

Title: SA REUNION – ALUMNI MEETING / REUNION für die Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer des Südafrika-Programms der Eberhard Karls Universität (EKU), Tübingen
SA REUNION – ALUMNI MEETING / REUNION for participants of the Tübingen South Africa Program organized by Eberhard Karls Universität, Tübingen

German partner: Barbara Owen
Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen

South African partner: Lidia Du Plessis
University of Stellenbosch

Event: Alumni reunion, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 5-7 April 2013

Brief description:

Every year for the past 13 years, the South Africa Programme run by the Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen has offered 20 South African students from different degree courses the opportunity to take part in an exchange programme. During a four-week stay, participants learn a great deal about German culture. To date, 260 students from Eastern Cape, Western Cape, Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal, which are partner regions of the German state of Baden-Württemberg, have taken advantage of this opportunity to learn more about Germany.

From the very beginning, the programme has been aimed at students who would otherwise not be able to afford such a trip. The stay in Germany is therefore fully financed – from accommodation and food in the refectory through to pocket money and study materials. For almost all students, it is the first trip they have ever made abroad.

An alumni reunion for all the participants is now scheduled to take place between 5 and 7 April 2013 at Stellenbosch University in Stellenbosch, South Africa. The participants from every single South Africa programme (2000-2012) will be invited to spend a weekend in Stellenbosch.

One of the main aims of the event is to give the participants a chance to exchange their experiences with one another and to make new contacts. There are also plans to set up an online platform to make it easier to establish such networks in the future. At the same time, the alumni reunion is intended to be a platform for mutual support. The aim is not only to promote the education and career opportunities for less privileged students, but also create a network of participants from the past. The

former participants provide advice to South African students who are interested in studying in Germany.

The alumni reunion not only offers advantages for the participants: it is also interesting for the project partners to find out how the trip affected the course of the lives of the alumni, which career paths they have followed since and how the stay in Germany contributed to their career opportunities. And last but not least, it also presents an opportunity to find out which alumni can be considered for PhD and postgraduate programmes in the research disciplines that are the focus of the German-South African Year of Science.

The two-day programme of the alumni reunion includes various meetings, excursions and workshops on the experiences gathered in Germany, the possibilities for support and networking forums. The German Consul General, Roland Herrmann, will be taking part as one of the guest speakers.