

Welcome on board Mr Golele

By the jT News Publications Team

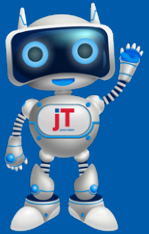
We are delighted to bring out the August edition of jT News under the direction of Mr Rirhandzu Golele, our new Manager: Student Recruitment and JuniorTukkie. We look forward to working with you on various projects and new initiatives. Be assured of our support all the way towards achieving new benchmarks.

We sincerely hope that readers will find the articles on JuniorTukkie events and students' stories on academic and sports achievements interesting. In this issue we also share with you the successes of JuniorTukkie initiatives over several years.



Mr Rirhandzu Golele
Manager: Student Recruitment and JuniorTukkie

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JUNIORTUKKIE



Dr Petrus Lombard

Bon voyage Dr Petrus Lombard

By the Recruitment and JuniorTukkie Team

Your departure from our team leaves so many good memories. We all appreciate the many contributions you made during your time at the University of Pretoria. Thank you for your support and guidance. We will miss you dearly but are excited for the opportunities that lie ahead as you take on your exciting new adventures. We wish you the very best at the start of a new season in your life.

Empowering the construction industry's future generation

By Selena Davids

Pheladi Riba, a professionally-registered Quantity Surveyor, is a passionate advocate for the construction industry and is dedicated to creating awareness among the younger generation about the vast array of job opportunities it offers. Her journey began in 2013 when she applied to study BSc (Quantity Surveying) at the prestigious University of Pretoria. Recognising the importance of preparation, she joined the JuniorTukkie programme, where she attended the Grade 12 Preparation Conference. This invaluable experience helped her excel in exams and laid a solid foundation for her future academic pursuits. [Click here to read more.](#)



Pheladi Riba

JuniorTukkie hosts information session for Grade 9 learners and parents

The JuniorTukkie Office, which forms part of the Department of Enrolment and Student Administration (DESA) at the University of Pretoria (UP), hosted an information session for Grade 9 learners, their parents and Life Orientation teachers on Saturday, 22 July 2023.

More than 1000 Grade 9 learners and parents attended the information session, which aimed to assist learners in making informed choices about their intended career paths and to give guidance to both learners and parents on making safe and responsible subject choices for Grade 10. [Click here to read more.](#)



Grade 9 learners and parents filled the Aula to its capacity



Graduation day

JuniorTukkie initiatives produce pleasing graduation results

By Martie Kilian

JuniorTukkie projects take many forms including empowerment events, an e-learning platform, a mobile app, study advice and information sessions for Grade 9 to 12 learners, their parents and Life Orientation Teachers. Student Advisors provide study advice to learners from as early as Grade 9 to ensure they make informed subject choices for Grade 10. Having a clear direction concerning future career goals and choosing the right subjects ensures that applicants comply with the requirements of their chosen degree programme. Choosing the right degree programme ensures that a student doesn't spend an extra year or two at university. JuniorTukkie supports learners and helps them to cross that degree finish line. [Click here](#) for graduation statistics of students who participated in JuniorTukkie projects over several years.

GIBS

GIBS full-time PDBA: Developing Africa's young business leaders

Strong economies need business leaders with a vision: leaders who can imagine a future that is built on innovation, sound business practices, and ethics and sustainability. To help develop South Africa's business leaders, the University of Pretoria's Gordon

Institute of Business Science (GIBS) offers young graduates the full-time Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration (PDBA). [Click here to read more.](#)



The Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS) Campus

FACULTY OF ECONOMIC AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

UP's EMS Faculty joins 6% of AACSB-accredited institutions worldwide

By the Faculty of EMS

The Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences (EMS) at the University of Pretoria (UP) was awarded the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International accreditation status in April 2023. This accreditation made EMS the first faculty of its kind in Africa to be AACSB-accredited, joining an elite group of only 6% AACSB-accredited institutions across the globe.

The AACSB accreditation highlights UP's commitment to the highest standard of commerce education and global excellence. It affirms that our academics are leaders in their disciplines, delivering cutting-edge knowledge that will make students highly sought-after by top recruiters. By choosing to study with the EMS faculty, you can be rest assured to receive a world-class education with prospects to career opportunities abroad. [Click here to read more.](#)

For more information on EMS programmes visit: www.up.ac.za/ems



EMS graduates



Gontse Mosese, UP Financial Sciences graduate

UP's EMS degree: A gateway to a global career

By the Faculty of EMS

Gontse Mosese, a proud University of Pretoria (UP) alumnus says his world-class commerce qualifications obtained from UP, have laid a solid foundation for his burgeoning career in the financial sector abroad. He holds a BCom (Financial Sciences) degree—obtained with distinction, and a BCom Honours Internal Auditing degree from UP's Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences. 'Both my degrees made a significant contribution to my career. The qualifications provided me with a vast array of knowledge that makes it easier to have insightful and impactful dialogue with different stakeholders, and through that I get to add value in the spaces I find myself in,' says Mosese. He is among an esteemed group of proud alumni flying the UP flag high abroad. He currently works as a Senior Consultant at Deloitte Bermuda in the United Kingdom. [Click here to read more.](#)

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING, BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

UP EBIT Week shows increasing number of female learners interested in STEM subjects

By James Mahlokwane

EBIT Week 2023 drew three times more female learners interested in STEM subjects compared to EBIT Week 2021.

[Click here to read more.](#)

125 girls from various backgrounds, including some of the most rural and remote parts of the country, were among the group of 387 learners who attended EBIT Week 2023.



Occupational therapy is a career of choice for males

By Velangenkosi Wiseman Mthimkhulu



Occupational therapy group session

In the field of occupational therapy, women have historically dominated, playing a vital role in its growth and recognition worldwide. However, there is a noticeable trend of more men choosing to pursue occupational therapy internationally, although progress in South Africa has been slower. One such individual breaking gender norms is Velangenkosi Wiseman Mthimkhulu, a male Occupational Therapy student who shares his remarkable journey in the field.

'As an ordinary guy, I have chosen to embark on an extraordinary path by studying to become an Occupational Therapist. Traditionally, occupational therapy has been predominantly practiced by women, who have done an exceptional job in upholding the profession's value and global recognition. While there has been an increase in the number of men becoming occupational therapists globally, this change has been gradual in South Africa. However, the men who have chosen this path recognize the value of occupational therapy and its potential to help people achieve health and wellbeing.' [Click here to read more.](#)

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

Dr Stephen Symons explores the effects of war in his latest publication

By Robyn Schnell

War has plagued humankind since the beginning of time. In his latest publication, *Afterburn: War Stories* (2023), Dr Stephen Symons describes its effects through the eyes of those who have been in the middle of a conflict.

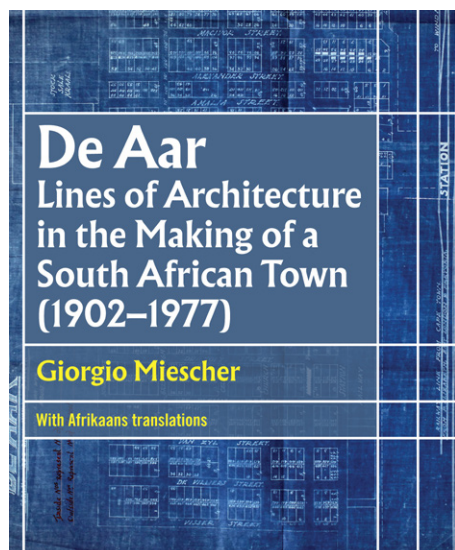
Afterburn is a pocket collection of four short stories that are related to armed conflict and is published by Tattoo Press. The book explores this theme within three different contexts: the South African Border War (1966–1989); the Russo-Ukrainian War (2014–present); and a theoretical scenario

set in the imminent future. Through these scenarios, Dr Symons reflects on the horrors of war, by analysing situations in the past, present and future. Through *Afterburn*, Dr Symons hopes to provide some human insights into the effects of conflict in the hope of bringing an end to its destruction.

Dr Symons, who is a UP alumnus, graduated with his PhD in History in 2019. His work has been published both locally and internationally and has received recognition.



Dr Symons at the launch of *Afterburn*



Book cover

Latest Book from ESI Press explores the importance of small towns in South Africa!

By Robyn Schnell

The latest publication from the Faculty of Humanities' ESI Press constructs the urban history of De Aar, a former railway town in the Northern Cape. *De Aar: Lines of Architecture in the Making of a South African Town (1902–1977)* by Dr Giorgio Miescher traces the establishment of De Aar through its lines of architecture, distinct neighbourhoods and the built environment—the railway line separated the Black and White populations of De Aar. Unlike other previous histories about the town, Miescher presents an inclusive perspective and includes the previously concealed histories of the town's black population. Miescher argues, 'that shifting

attention away from megacities reveals how racially entangled urban spaces emerged in small-town contexts precisely because they were small.'

In *De Aar*, Miescher incorporates archival materials such as structural plans, blueprints and historical maps as well as oral histories to illustrate the town's social landscape throughout the twentieth century. Miescher's inclusive history of De Aar explores the broader social, political and racial landscapes of small South African towns during the twentieth century. [Download the book here!](#)

FACULTY OF LAW

Faculty of Law doctoral candidate receives 2023 Hague Academy Scholarship

By Wendy Ngcobo

Before being awarded the 2023 Hague Academy Scholarship, Ayodele Ojedokun was a third-year doctoral candidate at the UP Faculty of Law, Department of Public Law, researching 'the contemporary complexities affecting the assessment of the legal criterion of a non-international armed conflict under international humanitarian law' under the supervision of Prof Martha Bradley. [Click here to read more.](#)



Ayodele Ojedokun, Faculty of Law doctoral candidate

FACULTY OF NATURAL AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES



Plant science students help set up an educational trail to raise awareness about plant life on Mamelodi Ridge

By Engela Duvenhage

Two plant science honours students at the University of Pretoria (UP) are on a mission to establish a trail for school learners aimed at educating Tshwane residents and preserving the natural splendour of the green mountain ridge rising above Mamelodi. [Click here to read more.](#)

University of Pretoria honours in Plant Science students Ms Jessica Berry, Ms Manare Moloto and Ms Lynadia Samuels during a recent visit to Dr Ephraim Mabena's medicinal plant nursery in Mamelodi. They were accompanied by medicinal plant scientist Dr Gary Stafford (right) of the UP Department of Plant and Soil Sciences.

PSANA Chair encourage young scientists to take a leap of faith

By Martie Meyer

'I would encourage all postgraduate students to take the leap of faith and apply for that conference you would like to attend even if you are hesitant. After all, you miss 100% of the opportunities you don't take.'

These sentiments were shared by Henrico Langeveld, PhD Biochemistry candidate in the Malaria Parasite Molecular Laboratory (M2PL) in the Department of Biochemistry, Genetics and Microbiology, after presenting for the first time at an international conference. Henrico is also the Chair of the Postgraduate Student Association of the Natural and Agricultural Sciences (PSANA). [Click here to read more.](#)



Henrico Langeveld



Courtney Gehle

Courtney Gehle selected as prestigious Schwarzman Scholar

By Martie Meyer

Courtney Gehle, a UP alumna who graduated with a BSc in Geography in 2016, was recently selected as a Schwarzman Scholar, one of the most prestigious postgraduate fellowships in the world. She is only the fifth South African, the second from UP, and the only one of the 2023/2024 cohort selected from over 3 000 applicants.

'Being selected as a Schwarzman Scholar and studying towards a master's degree at Tsinghua University in China will grant me the opportunity to marry two important fields of knowledge —environmental science and global affairs, to be a more impactful development professional,' an elated Courtney said when sharing the news.

Explore, Experiment and Engage at Sci-Enza

By Retshegofaditswe Sekgweleo

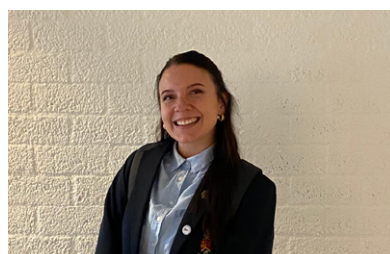
Sci-Enza, the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences' own science centre, hosts a variety of science enrichment programmes to complement a child's learning experience. These programmes help learners with their studies and in gaining other important skills such as communication, critical thinking and problem-solving skills outside of their normal class environment. A science enrichment programme can be one that is hosted after-school, on Saturdays and during school holidays. These programmes offer kids interactive lessons that relate to their school curriculum so that they can see and understand the relevance and application of the concepts they do at school. The activities include DIY projects, arts and crafts, treasure hunts and many more tasks that encourage learners to actively participate in them.

[Click here to read more.](#)



UP's Sci-Enza science centre introduces young learners to the wonders of science.

FACULTY OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGION



Iwana Hartmann

Studying Theology and Religion at UP can really take you places

By Iwana Hartmann

Iwana Hartmann, a PhD student in UP's Faculty of Theology and Religion, has recently taken part in the Erasmus+ Exchange programme between the University of Pretoria in South Africa, and the Protestantse Theologische Universiteit in the Netherlands. She shares her experience of being abroad for three months, which surpassed all her expectations.

[Click here to read more.](#)

FACULTY OF VETERINARY SCIENCE

Faculty veterinarians assist CoT with Rietvlei cheetah capture for relocation

By Chris van Blerk

Sometimes the role veterinarians play during a wildlife capture and relocation operation is underestimated. Without them it will not really be possible. Wildlife veterinarians Dr Jacques O'Dell and Dr Bart Gazendam and students of the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Veterinary Science recently assisted the City of Tshwane (CoT) with the capture and relocation of five cheetahs residing in the Rietvlei Nature Reserve. It formed part of the Cheetah Metapopulation Project and was done in association with the Aspinall Foundation as well as Dr Peter Caldwell from the Old Chapel Veterinary Clinic in Pretoria. [Click here to read more.](#)



Dr Jacques O'Dell, specialist wildlife veterinarian prepares the VHF collar for placement on the young female.



Prof Katja Koepfel with the vulture after performing the successful procedure.

Another first for SA as University of Pretoria veterinary team performs a beak replacement on a vulture

By Chris van Blerk

What do you do when a white-backed vulture with a crushed beak needs a new beak and two attempts to fit a beak of acrylic and wires fail? You improvise and use a beak from a deceased white-backed vulture, successfully enabling her to feed again. In a first for South Africa this remarkable procedure was recently performed by Prof Katja Koepfel, veterinary wildlife specialist in the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Veterinary Science at Onderstepoort and a team of her colleagues. The beak of the female African white-backed vulture (*Gyps africanus*), an endangered species, was crushed when she was hit by a car in March 2023. She also presented with a serious injury to the head which left her blind in the right eye. [Click here to read more.](#)

Promise to dad is why Shongwe is playing football again and scoring goals

By Wilhelm de Swardt

A few years back, Wendy Shongwe promised her dad she would take up football again after she finished matric at TuksSport High School. She kept her word. In 2021 she was back on the field. It did not take long for her natural talent to come to the fore. The same year she received the Varsity Tournament Player of the Year award. This year she got a call-up to the Banyana Banyana team, which toured Serbia. At the end of the month she will be playing at the FIFA Women's World Cup to be co-hosted in Australia and New Zealand (20 July–20 August). Those following the Hollywood Bets Women's Super League are not surprised. Shongwe is one of the League's top goal-scorers. [Click here to read more.](#)



Wendy Shongwe | Photo by Reg Caldecott



Esihle Zondo | Photo by Reg Caldecott

#TuksWaterpolo: Esihle Zondo is inspired by Serena Williams to be a trailblazer in poolball

By Wilhelm de Swardt | Photo by Reg Caldecott

If Esihle Zondo's name crops up in a conversation about sports, there is a real chance that someone won't know in which sport she represents South Africa.

A logical guess is that she is an athlete or participates in ball sports. But it is incorrect. The Tuks student plays water polo. In July, the 19-year-old will represent South Africa at the World Aquatics Championships for the third time.

According to Zondo, when she started playing, few good players of colour were any good at playing water polo. It served as extra motivation for her. [Click here to read more.](#)

Playing against the best in water polo gets January's adrenaline pumping

By Wilhelm de Swardt

Eight years ago, Shakira January would have battled to keep her head above water in a swimming pool, but not anymore. A lot has changed. She is now a seasoned international water polo player. In July, the 20-year-old January and Esihle Zondo will represent South Africa in women's water polo at the World Aquatics Championships in Japan. This is hard to believe, especially considering that January only learned to swim near the end of her sixth-grade year.

"I used to be an avid athlete and netball player. When it came to swimming, I was the 'drowning kid'. My friends convinced me that it was high time for me to learn how to swim. I will forever be grateful to them. Two years later, my cousin convinced me to play water polo. It did not take long for me to get hooked. [Click here to read more.](#)



Shakira January | Photo by Reg Caldecott

Join the JuniorTukkie initiatives

Become a JuniorTukkie member: Complete the membership form at www.up.ac.za/juniortukkie > Become a JuniorTukkie.
Utilise the JuniorTukkie Online e-learning platform: Register on the JuniorTukkie Online platform at juniortukkie.online.
Receive important notifications via the JuniorTukkie App: Register on the JuniorTukkie App at juniortukkieapp.co.za.

Contact us

JuniorTukkie Office:
juniortukkie@up.ac.za

JuniorTukkie Online:
studentsupport@juniortukkie.online

Student Advisors:
carol.bosch@up.ac.za

JuniorTukkie App:
martie.kilian@up.ac.za

**JuniorTukkie membership
(Grade 9 to 12):**
themba.maluleka@up.ac.za

**JuniorTukkie
Student Ambassador's Society (JTSAS):**
selena.davids@up.ac.za

Social media



JuniorTukkie website:



JuniorTukkie Facebook:



JuniorTukkie Instagram:



JuniorTukkie App:

Produced by the Department of Enrolment and Student Administration in August 2023. Comments and queries can be directed to ssc@up.ac.za or Tel: +27 (0)12 420 3111.

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