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Public Lecture



Mr. Jean-Marie van der Elst

Financial and Business Forensics Expert

Tarifa Forensic Services, Cape Town, South Africa and Madrid, Spain

“Patience, Perseverance & Tolerance”

Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 3:00 PM

Conference Room - Building D

Abstract

When seven grown men spend 31 days at sea on a 49-foot piece of wood, many new experiences are shared, barriers breached and lessons learnt. These are not new, or alien just refreshing and inspiring. Refreshing as we apply these to our everyday routines, shared with our families and colleagues who were so far removed from that long crossing across the ocean and especially inspiring when you see that LOOK in the eyes of youngsters eager to explore and comprehend the vast wilderness of our oceans and the thrill of the challenge. That challenge is not as you might think, a sailing experience, it is far more intangible and yet, as relevant – the HUMAN CHALLENGE that makes seven grown men survive unspeakable seas both raging and becalmed, unbearable fear against mountainous waves crashing over the bow and the relenting rays of our sun, beating hour after hour without a tree in sight, the depth of loneliness in the vast nothing that is the mid-ocean, both below the blue, blue waves and beyond the moving clouds and then of course the endless night sky of stars and more stars, some flickering and others brightly announcing their existence amongst life in the galaxies .

About the Speaker

Mr. Jean Marie van der Elst presently serves a financial and business forensics expert with Tarif Forensic Services of Cape Town, South Africa, and Madrid Spain. He was Managing and Executive Director Grahams Pharmaceuticals, Cape Town (2006-2008), and Visiting Lecturer, University of Stellenbosch, Business School, Cape Town. (2003-2008), Partner and Director of Sculptors Management Consultants, Cape Town (2003-2006), Group Projects Manager for Coca-Cola Sabco Anchor Bottler Africa (2001-2002), General Manager and Country ME Manager, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. (1999-2000), Chief Financial Officer, RJ Reynolds Russia, Moscow, Russia (1998). Finance and Commercial Director of International Distillers and Vinters, Moscow, Russia (1996-1997), Director of Finance, Tetra Pak Russia, Russia and the Baltics (1994-1996), Director of Finance, Tetra Laval CIS, Moscow, Russia (1993-1994), Manager of Product and Trade Finance , Tetra Laval Finance, Pully, Switzerland (1992-1993), Financial Projects Manager, Tetra Pak UK, London (1990-1991), Lecturer in Economic Sciences, University of Port Elizabeth, South Africa (1987-1990), Manager of Financial Services in Economics and Banking, General Motors, South Africa (1987-1989), Senior Economist in Economics and Banking, General Motors, South Africa (1983-1987). In 1996, Jean-Marie van der Elst completed the Senior Executive Programme, Columbia University, New York, USA, and in 1992, he completed the Corporate Finance Programme at the London Business School, London, UK, and in 1983, he completed the Advanced Marketing Programme, GSB, University of Cape Town. He holds a Master of Arts from the University of Port Elizabeth, two bachelor degrees, one in International Economics from the University of Port Elizabeth, SA, and another in Economics from the University of Cape Town. An avid sportsman, he participated in the 2014 Cape2Rio14, as Co-Skipper and Navigator on Hot Ice which informs his lecture at AURAK. He is a sailor, a rugby player and coach, a water skier, and golfer.