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# jT News

JuniorTukkie

August 2022 Edition



Make today matter



## UP launches new alumni chapter

By Mecayla Maseka

The University of Pretoria's (UP) Alumni Relations Office has launched a new alumni chapter for UP graduates who have been recipients of the Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Merit Award (VCDMA).

'The chapter aims to promote professional and social interaction and ensure mentorship of all interested members,' explained Jaco-Louis Venter, former VCDMA recipient and Acting Chairperson of the new chapter.

For Professor Tawana Kupe, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of UP, alumni chapters are an indication of a long-standing commitment to the University. 'When I hear that a new alumni chapter is being launched, I know that I am about to meet people who are passionate about the things that drive us at UP—excellence in education, and a determination to create a better world with our own hands,' he said.

*'Becoming part of an alumni chapter shows a commitment to helping others to access the education you've attained, and in that way, continuing to live the UP ethos of giving back to your community.'*

Prof Kupe also highlighted the history of the VCDMA initiative. 'Since 2016 a total of 366 students have accepted the VCDMA offer to become part of a small group of very special students. In addition to the financial support provided for three years, most of these students also experienced leadership workshops and

training, visual intelligence and comprehension training, and mentorship.

**Our wish is that all JuniorTukkie members will one day be part of the Alumni family at UP.**



↑ VCDMA Alumni Chapter launch attendees



↑ Professor Tawana Kupe, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of UP at VCDMA Alumni Chapter launch

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### About JuniorTukkie



### We celebrate Christopher Conroy, who has received a Fulbright Scholarship

**This remarkable young man was a recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Merit Award and he has now also won a Fulbright Scholarship.**

**Christopher's achievements include the following:**

- Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Merit Award: 2018.
  - Second Highest GPA in TuksRes Award: 2018.
  - TuksVillage Top Scholar: 2018.
  - Computer Engineering Gold Merit Award: 2018 and 2019
  - Golden Key Chapter Award: 2019.
- The award is given to six outstanding Golden Key members who demonstrate excellence in terms of academic achievement, participation in university

activities, leadership, community service and participation in extracurricular activities.

- Golden Key International Honour Society Membership: 2019.
- BEng (Computer Engineering) (cum laude) at UP in 2021.
- Best Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering Final-year project: 2021.
- Second-best final-year Computer Engineering student: 2021
- He attained a GPA of 97.05%.
- He was on the Dean's Merit List in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

#### Contact information

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↑ Christopher Conroy

*'I sincerely believe that for the child, and for the parent seeking to guide him, it is not half so important to know as to feel. If facts are the seeds that later produce knowledge and wisdom, then the emotions and the impressions of the senses are the fertile soil in which the seeds must grow. The years of early childhood are the time to prepare the soil.'*

Quote by  
Rachel Carson,  
marine biologist  
in the book:  
*The Sense of Wonder*

*Once the emotions have been aroused—a sense of the beautiful, the excitement of the new and the unknown, a feeling of sympathy, pity, admiration or love—then we wish for knowledge about the subject of our emotional response. Once found, it has lasting meaning. It is more important to pave the way for the child to want to know than to put him on a diet of facts he is not ready to assimilate.'*



## UP's Giving Day campaign a success



There was an air of excitement at the Hatfield Campus of the University of Pretoria (UP) as students returned to class after their winter break. This is the first time they are all on campus after nearly two years, following the lockdown brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

They were met by a carnival-like atmosphere where there was free popcorn, food, haircuts and manicures for students and staff and entertainment by TuksFM. This festive event was also a culmination of the University's Giving Day campaign, which was launched a few weeks ago to raise an additional R100 million for several major projects over the next three years.

The campaign is championed by UP Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Tawana Kupe. He said: 'It fills me with much joy and satisfaction to see the campus bubbling with activity again and to so many of you back on campus. For many of you, this is the first time on campus following the restrictions placed on all of us as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.'

Explaining some of the reasons for the campaign, he said: 'As with many other universities, we have incurred unbudgeted expenses related to protective equipment, sanitisers and deep-cleaning. The provision of laptops and data added to this burden, as well as other expenses that related to the

transition to online teaching and learning. Many students and families have been adversely affected by the ongoing pandemic.'

*'This is why we are here today, to see how our collective efforts can help to alleviate the funding challenges and to raise the much-needed funds for our students to provide them with the quality education that we are known for and to support the projects we have that make us one of the leading tertiary institutions in the world.'*

Read more: <http://ow.ly/mOS350K3Eiu>





# An exciting student life awaits in the Faculty of EMS

By Nonkululeko Kubeka Moyo



↑ The 2021/22 Commercii Executive Committee with the Dean of the Faculty of EMS, Prof Margaret Chitiga-Mabugu

The vibrant student life in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences (EMS), which is made possible by the student societies, provides valuable experiences and opportunities for students to learn skills that will empower them to become leaders on campus and also in the workplace once they have completed their studies.

The Faculty house Commercii, caters for the needs of all students registered for a BCom or BAdmin degree. It provides assistance to first-year students, academic development skills, community outreach work, leadership and social interaction that make student life worthwhile.

There are also discipline-specific sub-houses that help to bridge the gap between students and prospective employers in the industry.

The current members of the Commercii Executive Committee have served the EMS student community with distinction and will conclude their term at the end of August 2022, when they will pass the baton to the next generation of phenomenal young leaders.

Website: [www.up.ac.za/commercii](http://www.up.ac.za/commercii) | Instagram: [www.instagram.com/commercii\\_tuks](https://www.instagram.com/commercii_tuks)



## EMS students restore dignity of schoolgirls

By Refilwe Mabula

In South Africa, many underprivileged girls miss school during their periods because they cannot afford sanitary pads.

Following a conversation with one of the teachers at Tswaing Secondary School in Winterveld, Pretoria, who confirmed that this problem also existed at her school, students in the Faculty of EMS were so touched by the predicament faced by these girls that they decided to step in and help them. The BAdmin@Tuks and Tax@Tuks sub-houses donated more than 400 packets of sanitary pads, which were handed out at the school.

According to Courtney Smith, Chairperson of BAdmin@Tuks, another teacher mentioned that the lack of access became apparent when the school's drainage system was blocked by newspapers, which the girls were using as an alternative to sanitary pads. The pad drive is an outreach initiative that not only seeks to make sanitary pads accessible to underprivileged girls, but also aims to enable success so that the girls can continue with their studies without having to fear humiliation.

*'We believe that all girls should have access to sanitary products and should not have to miss school due to the lack of basic necessities. We sometimes forget how privileged we are to be able to carry on with our daily lives while many underprivileged girls miss days of school because of something over which they have no control,'* Courtney said.



← Commercii Executive Committee members Courtney Smith and Tsepo Ponoane

→ EMS students donating pads at Tswaing Secondary School



Read the full article here: [www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-economic-and-management-sciences/news/post\\_3085080-ems-students-restore-dignity-of-school-girls-with-pad-donation](http://www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-economic-and-management-sciences/news/post_3085080-ems-students-restore-dignity-of-school-girls-with-pad-donation)



## Time waits for no one

By Estie Powell

*From 10 to 13 July 2022, the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology (EBIT) hosted the EBIT Week on the University of Pretoria Campus.*

This event is a four-day holiday programme presented biannually for learners in Grades 10, 11 and 12. Prospective students are offered this hands-on opportunity to obtain information regarding all the disciplines offered by the School of Engineering, Built Environment, and the School of Information Technology in the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and IT.

A total of 220 learners from Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, the Free State and the Western Cape attended the EBIT week. They were accommodated in University residences, attended lectures and visited the laboratories. A traditional braai night with good music ensured a balance between hard work and relaxation. The feedback from the learners was extremely positive.

Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/UP.EBIT](https://www.facebook.com/UP.EBIT) to see for yourself what EBIT week is all about.

Our slogan, '*Innovating our Tomorrow*', keeps us on the path of pursuing innovation. We are committed to remaining relevant and addressing the challenges of the Future of Work.

The members of the EBIT generation are the change-makers and we want to offer as many students as possible the opportunity to be part of this exciting Faculty that is driven by our need to contribute to finding solutions to problems and creating a better world for all.

The dates for our next EBIT Week will be published on our website at [www.up.ac.za/ebit-week](https://www.up.ac.za/ebit-week).

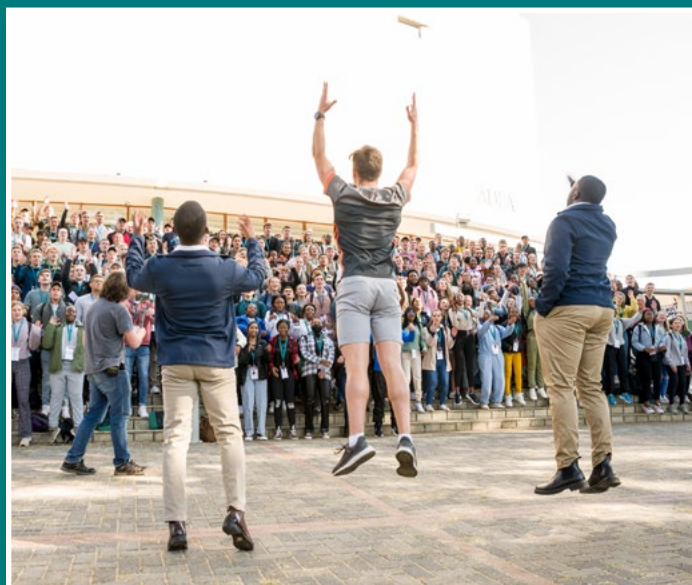
Email [emly.nofemela@up.ac.za](mailto:emly.nofemela@up.ac.za)  
Website [www.up.ac.za/ebit-week](https://www.up.ac.za/ebit-week)



↑ A total of 220 learners were eager to become part of the EBIT generation



↑ Ricus Bouwer from Menlopark High School took the lead with the EBIT Haka





# Artificial Intelligence and machine learning is real

By Janine Smit



↑ Mia Gerber making her dream a reality

Mia Gerber recently received her master's degree in Computer Science with distinction from the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology. As part of her research, she developed machine learning techniques that not only make artificial intelligence (AI) more accessible, but also makes it applicable to various fields to improve our lives. It can, for instance, be used for the detection of plant diseases and oral lesions, spam detection and sentiment analysis.

Mia has always been fascinated by computers. 'I can remember playing obscure games from the 1990s on the clunky family computer at a young age,' she said. 'As soon as I could, I started going online and learning more about coding. I was blown away by how, by simply learning a coding language, one could build anything one could think of. By the time I started high school, it was an obvious choice.'

Her interest in AI came later. 'Although I had long been aware of it, it seemed so abstract that I could not quite wrap my head around it. In my third year at university, I took a machine learning course and slowly started seeking and consuming more and more content on the subject. It rekindled a feeling of awe in me and very soon I became hooked.'

Being able to practically apply machine learning and AI in industry can open the door to many careers, such as software developer, data scientist or statistician. 'Machine learning and artificial intelligence will soon become as commonplace as indoor plumbing,' said Mia. 'In a way it already has, so I would encourage everyone to make sure that they have at least a basic understanding of it.'

After she completed her degree in 2018, Mia started working at an Insurtech start-up, but decided to return to UP to pursue her postgraduate studies. 'Returning to UP to do my master's degree was certainly the right decision for me. I experience a feeling of intrinsic fulfilment when I can learn new things about AI and contribute to the field, and I would not want to be doing anything else.'

**Mia has the following advice for prospective students:**

*'Don't allow yourself to feel intimidated! When you enter tertiary education, you may encounter situations that make you wonder whether you are good enough, or whether you will be able to cope, but I would encourage you to try, even if you feel unsure. The biggest gift you can give yourself is the space to try.'*

**Read the full article here:** [www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-engineering-built-environment-it/news/post\\_3063439-upgraduation2022-up-masters-graduate-develops-machine-learning-techniques-to-make-ai-more-accessible](http://www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-engineering-built-environment-it/news/post_3063439-upgraduation2022-up-masters-graduate-develops-machine-learning-techniques-to-make-ai-more-accessible)

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## 'Green Star' quantity surveying students

By Elzane van Eck

*The Green Building Council of South Africa (GBCSA) evaluates green buildings by making use of the Green Star SA rating tool.*

The Green Star Office tool is the oldest of the GBCSA's tools with the largest number of green building certifications. The updated version (Version 1.1) was launched in 2014.

The Green Star Office v1.1 tool (now called the New Built and Major Renovations tool) needed updating to keep abreast of new developments in the green building industry. In 2021, a team of three BSc Honours Quantity Surveying students, Carmia Venter, Sanchia Lewis and Mckayla McMaster, focused their research for their mini-dissertation on assisting the GBCSA

with this process. Their study described and evaluated the level of difficulty involved in achieving the various Green Star tool credits based on recent actual industry case study performance. Their findings were presented at the Greenovate Forum in Sandton in November 2021.

The UP team also presented their findings at the first meeting of the GBCSA v2 working committee early in 2022. This achievement proves that our students can make contributions recognised by industry.

### Contact information

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[www.up.ac.za/construction-economics](http://www.up.ac.za/construction-economics)



↑ From left to right: Carmia Venter (student), Danie Hoffman (research study leader), Sanchia Lewis (student) and Mckayla McMaster (student)

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Tikologo ya Kago le Theknološhi ya Tshedimošo

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## The role of social media in heritage

By Ruby McGregor-Langley

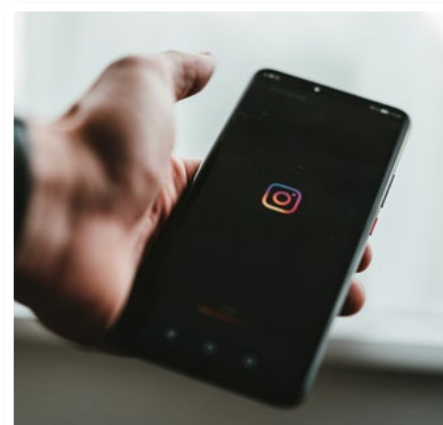
*With Heritage Day—celebrated on 24 September—fast approaching, one may well wonder how the uniqueness of heritage can be incorporated and promoted in a globalised world.*

The social media, which allows us access to any form of content at the click of a button, have revolutionised both communication and access to information. So why do we not use social media platforms to promote heritage in a more participatory fashion?

Based on our experiences during lockdown and the increased use of platforms such

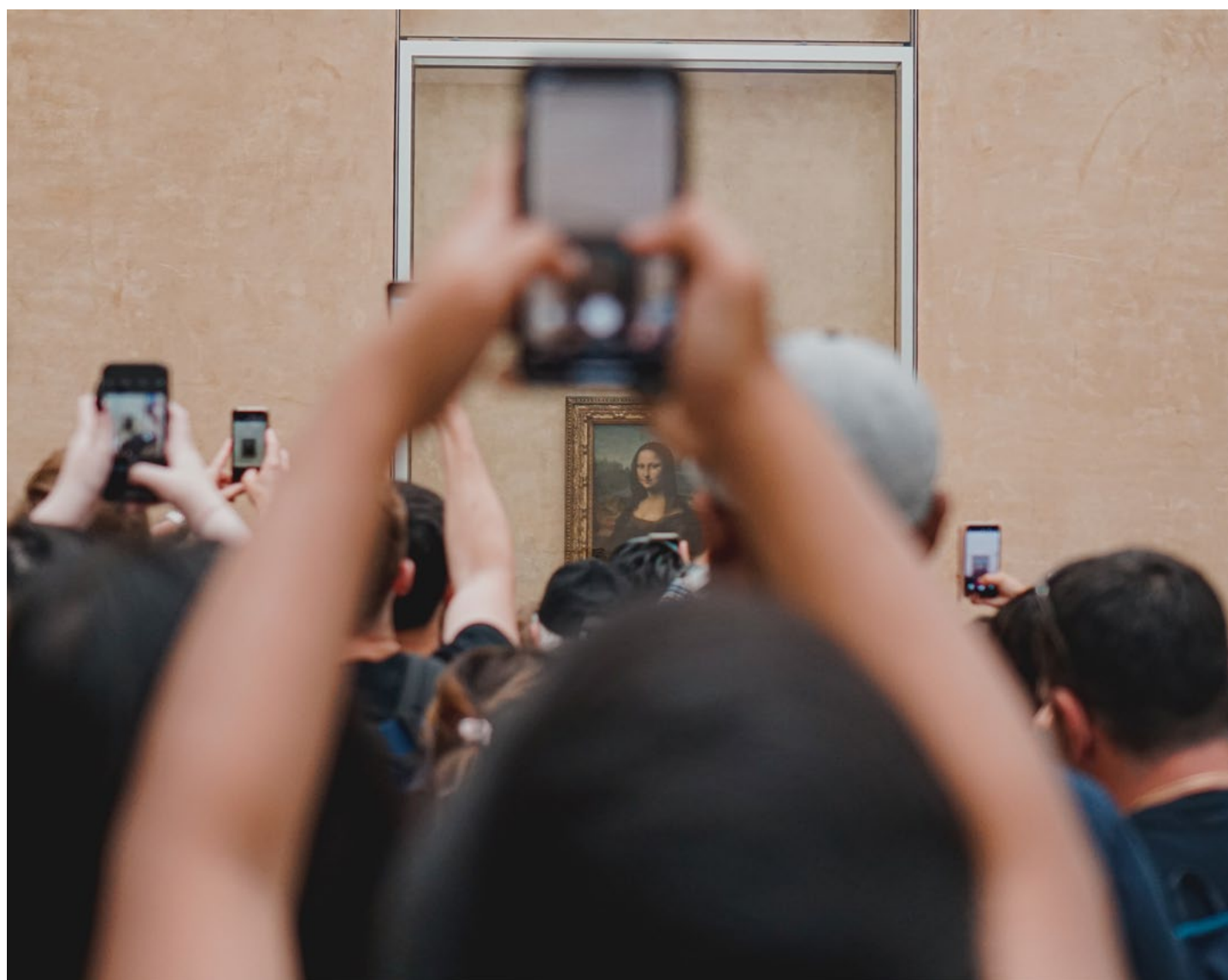
as TikTok, the consumption of information has become much simpler and faster over the past few decades. This raises questions about how social media can be appropriately used for the authentic portrayal of heritage needs. Deciding on which platform to use is important as different platforms appeal to different demographics. However, the key aspect to consider is that social media is much more readily accessible than museums and heritage sites, and the usage of these platforms will not decline soon.

Heritage managers should consider social media as a promotion tool. By inviting users to send in content with a heritage theme, for example short videos, a more participatory and easily accessible culture can be encouraged.



↑ Social media can contribute greatly to the creation of digital heritage.

For more information visit [www.diadrasis.org/public/files/edialogos\\_004-GAITAN.pdf](http://www.diadrasis.org/public/files/edialogos_004-GAITAN.pdf)



↑ Heritage managers should encourage content creation to make heritage more accessible.



# UP statistician on jury for international music competition held in SA

By Prof Johan Ferreira



*Like the rest of our society, the world of classical music has been profoundly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Physical distancing, travel restrictions and quarantines have become part of our daily life.*

Classical music performance has been particularly affected by this as physical contact and exchanges are indispensable in making music. A group of South African professionals has organised an International Woodwind Competition (IWC) to be held this year to reinvigorate the South African classical music fraternity for advanced woodwind players (university and young professionals). The group includes UP's [Prof Johan Ferreira](#) (from the Department of Statistics) and is chaired by Dr Danre Strydom from the Odeion School of Music at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein.

## How is Prof Ferreira involved?

Prof Ferreira is a full-time associate professor in the Department of Statistics. He obtained an LRSM in oboe performance from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music in the UK in 2016 and a PhD in Mathematical Statistics from the University

of Pretoria (UP) in 2017. In addition to his role at the University, he currently performs as a freelance oboist around South Africa, regularly appearing as an ad-hoc member of the oboe sections of the KZN Philharmonic, Johannesburg Philharmonic, Eastern Cape Philharmonic and the Free State Symphony Orchestra. He also performed at the Cape Town Concert Series and presented solo recitals at the Wakkerstroom Music Festival, the GauFestival, the Arts Association of Pretoria and Brooklyn Theatre TV, and participated in the concert series of the North-West University in Potchefstroom.

## The role of music in my life?

'If strings give warmth to an orchestra, surely the wind instruments are its breath and beating heart. It is a great privilege for me to be joining Dr Strydom and the other acclaimed board members and jury to establish this competition as a showcase of excellent South African and international wind artistry. The advancement and sustainability of wind playing and training in South Africa form a core focus in music education for the exclusive benefit of society. Music, after all, is meant to be heard and enjoyed,' said Prof Ferreira.

For this competition, international entries are also welcomed to benchmark South

African woodwind musicking to global standards. The board of the IWC envisions the sustained legacy of this project beyond 2022. Since there are currently no competitions for advanced woodwind players in our country, an overarching aim of this competition is to contribute to the vibrancy of the national/international piano, strings and vocal competitions that South Africa hosts. 'Our country has a rich history of performance excellence and we believe that this competition can once again provide a platform for our woodwind players to perform, grow and help launch their performance careers. The primary purpose of the competition is to promote the inheritance and preservation of excellent woodwind players and to encourage high standards, set goals and reward young performers for continuing the tradition,' Prof Ferreira explained.

To date the board has secured support (in kind) from the judges, as well as major national and international funding agencies and partners, and has teamed up with the Free State Symphony Orchestra (FSSO) to present a concert showcasing the excellent finalists at a formal symphony concert during which they will perform concertos—a valuable platform in itself for the wind family in a symphonic setting.

## Fungi believed to be key to saving the Albertina Sisulu orchid from extinction

By ScienceLink

The [Albertina Sisulu orchid](#) was described as a new species in 1955, the year in which the struggle stalwart launched the [Freedom Charter](#) with her compatriots in the ANC Women's League. Researchers at the [University of Pretoria](#) want to help save this endangered plant by understanding the unique fungi it depends on for survival.

Modjadji Makwela's research on the orchid's fungi, which was co-supervised by [Dr Tanay Bose](#), a postdoctoral fellow in UP's [Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute \(FABI\)](#), was published in the [South African Journal of Botany](#). They studied the plant's mycorrhizosphere, which refers to the soil in which the orchid's roots and fungi (known as mycorrhizae) share nutrients to support each other.

Currently only 68 of these plants are known to exist. 'If this population is lost, this particular orchid species will be lost forever—extinct,' said Bose. The critically endangered plant appears on the [South African National Biodiversity Institute's \(SANBI\) red list](#) and the only ones that are left anywhere in the world can be seen in the [Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens](#).

Since these plants are so rare, researchers had to carefully collect the soil around them so as not to destroy or disrupt them in any way. Bose explained: 'With the help of the [Wild Orchid Society of Southern Africa \(WOSA\)](#) and [Andrew Hankey](#) from the [Walter Sisulu Botanical Garden](#), we collected soil samples near the plants where the orchid does not grow, as well as from close to the plants.' After extracting DNA from the soil samples, the researchers identified the populations of fungi types unique to the mycorrhizosphere surrounding the Albertina Sisulu orchid.

'We now have a rough idea of the mycorrhiza, or fungi, but we could not identify them at the species level,' said Bose. This map of fungi surrounding the orchid can tell researchers the exact mixture that is needed to help the orchid develop when it is planted in other areas to promote its conservation. Since the orchid's seeds lack an endosperm—the fleshy encasing that gives other plant seeds the nutrients they need to germinate—the orchid relies on the symbiotic relationship it has with its unique ecosystem of fungi to ensure its survival.

The billions of seeds each plant produces need to be infected by a specific kind of mycorrhizae in order to germinate and continue growing, and in turn, the orchid

completes the symbiotic relationship by giving the fungi the carbon it needs to survive.

The Albertina Sisulu orchid is unique in that it requires a particular set of conditions currently found only in this small area in Gauteng, but the secret to saving it from extinction might lie in the combination of fungi about which researchers are slowly learning more.

Moving forward, Bose says researchers must now investigate the roles different fungi play in the orchid's mycorrhizosphere. They need to find out which ones are beneficial to the plant, which are beneficial to each other, and what balance is best for this unique ecosystem.



↑ Dr Tanay Bose



↵ Albertina Sisulu orchid  
(Photo credits: Gerrit van Ede and Karsten Wodrich)



## Are you a food neophobe?

By Annelize Steyn and Clarissa van Heerden (MSc Food Science candidates in the Department of Consumer and Food Sciences)

*Are you eager to taste new foods, or do you prefer to stick to what you know? Food neophobia is a fancy word for some consumers' reluctance to try new and unfamiliar food items.*

Food neophobic individuals tend to avoid new or unfamiliar foods, resulting in them eating a diet with little variety. Generally, people who eat various types of foods tend to eat healthier.

The success of new food items and new food technologies is linked to consumers' behavioural responses to unfamiliar foods and innovation. New food options with health benefits are constantly being released onto the market. However, the success of new foods depends, among other things, on how consumers respond to novelty and innovation. Individuals' attitudes towards food influence their food choices. A thorough understanding of consumer attitudes towards the sensory properties of nutritious new foods can aid product development, nutrition intervention strategies and marketing.

Food neophobia in humans is measured by asking responses to a few questions—the so-called Food Neophobia Scale. A research team from the University of Pretoria developed a new updated Food Neophobia Scale, which will be used to better understand the food neophobia status of consumers in Africa. This will allow food scientists to develop products and innovation strategies that may contribute to the health and well-being of consumers.



↑ Would you like to try these strange-looking fruits, or would you rather stick to eating apples and bananas? The answer to the question says something about your food neophobia level.

Website [www.up.ac.za/departments-of-consumer-and-food-sciences](http://www.up.ac.za/departments-of-consumer-and-food-sciences)





# The world's largest colony of nesting fish lives beneath the Antarctic ice

By Dr Mia Wege

In February 2021, the world's largest nesting fish colony, covering an area of 240 km<sup>2</sup> and consisting of an estimated 60 million fish nests, was discovered in the Weddell Sea, approximately 500 m below the Antarctic sea-ice.

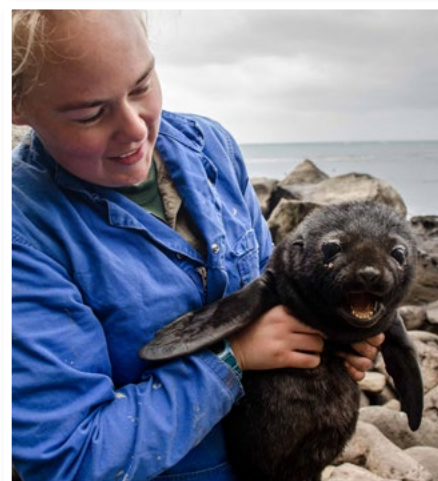
Dr Autun Purser from the [Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research](#) and his team discovered this nesting colony by using an advanced underwater camera-towing system called the [OFOBS \(Ocean Floor Observation and Bathymetry System\)](#). The team was on the German ice-breaker and polar research vessel, [RV Polarstern](#), [Lillian Boehringer](#), when they noticed circular nests on the camera. They identified the fish as Jonah's icefish (*Neopagetopsis ionah*), which are found only in the freezing Southern Ocean and waters surrounding Antarctica. These fish have adapted to survive in the extreme cold by developing clear blood containing large amounts of antifreeze compounds.

The Jonah icefish guard nests of approximately 56 cm in length, spaced about 25 cm apart and each containing an

estimated 1 735 eggs. This means that there are four nests in every square metre in an area of 240 km<sup>2</sup>.

Researchers on board were very excited by the discovery and were able to pool their expertise and data. Dr Mia Wege from UP's Mammal Research Institute and the Department of Zoology and Entomology was one of the people on board the *Polarstern* and was deploying satellite trackers on Weddell seals to record their location and diving depth, and to do oceanographic measurements of the water column, salinity and temperature. The trackers made it possible to study the underwater lives of seals and the properties of the water column below the ice.

Dr Wege explained: 'Weddell seals are also predators of icefish and, as a seal biologist, I was of course curious to see whether seals spend a lot of time diving and potentially hunting in the area where the fish nests are. My colleague, [Dr Host Bornemann](#), and I analysed the satellite tracking and diving data of the animals on which we had put satellite trackers during the expedition. I also



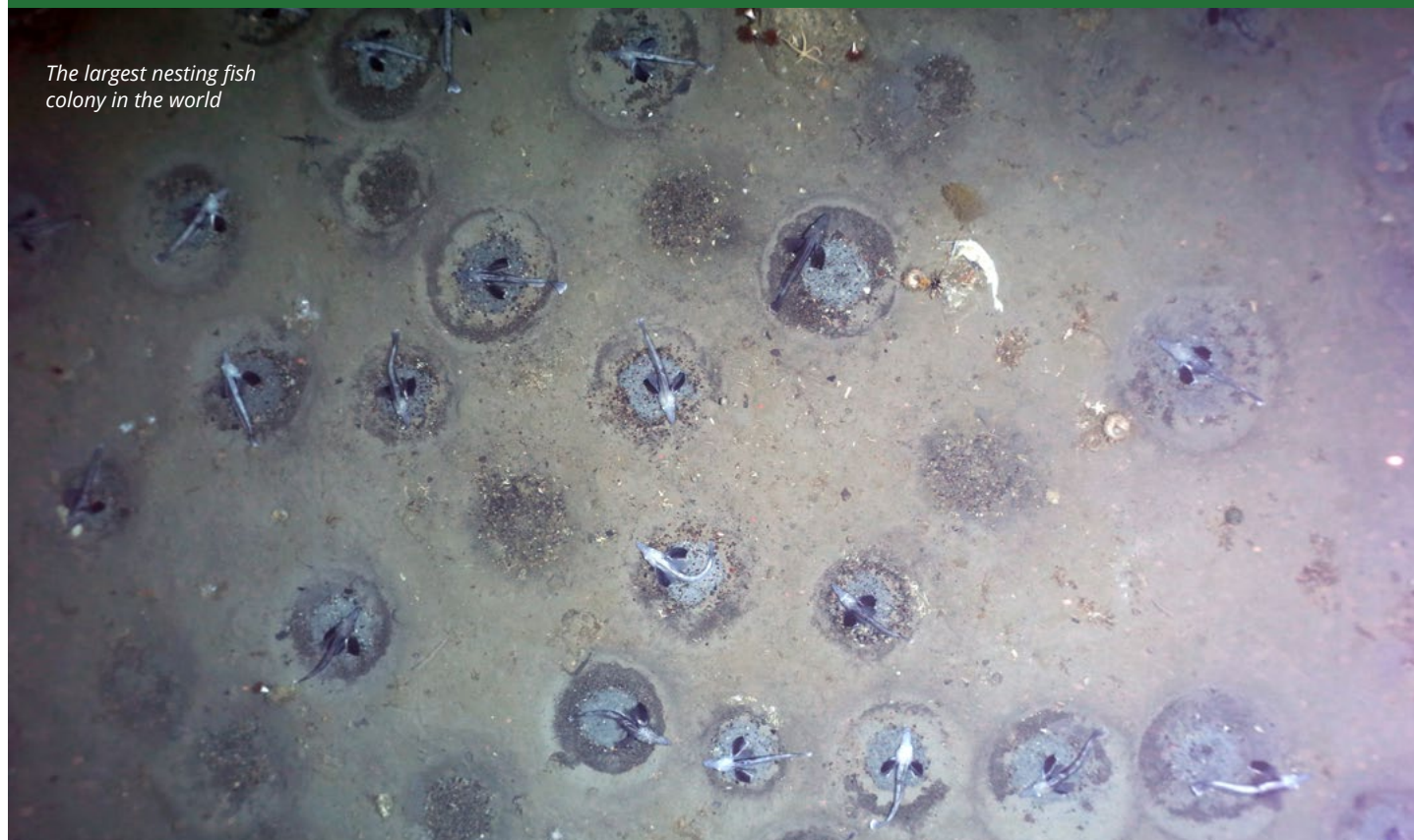
↑ Dr Mia Wege

studied data collected during five previous expeditions to the same area since 2007 and we discovered that Weddell seals spent >50% of their time actively diving in this area, which suggests that ice fish may be an important prey source for Weddell seals.'

The areas immediately adjacent to the fish nests were littered with fish carcasses, suggesting that these fish are part of the local food webs and influence the cycling of nutrients. Dr Purser and his team left behind two underwater cameras in the ice that will take photos for the next two years, after which they will be retrieved.

**Websites** [www.drmiawege.com](http://www.drmiawege.com) | [www.mammalresearchinstitute.science](http://www.mammalresearchinstitute.science) | [www.up.ac.za/zoology-entomology](http://www.up.ac.za/zoology-entomology)

*The largest nesting fish colony in the world*





## Saving the life of a long-crested eagle with severe trichomoniasis is no small feat

By Chris van Blerk

*The long-crested eagle (*L. occipitalis*) is an African bird of prey that naturally occurs in moist woodland and forest edges, particularly in those that are close to marshlands, rivers or streams.*

Up to 98% of these birds' diet consists of rodents such as greater cane rats, African marsh rats and four-striped grass mice. On the odd occasion birds of prey will eat doves, which can sometimes be infected with trichomoniasis, a parasite of the upper digestive tract that causes an accumulation of necrotic material in the mouth and oesophagus.

Recently a long-crested eagle was found collapsed on the ground and brought to the Bird and Exotic Animal Hospital situated in the Faculty's Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital (OVAH). This private clinic provides training to Faculty students on an elective basis and has been a temporary home and treatment centre for many exotic species.

The eagle was diagnosed with severe trichomoniasis, which is often fatal if not treated in time. Dr Dorianne Elliott, a veterinarian and the owner of the clinic, explains: 'Not only was the eagle emaciated and unable to stand, but the parasite had also eaten away a large part of its palate and throat, so it could not eat and its tongue was pushed right out of its mouth.'

Treatment included putting the eagle on a drip for three days and Dorianne had to hand-feed it for more than a month. Surgery was also performed as part of treating its mouth. Restoring the eagle's health was a painstaking process, but it has made an excellent recovery and is almost ready to be released.



↑ The long-crested eagle in an incubator



↑ Dr Elliott with the eagle, which was hand-fed for more than a month

Read the full article here: [www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-veterinary-science/news/post\\_3084339-saving-the-life-of-a-long-crested-eagle-with-severe-trichomoniasis-is-no-small-feat](http://www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-veterinary-science/news/post_3084339-saving-the-life-of-a-long-crested-eagle-with-severe-trichomoniasis-is-no-small-feat)

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↑ The new multipurpose equine simulator model

## New equine simulator model provides impetus to equine clinical training in the Faculty

By Dr Kate May

*Equine clinical training in the Faculty of Veterinary Science recently received a welcome boost when a brand-new multipurpose equine simulator model was unveiled in its Skills Laboratory. The model includes a very life-like ventroflexion of the head and neck and students will now be able to pass a nasogastric tube.*

According to Dr Kate May, manager of the Skills Laboratory, a depiction of the cervical spine is included to enable students to better orientate themselves when doing an intramuscular injection into the neck. They will also be able to do jugular venipuncture.

Finally, students will be able to perform broncho-alveolar lavage or transtracheal aspiration to practise the skills required to investigate respiratory problems in horses.

This model was created as a joint project between Anatomould's Liezl Kok and the Equine Clinic in the Faculty's Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital (OVAH).

Read the full article here: [https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=562942771936055&id=100202271543443](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=562942771936055&id=100202271543443)

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# Specialist Senior Student Advisors in the DESA Recruitment Division

## Jean Thomaïdes

'I am a Specialist Senior Student Advisor in the Department of Enrolment and Student Administration (DESA) at the University of Pretoria (UP). Since my appointment at the University of Pretoria on 1 December 2008, I have had the privilege of not only extensively marketing the University of Pretoria within the South African borders, but also recruiting students from other countries.

I currently visit schools in South Africa's Gauteng and North West Provinces, as well as in Namibia to promote the University of Pretoria and to provide study and career advice to prospective students. The questions that I am asked most frequently are: 'Which is the most lucrative career field?' and 'What should I choose to study?' The experience I have gained over the years and my passion for education have enabled me to assist, guide and advise prospective students to make

wise, responsible and informed choices with regard to their future studies and career paths. My enthusiasm and passion, and the support offered to the University's Recruitment Division and its prestigious JuniorTukkie flagship programme, have, for more than a decade, made me part of a winning team at UP, a leading South African and an internationally recognised university.'

*'Never let people who gave up on their dreams talk you out of yours.'*

– Zig Ziglar

Tuks of Niks!

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↑ Jean Thomaïdes

## Samuel Matsobane Mashishi



↑ Samuel Matsobane Mashishi

'I was employed by the University of Pretoria as a messenger on 1 May 1990. In 1994 I started studying part time and graduated in 1998, after which I proceeded with a postgraduate qualification, which I obtained in 2000. I have worked in different departments and positions at UP.

In 2012 I was employed as a Specialist Senior Student Advisor. Currently I am responsible for doing recruitment for the University at schools in Johannesburg, Pretoria, North West, Limpopo and Lesotho. It is very fulfilling to advise learners on possible career paths and on the school subjects they will need if they wish to further their studies at UP.

A question I am often asked is whether UP offers bursaries and I am happy to be able to inform them that the University offers different special packages to learners as merit bursaries for which they do not need to apply. All packages can be viewed at [www.up.ac.za/fees-and-funding](http://www.up.ac.za/fees-and-funding).'

'I also emphasise the importance of noting the closing date for applications for other financial aid schemes, such as the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS).

My message to learners is that they have to study diligently to ensure that they obtain the required marks for admission to study at the University of Pretoria. Top achieving learners will receive high quality education required to ensure international competitiveness. I also encourage learners to consider postgraduate studies.'

*'Success is a state of mind. If you want success, start thinking of yourself as a success.'*

– Joyce Brothers

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# Specialist Senior Student Advisors in the DESA Recruitment Division

## Tembela Mkuyana

'I have been a Specialist Senior Student Advisor at the University of Pretoria for the past eight years and visit schools in Gauteng, the Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga and Limpopo, as well as in Zimbabwe in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

The nature of my job entails visiting private schools, former Model C schools, township schools and rural schools that offer International Examination Board (IEB), National Senior Certificate (NSC) or Cambridge qualifications. Engaging with learners and parents from various schools is always intriguing and robust.

Learners from Zimbabwe are always concerned about their safety on campus and are interested in the scholarship opportunities available to them. They are also concerned about whether they will be taught in Afrikaans and they want to know whether the University of Pretoria assists

graduates with finding employment. Another question I am frequently asked is: 'Are UP qualifications internationally recognised?'

My advice to prospective students is that they should make sure that they choose school subjects that will not limit them in terms of the degrees for which they hope to enrol. I also point out that the higher the required admission score is, the better the rewards from that qualification will be.'

*'The future belongs to those who prepare for it today.'*

– Malcom X

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↑ Tembela Mkuyana

## Elizabeth Forssman



↑ Elizabeth Forssman

'I was employed by the University of Pretoria as a Senior Student Advisor from August 2007 until January 2015, and joined the team again in December 2021.

Currently I am visiting schools in the Free State, northern KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape and Mozambique, as well as a number of schools in Pretoria, Johannesburg and Mpumalanga.

The learners often ask me what the vibe is like on campus, and of course the only answer I can give them is: 'It's fantastic! All our campuses are absolutely stunning, with much to see and much to do, and the vibe on campus is positive and energetic!'

'My personal message to prospective students is to stay focused on their studies, especially during their Grade 11 and 12 years, and to apply for admission to UP as soon as applications open. I also encourage them to do as much research as possible about careers and the programmes they are interested in studying, but at the same time they should also try to get to know themselves since their personalities and personal values and preferences are important considerations when deciding on future studies.'

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## About JuniorTukkie

*The **JuniorTukkie programme** of the Department of Enrolment and Student Administration at the University of Pretoria has been established to assist learners from Grade 9 to 12 to make responsible study and career choices. The JuniorTukkie programme provides among others, a wide variety of services to learners such as first-hand information on study and career options, the development of leadership qualities, life skills, study skills, engagement in community projects, and many more.*

## 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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## Social media

**JuniorTukkie website:** [www.up.ac.za/juniortukkie](http://www.up.ac.za/juniortukkie)

**JuniorTukkie Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/JuniorTukkieUP](http://www.facebook.com/JuniorTukkieUP)

**JuniorTukkie Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/juniortukkie](http://www.instagram.com/juniortukkie)

**JuniorTukkie App:** [juniortukkieapp.co.za](http://juniortukkieapp.co.za)

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