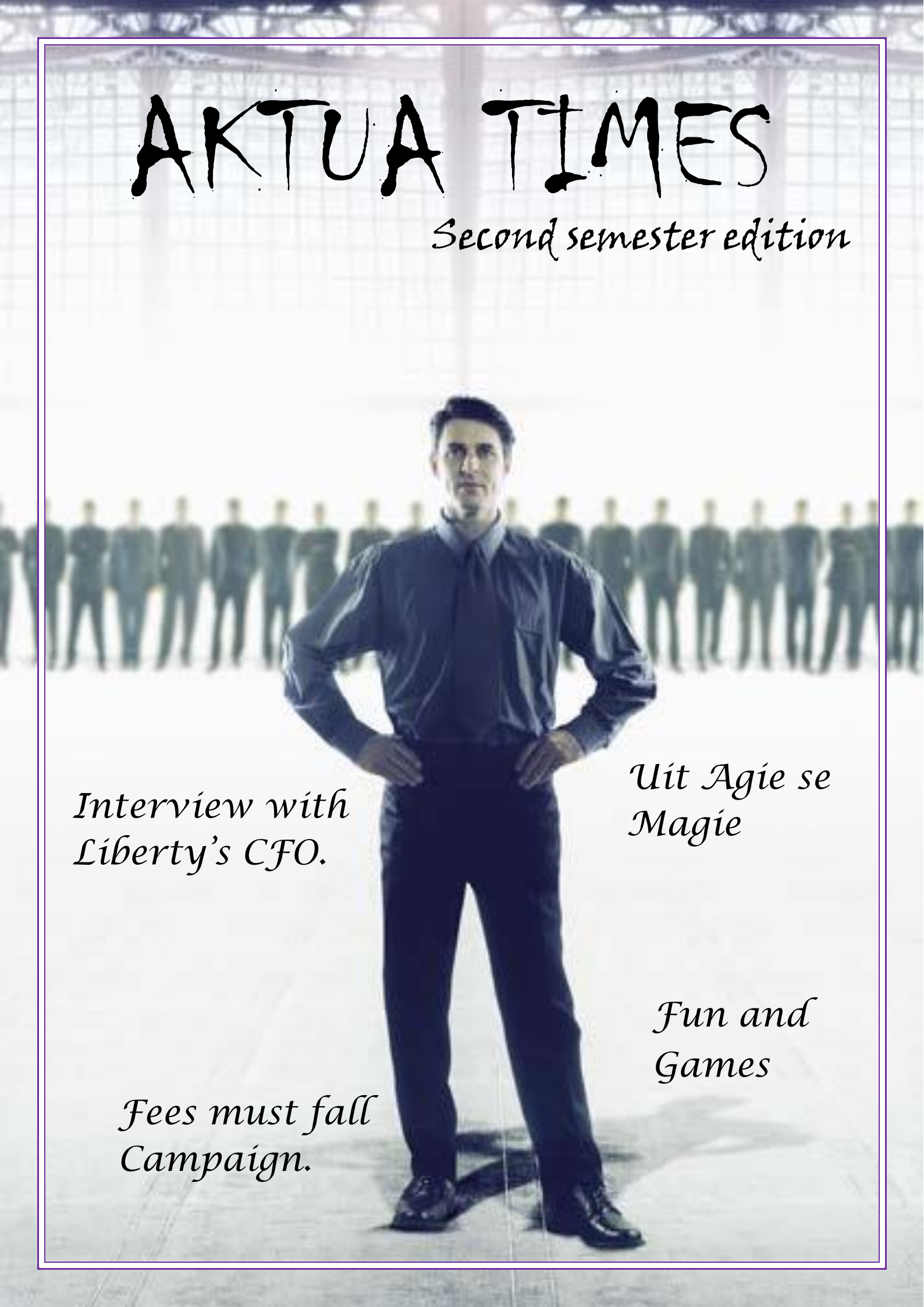
*Second semester edition*

*Interview with  
Liberty's CFO.*

*Uit Agie se  
Magie*

*Fees must fall  
Campaign.*

*Fun and  
Games*



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## Letter from the editor

**“Working hard is important, but there is something that matters even more: Believing in Yourself”**



Second semester 2015 has been an extremely eventful one, and I cannot think of a more suitable quote than that of the one above. For many, this semester has led to a lot of doubting thoughts, whether they be doubting if you can actually pass that semester test which you just did not have enough time to study for, wondering what you will be doing next year after you’ve graduated, or doubting whether all the students of our country could really unite together and achieve something great which many thought to be impossible.

I have been both pushed down and inspired over the last few months and if there is one thing that I’ve learnt it’s that as long as we believe in ourselves, NOTHING is impossible and that if you keep trying your best and working towards your goals then they are all well within your grasp.

For Aktua in particular it has been an especially busy semester, from the huge success of the hoodie sales, the return of the Aktua soccer day and its surprising turn out, to the wonderfully co-ordinated Aktua ball which

ended the year off on an extremely high note, there was always something being looked forward to. A big thank you to all the committee members for their contributions to this edition of the Aktua Times and to all the Aktua members who participated in this Semesters events and gave us something to write about.

We are looking forward to an even more eventful 2016 and wish you all luck for exams as well as for next year, whether you be progressing to the next year of studying, or are graduating and moving on up and into the working world. As always we encourage you all to join us in our future events, we promise you that you won’t regret the amount of fun you are guaranteed to have.

It’s time now for the last push of the year and I hope you all have an amazing and memorable vacation doing all of the things you love, see you on the other side!

*-Catherine Halsey-*

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**AKTUA COMMITTEE 2015:** Danelle Jordaan, Danielle Mitchell, Shamiso Mawoyo, Megan Fowlds, Catherine Halsey, Kendyl Renzulli, Shingirai Muchenje, Nigel Mutero, Naadir Dawood and Kudzai Muzerengwa.



# Career evening



Another semester has come to an end, what career advice did we get this semester?

Firstly we had the CEO from **Outsurance**, Willem Roos. He came to introduce a program for Graduate students, where successful candidates get to engage with the actuarial team from Outsurance among other things. If you are planning to do Honours in Actuarial Science do not forget to send in your CV and Academic Record for a chance to participate in their graduate program.

BRIGHTROCK

Next we had Liesje from **Brightrock Life** who gave us an insight into what tailor-made insurance is. She showed us how financial needs change throughout our lives and how they develop products that cater for all of these changing financial needs. We also had Anton Gerber, an ASSA fellow who spoke about Data Science. Data Science is still an uncharted territory where more researched and an actuarial input is needed.

Finally, we had Andre Boshoff from **Sanlam**. As a financial adviser, he spoke about why it is important to start saving now, how to save, which financial products do you need to invest in as a student and lastly the importance of drawing up and sticking to a budget.



*-Kudzai Muzerengwa-*

## INTERVIEW – LIBERTY LIFE’S CFO AND ACTUARY ANDREW LONMON-DAVIS:

### **1) Which university did you study at and what qualifications did you obtain whilst there?**

I studied at Wits and did a B.Sc (Actuarial Science) and then a B.Sc. Hons in Actuarial science at Wits part time while I started working.

### **2) How long did it take you after completing university to complete all of your Actuarial examinations?**

I finished University in 1987 and finished my exams in 1992.

### **3) What made you decide to pursue your current career path?**

I want a career which built on my strengths in maths but was focused on business and was not attracted to accountancy.

### **4) Could you walk us through your typical day at work?**

I try and keep the first and last hour at work free of meetings for me focus on my work and emails, the balance of the day is mostly spent in meetings and workshops etc.

### **5) What do you enjoy most about your job and is there anything you consider to be a negative about your line of work?**

It is always a challenge, there are always new issues to solve and work on - I can never say I am bored. As actuaries you end up with skills that are valuable to the organisation you work for and often you get caught up in a wide variety of issues which ends up taking more and more of your time unless you manage it carefully.

### **6) Lastly, what advice, if any, do you have for any aspiring Actuaries?**

Be a lazy student!!!! I.e. try to make sure you write each exam only once and try to get as many exemptions as possible while you are at university.



*-Catherine Halsey-*

# INTERVIEW - JUNIOR LECTURER & MASTERS STUDENT SHELLEY NOWOSENETZ

## 1) What did you study at university and how far are you with your studies?

I studied BSc. Actuarial Science and did my BSc (Hons) in Actuarial Sciences too, all at Tuks. I'm currently busy with my MSc in Actuarial Science.

## 2) Why did you choose to study that?

I've loved the intricacies of mathematics since high school and when it came to choosing a degree, I knew I wanted to be challenged on a daily basis. I also want to work with people and so actuarial science was the perfect choice. An easy qualification like accountancy just didn't seem attractive to me.

## 3) What was the toughest thing you ever had to go through or deal with at university?

Aside from certain lecturers who were incomprehensible at most times, I would have to say that managing a distinction for Analysis 310 was the most difficult thing. Everyone had awful semester marks, so managing to keep myself and my friends motivated and positive about the subject was hard to do. Top tip: Even if your marks are horrible, never allow yourself to have a bad attitude or be scared off by a subject. Every subject can be passed!

## 4) What do you like to do in your free time?

I love baking, reading, drinking tea and spending time with my loved ones.



## 5) What is your favourite actuarial joke?

"What's your son going to be when he finishes all his actuarial exams?"

"A pensioner."

## 6) If you had to redo undergrad all over again, what would you do differently?

I would try not to moan so much about all the tests and projects! I know that they are numerous and sometimes it feels overwhelming but everyone is under the same pressure and moaning about it wastes valuable time that could be spent trying to lighten the workload! I would also take all the programming courses a lot more seriously because that comes in handy in the working and research world.

*-Shamiso Mawoyo-*



# QUIZ NIGHT



The quiz night with the engineering students was quite a night to remember for both degrees. From the songs that everyone just could not remember to the rugby terms which the guys from the actuarial side struggled with a bit, it was enjoyed by all the students participating. The winners of the quiz night used their winnings to make a thorough long night stay at Springboks, enjoying themselves with their friends.

The quiz night made sure that we actuarial students got out a bit and forgot about the much studying we still needed to do before the semester ends. It led to both relaxation and realization of some categories which we have little knowledge of. (Wink, wink, nudge, nudge.)

## Tips for quiz nights to come:

For the next quiz night we actuaries should focus on the following topics to ensure we walk away with the prize of the night:

- Rugby and various sport trivia
- Geography &
- 80's music.

We look forward to the next quiz night, which can only get better!



*-Megan Fowlds-*

# Soccer day



It was a scorching hot Thursday afternoon with not even a single sight of clouds in the sky, the wind was still and the air was dry, but that did not stop people from playing the beautiful game of football.

The players were ready to seek the prize of being crowned champions of the day, and those who were there to witness the game were surely promised entertainment. As the whistle blew for the kick-off, the player's blood pressure rose up with excitement. A lot of talent was presented on the pitch especially from players such as Vasili

who danced around players with his exquisite dribbling and Bongi who troubled defenders with his explosive speed and powerful shots.

Yes the tournament was beyond entertaining with a lot of heart and passion shown by the players especially during the final between Team Gold Dust and Team Mamelodi, unfortunately in the game of football there can only be one winner...

Mamelodi were crowned champions of the day, with their star Bongi being voted player of the tournament.

*-Nigel Mutero-*



# ANNUAL AKTUA BALL



It goes without saying that the Annual Aktua Ball is definitely a highlight of the year for all Actuarial Students - and this year was no different. As "Actuaries in Wonderland" we were able to escape from the real world for a very special and memorable evening.

As we ventured down the rabbit-hole into a venue which was stunningly decorated to set up a magical Wonderland, time no longer mattered.

Trevor Duffy - a comic magician - provided us with hilarious entertainment and illusions that left the majority of us rather puzzled...

Add to this delicious food and a challenging quiz that had us all scrambling back to our childhood memories of Disney movies and we had the perfect formula for a fun-filled evening. Certain of us had to quickly learn how to get creative with some new dance techniques which attempted to imitate the sokkie. So at least there was added entertainment all night long.

Combining all this with the gorgeously dressed ladies and handsomely attired gentlemen the perfect backdrop was set to make it an evening to remember.

We hope every single student will treasure the memories made and enjoyed the evening as a well-deserved break. We know that especially for Franna and Michaela it will be a night they will always remember. A special congratulations on your engagement!



The photo booth definitely kept us entertained throughout the evening with some very interesting accessories enthusiastically being utilised and displayed. We cannot wait for the photo disks to arrive!

Despite the earlier events of the week nearly preventing our Annual Ball from taking place we were so grateful we still managed to enjoy an evening we had been planning for all year. I am sure all those who were there can agree it was definitely well worth it. Although our Bokke's final stand did not go as planned thank you all for not being late for a very important date.



A big thank you must go out to the Aktua Ball Committee Members and Mrs Samantha Pretorius for all their hard work towards ensuring the Ball was a success. The endless phone calls and unconventional hours did not go unnoticed. The evening would not have been possible without you!

We so appreciate the support of all the students and lecturers who joined us this year. We sincerely hope you had a lovely time and we look forward to making next year even better!

Good luck to all the students for the upcoming exams and remember, as Alice questioned, "Where shall I go?" the Cheshire Cat wisely responded, "Well that depends on where you want to end up..."

- *Kendyl Renzulli* -



# UIT AGIE SE MAGIE (Through the eyes of a student)

## **First years:**

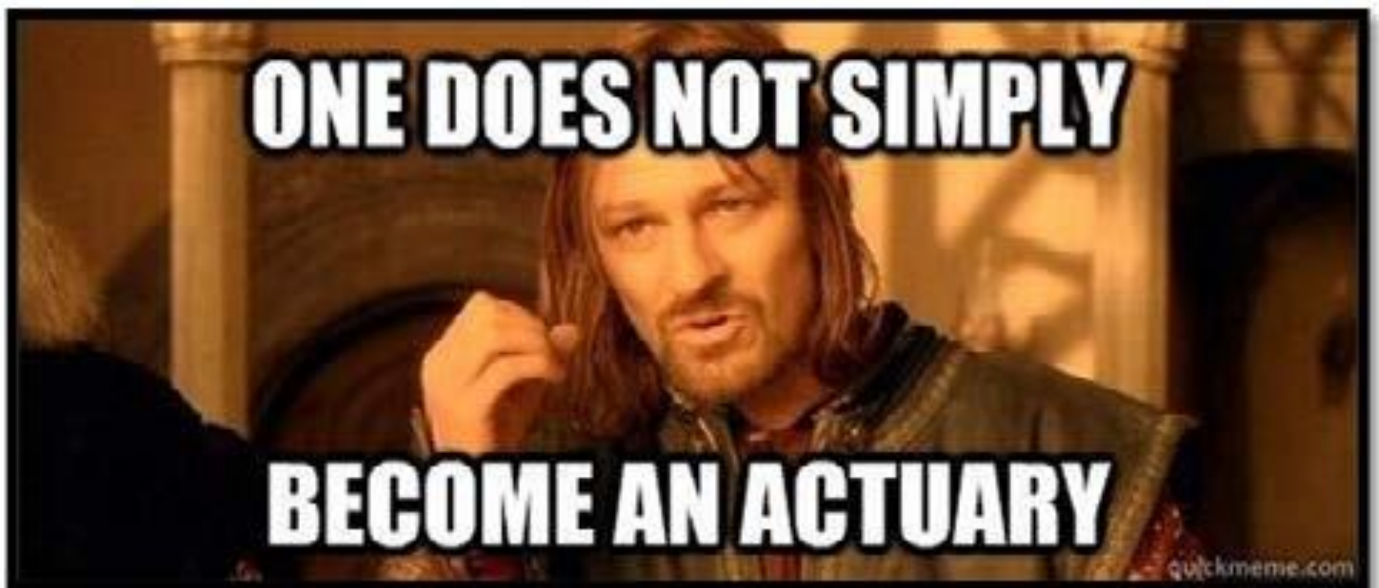
A long year may have been further extended by a week, but we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. The end is near, well for now at least.

Straight outta high school, first year has been a rollercoaster. Getting to bed at ungodly hours and having to make it to the “self-proclaimed elective” 7:30 lectures. Of course Dr. Seymore’s enthusiasm and Dr. Mabula’s jokes made it almost worth it. We’ve learnt how to apply collateral damage to our lives, sacrificing lunch for a lecture or, better yet, vice versa. We have learnt that 60’s are the new 90’s and how to not let a 1/10 get you down. We’ve mastered the art of patience when waiting weeks for results to be published on ClickUp and how we should be studying in any odd chance that campus may be shut down for a week.

Things could only get better after first semester, mostly due to the absence of COS after first semester. Second semester struggles included figuring out whether goldfields was actually on this campus or not, coming to terms with the fact that you can’t always chill with your friends doing BCom who are seemingly perpetually free, and the hushed whispers of the worst is yet to come. “Second year is not any easier” leads one to contemplate if the sacrifices we’ve made are truly dignified. Our numbers have dropped and I hope to see you all next year.

Remember, if you aren’t going to get your Actuarial degree, take a lesson from what was not in the Act Ed notes and marry an Actuary. Good luck for exams and let’s make sure we get all of those exemptions.

*-Naadir Dawood-*





## **Second years:**

This semester has been the worst so far!! We had tests back to back (most of which were a nightmare!) and a pile of work that never seemed to shrink. The only comfort I had was that soon enough it would all come to an end, and now that we're almost there I'm beginning to feel the relief.

Although it was a very demanding semester, it has definitely made a positive impact on me and my approach to working towards graduating. My time management skills improved drastically; I learnt how to make the most of the little time I had to prepare for the many different assessments. I was always on my toes and working hard consistently, which in turn made life so much easier! Spending most of my time in class and studying also created a platform to make friends and become much more acquainted with my peers, which added some fun and laughter to my Academic experience.

Time flew by fast, but I can safely say all the hard work and late nights were worth it. I'm really looking forward to third year, hopefully it'll be better!

*-Shingirai Muchenje-*

## **Third years:**

It's done. It's over. Second semester, of our final year. Regardless of how long it took to get here, we've made it. One more set of exams and then we have our degrees. We can officially call ourselves...wait, we can still only call ourselves actuarial students, never mind that. But we now have bragging rights (but don't brag, that's the engineers' jobs - we're classy). We came. We saw, with crippling fear, the syllabus. And we conquered (if by conquered you mean clung on desperately to the hope of passing).

Let's talk about these subjects that terrorised us. The piles of CT notes that invaded our every waking moment. There was no surprise; the WSTs kept up their fearsome reputation, we can't even complain there. Does anyone else get war flashbacks on reinsurance? Terror at the thought of choosing an optimal decision function? 321 kept up our flagging hopes at least, with some quirky humour and doable statistics - which is a first! Some of us went our separate ways this semester, some choosing analysis (why?), others STK (from what I've heard, they're not too sure what they're doing either) and some good 'ol 382, where death is mentioned in each chapter (we were warned about this). And 364? Well, at least it's been an entertaining trip.

So it has been tough. We knew it would be. We pulled through, we've made it this far and now we just need to push a little harder a little longer. We can do it.

Good luck for exams guys!

*-Danielle Mitchell-*



# #FEESMUSTFALL campaign



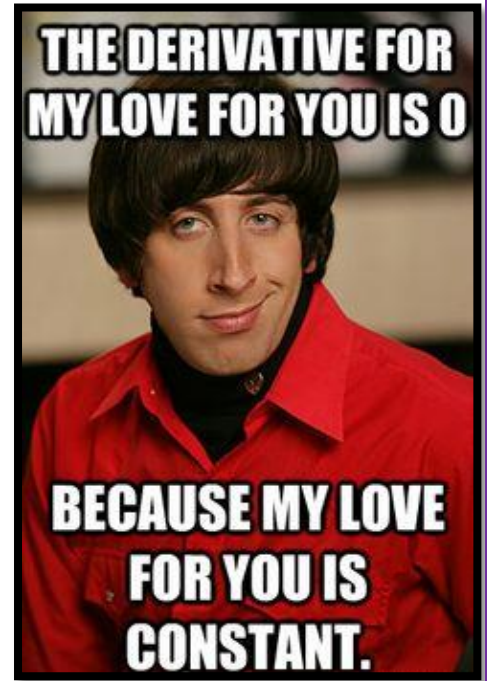
For those of us that did not participate in the protests, it was quite a stressful time. With exams being around the corner and campus being shut down from 21 October to 23 October and then being evacuated on Monday the 26<sup>th</sup>, I'm sure we all had a bit of anxiety over where we would go from there. Luckily after the university and protesting students reached an agreement, all protesting ceased and we were back on track. Watching the protests from the outside was quite inspiring, seeing how everyone worked together for a common cause and how the students achieved something that seemed almost impossible. A victory for students everywhere. For some, the week extension came as a blessing and for others - not so much. I know many of us would just like to end exams and go on vacation (possibly for the last time as undergrads). For third years, it's the last break before the gruelling year of honours or the stressful time of starting work for the first time. So good luck to all our actuarial students with the upcoming exams, and may you not have to come back for supps!

*-Danelle Jordaan-*

# FUN GAMES

Sudoku: Medium level

4	2		3					1										
									1		8	4						
8				2	9			4		2	5	6					9	
1			9					7						3				
2		5							2		7						4	
6	7		8						3		6	9	5				8	
		6						4										
5				4				8	2			8	3		6	5		1
								1	3			1					7	6



7	4	2	6	9	8	5	1	3
5	1	9	3	7	4	6	8	2
3	8	6	2	5	1	7	4	9
6	7	4	8	2	3	1	9	5
2	9	5	1	6	7	4	3	8
1	3	8	9	4	5	2	7	6
8	6	3	7	1	2	9	5	4
9	5	1	4	8	6	3	2	7
4	2	7	5	3	9	8	6	1

5	9	1	2	8	4	3	7	6
4	7	8	3	9	6	5	2	1
6	2	3	1	7	5	4	8	9
3	4	6	9	5	7	2	1	8
2	5	7	6	1	8	9	4	3
1	8	9	4	2	3	7	6	5
7	3	2	5	6	1	8	9	4
9	1	5	8	4	2	6	3	7
8	6	4	7	3	9	1	5	2

NB: If you have any interest in writing for the Aktua Times please contact us! And please like our Facebook page! ☺