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# jT News

JuniorTukkie

May 2022 Edition



Make today matter



## International Children's Book Day —giving wings to the importance of reading

By Giné Gebhardt, Faculty of Humanities, Communications Office

*International Children's Book Day is celebrated annually on 2 April, which is the birthday of Hans Christian Andersen, the renowned Danish author of stories for children.*

This year the host country was Canada, and the theme of the event was 'Stories are wings that help you soar every day'. Canadian author [Richard Van Camp](#), known for his indigenous children's stories illustrated by acclaimed artist [Julie Flett](#), suggested the theme to highlight the power of children's books to expand horizons, build understanding and ignite the imagination.

Professor Brown, Head of the Department of English Language and Literature at UP, notes that '[C]hildren's literature matters not only because those who are fluent readers in childhood tend to be more successful in their careers and studies, but also because the books read in childhood shape beliefs, encourage reflection and enrich readers' understandings of both themselves and their environments'.

This is why UP's Department of English developed South Africa's first honours module focusing on children's literature. 'Over the years,' said Prof Brown, 'the module has introduced students to many different approaches to children's literature, as well as to many authors and sub-genres—including picture books, fairy stories and *ntsomi*—series fiction written by authors such as Enid Blyton and Jeff Kinney, contemporary fantasy and South African fiction for children and young adults.'

This popular course has inspired many students to undertake research in this field—some 19 master's and 5 doctoral degrees have been awarded to date. Staff teaching in this module have collaborated to produce a guide for teachers titled *Introducing Children's Literature: A Guide to the South African Classroom* (Van Schaik, 2018). As Jonathan Gottschall (2012:56) states: 'It is time we recognised that the human mind was shaped for story so that it could be shaped by story.'

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> go to the Department of English

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*Despite the crisis the humanities has faced, the humanities remain important and relevant in South Africa.*

# Why South Africa needs the humanities

*By Robyn Schnell, Department of Historical and Heritage Studies, University of Pretoria*

*Since the 1990s, people have focused on [science](#), technology and innovation to aid economic development. However, it is important to consider the role the humanities play in South Africa's development.*

The humanities study what it means to be human and include disciplines such as literature, linguistics, philosophy and [social sciences](#), for example history, social work, law, criminology and anthropology. UP also offers humanities programmes that teach scarce skills, such as speech-language pathology and audiology.

In 2011, the Academy of Science for South Africa (ASSAf) published a [report](#) stating that the humanities were experiencing a [crisis characterised by](#):

- fewer students enrolling in humanities courses,
- declining government funding for humanities students, and
- higher undergraduate dropout rates.

Unlike other fields of study, the humanities provide a fundamental [human factor](#), which helps us to determine how we discuss social issues that affect all aspects of our lives. Although science and technology enhance economic growth and development, such disciplines and their solutions also create problems such as poverty, inequality and unemployment. The humanities and the human factor they provide are key to combating such problems; the critical

thinking and creative problem-solving skills we teach are fundamental.

The humanities, which focus on complex and [abstract ideas](#)—a crucial component of creative and critical thinking—should not be neglected in academia and higher education. They teach students to think beyond the realm of the conventional and to creatively solve problems, which is a valuable skill that today's employers want to develop, but which is often overlooked by other faculties and disciplines.

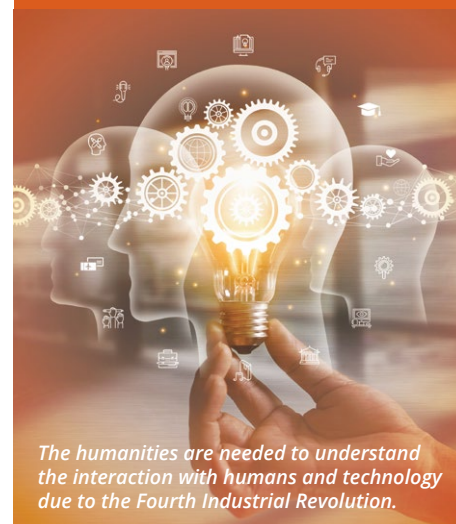
In South Africa, the humanities play an essential role in discussions regarding the legacy of apartheid and its influence on the present. The past must be considered when attempting to understand the present and the future. As humanists, we examine problems of the past and trace their influence on current societal struggles.

The humanities are also critical as we move towards the [Fourth Industrial Revolution](#). Since students from all faculties and disciplines need to understand how [humans interact with technology](#), the humanities will become more relevant and necessary than ever.

In South Africa, the role of the humanities has remained important despite the crisis it has faced. If the study of the humanities is neglected, it will have serious consequences for society.

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*The humanities are needed to understand the interaction with humans and technology due to the Fourth Industrial Revolution.*



# Study occupational therapy and enjoy a unique profession

If you are passionate about healthcare and the opportunity to have meaningful interactions with people, occupational therapy is the ideal career for you!

Occupational therapy (OT) is where science and creativity meet. It is more than just pediatrics as we work with people of different ages and cultures in different contexts. We treat a variety of illnesses and injuries in various settings, such as hospitals, clinics, schools, workplaces, communities and even at private homes.

We assist our clients by helping them to do what they want to do, need to do, or are expected to do in their daily lives. We adapt our treatment to assist people who can no longer function in typical ways, for example by supplying wheelchairs to those who cannot walk, or adapted grips on utensils to those who struggle with hand function.

Our profession is based on scientific research and evidence, but allows plenty of scope for fun and creativity. If you study OT, you will acquire many varied skills, but you will also learn a lot about who you are. We are an integral part of the interprofessional healthcare team and our sole aim is to get our patients back to doing what they enjoy in the way that suits them best. OT is a profession unlike any other and you are welcome to come and see what it involves if you think it might be the right profession for you.

**– Megan Steel, fourth-year student**



High school learners are informed about professions in engineering, medicine, accounting, teaching and business studies, but the field of occupational therapy (OT) tends to be neglected.

People with a disability or an illness can often not do things with ease. Can you imagine not being able to brush your own teeth, or not being able to meet friends because you experience social anxiety? These things have a massive impact on people's self-esteem, their mood and their motivation to live. You express who you are by what you do, and when you can no longer do certain things it affects your life in many ways. Occupational therapists are privileged as they can become someone's life therapist. The impact we have on people's lives makes occupational therapy an extremely rewarding profession.

I enjoy OT because it is person centered. I establish relationships with the most extraordinary variety of people, from waste reclaimers, engineers and artists to mineworkers and farmers. I highly recommend that you shadow an occupational therapist at work, either in private practice or in a public facility such as the Tshwane Rehab Hospital. That is how I discovered that this is the perfect profession for me.

While it is true that we play games with kids, our methods are based on sound scientific research. I recently started my rotation at a school for children with cerebral palsy, a condition that affects motor control. Many of these children are unable to walk, but they all have dreams. Occupational therapists help them by equipping them with the skills needed to ensure bright futures. I am thankful for the privilege of being able to play a meaningful part in people's lives.

**– Joben Louw, third-year student**



As a second-year occupational therapy student, I am thoroughly enjoying the fieldwork. We gather assessment kits and plan our psychiatric block and patient liaisons. Three groups of second-year students have been placed at Irene Homes, Weskoppies Hospital and the Margaretha Ackerman Old Age Home.

Working with people of all ages and different abilities, seeing their smiles and tears, and hearing their laughter has been the highlight of my year. We not only got to know our residents and clients, but also got to know each other. There are funny moments, but there are also sad and difficult ones. All these experiences will help us to become the best occupational therapists we can possibly be.

**– Isabelle Botha, second-year student**



The four-year Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (BOT) degree programme is offered by the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Pretoria. Apply at [www.up.ac.za/apply](http://www.up.ac.za/apply). Applications close on 30 June.



# Avocado pears, technology and the Fourth Industrial Revolution

By Prof Wynand Steyn

Researchers at the [University of Pretoria's Engineering 4.0](#) research facility are tracking the journey of 3D-printed avocados on a ship traveling from South Africa to the Netherlands. These avocados contain microsensors and are part of a research project undertaken to determine damage that occurs when fresh produce is transported from producers to supermarkets.

According to Professor Wynand Steyn, Head of the [Department of Civil Engineering](#) in the [Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology](#), '[T]his Engineering 4.0 flagship project focuses on smart transport, infrastructure and cities. The researchers have made use of the Department's unique smAvo and smaTo sensor platforms, which are used to monitor the entire value chain, from farm to fork.'

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## Read the full article here:

[www.up.ac.za/research-matters/news/post\\_2994052-ups-engineering-4.0s-smart-avos-key-to-determining-impact-of-transportation-conditions-on-agricultural-products](http://www.up.ac.za/research-matters/news/post_2994052-ups-engineering-4.0s-smart-avos-key-to-determining-impact-of-transportation-conditions-on-agricultural-products)



↑ Prof Wynand Steyn and Mr André Broekman (PhD candidate) with the smAvos in their hands



↑ The sensors inserted in the artificial 3D-printed avos

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## EBIT Week: 10-13 July 2022

### We innovate your tomorrow!

The EBIT Week is a biannual four-day holiday programme presented by the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology (EBIT) 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. During this event, learners are introduced to both the practical and theoretical aspects of the various courses offered in order to help them make sound career choices. As part of the programme, learners also obtain either on-site or off-campus industry exposure.

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▶ Watch our EBIT Week video [here](#)

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## UP Law mooting team wins bronze at largest International Moot Court Competition

By Keeghan Smith

*UP Law is pleased to announce that one of our UP Moot Society teams was placed third in the 29th Annual Willem C Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Court Competition, which was held virtually from 8 to 14 April 2022. This is the best performance in this Competition by UP to date and also the furthest a university from the African continent has progressed in the world's largest moot court competition.*

Currently the largest moot court competition in the world, this competition consisted of 365 top law faculties in the world participating in a fictional arbitration case between two international corporations, and each round presided over by a trio panel of arbitrators.

The six members of the UP Law team were Nicole Gloy (LLB III), Tiara Joseph (LLB III), Simon Augustyn (BCom Law II); Michela du Buisson (BCom Law II); Chloe Eacott (LLB IV) and Liam Bolton (LLB II), and they were coached by Keeghan Smith (LLB IV) and

Nick du Toit (LLM). In the final global rounds, Simon Augustyn received an honourable mention in the category Best Speaker.

An elated Keeghan Smith commented: 'The UP team distinguished themselves with this excellent place! For seven months our aim only was to improve on UP Law's 2021 placement in 32nd position. The team won the Africa Round in the Pre-moot event hosted in Nairobi and achieved second place in the virtual Fox Willems Pre-moot, with Nicole Gloy receiving an award for being the third best speaker at the 13th Annual



↑ Tiara Joseph, Nicole Gloy, Keeghan Smith and Simon Augustyn

Breakfast Pre-moot. Encouraged by this string of successes, the UP Law team started the Global rounds with confidence on 12 April 2022.'

The UP team triumphed over seasoned Vis moot universities, such as the University of Vienna, the University of Münster and the Vienna University of Economics and Business. Participating teams were presided over by esteemed members of the international commercial law community, such as Ingeborg Schwenzer, Louis Flannery and Peter Ashford.



↑ Front row: Dean of UP Law, Professor Elsabe Schoeman, Nicole Gloy, Tiara Joseph, Liam Bolton, Michela du Buisson. Back row: Simon Augustyn, Keeghan Smith and Chloe Eacott.

Read the full article here:

[www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-law/news/post\\_3060692-up-law-mooting-team-wins-bronze-at-largest-international-moot-court-competition](http://www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-law/news/post_3060692-up-law-mooting-team-wins-bronze-at-largest-international-moot-court-competition)



## Fourteen-year-old budding actuary receives funding from the University of Pretoria

By Xolani Mathibela

A 14-year-old actuarial science student has begun her academic journey at the University of Pretoria (UP) with the financial support of the institution.



↑ Mongiwa Ntuli

After passing matric with seven distinctions, Mongiwa Ntuli took to social media to express her frustration when she was informed that she was too young to be considered for a bursary.

'I believed that I had done my part by getting good results. All I needed was financial assistance, but my application for a bursary was turned down on account of my age,' she said. 'I then I had a conversation with the Vice-Chancellor of UP, Prof Tawana Kupe, who ensured that I received funding. I will forever be grateful to him.'

UP will cover Ntuli's tuition fees for three years. In congratulating the budding actuary, Prof Kupe said: 'UP is a place of excellence

and achievement; we aim to attract top achievers from across the world.'

Mongiwa chose to study at UP because she wanted to be associated with a prestigious university. 'Initially I wanted to study medicine, but everything changed when I read up about actuarial science and realised that this profession requires problem solving, which defines me,' she explained.

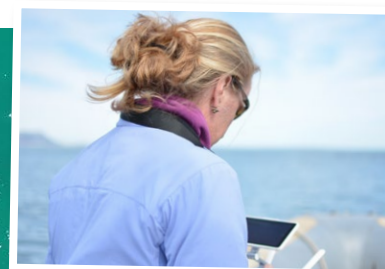
'Actuarial science is about collecting complicated data and converting it to its simplest form; it is about maths, and I enjoy maths because it is precise and perfect. Actuarial science is the one profession in which I can combine my love for maths, statistics and finance.'

Read the full article here: [www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-natural-agricultural-sciences/news/post\\_3051667-university-of-pretoria-funds-studies-of-14-year-old-budding-actuary](http://www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-natural-agricultural-sciences/news/post_3051667-university-of-pretoria-funds-studies-of-14-year-old-budding-actuary)

## WWF and UP team up to keep watch on southern right whales

*Southern Right whales rely heavily on their foraging success and stored energy supplies to support their reproduction and migration.*

*Warming oceans and the consequent changes to ocean processes appear to be having a negative impact on the available food supply, which has led to a noticeable effect on the number of whales visiting South African shores.*



Dr Els Vermeulen, research manager at the Whale Unit ↑

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) South Africa and the Whale Unit of the University of Pretoria's (UP's) Mammal Research Institute are partnering to support research on southern right whales, which are facing various new threats, one of which is a diminishing food supply due to climate change.

The Whale Unit has been monitoring southern right whale populations since 1969. Using annual surveys, including photo-identification photography, their research has provided one of the world's longest continuous datasets for any marine

mammal. This extremely valuable dataset is of national and international importance.

In partnering with UP's Whale Unit, WWF South Africa hopes to enable the facility to continue its vital research into the well-being of these iconic whales, which play an important role in South Africa's coastal tourism industry, generating both direct and indirect income for the country.

'Since commercial whaling was stopped, the recovery of the southern right whale population was a great conservation success story,' said Dr Els Vermeulen, research

manager at the Whale Unit. 'But now science is telling us that these marine mammals are coming under renewed pressure from a more modern problem, probably linked to climate change.'

You can support the conservation of southern right whales in South Africa by symbolically adopting a whale. All funds raised go towards covering the cost of marine scientists' fieldwork.

[donate.wwf.org.za/adoption/adopt-a-whale](http://donate.wwf.org.za/adoption/adopt-a-whale)





In 2021, Marion was the overall winner of the Rhino Peak Challenge. Photo: Bruce Leslie.

## A vet who works and runs to promote wildlife conservation

By Chris van Blerk and Dr Marion Leiberich

*Dr Marion Leiberich is a veterinarian and postdoctoral researcher at the Centre for Veterinary Wildlife Research at the Faculty of Veterinary Science. She is passionate about her work in the field of wildlife research and conservation and also enjoys running, which led to her decision to combine her two passions by running for conservation.*

She is currently researching options for improving the wellbeing and welfare of rhinos during translocation. Her love for the outdoors, for adventure and the natural world led her to the sport of trail running. 'I cannot imagine my life without my daily dose of trail running/exploring/hiking. In the mountains, together with my trail hounds, I feel most alive and find strength, resilience, peace and happiness,' she said.

In 2021, Marion joined the Rhino Peak Challenge as an ambassador for a second consecutive year to help raise much-needed funds for rhino, blue crane and vulture conservation projects undertaken by Wildlife ACT, the Endangered Wildlife Trust and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EKZNW).

The Rhino Peak Challenge is a conservation fundraiser that is held annually at the Maloti Drakensberg World Heritage Site. Anyone with a passion for wildlife conservation and our natural heritage can apply to become an ambassador. The challenge unites like-minded people to raise awareness about the dire situation of our wildlife, to raise funds and to challenge themselves', Marion explained.

The 44 successful candidates committed to raise R20 000 each and completed their ascent of the mighty Rhino Peak on 6 November 2021. The summit of this iconic mountain, shaped like a rhino horn, is 3 056 m above sea level, and the 21 km route to the top is not only fun and technical, but also breathtakingly beautiful.



↑ Marion and her dog Malaika, 'the best mountain goat and trail buddy', roam the mountains together whenever they can. Photo: Marzelle van der Merwe.

After an enjoyable, challenging and adventure-filled day in the mountains, Marion was the first runner to cross the finishing line and could celebrate her second win after having been the first female runner in 2020. All the participants joined in to celebrate the fact that they had reached the fundraising target of one million rand.

For Marion, running to raise awareness of the plight of some extraordinary wildlife species and money to fund conservation efforts is the perfect combination of her passions. She said: 'I really enjoy running and now I can run for what I love and what I want to protect. Rhinos and Rhino Peak hold a very special place in my heart.'

Read the full article here: [www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-veterinary-science/news/post\\_3052411-some-vets-not-only-work-in-the-field-of-wildlife-conservation-they-also-run-for-conservation](http://www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-veterinary-science/news/post_3052411-some-vets-not-only-work-in-the-field-of-wildlife-conservation-they-also-run-for-conservation)





# UP veterinary staff and students help pet owners in Bronkhorstspuit

By Engela Duvenhage



↑ As part of the vaccination drive against rabies, staff and student volunteers from UP's Faculty of Veterinary Science provided free care to pets and advice to their owners.

During a recent drive to vaccinate pets against rabies, residents of Bronkhorstspuit (50 km east of Pretoria) and the surrounding areas lined up to receive free care and advice for their cats and dogs, and even a parrot. The initiative was organised by the animal feed company Alzu Feeds and supported by a clinician, veterinary nursing staff and veterinary and veterinary nursing students from the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Veterinary Science located at Onderstepoort.

The Faculty provided a well-equipped mobile clinic, parked next to The Alzu Feeds premises for the day, and 123 dogs and 21 cats were vaccinated. Employees at a local animal sanctuary also made use of the opportunity to bring 25 dogs in their care to the clinic for a quick check-up and the necessary vaccinations.

Most of the pets treated were vaccinated against rabies and also received the all-important five-in-one jab against other potentially fatal animal diseases, such as canine distemper, canine adenovirus 2, canine parainfluenza and canine parvovirus.

OVAH veterinarian Dr Makhosonkhe Dlamini was pleased with the condition of the animals he saw and said: 'The drive also provided the UP students who volunteered with valuable hands-on training. I was very proud of the way they handled the animals and provided a helping hand where needed.'

'Rabies is a frightening disease and the Faculty of Veterinary Science fully supports initiatives aimed at preventing its spread,' said Dr Paul Van Dam, Director of the OVAH and another champion of the initiative.

**'Dogs are the source of 99% of rabies infections in humans, which are all fatal. However, rabies can be 100% prevented by vaccinating cats and dogs. It is also our duty to inform and educate communities about the possible risks if pets are not vaccinated against the disease.'**



↑ OVAH veterinarian Dr Makhosonkhe Dlamini (left) was the clinician on hand during the event

Read the full article here:

[www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-veterinary-science/news/post\\_3059053-up-veterinary-staff-and-students-help-pet-owners-in-bronkhorstspuit](http://www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-veterinary-science/news/post_3059053-up-veterinary-staff-and-students-help-pet-owners-in-bronkhorstspuit)





## UP students achieve stellar results in the 2022 SAICA ITC

The University of Pretoria achieved a pass rate of 99,4% in the January 2022 South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) Initial Test of Competence (ITC). The ITC is the first of two professional exams that have to be passed by students hoping to qualify as chartered accountants.

Over the past 15 years, UP has achieved consistent pass rates, with an average first-time pass rate of 94.6%. Four UP candidates, Hans-Peter Fechter, Michàel van Schalkwyk, Carla Botes and Bennert van Schalkwyk,

are among the top ten achievers of the ITC results.

Professor Tawana Kupe, UP Vice-Chancellor and Principal, expressed his delight over the results and congratulated the students, saying that their dedication and hard work during very challenging times was laudable. He added: 'Our students have once again done the University proud. These results embody the excellence that we continuously strive for and the consistent quality of our internationally recognised education.'



↑ Financial Sciences Academic Trainees

Read the full article here: [www.up.ac.za/news/post\\_3055987-up-students-make-their-mark-in-the-2022-saica-itc-with-stellar-results](http://www.up.ac.za/news/post_3055987-up-students-make-their-mark-in-the-2022-saica-itc-with-stellar-results)

### UP performance in the 2022 Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject

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↑ Mzuvukile Skwatsha

### UP Economics student takes third spot at Budget Speech Competition

Mzuvukile Skwatsha, a student in the Department of Economics, was named second runner-up in the postgraduate category of the Nedbank and Old Mutual Budget Speech Competition. The competition, now in its 50th year, attracts rising talent and aspiring economists who provide solutions for the country's pressing economic issues as they vie for the top prize.

Skwatsha, who won a cash prize of R50 000, said that the competition had provided him with an opportunity to expand his network and meet influential figures in the field of economics. He finds his chosen field of study to be intriguing and believes that everybody should be interested in the study of economics as it gives one a sense of the state of affairs in the country, which is really important. 'Economics is a lot of fun,' he added, 'and not really a difficult course to understand. It explains so many transition dynamics in the country, for example why one has or does not have a job.'

Read the full article here: [www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-economic-and-management-sciences/news/post\\_3054057--up-economics-student-takes-third-spot-at-budget-speech-competition](http://www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-economic-and-management-sciences/news/post_3054057--up-economics-student-takes-third-spot-at-budget-speech-competition)

# What do UP residences offer?

By Lanché van Tonder



*Students who have been placed in University of Pretoria residences have guaranteed access to all the facilities that will ensure a safe and secure space in a caring community and an environment that is conducive to academic pursuits.*

## The following facilities are available:

- Furnished rooms (bed, desk, chair, bookshelf, note-board and built-in cupboard)
- Self-operated laundry facilities
- Private bathrooms and toilets
- Wi-Fi and/or LAN connections throughout the residence
- On-site internet labs and study centres
- 24-hour access control by dedicated on-site security officers and CCTV coverage
- Safe and secure parking for cars and bicycles
- Recreational areas, such as sitting rooms, clubhouses and courtyards, for hosting different types of events and functions
- Sports facilities on site or nearby
- Dedicated cleaning and maintenance staff

## Dining and catering

- Meals are prepared on the site in monitored, state-of-the-art kitchens that adhere to highest levels of food safety and health and safety standards.
- There are 12 dining halls across five campuses.
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served daily and take-away meals and snacks are on sale.
- An amount of R14 400 to be used for meals in our dining halls is advanced to all students placed in residences.
- Online meal booking platforms are available.
- Catering is available for functions and events in our venues.

## Residence placement

- UP has 28 formal residences.
- Your applications for admission to a residence should accompany your application for studies at UP in 2023.
- Placement in a residence is based on academic merit (Gr 11/12 marks at the time of application) and date of application.



↑ Comfortable, cosy and modern recreational spaces in our residences.



↑ Heads of Residence are appointed at all residences as the parents of students in that particular residence.



↑ Parents' lunch in one of our 9 dining halls





# Young Tuks athlete excels at SA Senior Champs

By Wilhelm De Swardt | Photographer: Reg Caldecott



Bradley Nkoana

*On 21 April 2022 Bradley Nkoana, a 17-year-old learner from the TuksSport High School, became the youngest sprinter to win a medal in the 100 metres race during the South African Senior Athletics Championships.*

The race, run in Cape Town, was won by the South African sprint legend Akani Simbine in 10.31 s, with Nkoana finishing second in 10.34 s and Neo Mosebi third in the same time.

Before the race, coach Paul Gorries had told the athletes that they had nothing to lose and all that was expected of them was to run to the best of their abilities. Nkoana pushed the boundaries and was rewarded with a medal. Although he is delighted with the result, he is slightly embarrassed about how his first-ever senior 100 m final race played out in the last hundredth of a second and explained: 'I looked to my left, saw Akani next to me, and in my excitement I lost focus.'

Nkoana participated in the Gauteng North Championships in March 2020, before the pandemic put an end to sporting events, and

last year he was hampered by a hamstring injury and a fractured heel. 'I started to doubt my abilities, but my grandmother told me she believed in me and encouraged me to never give up, no matter what happened. Although my mother died when I was 11, my grandmother told me that she smiles every time I run a good race and that I should run to make her proud. Since then I have trained diligently, focusing on technique, discipline and recovery,' he said. His father, Freddy, tries to attend every race.

Earlier this season, during the South African Junior and Youth Championships held in Potchefstroom, Nkoana won the under 18 100 m and 200 m events. In February, he clocked 10.21 s in a 100m race, which is his personal best. However, he believes he can improve on it. On a perfect day, he expects to finish in 10.15 s. The current SA under 18 record is 10.20 s.

