

# AKTUA TIMES

2016 SECOND SEMESTER EDITION





# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:

So the end to the second semester of 2016 was definitely not how we had pictured it would be, with the second round of semester tests being cancelled – some modules having their first semester test cancelled too – and the switching from on campus contact lectures to studying from home with the help of YouTube videos and E-tutor sessions, it definitely has made the prospect of the upcoming exams seem even more daunting than ever, but with all the hard work I'm sure you have all been putting in I have no doubt that we will all rise to the occasion and reach our goals, no matter what has happened this semester.

Unfortunately for Aktua we had to cancel a few of the exciting events we had planned such as the movie night and the Aktua soccer day, but worry not, we will make sure to have these next year.

Despite all of this, many of our projects did go ahead incredibly well. Our charity drive this semester was given a boost when we visited a local community development centre, a project we hope to continue with next year, as well as the huge success of the annual Aktua Ball.

A big thank you to all of the Aktua committee members for their contribution to this edition of the E-times and to all the Aktua members who participated in our events this semester.

We want to wish you all the very best of luck for the upcoming exams and we hope that you have an incredible – and much needed – vacation this December, stay motivated, you are almost there.

See you next year!

*-Catherine Halsey*

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# A visit to Vastfontein Community Centre

This semester the Aktua committee started a new initiative to reach out and give back to the community. On the 20th of September a group of students from the society visited the Vastfontein Community Development Centre and spent the evening with the children there.



We made tacos, we made music and we made friends.





Of course the highlight of the night was seeing their faces light up as they decorated their ice cream cones with lots of different candy - okay maybe we enjoyed that part too.

It was great to see the house mothers get a night off from all the incredible work that they do on a daily basis. Both the Aktua members and the children thoroughly enjoyed the evening, the night flew by and before we knew it, it was time to say goodbye to our new vibrant young friends.



Vastfontein Community Centre

We look forward to many more visits filled with fun, games and laughter! Details will follow next year on how to get involved in this incredible outreach.

*-Hazel Makoní*



# Lecturer Interview:

## Dr. Fabris-Rotelli of the stats department:

### BACKGROUND:

#### 1. Full name

Dr Inger Fabris-Rotelli

#### 2. Date of birth

5 July - first year undergraduate at UP in 2001 so work out the year :-)

**3. Family** One cute husband, 1 beautiful 4 year old daughter, 1 naughty 1 year old son

#### 4. Qualifications

BSc Applied Mathematics,  
BSc (Hons) Applied Mathematics,  
BSc (Hons) Mathematical Statistics,  
MSc Applied Mathematics,  
PhD Mathematical Sciences.

#### 5. Position at UP

Senior Lecturer in the Department of Statistics

### INTERVIEW:

#### 1. Where did you grow up and attend school?

Johannesburg, Bryanston High School

#### 2. Why did you decide to become a lecturer?

Some of us just never leave university...





### 3. What is the best and worst part of being a lecturer?

The best is watching students grow in their ability to think scientifically and show this. That road is long - through undergraduate up to Doctoral level. But the growth can be seen and is so nice to see!

The worst is marking too many papers over too short a time period.

### 4. What are your plans moving forward?

I'm not going anywhere - love my job.

### 5. Do you have a motto that you live by?

Just keep trying - everyone has the ability, it's only about how hard you are prepared to work.

### 6. What are your interests? Your favourite past time activity?

Hmmm, I have two small children... I'm either lecturing, marking or making sure the children are still alive. Sometimes I get a short run in...

### 7. Any advice you would like to offer students?

Work hard!!! If you don't do well it is because you didn't work to the level you know you should have (you all know when you have done enough - don't pretend :-)) and so stress yourself under test conditions.

### 8. Is there any random interesting thing about yourself that you would like to share?

I have an extreme obsession with Christmas.

### 9. What do you miss most about your university days?

No bills! No meetings!

### 10. How do you juggle work and being a mom?

Sparse optimization.

### Your Favourite...

\* Food? All food - I do not support dieting. Just go for a run!

\* Subject when studying? I'm a nerd... all of them...

\* Show(s) to watch on television? The only correct answer here is Game of Thrones. I don't know what else is on though (two small (beautiful) children...)

*-Shingirai Muchenje*



# Uit Agie se Magie (through the eyes of the student)

## First year:

*I often think back to when I was in school and I asked people about university... The response I often got back was always to the degree of: "It is gonna be the best time of your life", or, "You're going to have so much fun." While varsity has been new and exciting, the thing I always wonder, is why no one told me about how much work it was going to be!!*

*Sleepless nights have led to tiring days, which ironically sometimes took us down the spiral to failing that one infamous test that stood in our way. Worry not though, if university has taught us anything it is that one stumble will not ruin your race, it will just make you more cautious of where you step while running.*

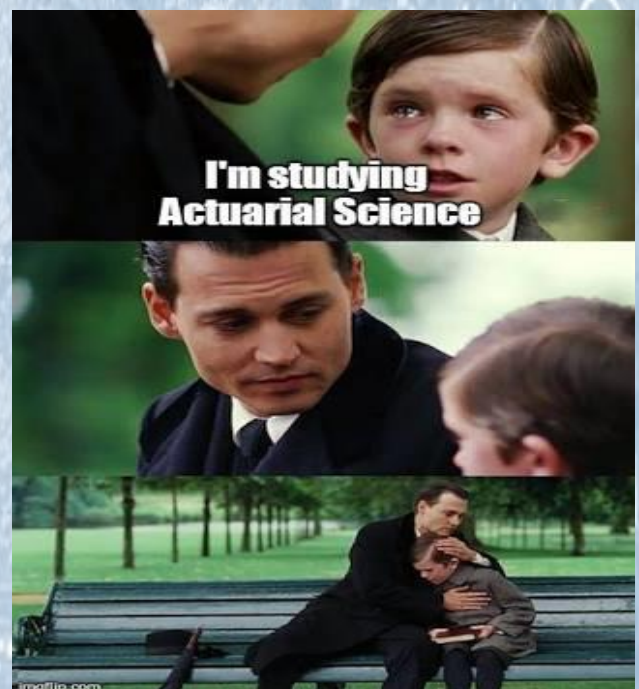
*Mostly everyone thought that the second semester would be much easier, with the welcomed absence of COS and the idea that we now had some university experience.*

*Personally I think it jumped to an entirely new level of difficult, but we are studying Actuarial Science and as such, we should accept the challenge in order to overcome it. The most important thing I have learnt this year is that you cannot rest on your laurels, you have to fight for what you want to achieve, and with exams around the corner there is no better time than now to remember this.*

*Good luck for the exams and remember:*

*"Even if you're on the right track, you'll still get run over if you just sit there."*

*- Will Rogers*



*-Triston Maraj*



## Second year:

*Second Year, Second semester...*

*We've made it halfway and think to ourselves "I've made it this far, it can't get worse than this".*

*Challenge accepted!*

*I'm sure you would agree with me that 3 class tests, a semester test, a mid-life crisis and a mental breakdown every other week isn't exactly what we signed up for.*

*My new semester resolution: "I'm going to quit this YouTube addiction", Lecturers: "Let's all become Youtubers".*

*Throwback to the days when the internet was for taking a break and catching up on series, not the place for online lectures. The Fees Must Fall movement has been an especially trying time on actuarial science students, leaving us to complete the syllabus mostly by ourselves. To add insult to injury, all in a semester which is notoriously known as arguably the most intense over the three years.*

*To cope with the pressures of exams here are a few "Pro" tips:*

***(Disclaimer: follow these tips at own risk and peril)***

- *A 57% semester mark is the minimum required to get the sub-minimum of 40% in a WTW module and still pass the module.*
- *"Common sense" is not one of the 16 recognized axioms at our disposal.*
- *2 Marks are awarded for stating "By linear interpolation".*

**When you're having fun then you remember how close exams are...**

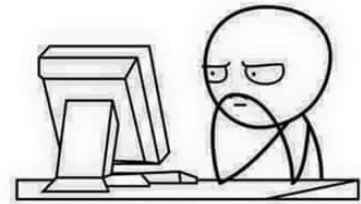


- *If you're unsure what assumption to state, just go with "UDD".*
- *Group work is unfortunately frowned upon under exam conditions.*
- *Exam entrance is automatically granted, but beware.*

*Oh and of course there is no substitute for studying, so study hard and good luck with the exams.*

***-Naadir Dawood***

**Never let your computer know that you are in a hurry.**



**Computers can smell fear. They slow down if they know that you are running out of time.**



## Third year:

Wow. So here we are. Graduation is finally within sight and to say that feels good would be the understatement of the season!

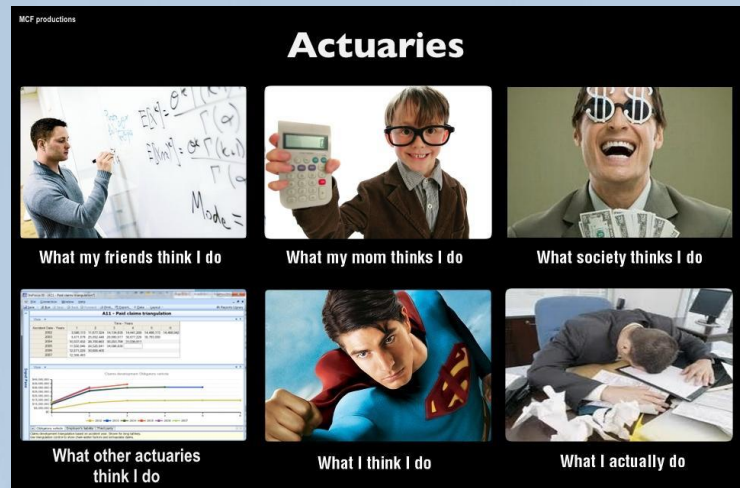
It honestly feels like yesterday when I was this nervous matriculant walking into res for the first time and not knowing a single familiar face and now here we are racing towards the finish line. Time has gone by so quickly especially when you get so caught up in deadlines that you live for each week only now to finally stop and realise that three years have passed by. Who can blame us though? Actuarial Science is no easy undertaking... I know the third years have had a particularly challenging semester being the guinea pigs to have an extra module included that was originally part of the Honours course. So you've got 92 credits this semester? All exemption subjects? Have fun.

On a serious note, I do certainly hope there has at least been enjoyment along the way since the journey is important too. Laughing in class at the lamest math jokes that none of your other friends can spare the patience to endure listening to you go on and on about; getting excited for recess and weekends so you can catch up on work; becoming truly dependent on a daily caffeine intake and many more memories have made varsity the best time of my life - so far. Remember anything truly worthwhile is never easy.

However, we do still have that one last stepping stone ahead of us so good luck to all my fellow third years for these final upcoming exams. We have come so far to reach this life defining moment so let's grab the opportunity with both hands and show third year what we're made of. We've got this!

The future for us at this stage is so uncertain - not specifically referring to the recent political happenings - as some of us may be returning to Tuks next year to pursue postgraduate studies while others can't wait to start working and earning some cash dollar. One thing is for certain though, next year won't be the same; however, this isn't necessarily a bad thing. With it comes a whole new entourage of challenges but adventures too! Your path is what you choose it to be so choose wisely and choose for you.

Don't forget: 'You never know how strong you are, until being strong is your only choice.'  
So Actuarial exams? Challenge accepted.



-Kendyl Renzulli



# A night in Paris

## The annual Aklua Ball

The night began with a spectacular view over Pretoria whilst the sun set in the background.

Everyone came to the venue and got on the “plane”; ready and dressed for a Night in Paris.



At the beginning of the evening there was some shyness on the dance floor and the balcony was filled, but as the evening progressed, the actuarial students let their metaphorical hair down and progressed to the dance floor.

By the middle of the night bellies were filled and everyone was settling down and enjoying themselves.





It was definitely an amazing night to remember and those that were unable to make it missed out on an amazing night which sent the year off with a bang.

Good luck for the year to come and we hope to see everyone at yet another awesome Aktua ball next year.

*-Megan Fowlds*





# A little something to exercise your brain before exams...

Cheryl's birthday is one of 10 possible dates.

May 15	May 16	May 19
June 17	June 18	
July 14	July 16	
August 14	August 15	August 17

Cheryl tells the month to Albert and the day to Bernard.

Albert says, "I don't know the birthday, but I know Bernard doesn't know either."

Bernard then says, "I didn't know at first, but now I do know."

Albert then says, "Now I also know Cheryl's birthday."

When is Cheryl's birthday?

(The answer can be found at <https://youtube/2yeEmqUfI6U>)

When you think you been working for 4 hours and it's only been 17 minutes



When you don't know the answer to an exam question, but you refuse to leave it blank.





# From our readers:

## A poem written by Philisiwe Phomello Shinga

*Oh Marks, Love me.*

*We have had to go through different kinds of emotions over the years,  
Because of you I had to make my breathe be the voice of my tears,  
This is because I had so many of these unreasonable flush of fears.*

*Oh Marks, will you love me?*

*We spent hours going through our plans and desire for the end,  
You made me believe that you are my one true living friend,  
Gave me the thought that you would help me all my dreams mend.*

*But Marks did you ever love me?*

*Of course someday's were much better than the others,  
Days when I did not have to hide my shameful face under the covers,  
And understood the purpose behind the sequence of your given numbers.*

*On these days Marks, I knew you love me.*

*Truth is: you always surprise me once in a very short while,  
Make me forget the idea that you make me sigh more than smile,  
Remind me of reasons why you and I should in the end reconcile.*

*Marks, you make me love you.*

*To be quite honest I never ask for any huge favours from you,  
Except for wishing for your highest level to reflect on my papers too,  
So now I ask that you at least keep your given word true.*

*I ask that you oh Marks love me.*

*All I want from you is a successful road trip and steady journey,  
A reason to look at myself and realize and know for a fact that I am worthy,*

*Now Marks I hope you have heard me,*

*Now all I will do is secretly pray for the existence of your mercy.*

(If you are interested in writing/contributing the next edition of the Times please email us at [aktua@up.ac.za](mailto:aktua@up.ac.za))