

## NEWS

# Knowledge from far and wide

There is a buzz of activity at the USB when Leader's Angle, the monthly early-morning speaker series, is presented. Audiences are invited to share the thought leadership of local and international speakers first-hand on the USB campus, and sometimes elsewhere. Some excerpts follow.



Speaker Prof Anders Aspling, with Prof Laetitia van Dyk, head of the USB's Centre for Leadership Studies, and Dr Noel Jacobs of Stellenbosch University's Military Academy

## International speaker encourages sustainability

It is the responsibility of business to create economic and societal sustainability for future generations, said Prof Anders Aspling, secretary-general of the Globally Responsible Leadership Initiative of the European Foundation for Management Development, based in Belgium. "Instead of looking at sustainability as a strategy, it should be integrated into the DNA of the company. Economic and societal value should go hand-in-hand," he said.



Speaker Mothobi Seseli, Wendy Ngangca from City Mission, and Dr Johan Smith, Financial Management lecturer at the USB

## Creating black role models

People should be more trusting of each other and not only trust those who look like themselves or share similar backgrounds – because they might miss what a wider spectrum of people has to offer their business. This is one of the main lessons Mot-hobi Seseli, MD of Argon Asset Management, learnt. His company manages funds in excess of R6 billion. "You need to live your values even if it means turning a business opportunity away. We seek to be a positive role model by creating black role models in our communities," said Seseli.



Speaker Dawie Klopper with Lwandisa Mfuyo, second-year USB MBA student, and Willemien Law, USB-ED's executive: Open Enrolment Programmes and Africa

## The economy will recover, but ...

People are so affected by negative sentiment and lack of trust that they tend to ignore economic signs of recovery, said an optimistic Dawie Klopper, investment economist at PSG Konsult. "The economy will recover, but there will be some supply-side constraints. This will be due to businesses across the value chain cutting back on inventories and expansion because of dampened global spending. This will lead to the next problem, namely a rise in inflation," he explained.



Speaker Dr Martyn Davies with Nwabisa Mbelekane from Parliament and Frik Landman, CEO of USB-ED

## China goes from 'demon to sudden saviour'

South Africa and the rest of Africa's economies depend on that of China, while this Asian powerhouse depends on the supply of commodities from the continent, said Dr Martyn Davies, executive director of the Centre for Chinese Studies at Stellenbosch University. "Not long ago China was seen as a 'free-loader' in the global economy, but since its involvement in Africa it has gone from 'demon to sudden saviour,'" said Davies.



Speakers Dr Elbé Coetsee and her son Will (middle), with David Katerere (left), a Medical Research Council scientist, and USB Strategy lecturer, Prof Marius Ungerer

## Growing through social entrepreneurship

Dr Elbé Coetsee and her son Will, a final-year MBA student at the USB, embarked on social entrepreneurship to grow a sustainable craft art family business that would involve and benefit the poor in Limpopo Province. "We had to develop and experience this for ourselves; it was not an idea conceived elsewhere," said Dr Coetsee. "The state of the economy has forced many people to become creative in the area of personal talents and skills. I didn't have the vision, but I had the passion." Now her vision is to create employment opportunities, and to nurture and develop children's skills. Research guided them on how to operate in uncontested market space and how to transform socially and environmentally responsible ideas into products. "The aim was to encourage people to buy the experience, not just the product. "Employers and employees have to be in constant communication. Our key values are regard for one another and to be resourceful in dealing with challenges. Empowerment is a two-way process," explained Dr Coetsee.

These talks are hosted by the USB, the USB Alumni Association, USB Executive Development (USB-ED) and the Institute for Futures Research of the University of Stellenbosch, in association with its sponsor, Finweek, and for a period, PSG Konsult.

