

New research chair for Stellenbosch University

A new research chair at Stellenbosch University (SU), sponsored by ERWAT, is focusing on innovations in water research as well as upping water treatment and water management skills in the water sector. The ERWAT Chair in Wastewater Management will be hosted by the university's Water Institute. Prof Gideon Wolfaardt, a recognised expert and leading researcher in the biological and engineering aspects of water research, is the first research professor to hold the chair.

The focus of the new ERWAT chair is on scientific and technical advances in wastewater management, water quality, water use and demand, as well as fostering partnerships to improve the water research and management skills of scientists, engineers and technical personnel.

Prof Wolfaardt has returned from Canada to take up the post. There he held a research chair in Environmental Interfaces and Biofilms from 2004. According to Prof Eugene Cloete, SU Vice Rector: Research

and Innovation, ensuring a safe water supply for South Africa and Africa is possible, but will require innovation and action. "We are very excited about the establishment of the ERWAT chair and the opportunities it provides for world-class research and innovation in South Africa's water sector. The institute is also the ideal home for this chair, as we pride ourselves on continually exploring new approaches to water treatment that are durable, cost-effective and more efficient."



Left: Prof Gideon Wolfaardt.

Below: Seen at the launch of the new ERWAT Chair in Wastewater Management are Prof Eugene Cloete, Vice-rector: Research and Innovation at Stellenbosch University (SU); Pat Twala, ERWAT MD, Prof Louise Warnich, Dean: Faculty of Science at SU and Prof Gideon Wolfaardt, the new ERWAT Research Chair.

