



amaNewsletter

the newcomers edition
2023

empowerment through collaboration

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear new amaMatie

Welcome to Stellenbosch University and a special welcome to the amaMaties cluster! I am so excited to have been able to put together the very first edition of the amaNewsletter with an awesome amount of help from Kaelin Louw, amaMaties' social media manager, and the cluster House Committee members. The amaMaties cluster is the best cluster on campus and it is a diverse, warm and welcoming environment. This very first edition of the newsletter is dedicated to the newcomer. The Welcoming period can bring a rollercoaster of emotions and you may question whether you belong. I hope that in those times you are comforted by the fact that not only do you belong in this space - the space is enriched by having you in it. Enjoy every minute of the Welcoming!

Flavia Davids

Cluster Sports manager 2022/2023



MEET THE TEAM



Photo by Cameron Sharp

The amaMaties cluster is very fortunate to be led by a passionate, driven and invested cluster co-ordinator named Benita van Zyl. Benita, or Tannie B as she is known to many at SU, is a teacher by training, an avid netball player and a lifelong learner. In addition to her position as amaMaties cluster co-ordinator, Benita's tenure at Stellenbosch University includes her position as residential head of Serruria Residence, which she has held since 2008, and her appointment as the ResEd manager since 2015. Benita's passion for the cluster is imbued with her love for her students and it permeates her work in the campus community.

MEET THE TEAM



Photo supplied by @amamaties_

The amaMaties cluster conveners for the 2022/2023 term are Arno Schwartz and Lithe-thaa Tembani. Arno and Lithe-thaa are experienced student leaders who served on the House Committees of Capri PSO and Erica Residence during the 2021/2022 term respectively. Arno and Lithe-thaa share a passion for community building and they strive to channel this passion into their role as cluster conveners. Together with the cluster House Committee members, Arno and Lithe-thaa strive to generate a positive impact within the amaMaties community. With them as cluster conveners, the amaMaties cluster is in safe, strong and capable hands. We are excited to have you lead us!

MEET THE TEAM

Kaelin Louw is the appointed amaMaties social media manager. Kaelin's service in the amaMaties cluster has ranged from being a proud member of Erica Residence's House Committee, Erica's Primaria during the 2021/2022 term and now she is channelling her passion for the cluster in her role as social media manager. Her drive, dedication and passion will stand amaMaties in good stead!





CAPRI PSO

House Committee 2022/2023 (Photo by Jana Landman)

Capri PSO is a member of the amaMaties cluster for commuter students at Stellenbosch University. Its establishment in 2018 makes it one of the youngest communities on campus, but in spite of its young age of nearly five years old, Capri stands back for nobody. Capri is described to be a safe space and a place where you can be your authentic self. With its open-door policy, anyone is welcome to relax with the residents of the HC house. With their values of ubuntu, innovation and trots, Capri recognises the many advantages of belonging to a cluster like amaMaties. The facilities offered by the cluster, such as the amaMaties Hub and the backpackers area, is an all too valuable resource at the disposal of members of Capri PSO, also known as Capri-ple.

amaMaties (our cluster) provides support to our community in many ways. The amaMaties community is an excellent space for our students to branch out of Capri and meet other students from various residences and PSOs. A few activities that new Capri-ple can wait in anticipation for include a House Warming, House Gala, Capri Week, Promerito, an Animal Welfare outreach and Capri's fifth birthday celebration. Get keen to celebrate life with Capri!



EQUITÉ PSO

House Committee 2022/2023 (Photo by Imraan Titoti)

Equité PSO was established in 2009 as a community for commuter students from all over. The PSO can be said to be entering its teenage years and with this milestone comes a variety of challenges. However, in all things, perseverance is key and Equité is at the ready to rise to these challenges. Equité is described to be a vibrant community that is led by driven and passionate individuals who are more than keen to assist their fellow Tés. Its values include ubuntu, authenticity, pride, amandla and respect. To Equité, the amaMaties cluster is a friendly community that gives them the space to interact with other communities and forge deeper relationships across campus. Future Tés can look forward to activities such as the newcomers dance and well as the House dance as well as the many different sports and clubs that are offered through the PSO. As the Welcoming period approaches, the excitement that Equité has to welcome and engage with their new Tés continues to grow and they cannot wait to meet you all!

SERRURIA RESIDENCE

House Committee 2022/2023 (Photo supplied by Serruria)



Serruria Residence is the youngest of the Three Sisters, the group name given to the residences Erica, Nemesia and Serruria, which are situated side by side. Serruria's values include sense of belonging, respect, individuality, unity and empowerment. Many Serrurians have expressed that their favourite thing about the residence is its ability to embrace its members regardless of their background. Serruria's enthusiasm at belonging to the cluster comes from recognising that being part of a cluster like amaMaties can cultivate connections and establish community. Serruria strives to buy into the amaMaties cluster's vision of bringing students together and forming relationships that will transcend time and distance. Serruria is very excited to welcome the newcomers of 2023 and would like to encourage them to come to Stellenbosch with an open mind as well as an open heart.

NEMESIA RESIDENCE

House Committee 2022/2023 (Photo by Carmi Wentzel)



Nemesia Residence is one of five residences within the amaMaties cluster. Nemesia has been described as an uplifting community that is comprised of different backgrounds, different cultures and different ambitions. Nemesia is a values-driven member of the amaMaties cluster and believe that its tenets, namely dream, individuality, barmhartigheid, umanyano and respect, are an intrinsic part of their community. They strive to channel the values of respect, umanyano (unity) and barmhartigheid (compassion) to create a community fuelled by love and acceptance. In addition to its values as a mechanism for creating a welcoming environment, the residence recognises that its membership within the cluster can yield social and academic benefits that can further facilitate a sense of belonging among its residents. It believes that the cluster creates a platform and an environment for all communities across campus to create meaningful and lasting relationships through learning opportunities, social gatherings and even through study sessions in their respective hubs. Nemesia eagerly awaits the arrival of its new Nemesians and cannot wait to welcome them in with open arms.



ERICA RESIDENCE

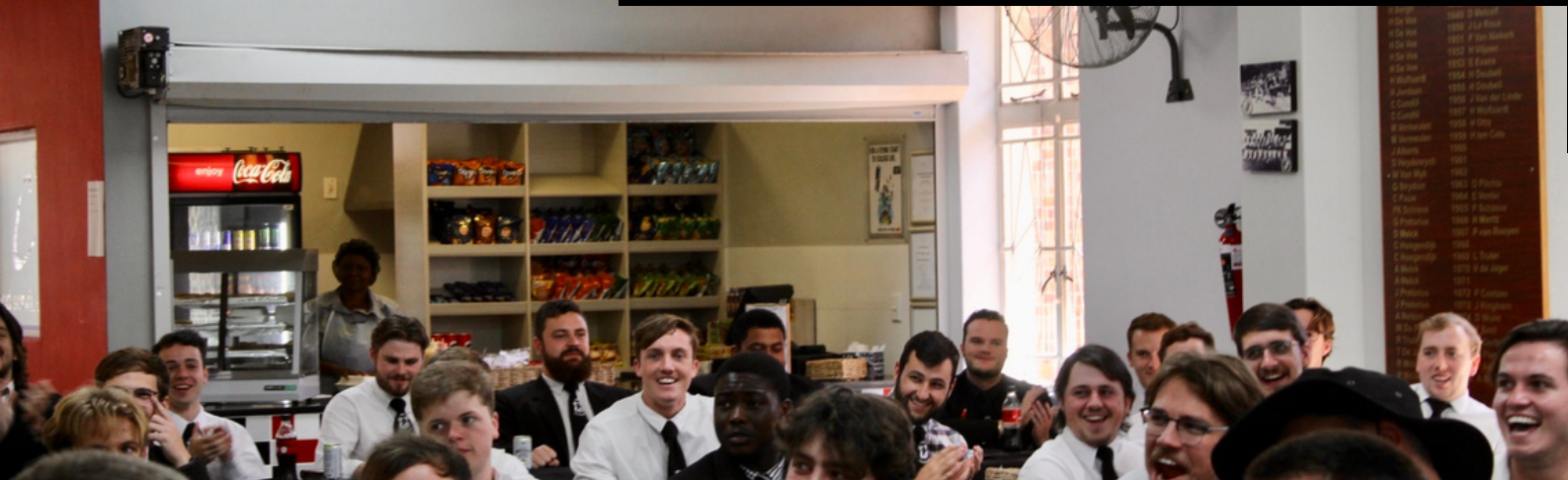
House Committee 2022/2023 (Photo by Jana Landman)

Since its establishment in 1975, Erica Residence has become known as the residence with a passion for pink and a powerful presence. Erica Residence is informed by the values of inclusivity, respect, unity and altruism. By relying on these values to inform their interactions within the Erica community, Erica hopes to create an an extremely welcoming community full of love and respect, and a splash of pink. The concept of cluster plays an integral role in Erica Residence and three outgoing Ericaners including current cluster convener Lithe-thaa Tembani, have been appointed as cluster conveners during the course of the past two years.

The amaMaties cluster also serves as a community space for Ericaners to meet fellow students and creates opportunities to network even after their tenure as students at Stellenbosch University has come to an end. Erica's hope for their newcomers is that they will feel at home and be encouraged to show up in every space as their true, authentic selves.

HELDERBERG RESIDENCE

Community members of Helderberg (Photo by Kondwani Ngulube)



Helderberg Residence is the oldest residence in the amaMaties cluster, and is informed by the BRAVE values, namely brotherhood, respect, accountability, vriendskap (friendship) and enthusiasm. The BRAVE values encapsulate what it means to be a Swarra, or a citizen from the Republic of Helderberg.

Situated all the way on Piet Retief Street, Helderberg is a little bit more than a hop, skip and a jump away when it boils down to location on campus. However, its physical situation does not separate it from the impact of the cluster and the forging of community that happens within the amaMaties space. In fact, Helderberg's physical distance from the main campus shows the ability that the cluster has to transform the communities of every constituency within it into a single, supportive and fun entity. The amaMaties cluster has become the Republic of Helderberg's doorway into the larger student community and the facilities that the cluster has to offer, such as the amaMaties Hub and the Tinie Louw, have become a second home to many Swarras.



HUIS NEETHLING RESIDENCE

Community members of Huis Neethling (Photo supplied by Huis Neethling)

Huis Neethling is a unique residence that has housed many of Stellenbosch University's high performance student athletes since its establishment in 2016. With more or less than 100 residents, Huis Neethling is the smallest residence on campus and is occupied solely by student athletes. Huis Neethling is led by a small yet impactful house committee and mentor team and leads by the motto of "bound by the ties of friendship." Its unique nature as a high performance sports residence exemplifies the amaMaties value of individuality and the importance of friendship is evident through the relationships fostered between the residents of Huis Neethling and the greater amaMaties community.

CLUSTER SPORTS

Stellenbosch University's (SU) Vision 2040 offers that one of the university's main objectives is to facilitate a transformative student experience that enriches the lives of each Matie. One mechanism of achieving this objective is through participation in cluster sports. Together with the Recreation and Lifestyle Unit (RALU) and Maties Sport, the amaMaties cluster is aimed at building a greater sense of community and togetherness through participation in sports. Cluster sports is a wonderful opportunity to create bonds between members of your own community as well as branch out and get to know fellow Maties from SU clusters such as Wimbledon, Rubix, SLS, Validus, Victoria, VicMeyr and TygerMaties in the broader Stellenbosch community through fun and healthy competition. The sports codes that cluster sports will offer in 2023 include netball, basketball, volleyball, soccer, tag rugby and ultimate frisbee. Keep a look out for sign-up sheets that will be disseminated through the various student communities and also join us at the Cluster Newcomers Athletics meeting on 13 February 2023.



**MATIES
ATHLETICS**

**Maties Athletics with the Centre
for Student Communities present**

**Cluster
Newcomers
Athletics
meeting**



**13 Feb 2023
18:00 - 21:00
at Coetzenburg
Athletics Stadium**



CAMPUS RESOURCES

**CENTRE FOR STUDENT COUNSELLING & DEVELOPMENT:
021 808 4707
STUDYSUCCESS@SUN.AC.ZA**

**UNIT FOR PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC & SUPPORT SERVICES:
021 808 4994
SUPPORTUS@SUN.AC.ZA**

**ER24 EMERGENCY NUMBER AND TRAUMA COUNSELLING:
010 205 3032**

**CAMPUS SECURITY
WHATSAPP: 082 808 2333
PHONE: 021 808 2333**

**STELLENBOSCH PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL:
UNIVERSITEITS OORD, STELLENBOSCH
021 887 0310**

**EQUALITY UNIT:
39 VICTORIA STREET
EQUALITYUNIT@SUN.AC.ZA
021 808 3136**

**DISABILITY UNIT:
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