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**PRESS RELEASE**

**28 March 2018**

**UP achieves 94.2% first-timer pass rate in recent SAICA exams**

University of Pretoria (UP) students from the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences achieved a brilliant 94.2% first-time writer pass rate, against the national South African first-time writer pass rate of 78%, in the January 2018 ITC exams administered by the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA).

SAICA’s Initial Test of Competence (ITC) exam is the first of the two professional exams that candidates are required to pass during their traineeship period of three years before they qualify as chartered accountants.

UP also achieved a remarkable pass rate of 92% for all candidates (first-time and repeat candidates) writing the exam, compared to the South African pass rate for this cohort of 74%.

The pass rate of 94.2% gives UP a first-time writer pass rate of above 90% in eleven out of the last twelve years since 2007 and bears testimony a record of consistent excellent performance over more than a decade. Also remarkable is the fact that UP’s average first-time pass rate over the last twelve years is 94%.

UP also had the highest combined pass rate in South Africa for the January and June ITC exams in 2017, with an astounding pass rate of 98.5%.

Two candidates from UP are listed under the top 10 out of a total of 3012 candidates who sat for the exam. Christin Thomas is placed eighth and Jani Rademeyer placed ninth. Both women passed with honours, meaning that they achieved at least 75% and both also passed their postgraduate diplomas and certificates in the theory of accounting at UP, with distinction.

“The Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences is extremely proud of our students and staff and heartily congratulate them on their results,” said Prof Johan Oberholster, Deputy Dean: Teaching and learning in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences.

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