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# ALMAMATTERS

Alumni Newsletter

Issue 2 | April 2019



Greetings Alumni,

It's autumn and time for the second edition of our electronic newsletter, AlmaMatters. April is also graduation month: UP awarded 11 649 qualifications this month! One of our high-profile graduates is Minister of Higher Education and Training Dr Naledi Pandor, who was awarded a PhD degree. We also report on a remarkable family from Eersterust. Seven members of this family are UP alumni! Also read the interesting story of three alumni who have developed the Doot app, which allows travellers to Japan to have a unique dining experience. We hope you enjoy this exciting edition, and welcome your feedback and alumni stories.

Happy Reading!

**Samantha Castle**

Senior Manager: Alumni Relations



## Big in Japan: UP alumni develop cultural exchange app to connect travellers with locals

Three UP alumni have created an app called Doot, a dining platform for travellers to Japan to connect with locals over authentic meals, away from tourist traps.

[Read More...](#)

## NEWS



### University of Pretoria astrophysicist part of team involved in capturing first black hole image

'I'm still blown away by the image. It hasn't really worn off yet,' says Prof Roger Deane, who played a role in the first image of a black hole.

[Read More...](#)

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### Future Africa Research Hub launches at Hillcrest Campus





Future Africa at the University of Pretoria aims to address complex societal challenges and contribute to the achievement of Africa's sustainable, inclusive and equitable development.

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## Minister Pandor graduates with PhD from UP

UP's newest alumna, Minister Naledi Pandor, refused to wilt, and produced a thesis which provides a more nuanced understanding of higher education in SA.

[Read more...](#)

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RESEARCH



## UP professor pioneers world-first middle ear transplant with 3D-printed bones



A pioneering surgical procedure developed by Professor Mashudu Tshifularo, head of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology at UP's Faculty of Health Sciences, may be the answer to conductive hearing loss.

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## EVENTS

MEET OUR  
**Vice-Chancellor**

- Tuks Alumni living in New York City can meet Prof Tawana Kupe on **14 May 2019 in New York**
- Tuks Alumni living in Gauteng can meet him on **1 June 2019 in Pretoria**



For more information and to RSVP please email [jacqui.pietersen@up.ac.za](mailto:jacqui.pietersen@up.ac.za)

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## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT





### The magnificent seven: meet the Eersterust family of UP graduates

For the Campbell family from Eersterust in Tshwane, UP was the natural choice. Mom, Dad and their five children are all UP graduates, and they attribute their professional and personal successes to the University.

[Read More...](#)

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## SPORT



### #UPAlumni: Oldest Epic finisher does not know the meaning of quitting

A broken finger and bloodied face could not stop 70-year-old Dr Gustav Joyce from finishing his first-ever Absa Cape Epic race.

[Read More...](#)

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# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND NOTICE OF ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF CONVOCATION



A call for nominations for the President of Convocation will be sent out in the next few months. Please make sure that you update your details below, to ensure that you are included in the nomination and voting process.

[Update your details here...](#)

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## ALUMNI CLUB NEWS

### TuksClub 60+ Committee

The TuksClub 60+ had their Annual General Meeting on 4 March 2019, at which new committee members were elected.



TuksClub 60+ Committee Members from left to right: Bert Badenhorst (Treasurer), Louis Cloete (Chairman), Tonie Viljoen (Deputy Chairman), Elize Pretorius (Secretary) and Gert Potgieter (additional member).

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### Election of Phahama UP Alumni Club Chairperson

The Phahama UP Alumni Club met on Saturday, 16 March, and elected Ms



Bridgette Sehlapelo Chairperson of the Club.



Ms Bridgette Sehlapelo

**ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICE**

Tel +27 (0)12 420 6390  
Email [alumni@up.ac.za](mailto:alumni@up.ac.za)  
[www.up.ac.za](http://www.up.ac.za)

Department of University Relations  
Room 1-10, Level 1, Marketing Services Building  
University of Pretoria, Private Bag X20  
Hatfield 0028, South Africa