



Inclusivity | Support | Excellence

NATHouse Newsletter

Issue No. 1 | April 2022



The 2021/2022 NATHouse Executive Committee (EC) at the handover dinner along with the 2020/2021 NATHouse EC. From left to right (back row): Christiaan Grobler, Nomsa Mboneli, Lu-nita Berrange, Chrizelda Visser, Sonet Vermaak, Kimberley Taku, Christiaan Steenekamp and Stefan Steenekamp (NATHouse chairperson for 2020/2021). Front row: Carla Visagie, Kgothatso Setshedi, Zeenat Patel, Zimazile Ndlovu and Eve Mashamba.

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Our vision for the term can be broadly divided into inclusivity, support and excellence. This means that we want to make sure you feel like you are welcome at all our events and feel enthusiastic about participating in all our activities. It means that we want this faculty to feel like a warm and open community and that you can always expect us to give our very best for you. We hope you enjoy our first newsletter of 2022!



NATHouse EC on camp in November 2021

An introduction & letter from the chairperson

An introduction

NATHouse is the faculty house of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. We are here to help you make the most of your time at the University of Pretoria.

Do not hesitate to contact us, we are always ready to help.

We are proud to be the house committee of such a world-class faculty. And wish you all the best for your time at the University.

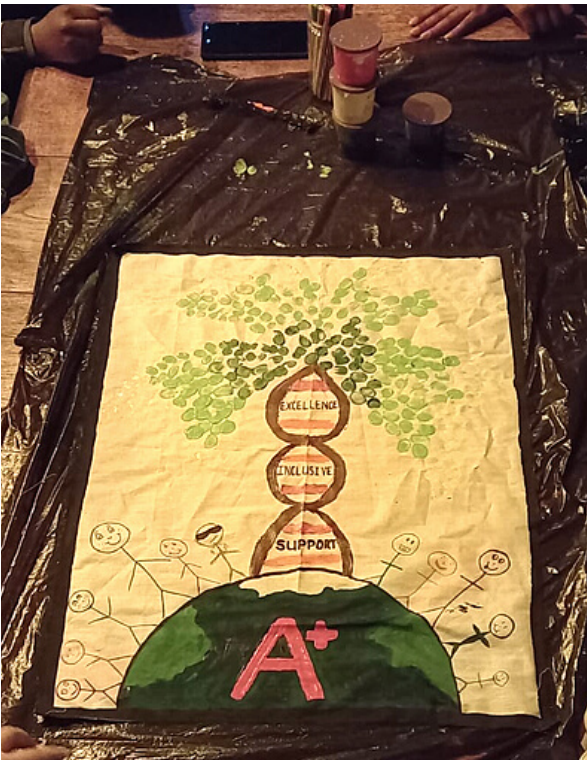
NATHouse prides itself in a "one for all and all for one" policy.

We are a place where a sense of belonging is fostered and engagement is encouraged.

A home for students where a helping hand awaits. An environment where your best will always be enough.

Inclusivity, support and excellence.

Expect quality from nature's finest.



Our NATHouse flag we made on our first camp together resembling the faculty and our 3 core values: inclusivity, support and excellence



Zeenat Patel- Chairperson of NATHouse

Letter from the chairperson

Thinking about how exciting and eventful the 2022 academic year has been, it's hard to believe it's only been a few weeks.

The return to campus has been exciting for many but it can also be a daunting experience and that's okay. You don't have to feel completely alone and stuck because that's why we are here as NATHouse. So don't be afraid to reach out!

NATHouse has also hit the ground running with three exciting results from the student life front. Students from across the NAS faculty participated in the NATHouse team that came third for 1nSync in the mixed category and made the quarter finals for debate. The NATHouse x Health House partnership also took first place for best partnership at RAG, the biggest award at the event. You can read more about 1nSync and RAG in this newsletter!



InSync & RAG Day



InSync 2022

It was an extremely proud moment for NATHouse when our first years were announced as the **3rd place winners for the 1nSync mixed category**. This was a win not only for us, but for all faculty houses who have only recently begun to participate in the full scope of student culture activities.

Our goal for 1nSync was to give our first years a great start to student life. We vowed to make sure that every event NATHouse participated in aligned with our vision statement and goals. This being our first event of the year and, as we all know, first impressions count, we wanted visibility, recognition and a jump start to a year of excellence for NATHouse.

Registration period is by far one of the toughest and most confusing times of the year and so we are beyond grateful to all the students who made time and worked tirelessly to train for 1nSync. This was truly an array of extremely talented and enthusiastic first years. The Culture portfolio has committed itself to achieving more than just a participation certificate. NATHouse Culture will continue to soldier on, continuously proving why we are **NATURE'S FINEST**.



Members of the 1nSync team as well as some of the NATHouse EC members who worked behind the scenes who were all supported by the well-known faculty house guardian Dr Carel Oosthuizen.



Some 1nSync and EC members posing with the STUKU certificate.

RAG Day 2022



Our NATHealth stall at RAG Day with all of our crafts

RAG of Hope Day is an event hosted by RAG where student structures sell handcrafted products made of recyclable material to raise money for charity. It is difficult to express in words the amount of fun, laughter and sense of community that was witnessed on that day.

This year RAG of Hope Day took place on the 26th of March 2022 on the RAG farm. This was truly an exciting and fun-filled day! Selling the crafts brought out the entrepreneurial spirit in us. The proceeds from the RAG of Hope Day went to the SRC Study Aid Fund to assist our students with financial difficulties. As they say, "Charity begins at home". There were food stalls and a UP's Got Talent event where we got to see the vast variety of talent within the University. To top it all off, the **NATHouse x Health House partnership took home the Best Partnership Award, the biggest award of the day!**

Overall, a Saturday well spent!



Our crafts we sold from left to right: We had a spin-the-wheel and sweets, academic treasure chests, thingamabobs, spekboom trees and bracelets.



General Committee Announcement



Welcome to the new General Committee

We would like to introduce and congratulate the students who will be serving on the 2022 NATHouse General Committee!

This committee will be led by the NATHouse Executive Committee member, Chrizelda Visser, and together they have an exciting term planned.

The General Committee members are (names listed alphabetically):

1. Bronwyn Lottino
2. Byron Tewson
3. Catha Holz-Leite
4. Emre Holz-Leite
5. Eugene Ndlovu
6. Fidel Mandlati Mbambo
7. Ikeoluwa Deborah Oyeboade
8. Imogen Cunningham
9. Innocent Takudzwa Nhamo
10. Morgan Alexis Jarman Kuiper
11. Nontsikelelo Wendy Ndlovu
12. Prudence Peggy Silinda
13. Rabia Omar
14. Rosariah Tereze
15. Syed Yaseen Muqueemuddin
16. Thabang Sebesho
17. Thembinkosi Mkhabela
18. Yumna Moola
19. Zoe Tshenkeng



1. Bronwyn Lottino



2. Byron Tewson



3. Catha Holz-Leite



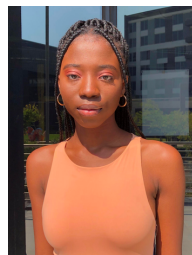
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6. Fidel Mandlati Mbambo



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8. Imogen Cunningham



9. Innocent Takudzwa Nhamo



10. Morgan Alexis Jarman Kuiper



11. Nontsikelelo Wendy Ndlovu



12. Prudence Peggy Silinda



13. Rabia Omar



14. Rosariah Tereze



15. Syed Yaseen Muqueemuddin



16. Thabang Sebesho



17. Thembinkosi Mkhabela



18. Yumna Moola



19. Zoe Tshenkeng



Student Submissions



What have you found most enjoyable about your first month of university?

So, during my first month of university, the one thing I enjoyed most was simply being in my own environment (room).

Learning how to decorate it without anyone's opinion or judgment. Having to learn that I am now alone and must make my own decisions. Academically, I liked how dedicated I was to my schoolwork and how I didn't want to see myself fail at any cost.

- **Phumelelo Sello**

Since I'm from the countryside, I've taken advantage of everything Gauteng has to offer, including numerous entertainment venues and shopping malls. Everything is easily accessible and within reach. I've made new friends and study partners.

- **Diketso Talane**

The overall change in scenery and atmosphere. In university, I learned that discipline is an extremely important aspect of a student because there is no teacher to encourage you to submit assignments or study.

- **Aobakwe Morolo**

First and foremost, I enjoy the opportunity to meet new people and gain a broader perspective on studying and the BSc field. Second, I did not appreciate load shedding while having to write an online test. Finally, I struggled to find assignments and became overwhelmed by having to plan my own days.

- **Johan de Wet**

When I first signed up to be a UP student, I was expecting the experience of a lifetime. All I wanted was to experience what was meant by being a university student. The only thing that has been exciting about my first month of University is the transition from a very small city to a very big city. Having to meet new people who speak different languages has also been very exciting and fulfilling.

- **Kamvelihle Ngewana**

I have enjoyed exploring a new place since I haven't been out of my province before. I get to make new friends and also to live with different types of people from different backgrounds.

- **Luyanda Mbele**

What have you found difficult during your first month of university?

I struggled with my laptop, which gave me problems, and I also struggled with adapting to the online learning system, which was extremely difficult for me. I am a very talkative and social girl, but I was surprised at how difficult it was for me to make friends or identify the people I know as my friends.

- **Phumelelo Sello**

Adapting to time constraints. I find online classes to be extremely difficult. Making new friends.

- **Diketso Talane**

The campus' navigation. I'm not sure if it's because of my bad sense of direction (it is), or because the campuses are big. Furthermore, the complexity of the learned content is on a level I have never encountered or done before, making it difficult to grasp a lot of the content, though not impossible.

- **Aobakwe Morolo**

In essence, I have struggled with everything. The workload is depressing. As a result, I don't even know whether I enjoy the course that I have enrolled myself in or not. I have struggled with being happy about being at University because of how exhausting it is. I just hope and pray that things get better - that there is light at the end of the tunnel but at this moment, the first month of university is nothing to be excited about.

- **Kamvelihle Ngewana**

I was used to a different method of studying when everything was online. I struggle with submitting assignments on time, balancing my academic life with my social life, getting help when needed when you don't receive replies to your emails, writing many assignments in a day and also studying for a test that's the next day and. I also struggled with coping with academic pressure. I sometimes find myself losing hope about passing all my modules in a short space of time.

- **Luyanda Mbele**



Student Submissions



What did you dislike about your first month of university?

On the first day of my tertiary studies at the University of Pretoria, I sat down in front of my computer. Today, as I write this article, a tear wells up in my eye as I reflect on the fact that my first month of university is over, despite the fact that I have yet to set foot on campus. I recall thinking about studying at UP when I was in grade 9, when I was choosing my subjects. Walking between buildings that have been standing for decades. I was pacing up and down under a century-old tree, cramming the last of the chemical formulas into my head. In the piazza, I'm sitting with some friends. Unfortunately, none of this has yet occurred.

It's strange how quickly humans adapt to new situations. After two years with Covid, we were all accustomed to various methods of distance learning. Only MLB 111 and PHY 131 have on-campus sessions, and even then, they are far and few between. There will be no squabbling over arm space in Thuto Hall or getting lost on the way from the canteen to the chemistry building. There will be no sitting on one of the Hillcrest fields to support TuksSport.

For the most part, I spend my days alone, watching videos of lecturers spewing fact after fact at me, or to 1200 computers and cell phones of students who don't even know each other. That is the issue that the current first-years will face: There are no peer-to-peer interactions. We can't make valuable friendships like previous years. If we can't go to campus, we're doomed to never meet. Despite the fact that the university "prioritized first and final year students," NATHouse students have been overlooked. When I arrived on campus to pick up the "ChemiKit," the entire Natural Sciences campus area appeared deserted.

As if the place hadn't seen any students in a long time. Take note of how I say "visited campus." It is still a place of mystery to me. One where I only go to write tests or do the occasional lab session – not one where I can go with friends to eat lunch in front of the Old Arts Building or study in the Merensky Library.

These are the times when I wish I had the ability to study medicine or that I had been born 5 years earlier – so that I, too, could have had a proper university first-year experience. As a result, I urge the university to -

truly prioritize first-year students. Let us return to campus, even if it means only one class per subject per week – it is still preferable to sitting alone at home and staring at the computer.

- **Albert Retief**

The amount of work! There is so much to be done in such a short amount of time. The lessons are flying by. Being separated from my family has been difficult, and I miss my high school friends and teachers. Everything has to be done by myself.

- **Diketso Talane**

I wouldn't say I liked the food in the canteen. Those are occasionally bad, I assure you. I would also include this online learning system, which I dislike. At that point, I realized that I prefer to be taught by someone I can see and interact with face to face.

- **Phumelelo Sello**

My social awkwardness has been a hindrance to my participation in campus life. I am an introvert who is used to being alone and had to adjust to having roommates and being around many people for the majority of the day. Getting used to a new environment and a new way of life is proving more difficult than expected.

- **Aobakwe Morolo**

University, however, is a different ball game. It has been nothing like I had imagined. My overall first month experience has been exhausting, overwhelming and depressing. The stress becomes too much to handle especially if you are a person who suffers from mental health issues. Keeping up is the worst of it all. There is never a moment of rest and a moment to soak in the beauty of being at such a prestigious institution.

- **Kamvelihle Ngewana**



NATHouse word search



Cell membrane

Cytoplasm

Eukaryotes

Vacuole

Cell wall

Cilia

Lysosomes

Ribosomes

Chloroplast

Centrioles

Mitochondria

Prokaryotes

Chromatin

Nucleolus

I K Y S E T O Y R A K O R P
L P M C H L O R O P L A S T
R O S M S E M O S O B I R L
L T C E L L M E M B R A N E
L Y S O S O M E S L C E L C
V M S A L P O T Y C A O S E
N I T A M O R H C O M C S E
L O B C I L I A M Y C Y O U
I L M I T O C H O N D R I A
S L C E L L W A L L A E R C
I E L O U C A V T S O A O C
M M T N S E T O Y R A K U E
C E N T R I O L E S C T A E
O O R U R S U L O E L C U N