

## Message from the Manager

### Student Recruitment and JuniorTukkies

When the JuniorTukkies initiative started in 2004, it was an unknown concept. Over the years, it has proved to be a successful concept bridging the gap between high school and University. In the March 2023 edition, we encouraged learners in Grade 8 to 12 to register as members of JuniorTukkies to allow them access to the [e-learning resources](#). The e-learning resources provide learners with the benefit of improving their academic skills, which leads to better academic achievement at school. The JuniorTukkies programme allows learners to broaden their horizons and zoom in on realities beyond the school environment.

During 2023, the Institutional Recruitment Division successfully hosted the Information session for Grade 9 learners, their parents and Life Orientation teachers, the Grade 11 Empowerment Week, the [virtual information session for Grade 11 learners](#), their parents and Life Orientation teachers, the Grade 12 Preparation Conference, the Summer School for Grade 11 learners and the Winter School for Grade 12 learners.

Congratulations to every learner who managed to get to the end of the year and able to write their end-of-year exams. Studying for exams is bitter, but the fruit it bears is lovely. The journey can be long and full of challenges, yet the reward is for a lifetime. To all matric students, please remember to focus on your inherent ability, talent, and capacity to learn and excel as you choose careers at the tertiary level for the academic year 2024.

My sincere appreciation and thanks go to the undergraduate recruitment team for impacting the lives of so many learners by adding value to their lives and helping them dream big. The interaction with students helps them to expect more of themselves than others think is possible.

As we end 2023, I thank everyone who contributed content to the jT newsletter. Thank you to the producers of jT News for always maintaining contact with our stakeholders.



**Mr Rirhandzu Golele**  
*Manager: Student Recruitment and JuniorTukkies*



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## Grade 12 learners benefit from a preparation conference for final examination and university success

By Selena Davids and Refuwe Miya



Grade 12 learners during the Preparation Conference

JuniorTukkie hosted 150 learners from different schools and provinces at the Grade 12 Preparation Conference held at Southern Sun Pretoria from 30 September to 2 October 2023. This inclusivity allowed participants to familiarise themselves with new faces they might encounter in their university journey, preventing feelings of isolation and boredom.

The subjects covered during the Conference included Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and English, with a focus on providing the best education possible. Mental health, often overlooked, was also a significant point of discussion. An expert in the field conducted a presentation, emphasising the importance of mental well-being and equipping learners with tools to address this vital aspect of life.

To conclude the event, the matriculants visited Investec in Sandton using Gautrain transport. They had the opportunity to interact with professionals who were once in their shoes, sparking motivation. And lastly, a movie screening provided a relaxing and enjoyable way to wrap up the Conference.



## Orientation for new first-years 2024

Get a head start on your academic journey by attending the Orientation Week for new first-year students from 12 to 16 February 2024. During this week, you will learn more about academic expectations, receive curriculum advice, learn about available resources, study spaces, how to access online platforms, and much more! Detailed breakdowns of activities during Orientation Week, information about registration and student cards are available at this link: [www.up.ac.za/orientation](http://www.up.ac.za/orientation).

## #CHOOSEUP

### #ChooseUPDay2023 shows that the University of Pretoria remains the university of choice

By James Mahlokwane

Thousands of prospective students, mostly Grade 12 learners, made their way to UP's campuses on Saturday, 9 September 2023, showing that the institution was still the university of choice for many people in South Africa and beyond.

"Our mission entails producing graduates who are not only global citizens and leaders, but who are also equipped with the skills, innovation and dedication to address the evolving needs of our world" Interim Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Themba Mosia said. [Click here for more.](#)



UP Interim Vice-Chancellor Professor Themba Mosia addresses prospective students, parents and guardians during #ChooseUP Day.

## UP-led unveiling of Mamelodi Business Hub provides a beacon of hope for youth entrepreneurial skills development

By Department of Business Management

The youth of Mamelodi have a one-stop shop for skills to boost their entrepreneurial aspirations after the University of Pretoria (UP) formally unveiled the revitalised Mamelodi Business Hub (MBH) recently.

Launched by UP and established in collaboration with UNICEF South Africa and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), the Hub on the Mamelodi Campus offers young people in Mamelodi and further afield the opportunity to realise their entrepreneurial ambitions.

The Hub has been reborn as a space for youth to grasp opportunities to pursue their entrepreneurial ambitions, transforming their social and economic prospects and, at the same time, improving the well-being of their communities and the country. [Click here for more.](#)



Back row, from left: Samantha Rabie and Carto Abrams-Swartz from the UP Department of Business Management. Seated: Koketso Makatu, Teboho Ntisa and Lebogang Lebese.

## THE ADVANTAGES OF AN AACSB ACCREDITED UNIVERSITY



The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) is the oldest and most prestigious business school education and accreditation body in the world.



The Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences at the University of Pretoria is the first faculty of its kind in Africa to be AACSB-accredited.

### WHY CHOOSE THE FACULTY OF EMS?

By choosing the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, you can be confident that:



You are receiving the very best in business education



You will acquire cutting-edge knowledge from top academics who are leaders in their fields



You will be shaped into an innovative and critical thinker who will add value to society



You will receive the highest quality education and relevant knowledge through our commitment to excellence and continuous improvement



### AACSB ACCREDITATION BENEFITS FOR OUR STUDENTS AND GRADUATES:



Exposure to world-class education and international career prospects



International recognition in management, finance and economic academic programmes of at universities abroad



Highly sought-after by recruiters



Access to a host of holistic developmental opportunities through AACSB's official student site



Access to international job opportunities at AACSB-associated businesses and organisations



Elite status and competitive advantage in the marketplace as part of only 6% of institutions globally that are AACSB-accredited



## Amber Freestone becomes a Finalist in the GBCSA IFC Women in Green Building Competition

By Department of Construction Economics

Amber Freestone, a BSc Quantity Surveying (Hons) student, was selected as one of the ten finalists in this competition. She attended an EDGE Expert training course and stood the chance to win one of three exclusive tickets to the Green Building Convention in Cape Town. Amber expressed her thanks to Yovka Raytcheva-Schaap from Zutari and Danie Hoffman from UP for encouraging her to enter the competition.

[Click here for more.](#)

## EBIT open day 2024

Prospective students are invited to visit the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment, and Information Technology on Saturday, 13 April 2024. The programme and the registration form will be available closer to the time on the UP website at this link: [www.up.ac.za/ebitweek](http://www.up.ac.za/ebitweek)



**EBIT Open Day**  
13 April 2024  
Register online  
[www.up.ac.za/ebit-week](http://www.up.ac.za/ebit-week)  
Innovating our tomorrow

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UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
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## FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

### Trailblazing student spotlight: Physiology student's remarkable academic journey

By Dr Yvette Hlophe

We are thrilled to highlight the remarkable achievements of Charlise Basson, a dedicated student from the Department of Physiology. Charlise's journey at the University of Pretoria has recently taken an exciting turn, as she has upgraded from an MSc student to a PhD candidate. This upgrade is a testament to her outstanding contributions and the expansive scope of her research project. [Click here for more.](#)



Prof Sunil Maharaj, UP Vice-Principal, presents Charlise Basson with her well-deserved prize as the winner of the Three Minute Thesis Competition at the University of Pretoria.

## Mental health is a universal human right

By Prof NJ Bila



Prof Nontembeko Bila

“Timely professional help, a supportive environment, and self-care practices are critical components of managing mental health challenges,” says Prof Bila, Associate Professor and Acting Head of Department: Department of Social Work and Criminology.

As we observe World Mental Health Day on 10 October, we are reminded of the critical need to prioritise mental health as a universal human right. This principle holds immense significance for the University of Pretoria community—staff and students alike—as it underscores our responsibility to foster an environment that nurtures mental well-being. Mental health is not merely the absence of a diagnosed mental disorder but encompasses the overall well-being of an individual’s emotional, psychological and social state. It is a continuum, ranging from optimal functioning to severe impairment. World Mental Health Day highlights the need for comprehensive mental healthcare, aiming to eradicate the stigma around mental health issues and advocating for equitable access to support and treatment. [Click here for more.](#)



## FACULTY OF LAW

### UP Law congratulates Prof Dire Tladi on his election to the International Court of Justice at the Hague

By Lebohang Mokhomatha

UP Law celebrates yet another achievement. Prof Tladi Dire, a faculty member who is the National Research Foundation South African Research Chairs Initiative in International Constitutional Law and the Future Africa Chair in Global Justice for Africa on his election as a judge to the International Court of Justice, which is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations at the Hague. He will serve as a judge for a 9-year term from February 2024 as per his appointment by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. A first for a South African citizen to serve in this prestigious role. [Click here for more.](#)



Prof Tladi Dire

## FACULTY OF NATURAL AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES



Gizelle van Niekerk

### Gizelle van Niekerk awarded Presidential Portuguese medal

By Martie Meyer

Gizelle van Niekerk, a cum laude graduate in MSC Chemistry, was recently awarded the Presidential medal for outstanding academic achievement by the President of Portugal. This factors in both undergraduate and postgraduate studies at UP.

“It is a great honour and privilege to have received the Presidential Medal. It is wonderful to know

that the quality of the education at UP generates students whose achievements are recognised nationally and internationally. I am extremely grateful for this award, as it is a testament to endless hours in the laboratory and countless late nights studying fervently throughout my studies,” said an elated Gizelle when asked how she felt about this award. [Click here for more.](#)

## Up and coming theologian and pastor appointed as leader within the WCC

By Jacques Heymans and Dana Mahan

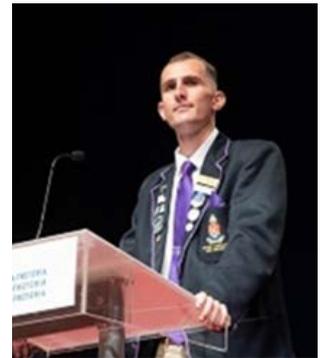
Jacques Heymans, a master's degree student in the Faculty of Theology and Religion at UP, was recently appointed as a Youth Delegate for the World Council of Churches (WCC).

The WCC "is a fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the scriptures, and therefore seek to fulfil together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is a community of churches on the way to visible unity in one faith and one eucharistic fellowship, expressed in worship and in common life in Christ. It seeks to advance towards this unity, as Jesus

prayed for his followers, so that the world may believe. The World Council of Churches (WCC) is the broadest and most inclusive among the many organized expressions of the modern ecumenical movement, a movement whose goal is Christian unity."

"My appointment as a Youth Delegate is set until 2030, and I am incredibly excited about the journey ahead. The group of individuals I will be working with is truly remarkable—a diverse and dynamic assembly that holds immense potential to make a meaningful impact."

[Click here to read more.](#)



Jacques Heymans



## FACULTY OF VETERINARY SCIENCE



Phoenix at the OVAH during her follow-up visit

## UP veterinarians save brave dog after she got shot during an attempted armed robbery

By Faculty of Veterinary Science

Veterinary surgeons at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital (OVAH) recently saved the life of a brave dog that saved her family from robbers. Phoenix, a female Africanis, attacked armed robbers when they attempted to enter the home of the Motalane family. The

robbers violently shot at Phoenix, who was protecting her home and family. One of the bullets hit Phoenix in her head, but she continued charging at the intruders and managed to chase them away. [Click here for more.](#)

## TUKSSPORT

## #TuksSport: Dewey Swartbooi is appointed as the new head coach for TuksRugby

By Jacques Heymans

TuksSport are pleased to announce the appointment of Dewey Swartbooi as the new head coach for TuksRugby. "The appointment is a massive honour and privilege, and with it comes great responsibility because UP has a rich tradition to uphold. Hence, I am nervous but excited for the journey," Swartbooi said.

He has a significant coaching history, having dedicated his career to developing and nurturing

young rugby talent. His coaching journey at TuksRugby included being the assistant and defence coach during previous Varsity Cup campaigns. This year, he took charge of TuksRugby during the Carlton Cup and the USSA Student Rugby Week. A few years ago, in 2017, Swartbooi led the UP-Tuks Young Guns to victory as their head coach, showcasing his skills in implementing game plans, individual skill development, and effective defence systems. [Click here for more.](#)



New TuksRugby head coach Dewey Swartbooi. (Image: Reg Caldecott)

## Join the JuniorTukkie initiatives

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

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**JuniorTukkie  
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[selena.davids@up.ac.za](mailto: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 November 2023. Comments and queries can be directed to [ssc@up.ac.za](mailto:ssc@up.ac.za) or Tel: +27 (0)12 420 3111.

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