

ISSUE 28

ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

TUKKIE



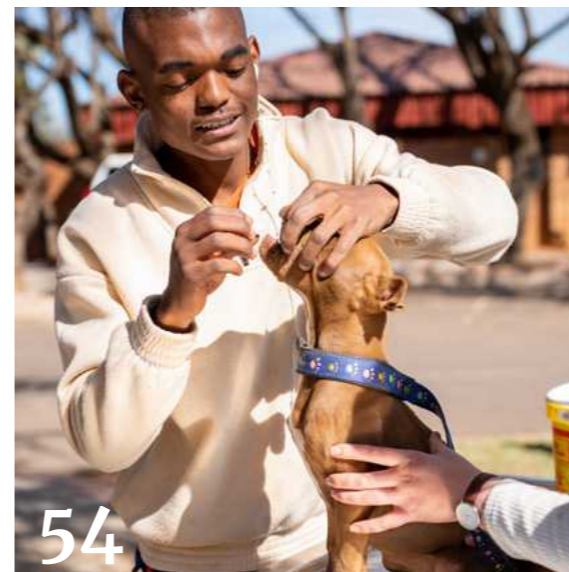
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Tuks Alumni

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TUKKIE

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From the alumni desk

Dear *Tukkie* reader,

Thank you for taking the time to check out how 2022 has panned out for the University of Pretoria and the Alumni Relations Office. We are very grateful that things have gone back to normal and we are experiencing the usual hustle and bustle throughout our campuses. It has been a challenging few years, but this year we managed to pick up the pieces and we are striving even harder.

Here are highlights for the year, some of which are found in this edition of the magazine:

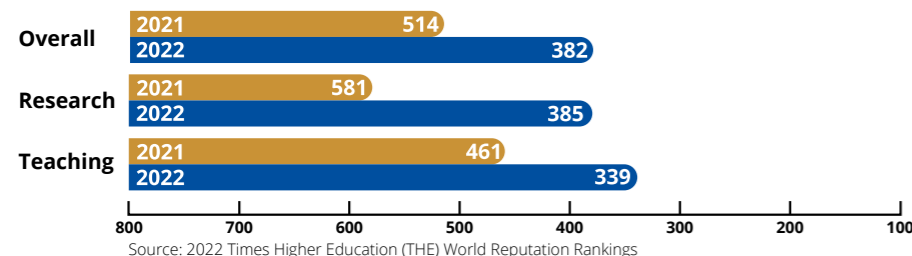
Quality outcomes

The University of Pretoria (UP) significantly improved its position in the 2022 Times Higher Education (THE) World Reputation Rankings, which were released on 16 November 2022. Globally, UP is ranked 382 in overall reputation compared to 514 in 2021, 385 in research reputation (581 in 2021), and 339 in teaching reputation (461 in 2021).

In South Africa, UP is ranked 3rd (4th in 2021) overall. This is the University's best performance over the past five years.

In research, UP is joint 3rd in SA (4th in 2021) together with the University of the Witwatersrand, and in teaching UP is ranked 2nd in SA (3rd in 2021). Overall, the University of Cape Town (194 in the world) and Stellenbosch University (351 in the world) are ranked 1st and 2nd, respectively, in SA.

UP's reputation improves



UP-US Foundation launch

UP recently launched the UP-US Foundation to build and grow existing relationships, and to assist alumni and friends of UP to give back financially in the most tax-effective manner. It is set to launch another such foundation in the United Kingdom.

Launch of a new alumni chapter

The Alumni Relations Office launched a new alumni chapter for UP graduates who have been recipients of the Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Merit Award (VCDMA). Every year since 2016 top scholars have been awarded the VCDMA, which grants recipients funding for the duration of their undergraduate studies.

Mentorship Programme now on UP Alumni Connect

The Career Services Office has partnered with the UP Alumni Relations Office to make its Mentorship Programme available within the UP Alumni Connect app. The University of Pretoria Career Services Mentorship Programme was launched in 2019. It is currently being implemented across all faculties and is available to final-year students.

UP launches Centre for the Future of Work

CFoW Director Professor Natasja Holtzhausen of UP's Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences said the centre is a key connector between the

University and the public and private sectors, and will encompass the concept of Society 5.0.

UP's Giving Day campaign

The University's Giving Day campaign was launched to raise an additional R100 million for several major projects over the next three years. The main aim is to raise funds, but also to increase the culture of philanthropy at the University.

International partnerships

The University of Pretoria and Michigan State University have partnered in a knowledge exchange programme to strengthen student success and well-being. The Pro Vice-Chancellor for Education at the University of Bristol, Professor Tansy Jessop, visited UP to discuss areas where both universities can produce transdisciplinary research, improve their curricula, and create opportunities for students.

UP Vice-Chancellor and Principal Prof Tawana Kupe and Carleton University President and Vice-Chancellor Dr Benoit-Antoine Bacon formalised an agreement to facilitate transdisciplinary research collaboration and student and faculty exchange. The University of York welcomed a delegation of senior UP academics to strengthen academic ties and explore common interests between the two universities.



UP climbed one position in university rankings (from No 4 in 2021), which is the University's best performance over the past five years.

Source: 2022 Times Higher Education (THE) World Reputation Rankings



FINALIST External Publications

Congratulations to UP's *Tukkie* magazine for winning at this year's Corporate Publication Competition run by the South African Publication Forum. The magazine came out tops in the corporate magazine category and also scored very highly with Certificates of Excellence in writing, communication and design. According to the judges, the magazine is an excellent, well-packaged publication with a great offering of interesting articles.

A research-intensive institution

Several UP academics continue to cement the University's status as a research-intensive institution. A new series of maps – drawn up by Emeritus Professor Rudi van Aarde of the University of Pretoria and Dr Ryan Huang of Duke University in the US – details where African elephants prefer to roam in southern Africa. The maps help us to consider the prospects of how we can improve the connections between the different protected areas that harbour elephants in southern Africa.

For years now, invasive water hyacinth plants have clogged up the North West's Hartbeespoort Dam. In new research, hydrogeologists from the University of Pretoria have used the internal workings of the plants themselves to reiterate that the infestation is fuelled by below-par sewerage works and inadequate sanitation facilities for informal settlements upstream. The study, by Ryno Germishuys, a MSc student in Hydrogeology at UP, and his supervisor, Dr Roger Diamond of the UP Department of Geology, was published in the *South African Journal of Science*.

UP recently participated in an international study led by the University of Miami to investigate termite and microbial wood discovery and decay. Extraordinary Professor Catherine Parr and PhD student Katherine Bunney were instrumental in UP's contribution to the global study, which was published in the journal *Science*.

“

Overall, *Tukkie* is a nice-to-read, beautiful magazine. Well done.

”

As part of InnoFoodAfrica, a multinational, cross-continental project that aims to enhance food and nutrition security in Africa, UP researchers have discovered that they can leverage the health benefits of orange-fleshed sweet potato by making it into flour. PhD Food Sciences candidate Daddy Kgonothi has been central to the development of this flour, and has been working under the guidance of Professor Naushad Emmambux and Dr Nwabisa Mehlomakulu of the Department of Consumer and Food Sciences at UP.

The Alumni Office will continue our efforts to keep in touch with you, and we urge our alumni to stay in contact with us. If you haven't done so, please join the UP Alumni Connect platform.

Please stay safe, and I look forward to connecting with you again in 2023.

Ms Samantha Castle
Senior Manager: Alumni Relations



Give, even when it hurts

Emeritus Justice Sisi Khampepe has always strived to use her position and title to help others with opportunities to grow and learn. She now joins the University of Pretoria as Chancellor to further support an enabling environment in which individuals can flourish.

In its 114th year, the University of Pretoria (UP) officially welcomed its 10th Chancellor, Emeritus Justice Sisi Khampepe, on 30 September 2022.

The Electoral College of the University, comprising members of Council, Senate and the President of the Convocation, elected Emeritus Justice Khampepe for a five-year term in May, with the possibility of appointment for a further consecutive term, subject to due process.

The highly revered Justice, who dedicated the past four decades of her legal career to upholding the principle of equality, said at her inauguration ceremony: "Students played a critical role in confronting the apartheid system in the fight for a just society, but they have a different fight now – that of defending our democracy, Constitution, and its commission. In particular, they are fighting to improve the quality of life of all citizens in a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights."

Justice Khampepe said South Africa remains a very unequal nation, facing myriad challenges.

"These manifest most noticeably in the unacceptably high rate of unemployment and the dignity-robbing poverty which still grips a large part of our society."

She referred to the critical issue of fundraising that was on the agenda at a meeting of the South African Universities Chancellor's Forum. From this meeting, it was clear that universities will experience higher levels of sacrifice over the next five years and beyond, she said.

While funding from the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) has increased more than fivefold in six years, the solution has meant budget cuts in funds allocated to universities.

"This severely impacts those students who come from working-class households that do not qualify for funds from NSFAS, but cannot afford higher education."

She lauded Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Tawana Kupe, for championing the Giving Day Campaign which was launched at the end of May to raise an additional R100 million for major projects over the next three years. The initiative targets staff, students, alumni, the Executive Committee and the University Council. It also has an international outlook focusing on alumni abroad, UP's foundations in the UK and the US, large corporations and high-net-worth individual relationships.

While the main aim of this campaign is to raise funds, it is also to further entrench the culture of philanthropy at the University, as giving needs to become part of everyone's mindset, said Justice Khampepe. "The philosophy of giving extends beyond financial donations and can take on many forms. These include mentoring, participating as guest lecturers or sitting on advisory or industry boards for university centres, institutes, faculties and professional programmes."





Education advocate is UP's newest queen

Miss SA for 2022, Ndavi Nokeri, shares her alma mater's passion for opening the doors of education to all.

“ I commit to doing everything I can to continue navigating the University of Pretoria along the intentional road towards long-term societal impact, change and sustainability.

Emeritus Justice Sisi Khampepe

”

“Why, you might ask, must we increase our giving, when already we are all feeling financially stretched in the face of rising costs? Our motivations for giving might differ from individual to individual, but collectively, as a university community, we are deeply influenced by the concept of ubuntu, the idea that we are dependent, rather than isolated beings,” Justice Khampepe said.

“As we are supported, guided and inspired by so many people in our own journeys, we are in a position to, in turn, help others,” she added.

Justice Khampepe urged the UP community “to carry this sense of compassionate urgency forward as we give, even when it hurts”.

Convocation helps maintain UP's high standards

The Convocation of the University of Pretoria (UP) is a legally constituted body made up of more than 300 000 alumni, members of UP's Executive, current permanent academic staff, professors emeriti, and other retired academic employees. Alumni form its largest constituency.

When he was elected as President of the Convocation in 2019, Dr Hinner Köster said: “UP has made a significant contribution to the success of many of its alumni, and therefore I want the University to continue to be globally recognised and maintain its high standards.”

The President of the Convocation plays a pivotal role as Chairperson of the Convocation Advisory Board (ex officio). As one of the four Convocation members on the Council, the University's highest decision-making body, he and other Convocation representatives can influence decisions.

The UP Convocation Advisory Board consists of 15 committee members.



Present at the Convocation AGM, held virtually on 1 November 2022, were (from left): Dr Hinner Köster, President of the Convocation, Prof Tawana Kupe, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, and Nozipho Dlamini, Deputy Chairperson of the Convocation.

Ndavi Nokeri visited her alma mater, the University of Pretoria (UP), wearing not only her 2022 Miss South Africa sash, but bearing a strong message.

“Growing up in a village made me realise the value of education. It is important for young girls and boys to be educated and to break the cycle of poverty through education. It is my wish to work with corporates and universities across South Africa to champion the power of education,” she said.

During an interview with Vice-Chancellor Prof Tawana Kupe, he asked about the one thing Nokeri would like to change in South Africa. Her response was to address the number of rape cases,

gender-based violence and femicide, which she described as “shocking”.

“I would like to change that and make women and children feel safe in our country – gender equality is important,” she said, adding that charitable work was close to her heart and was something she would like to expand.

“I join my colleagues in applauding you on the launch of your education advocacy campaign, Ed-Unite,” Prof Kupe said during the luncheon held in her honour.

“It is clear that you share our passion for opening the doors of education to all. You are indeed living up to your promise to make a difference in your community

and in communities across South Africa and the world through your example not only as Miss South Africa, but in the hard work you put in leading up to this achievement. This includes the days, weeks, and months spent sitting at your desk studying towards your UP final exams,” he said.

Prof Kupe said that it is a source of pride, not just to him but to the entire University of Pretoria community, to see a UP graduate shine so brightly on the national and international stage.

By: Xolani Mathibela



Miss SA 2020
Shudufhadzo Musida



Miss SA 2021
Lalela Mswane



Miss SA 2022
Ndavi Nokeri

Fast Fact

Ndavi Nokeri, who graduated this year with a BCom degree in Investment Management, was the third Miss South Africa from UP in as many years.

In 2020, Shudufhadzo Musida wore the crown, followed by Lalela Mswane in 2021.

UP athletes bag 45% of Team SA medals

Whether on track, in the swimming pool, or on tatami mats, UP-associated athletes made their mark at the Commonwealth Games again, and again, and again.



Celebrating the success of UP athletes at the recent Commonwealth Games in Birmingham are (from left) Pieter Coetzé, Prof Tawana Kupe, Kaylene Corbett, Professor Carolina Koornhof and coach Rocco Meiring.

Of the 27 medals South Africa won at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, 11 were won by UP-associated athletes.

At a celebration breakfast to honour these stars, the University of Pretoria's (UP) Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Tawana Kupe, said: "You are the special group of people who made a meaningful and invaluable contribution to our success at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham in the United Kingdom."

The breakfast was attended by two of the athletes, swimmers Kaylene Corbett and Pieter Coetzé, their coach Rocco Meiring, members of management at TuksSport and some University partners.

"As a people-oriented and forward-thinking institution that seeks to educate holistically, we focus on developing students to become fully integrated

individuals," Prof Kupe said. "We want all-rounders at the University of Pretoria, people who excel in everything, whether it's in sport or academics."

Prof Kupe said this was not just a numbers game and it was not just about the gold, silver and bronze medals. It was about the pride and respect the institution feels for the athletes, for having the determination, discipline and passion, and for achieving the skills that enabled them to represent South Africa and compete globally.

Speaking on behalf of the athletes, Corbett, who won a bronze medal in the women's 200m-breaststroke final, said it was heartwarming to know that there are people who are constantly supporting them.

"It feels good to be associated with UP. The University allows and gives us the

opportunity to participate in these games, and we are grateful to the institution and to Prof Kupe for the continuous support," she said.

Steven Ball, TuksSport Director and CEO of the High Performance Centre (hpc) said: "The fact that we were able to bring back such a high number of medals is something truly special ... 45% of Team South Africa's medals came from UP. To our athletes, who try by all means to balance the demands that come with training, being a student and participating in games: We are proud of you."

Bestmed medical scheme CEO Leo Dlamini also commended the athletes. "We congratulate all the UP Commonwealth Games participants and winners as we understand the focus and huge sacrifices they made to participate in those games – and to come out on top."



Prof Tawana Kupe (centre) and Ms Samantha Castle (far left) hosted some of the UP-affiliated M&G 200 Young South Africans.

A place where trailblazers are launched

UP remains a fertile space to nurture a new generation of trailblazing creators and leaders who will help reimagine the African continent.

The number of University of Pretoria (UP)-affiliated trailblazers keeps growing, as reflected in the *Mail & Guardian* 200 Young South Africans list.

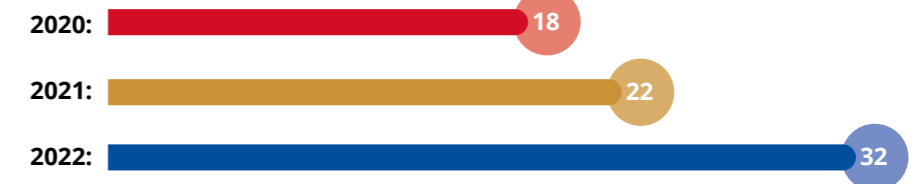
The list comprises young innovators under the age of 35 who are making waves in their respective fields. From sport and health to mining and technology, UP-affiliated individuals stood out in every category this year.

UP Vice-Chancellor and Principal Prof Tawana Kupe referred to the role that higher education institutions play in shaping the leaders of tomorrow.

"Africa has the youngest populations, so we have a unique opportunity to ensure that this fast-growing continent so beaming with promise provides high-quality human resources to the West," he said. "South Africa's higher institutions of learning are important spaces to prepare a new generation of trailblazing creators and leaders who will make a positive, transformative impact and allow us to reimagine our continent in the global context."

Growing recognition

Over the years, the M&G list has featured a growing number of UP trailblazers.



This year, the *Mail & Guardian* received more than 3 000 nominations for the list, the theme of which is 'South Africa's inclusive, equal and sustainable future'. Sustainability and transformation are pillars of the University, so it is unsurprising that the UP candidates have placed these ideas at the centre of their work.

UP graduate Tsholofelo Mosala, Commissioner at the Cultural, Religious and Linguistic (CRL) Rights Commission, is one such example of someone who is working towards transformation. She was recognised in the Education category. Promoting and protecting the

rights of cultural, religious and linguistic communities form part of her day-to-day activities.

UP alumnus Thato Magasa, recognised in the Business category, is the managing director of Mitsubishi Motors and increased sales by 71,5% by the end of 2021, while digital innovation analyst Abdul Qadir Soondka (Technology and Innovation category) develops roadmaps, strategies and programmes, and hopes that South Africa will become a global leader in innovation, technology and economies.

By: Mecayla Maseka

Proudly UP

Three alumna share how their experiences at UP set them up for career success.

UP offerings set up the Linda sisters to fly

Sithembile Linda says her academic journey at the University has stood her in good stead for her career path. So much so that she's keen to return to the University to pursue her PhD.

Sithembile graduated with a BA degree specialising in Psychology and Criminology in 2018, obtained an honours degree in Criminology in 2019, and in 2021 she graduated yet again with a master's degree in Criminology. She is currently awaiting feedback on her PhD proposal, also in Criminology.

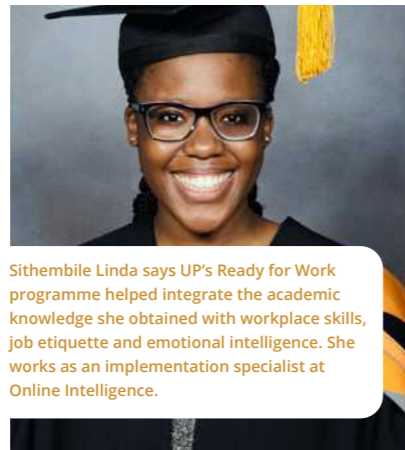
She chose UP because the institution stands out above the rest for its culture, diversity, and the vast opportunities for growth available to students.

"In particular, the Department of Social Work and Criminology at UP is the best in South Africa. The healthy academic environment propelled me to pursue my studies further and evolve not only personally but in my workplace skills through programmes such as Ready for Work," Sithembile says.

And she's not the only one in her family who chose UP for these reasons. Her sister, Lindokuhle, graduated with a BEng Metallurgical Engineering degree and is currently enrolled for her BEng (Hons), specialising in welding engineering.

"In my research, the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology at UP was highlighted as one of the most impactful faculties, not only in South Africa but as a leader on the African continent," Lindokuhle said.

"Opportunities to tutor and be a research



Sithembile Linda says UP's Ready for Work programme helped integrate the academic knowledge she obtained with workplace skills, job etiquette and emotional intelligence. She works as an implementation specialist at Online Intelligence.

assistant while studying created a symbiotic relationship between my academic knowledge and career growth," she says.

Lindokuhle believes alumni should be active participants in the development of their alma mater. This connection helps engagement with industry expertise, which provides space for innovative contributions that interlink research and industry.

"This further extends employment prospects for new graduates seeking guidance and mentorship."



For Lindokuhle Linda, studying at UP has been like a rollercoaster ride with extreme lows and even better highs. She is a full-time student and an academic tutor.

Nadia Romanos makes headlines at 5FM

Nadia Romanos, who graduated with a BA (Hons) Journalism in 2013, is currently a news presenter on the 5FM afternoon drive show, 5 Drive, and is the station's resident movie buff. Behind the scenes at 5FM she's a digital content producer, and when she's off-air and offline, you'll most likely find her baking up a storm.

"I could not be a prouder UP graduate. I had the time of my life while studying there – loved the vibe on campus, and I enjoyed being able to delve into subjects I was interested in," she recalled.

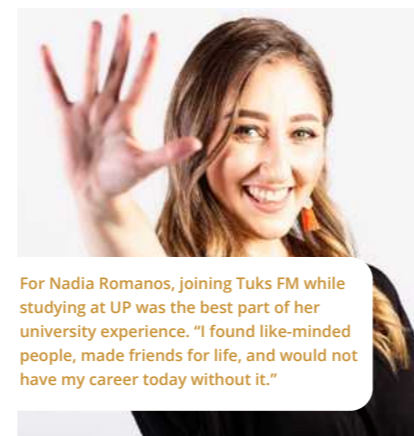
She says the challenging part about her job is sometimes covering sad stories that happen to be about someone she knows or has met before.

"It can get tough to hold it together, but it is important to look at the bigger picture."

Working at 5FM is "an absolute dream come true. I have been there for eight years and I still don't believe it sometimes. I also had an opportunity to go to London to interview British actor Henry Cavill."

Romanos says she is grateful for the journalism skills she acquired at UP because the lessons have been instrumental in her everyday work. She says it is easy to spot a fellow UP Journalism alumnus in the industry by their work ethic.

By: Xolani Mathibela



For Nadia Romanos, joining Tuks FM while studying at UP was the best part of her university experience. "I found like-minded people, made friends for life, and would not have my career today without it."



Giving Day a way of life

The University's first Giving Day campaign focused not so much on funding but on finding the kindness and concern for the common good within each of us.

When students returned to class after their winter break it was the first time they were all on campus after nearly two years, following the lockdown brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was a moment to savour. It was also a moment to celebrate. Students were met by a carnival-like atmosphere with free popcorn, food, haircuts and manicures for students and staff. Entertainment was provided by Tuks FM. This festive event was also a culmination of the University's Giving Day campaign, which was launched to raise an additional R100 million for several major projects over the next three years.

UP Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Tawana Kupe said: "It fills me with much joy to see the campus bubbling with activity again. 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. Providing laptops and data added to this burden, and we had other expenses when we transitioned to online teaching and learning."

Prof Kupe added: "We are here today to see how our collective efforts can help alleviate the funding challenges, 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."

The main aim is to raise funds, but also to increase the culture of philanthropy at the University. Giving can take many forms – mentoring, participating as guest lecturers, or sitting on boards. "Giving needs to become part of everyone's mindset at UP," Prof Kupe said. "We also encourage other stakeholders, such as the alumni body, to give back to their alma mater."

Funds raised will be used for student support; this includes tuition fees and costs associated with accommodation, textbooks, food and devices. "We have many academically deserving students whose families cannot afford their study costs," Prof Kupe said.

"We are looking to raise 'new money' – either funds specifically given to the campaign from existing donors, or from new donors," said Hernan Finkel, Deputy Director of Relationship Management and Fundraising in the Department of Institutional Advancement. "We will not be counting what we raise during the year from our usual course of business to the campaign target."

To participate in the campaign, visit <https://givingday.up.ac.za/>



458

Number of donors contributing to UP's Giving Day campaign



R19 350 768

Funds raised during the first Giving Day campaign

Several projects will benefit from the Giving Day campaign:

- The Faculty of Veterinary Science's Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital
- TuksSport, to continue creating a platform for talented UP athletes
- UP Residences
- UP Museums

TOP: Celebrating UP's first Giving Day success are (from left): Helma Steenkamp (Mapungubwe Archivist), Steven Motena (Museum Interpretative Officer), Hannes Eisenbroek (Art Conservation THC Student Intern), Lelani Nicolaisen (Curator Art Galleries & Exhibitions), Craig McCleneghan (External Designer & Architect – McCleneghan Architecture), Kgomotho Mathole (Senior Museum Administrator), Gerard de Kamper (Museum Collections Curator), Michelle De la Harpe (UP Museum Archivist), and Dr Sian Tiley-Nel (Head of UP Museums).

LeadUP at the forefront of topical debates

LeadUP's series of events, in which issues of public interest are discussed by panellists including UP alumni, continues to inspire audiences to create positive change.

LeadUP alumni webinars were launched during 2020 as a new way of communicating and staying in contact with University of Pretoria (UP) alumni. Since then these events have evolved into hybrid global conversations to help find solutions to some of the challenges we face as a society.

During 2022 some of UP's highly skilled and well-placed alumni stirred debate and engaged on issues ranging from the Zondo Commission Report, to the migration crisis in Africa and the role and significance of storytelling in African societies.

Panel discussions were moderated by journalist and strategic communications practitioner Sebenzile Nkambule. Below are snippets from each event.

The Zondo Commission Report: What's next for our captured state?

The corruption associated with state capture has weakened the South African government's capacity to perform effectively for its citizens, negatively affecting progress towards economic growth, addressing unemployment, reducing poverty and inequality, and attracting investments.



The Zondo Commission panel (from left): Sebenzile Nkambule (moderator), Minister Ronald Lamola (Minister of Justice and Correctional Services), Dr Carolyn Chisadza (lecturer in UP's Department of Economics), and Samantha Castle (Senior Manager: Alumni Relations).

According to UP alumna Dr Carolyn Chisadza, a senior lecturer in UP's Department of Economics: "State capture worsens an already ailing economy and poses a serious threat to the progress that we have achieved to date in obtaining development in South Africa."

Lord Peter Hain, former UK Cabinet minister and anti-apartheid activist, focused his attention on the global corporations that aided the looting.

Minister Ronald Lamola, UP alumnus and national Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, indicated that the crimes were highly sophisticated and required an equally high level of sophistication when investigating them. For that reason, the National Prosecuting Authority received about R1.1 billion to put in place anti-corruption measures.

By Xolani Mathibela

Migration crisis in Africa: Where are the fault lines?

For Professor Christopher Nshimbi from UP's Department of Political Sciences migration in Africa is too often negatively associated with "illegals". But there is a positive side to migration if countries establish a forward-looking policy environment for it to promote development. In this context, migration can positively help in the transfer of goods, finances, skills and technical knowhow while strengthening economic ties among countries that participate in African regional integration schemes.

Ashraf El Nour, Regional Director: Southern Africa for the International Organisation for Migration, confirmed that migration has become a fundamental contributor to the local community's livelihood wherever they go. "Migration also provides labour to the economies, so it can keep growing and booming and the society as a whole can function."

Dr Jo Vearey, Director: African Centre for Migration and Society, indicated that Africa does not have a crisis of migration but of health responses that have failed to engage with migration. "This not only negatively affects the people who are moving, but will negatively affect the population through which migrants move and work."

Telling Africa's Stories: The Business of Innovation, Collaboration and Creativity

According to UP Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Tawana Kupe we have long passed a point where people told stories about Africa for Africans. "Africans are now telling their own stories across multiple mediums, and are generating large African audiences. That the majority of African writers are female tells the story of women being amazing amid all the complexities that include gender-based violence," he said.



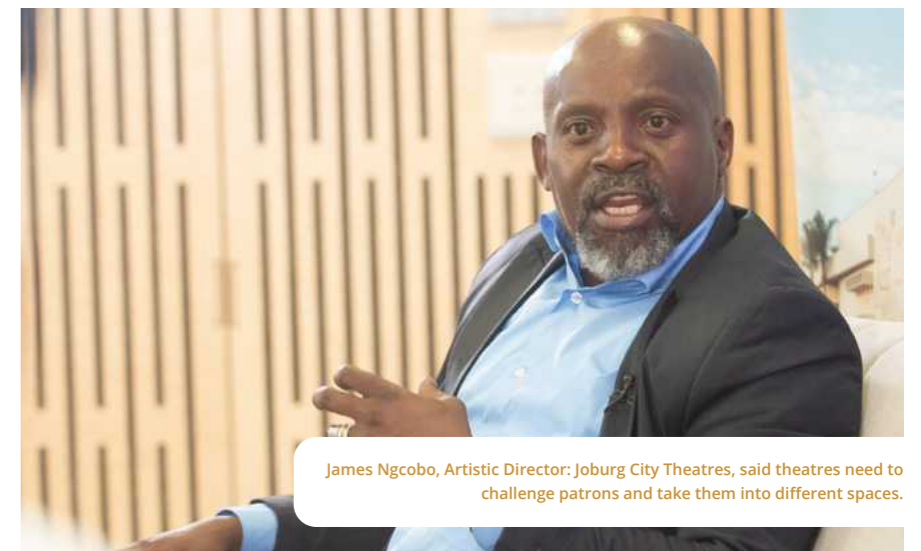
Ashraf El Nour, Regional Director: Southern Africa for the International Organization for Migration.

James Ngcobo, Artistic Director: Joburg City Theatres, spoke of the need for theatres to challenge, especially the patron who is comfortable with what the theatre has always produced. "You need to start taking the patron to different spaces and woo people with your content so that they can support theatres."

Echoing Ngcobo's sentiments was Professor David Medalie, Director of the University of Pretoria's Creative Writing Unit, who said an extraordinary diversity

in themes is emerging from students' writing.

Noxolo Dlamini, UP alumna and star of Netflix's 'Jiva!' series, felt direct engagement with audiences was important. "When the audience has access to us, we open up opportunities of possible partnerships with brands and ambassadorships. This helps to expand artists and to be entrepreneurial, because both brands and artists grow in that way."



James Ngcobo, Artistic Director: Joburg City Theatres, said theatres need to challenge patrons and take them into different spaces.

Bringing their A game to the fore

The University of Pretoria (UP) and accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) hosted a golf day at the Pretoria Country Club where 120 stakeholders enjoyed the game and an opportunity to network. "As we celebrate today, let us continue to build and foster the relationship we have in order to find solutions for growth and innovation together. We appreciate the years of support and collaboration we have enjoyed and look forward to many more," said UP Chief Operating Officer Sandile Mthiyane.



The Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences is the largest of its kind in Africa.

This diverse faculty is renowned for its expertise in forestry and agriculture, food systems, biotechnology, life sciences, physical sciences, and mathematical and statistical sciences. Our broad range of disciplines allows us to tackle interdisciplinary societal problems by finding solutions to complex issues in modern society. These issues include food security and cures for poverty-related and infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and malaria, as well as alternative and renewable energy solutions. This is achieved through targeted research and appropriate training focused on the latest technologies and innovations.



Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
Fakulteit Natuur- en Landbouwetenskappe
Lefapha la Disaense tša Tlhago le Temo

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Soar like a true Tukkier

Say hello to Masey, our high-flying mascot that continually strives to do better and be better.



TuksSport at the University of Pretoria (UP) recently introduced its new mascot to the University community – a bateleur eagle (which is native to southern Africa) provisionally named Masey.

“The mascot is a high flyer and continually strives to do better and be better,” said Angelica van Dou, Marketing and Communications Manager at TuksSport. Masey’s stand-out features are fluffy black hair, a big red beak, and a graduation cap. “The new mascot is tenacious in their pursuit of their ideals of being a true Tukkier.”

Notably, the mascot is gender-neutral. “In line with University efforts to create an inclusive/non-conforming gender landscape, we felt that introducing a gender-neutral mascot was what was

called for,” Van Dou said. “We wanted each UP student, athlete and community member to see themselves in the mascot and be able to identify with a symbol we are being very mindful about introducing.”

Van Dou stressed the significance of having a mascot. “Having a mascot is an opportunity to communicate the values of an organisation through a character. It will enable students to build a deeper affinity with the University, TuksSport and related campaigns by being the physical embodiment of concepts and values that are sometimes tricky to articulate.”

The mascot’s predecessor, Oom Gert, played an interesting role in the UP community many years ago. Oom Gert is a tall brown statue inspired by Oom Paul, a figure that stood outside a tobacco shop in Pretorius Street in the centre of Pretoria. From 1932 to 1950, residences at the University would raid other residences in order to steal Oom Gert. “The new mascot earned their stripes from Oom Gert and has the important responsibility of carrying on the legacy of the Tukkier spirit into a new age,” Van Dou said.

Unlike Oom Gert, the new mascot will not be subject to residence raids but rather be more like a campus influencer. “Masey will make appearances at UP events, sports fixtures as well as across the social calendar of the UP community.”



Want to name Masey?

If you would like to suggest new names for Masey, head to UP and TuksSport’s official social media platforms. You stand a chance of winning an Instax Mini 11 Polaroid camera.

Hello UP alumni

We would like to stay connected with you!

To ensure you receive our alumni communications, invites, updates and alumni benefits, make sure you update your latest contact details in case they’ve changed, at <https://www.up.ac.za/alumni/alumniform>. Don’t forget to join our exciting UP Alumni Connect platform or app.

Simply register to join as follows:

1. To join the UP Alumni Connect platform, go to www.upalumniconnect.com and click on “Get started”, sign up using your LinkedIn, Google or Facebook account, or your email address. The team will verify that you’re an alumnus/alumna/UP employee and approve your profile within three days. You can then sign in and enjoy the many benefits of using the platform.
2. Go to the App Store or the Play Store, search “**Gradway Community**”, install the app, select “**University of Pretoria**” as your institution and register or login. Connect to this community of over **10,000 alumni** and never miss out on **job postings, mentor/mentee opportunities**, and updates from UP including **news** and chances to **win prizes**. We look forward to seeing you online!

Alumni Relations Team



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Forget retirement, try retyrement It's a frame of mind

After action, satisfaction. No, not the well-known slogan for a brand of cigarette, but a summary of the life of a woman who decided retirement was not in her dictionary.

After decades of authenticating historical buildings, creating beautiful spaces for ambassadors, and managing a thriving décor wholesale outlet, Elize Labuschagne-Hull could finally retire. Except, she didn't know how to spell the word.

For her it meant 'retyrement'; retreading what she thought was worn out and setting out on a new life journey: that of photographer. Just three short years later, this self-taught photographer was one of the Top 100 participants in The Wildlife Photographer of the Year, hosted by the Natural History Museum in London.

It was only when she sold her business that she found the time to pursue the 'luxury' of a hobby such as photography. "Travel was always part of my retirement plan, and picking up a camera to capture precious memories was a natural progression."

As with most enquiring minds, it didn't stop at photographing people and places. Gradually the challenge of wildlife photography – particularly birds in flight – got the better of Elize, and that's where her focus landed.

"One cannot control wildlife – there are no guarantees of a good shot," is how she explains the attraction. "Ultimately, I am a gambler, and wildlife photography has

that same combination of luck and skill that I find particularly appealing."

Her gambling instinct has become ever more audacious in recent years. She has leopard-crawled in search of elusive jaguars in the depths of the Pantanal, Brazil, looked into the eyes of Madagascar's unique lemurs, and danced her way around the blue-footed boobies of the Galapagos Islands.

In 2022, Elize packed for her most challenging journey yet. She boarded an icebreaker in Svalbard, Norway, and navigated the glaciers and frozen tundra that shelter polar bears, Svalbard reindeer and Arctic foxes. Parts of her are still thawing.

So, what's the next destination on this interesting life journey? "Without a challenge I will surely wilt," Elize says. "Once I've mastered something, I move on to the next challenge. However, the appeal of photography is that it will never let you master it, so I have accepted that my camera and my 400 mm lens, together weighing 4kg, will accompany me until my dying day."

Her 'retyrement' is a lesson in lifelong learning, continuous exploring and sharply focusing on what brings joy. Bottle this frame of mind and you'll capture the elixir of ageing well.



Fossa goes to Davos

Elize's image of a fossa foraging for food in a rubbish dump competed against over 70 000 entries in the world's most prestigious wildlife photography competition: The Wildlife Photographer of the Year, hosted by the Natural History Museum, London.

As one of the top 100 images, the fossa was displayed at this museum for a few months and digitally published to benefit millions. From these top entries, the fossa was chosen as one of a few to be displayed at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Fast Fact

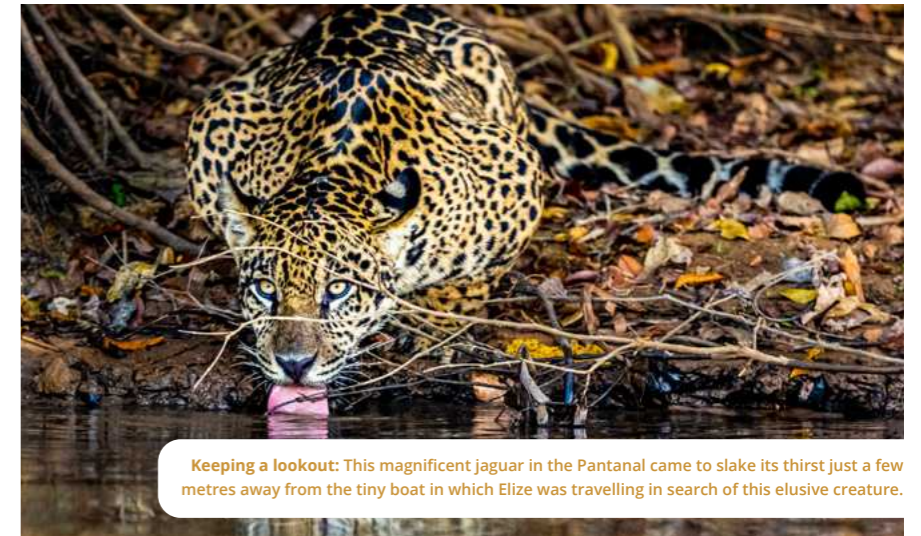
The fossa is a vulnerable species on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red list. For the price of a take-away coffee in a disposable cup, the citizens of affluent countries could support conservation in third-world countries. Preserving our natural heritage is not a national responsibility but a global one.

Elize in a shutter click

- Graduated from the University of Pretoria (UP) in 1980 with a master's degree in Cultural History, and then completed a postgraduate diploma in Museum Sciences at UP in 1982. In 1988 she completed a DPhil at Stellenbosch University.
- Her first job was as a museum researcher/advisor.
- After many years as a cultural historian she became an acclaimed interior designer and thereafter product designer.
- Her passion for nature and travelling became a full-time pursuit after retiring from business in 2017. She spends long periods in southern African game reserves and wilderness areas around the globe.
- Her memoirs outlining her development from farmgirl to respected photographer were published in June 2021, entitled *Good, Better, Betsie – A Mind Takes Flight* (available on Kindle).
- She is the winner of the 2019 wildlife category of the prestigious Africa Photo Awards, two-time category winner of the SANParks wildlife competition, and has reached the finals of several international competitions.



The jackal strikes again: This photograph of a black-backed jackal piling into a flock of sandgrouse in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park saw Elize recognised as the Africa Photographer of the Year (wildlife category) in 2019.



Keeping a lookout: This magnificent jaguar in the Pantanal came to slake its thirst just a few metres away from the tiny boat in which Elize was travelling in search of this elusive creature.



Strolling along: A young male polar bear, photographed at the Arctic Circle, strolls on the edge of the ice in search of food. These bears' habitat is under serious threat because of global warming.

Sisters doing it for themselves – THE UP WAY

Rankings, lecturers and role models: three good reasons why three brilliant sisters chose UP.

For the three Mohwaduba sisters, choosing the University of Pretoria (UP) to pursue their tertiary studies was a no-brainer.

"UP has established itself as arguably one of the best universities in our respective faculties. The Faculty of Law has been named the best law faculty in Africa on numerous occasions; the Faculty of Economic Management Sciences has distinguished itself in Accounting Sciences with respect to board exam first-time passes," says Mathabo Mohwaduba, who completed her LLB degree in 2017 and an LLM degree in the 'Extractive Industry in Africa' in 2018.

Her older sisters are Dr Mmatumelo Mohwaduba, who completed her MBChB degree in 2012, and Tebogo Mohwaduba CA(SA), who completed her BCom Accounting Sciences degree in 2012 and a BCom Accounting Sciences (Hons)/CTA degree in 2013.

Mmatumelo is a self-employed medical officer working at emergency units and

local municipality clinics in Gauteng and Mpumalanga. She owns Mo-Health, a holding company for various subsidiaries including Mohwaduba Health Care Clinics. The flagship location is in Emalahleni, Mpumalanga, and specialises in women's health and young male circumcisions.

Tebogo, a qualified chartered accountant, works in the corporate and investment banking division at Rand Merchant Bank.

Mathabo is currently a second-year candidate attorney in Finance, Projects and Restructuring at DLA Piper South Africa, an international law firm based in Johannesburg.

Mathabo believes a legal qualification allows graduates to work in a wide range of sectors. "Both my qualifications in law have facilitated the awesome privilege of occupying amazing positions in various areas. Highlights include clerking for Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng at the Constitutional Court of South Africa and working for the United Nations at its headquarters in New York, USA," she says.

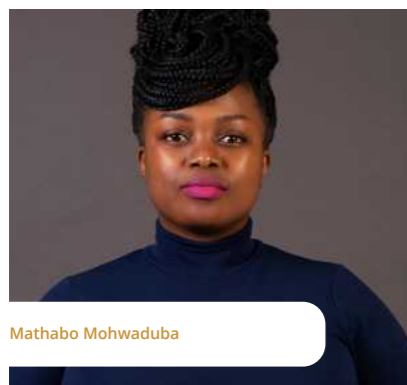
For Mmatumelo, the highlight of her career happened just a week into her community service. "All the senior doctors took leave and I was left alone to conduct all the ward rounds – medical, surgical (both male and female wards), obstetrics and paediatrics – and thereafter the clinic."

"I am proud and relieved to say that no fatalities occurred in those two weeks. I did not enjoy it, but it revealed my capabilities. We can do more than what we think, sometimes even with the limited resources we have."

On what it takes to succeed professionally, Tebogo says people should not just rely on motivation to get them to the finish line. "Discipline makes the biggest difference," she says.

The sisters, particularly Mathabo, say having gone through the hands of brilliant lecturers at UP and being associated with the institution is a competitive advantage.

By Xolani Mathibela



Mathabo Mohwaduba



Dr Mmatumelo Mohwaduba



Tebogo Mohwaduba

EMS AT A GLANCE

The mission of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences is to advance relevant knowledge and develop employable, innovative and diverse graduates to co-create value for society.



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ACCREDITATIONS

Where applicable and available, a number of our degrees are accredited by statutory and professional bodies at national and international level.

- ACCA Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
- CFA® Institute University Affiliation Program*
- CIMA Chartered Institute of Management Accountants
- ELA European Logistics Association
- HPCSA Health Professions Council for South Africa
- IIA Global Institute of Internal Auditors
- SABPP South African Board for People Practitioners
- SAICA South African Institute of Chartered Accountants
- SAIT South African Institute of Tax Professionals

*CFA Institute and CFA are registered trademarks owned by CFA Institute

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57%

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39

NRF-rated researchers



4 RESEARCH CHAIRS

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The Faculty is a proud member of AACSB International — The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

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#1 in SA and Africa

TOP 201-250

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TOP 401-500

Business & Economics**

TOP 201-300

Economics***

TOP 151-200

Finance***

*QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022

**Times Higher Education World University Rankings by Subject 2022

***Shanghai Ranking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2022

SOCIETAL IMPACT

Through the Mamelodi Business Clinic, the Faculty facilitates entrepreneurship and small business development in and around Pretoria through skills development, business advice and business mentoring processes.



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Lefapha la Disaense tša Ekonomi le Taolo

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Reap your rewards

Register and take advantage of UP's alumni benefits. You've earned them!

By graduating from the University of Pretoria (UP) you have privileges that extend beyond the awesome skill set that you earned through your

qualification. The UP Alumni Benefits Packages are our way of helping to foster a sense of community, and to help develop stronger alumni networks.

A portion of the Benefits Packages fee is an admin fee that will be donated to the Alma Mater Fund on your behalf, and you will be eligible to receive a tax certificate.

Premium Package (Recommended)

The price for the **Premium Benefits Package** is R850 per annum, of which R250 must be paid upfront as well as your first debit order of R50, thus making a total upfront payment of R300.

The UP Library

- Online access to Alumni Library Guide
- Study space on the different levels in the Merensky Library, excluding Postgraduate Rooms, Research Commons, Discussion Rooms, and Study Centre.
- Access to all resources inside the library
- Access to all library events
- Borrowing privileges – two books for two weeks (prescribed books, Study Collection books, Standards and inter-library loan services are excluded)
- Five reference interviews of an hour each per annum, on appointment 20 articles per annum
- Access to special collections on appointment

Please note that there is no remote access to the library benefits, you will need to be on campus to access the Alumni Library Benefit.

Javett Art Centre

- Free and fast entry
- Guests (max 2) receive 20% discount on entrance fees
- Exclusive access to member-only events and invitations to new exhibitions openings
- 10% off all literature available at the Javett-UP
- Exclusive access to two walkabouts at Javett-UP
- Invitations to exclusive curatorial dialogues, screenings, and conversations, both online and in person hosted by the Javett-UP
- Special rates for venue hire
- Preferential rates for photoshoots at the Javett-UP



The hpc Hotel

- 30% off rack rates bed and breakfast to alumni and six family members

The hpc Time Out Café

- 25% discount on all meals to alumni and six family members

hpc Sports Science Gym

- 50% discount on membership fees to alumni and six family members
- Gym membership includes a gym bag, water bottle and sweat towel
- Once-off joining fee of R650

Sci-Enza

- 25% discount on group bookings per person for the following programmes (minimum of 10 people per session):
 - Science show
 - Puppet show
 - Workshop
 - Planetarium show
- The Camera Obscura is R10 per person for a minimum of five people per session

Gold Package

The price for the Gold Benefits Package is R750 per annum, of which R150 must be paid upfront as well as your first debit order of R50, thus making a total upfront payment of R200.

- Online access to Alumni Library Guide
- Study space on the different levels in the Merensky Library, excluding Postgraduate Rooms, Research Commons, Discussion Rooms, and Study Centre.

- Access to all resources inside the library

- Access to all library events

Please note that there is no remote access to the library benefits, you will need to be on campus to access the Alumni Library Benefit.



Support your alma mater

And support a progressive world

UP is a well-managed, financially prudent, highly respected, reputable university. Our core focus is on providing a high quality of education to all students and producing research that matters.

We try to answer the big questions of our society, while caring for the individual well-being of our students. Gifts received from alumni and the University's supporters go a long way towards helping us to fulfil our vision by making up the shortfall in state funding that universities in South Africa are facing.

That is why your support is essential to help us reach our fundraising goals. **The Alma Mater Fund gives you the opportunity to support the University of Pretoria in three different ways:**

1 **Alma Mater General Bursary Fund**, which supports students by providing bursaries.

2 **Special Projects Fund**, which supports worthy causes such as the UP Library, the advancement of campus culture, music and art, and the UP Crisis Line.

3 **Junior Tukkies Sustainability Fund**, which assists learners in Grades 10, 11 and 12 to make responsible study and career choices.



How much?

You have the choice of contributing **R50** a month, **R100** a month, **R600** a year or more



How to?

To find out more about payment options, contact **Marilise du Plessis** at **+27 (0) 12 420 3086** or email her at marilise.duplessis@up.ac.za



UP has also launched the University of Pretoria Foundation in the US for alumni to enjoy the benefits of giving back to their alma mater.

Visit <https://up-fund.org/> to make a donation.



The UK UP Foundation will be launched soon.



Your contribution will help us shape an inquisitive and progressive world, with Africa at its heart:



Sacrifice two of these each month
R50



One of these each year
R600



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Early-career researchers ready to address complex challenges

UP's Future Africa Institute helps create the next generation of research leaders to ensure research sustainability and continuity.

An initiative of Future Africa to develop postdoctoral researchers working across countries and disciplines to solve complex problems that face Africa and the world, has delivered its first successes.

The Early Career Research Leader Fellowship (ECRLF), sponsored by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, was granted to a select group of 12 from six countries across East, West, and Southern Africa plus the island of Mauritius.

The project ran from 2019 to 2022, with participants being involved for varying durations.

Dr Festus Adejoro is grateful for the learning opportunities he gained doing his postdoctoral fellowship. "The vision of the Future Africa Institute in establishing the ECRLF fellowship is capable of transforming Africa's higher education landscape," he said. "I hope more academics from Africa will enjoy the platform and similar opportunities linked to the institute."

Dr Adejoro completed his PhD in Animal Sciences at UP in 2019 and has recently been appointed a Teaching Associate at the University of Nottingham in the UK.

"The workshops provided a series of learning opportunities. Learning about transdisciplinary research, science communication, collaboration and leadership were highlights for me."

Dr Alice Nabatanzi, a lecturer in the Department of Plant Sciences, Microbiology and Biotechnology in the College of Natural Sciences at Makerere University, in her home country of Uganda,

researched biomolecules from the 'sausage tree', *Kigelia africana*, and their potential to stop inflammation and the proliferation of cancer cells, during the fellowship.

Her two-year stint at Future Africa was memorable because of "its trans-disciplinary nature, flexibility, special training given to fellows, and research support for all the laboratory studies. Special thanks go to the management under Professor Cheikh Mbow (the former director of Future Africa), who made all the impossibles possible."

Dr Carene Picot-Allain, whose second year of the fellowship in 2020 was disrupted after one month because of COVID-19, said the pandemic had "in a special way" allowed her to explore the benefits of working across disciplines she had embraced while at Future Africa in 2019.

Her research involves assessing the bioactivity, cytotoxicity, and rheological properties of pectin recovered from citrus peels. "Rethinking my research by including the dimension of trans-disciplinarity has positively impacted its outcome."

Assessing the different properties of pectin, extracted from agro- industrial waste by researchers working in different realms has highlighted its possible application in the food, nutraceutical, and pharmaceutical sectors," she said.



Dr Festus Adejoro



Dr Alice Nabatanzi



Dr Carene Picot-Allain

“Future Africa is the place to be for early-career researchers”

Dr Carene Picot-Allain, Project Assistant at the Centre for Biomedical and Biomaterials Research at the University of Mauritius



What makes this programme unique?

- Fieldwork and practical focussed modules
- Top 150 Archaeology departments in the world
- Research-led teaching with excavation and lab opportunities for students

Career opportunities

- Cultural resource management
- Public sector
- Preservation

Which companies employ our graduates?

- South African National Parks Board
- Anglo American
- PGS Heritage
- Ditsong Museums of South Africa

Department of Anthropology, Archaeology and Development Studies, a diverse research and postgraduate community



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Faculty of Humanities

Fakulteit Geesteswetenskappe
Lefapha la Bomotheo



The Mapungubwe Archive

A site of contestation

A new book on the Mapungubwe Archive, authored by Sian Tiley-Nel, contests the history of this South African World Heritage Site.

For more than two decades the Mapungubwe Collection has been on public display at the University of Pretoria (UP). The world-class collection, including a famous gold rhino and other significant materials, is a critical research collection for the pre-colonial era. It has been viewed by hundreds of thousands of people since being made more accessible after 1999 at UP.

The same cannot be said for the associated Mapungubwe Archive, which for decades lay in departmental store-rooms at the university in boxes, as old papers and ageing photographs.

It was only in 2018, when Dr Sian Tiley-Nel, Head of Museums, submitted a grant application to the US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation Grant via the US Embassy in Pretoria, that the Mapungubwe Archive was established as a formal repository and research site at UP.

Most disconcerting for Dr Tiley-Nel was the lack of proper care, conservation, preservation, access and active research. "Mass excavation was more important than preserving the material and associated records derived from the Mapungubwe Collection," she said.

"The gaps, silences and missing voices in the Mapungubwe Archive indicated that highly selected material was deliberately not kept and is most probably in private possession, or was simply destroyed," she informed. "There were missing letters, photographs and other content, with gaps in the archive chronology."

Some of the Mapungubwe Archive material is related to when the site was used as a military terrain on the farm Greefswald. Many military records are tied up in the Department of Defence and some still have an embargo.

Other forms of missing narratives outlined in the book refer to the neglect of oral history and indigenous knowledge of Mapungubwe Hill as a sacred site by local communities.

There are also intentional gaps in the archive during the height of apartheid, mainly from the 1970s until the late 1980s. But even after democracy in 1994 this was happening in archives at many universities. It was largely as a result of departmental agendas, academic power

struggles and internal institutional politics, or just a lack of rigour to preserve archival material.

The understanding of Mapungubwe's early contested history can be shaped by the archive and can reveal why some records were kept and others not. And, more importantly, what can be further extracted and learned from the many omissions, silences and absences.

Yet even with its gaps and omissions, the Mapungubwe Archive remains one of South Africa's greatest heritage archives for the continent.

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Our imperfect past uncovered

Mapungubwe is a World Heritage Site and national park located on the border between South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana. From about 1000 AD the settlement there developed into a major African state before being abandoned by the 1300s. Mapungubwe has been the subject of diverse scientific enquiry and archaeological research since the early 1930s. As a heritage site, however, it challenges colonial, nationalist and apartheid views of prehistory. The vast global trade that's evidenced by masses of trade glass beads and local artisanship of metals at Mapungubwe shows that Africa was not a continent devoid of technology



and innovation. Mapungubwe's prehistory was excluded during apartheid to support more Eurocentric views of South Africa's past. A new book, *Past Imperfect*, offers a study of this archive of research and reveals gaps, silences and missing voices, some deliberately erased.

BAR No: 53080
www.barpublishing.com/past-imperfect.html

Art collection grows

Each year the Art Committee goes in search of worthy South African items to be included in the University of Pretoria Museum Collection.

Whether they are artworks/items of ceramic, sculpture, or paintings/prints the intention is to enhance and develop UP's world-class art collection.

The UP Museums are responsible for the curation and conservation of these works, as well as for exhibiting them.

The Art Committee is chaired by Prof Carolina Koornhof.



Somewhere in between and not represented form #1, 2021

This was created by Mellaney Roberts, a contemporary ceramist who is currently working towards her PhD in Fine and Studio Arts at the Tshwane University of Technology. She participates in numerous public art projects as well as local and national art exhibitions. She has been selected as one of the top 100 South African Artists for the Sasol New Signatures and the Absa L'Atelier national art awards.



The Last Supper, 2022

Avi Sooful is an artist, activist, and academic at UP. She is currently a senior lecturer in Fine Art in the Department of Visual Art, University of Pretoria, and serves as the National President of the South African National Association for the Visual Arts. Her work is framed by her female experiences within a South African context, specifically feminist commentary, as she uses landscape as a metaphor for human experiences. This painting is a means of mapping, ownership, markings, and scarring as she harvests information from the landscape and uses it in her works.



Self-Portrait With Skull, 2016

Johan Thom holds a PhD in Fine Art from the Slade School of Fine Art in London (2014) on a Cannon Collins Commonwealth scholarship. He works as a visual artist and Senior Lecturer in Fine Art at the Department of Visual Art, University of Pretoria. Thom works across a variety of media including sculpture, video, drawing, printmaking and photography, and ranks as one of South Africa's foremost performance artists. He uses his own body and physical objects as a site of exploration and creative expression.

Ardmore Pangolin and Crocodile, 2022

This specific and iconic Ardmore work – made by Thulani Mntungwa and painted by Jabu Nene – was purchased by the UP Museums to commemorate 100 years of collecting (1922-2022).

For more information on these and other artworks, visit museums@up.ac.za.

UP graduates prepare to soar

Over 1 600 graduates were capped at UP's spring graduation ceremony, leaving with qualifications that have the potential to open many doors.

The University of Pretoria (UP) awarded 1 612 degrees and certificates during the 2022 spring graduation ceremonies.

This was only the second in-person graduation since 2020, due to the national lockdown brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Of these qualifications, 124 were doctorates, 411 were master's degrees, 313 were honours degrees and 427 were certificates. The Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences awarded 23 PhDs. UP's business school, the Gordon Institute of Business Science, awarded over 100 master's degrees.

Among the notable graduates this spring graduation was the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies' Mathias Shunmugam, who was awarded a doctorate. The 25-year-old is believed to be the youngest PhD holder in the Faculty's 105-year history.

Previously, Shunmugam was on the Student Representative Council in the sport portfolio. In 2019 he was among a group of students who skipped their graduation ceremony to join the #Walk4Access initiative, a campaign to raise funds for students with historical debt to complete their degrees.

It was also a double celebration at the Mayson household when twin brothers Liam and Connor, from the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology, were awarded Bachelor of Science in Computer Science degrees.

Meanwhile, UPOnline had two graduation ceremonies – the first for Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health recipients and the second ceremony for the Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management cohort.

UP Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Tawana Kupe said the average higher education level among the 38 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries was just over 39%. In South Africa, 7% of the population had a tertiary education and 6% had a university degree, specifically. That works out at around 1.5 million people out of 60 million.

"You can see why, with the capping of every new graduate, the self-esteem of our entire society rises just a little bit more," Prof Kupe said.

"The qualifications you are leaving with have the potential to open many doors. Some graduates will take up formal employment. Others will choose to knock bravely and boldly on the door to entrepreneurship. Still others will be continuing your studies or taking a gap year, perhaps to travel or to volunteer for a cause close to your heart, or to gain experience.

"There are many alumni services and opportunities to which you have access, from opportunities to collaborate in research or be part of national, African and global conversations, to opportunities to advance your career. If you are at a crossroads over your future, now would be a good time to make use of those services."

By Paseka Elcort Gaola



Twin brothers Liam and Connor Mayson were awarded Bachelor of Science in Computer Science degrees from the [Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology](#).



Twenty-five-year-old Mathias Shunmugam is believed to be the youngest PhD holder in the [Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies](#) 105-year history.

1 612

Number of degrees and certificates awarded during the 2022 spring graduation ceremonies

The De Villiers family motto: 'Nothing is impossible'

Anel and Dion de Villiers are products of a household where learning is fun and perseverance encouraged.

Dr Ronel de Villiers, a senior lecturer in Music Education at the University of Pretoria (UP), is the proud mother of two recent UP graduates.

This year her daughter, Anel, received a bachelor's degree in Consumer Science (Clothing Retail Management), while her son, Dion, graduated with an honours degree in Mechanical Engineering. Both Anel and Dion graduated *cum laude*.

Prior to being a lecturer at UP, Dr De Villiers, who received a PhD in Music Education from the University in 2018, was a schoolteacher for 30 years and emphasised the importance of education in the De Villiers household.

"I introduced my children to home-schooling curricula when they were only three years old," she says. "They played educational games and sang various songs when learning new things. I also instilled a love of reading in my children, assisted them with assignments, and helped them prepare for tests and exams throughout their schooling. My husband and I always aimed to frame education as something fun."

She adds that hers is a close-knit family, and that they encourage one another when it comes to difficult tasks. "I always offer my two cents during these challenging times by reiterating to my kids that they have too many brain cells to fail and that when it comes to significant tasks, they need to 'eat an elephant piece by piece'."

Dion lives by this principle. Although he graduated *cum laude*, he says it was not an easy journey, as he had failed a few subjects during his undergraduate studies.



Dion, Ronel and Anel de Villiers – proof that a family who learns together grows together.

“When you fail, don't throw in the towel; try to reflect, analyse and improve your thinking.”
Dion de Villiers

"Regardless of the challenges I faced, I never lost hope, and I succeeded in the end," he recalls. "I finished my degree in the designated four years in addition to being recognised by the Golden Key International Honour Society for my achievements in completing my honours degree."

Dion is working at an engineering consultancy company while completing his master's part-time. He advises students not to be afraid of failure, as it is the best teacher.

Anel encapsulates the spirit of "nothing is impossible", as she was awarded

academic honorary colours and completed every module, each with a distinction. Her outstanding academic journey was recognised by the Golden Key International Honour Society in her second year of study. She also received the Top Achiever Award from the South African Association of Family Ecology and Consumer Science as the best final-year student in the Consumer Science programme, and was listed on the Dean's Merit List of Exceptional Academic Achievers.

Despite these remarkable achievements, Anel's journey was also not without its trials. Her biggest challenge while studying was time management. "I juggled both university tasks and part-time work as required by one of our modules, where we were expected to complete 480 hours of industry-related employment."

Anel advises students to adopt a teachable spirit and have the ability to bounce back. She also places emphasis on finding a healthy balance between studies and a personal life.

By Mecayla Maseka



United, we grow

The new UP-US Foundation is more than a means to raise funds; it will also enhance UP's ability to assist students and lecturers to grow their knowledge both in South Africa and the United States.

The University of Pretoria (UP) recently launched the UP-US Foundation in New York to build and grow existing relationships, and to help alumni and friends of UP to give back financially. It is set to launch another such foundation in the United Kingdom.

UP Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Tawana Kupe spent a few days prior to the launch meeting with local universities, foundations and alumni. "I am happy to report that all my meetings were fruitful, with many new research collaborations entered into and research grants secured," he announced at the launch. "I am also pleased to see how well our alumni are doing in the US; what pleases me even more is how they all say that their education at UP was a major part of their current career success."

Prof Kupe further indicated that UP strives to be a future-focused university. "This is not to push up our international

ranking, but to help transform our country, continent and the world with high-impact research and innovations. To achieve this, we need to collectively redouble our efforts to attain our strategic goals: student access and success; high-quality research for greater societal impact; global recognition; diversity, equity and inclusion; and institutional sustainability. We will continue to strive to meet our strategic goals for the greater good and benefit of society as a whole."

"The foundation is a mechanism to promote giving to the University in a tax-efficient manner," said Hernan Finkel, UP Deputy Director of Relationship Management and Fundraising. "The foundation has its own board, where board members live in the country. In time we are hoping to add sub-committees and get more and more alumni to join the various sub-committees."

Finkel added that such a foundation is about building relationships with UP's

alumni and friends abroad and celebrating UP's success. "Success would be getting more alumni involved in the foundation, allowing us to host more events, have more mentors, and reach and connect with more of our alumni," he said. "Ultimately, we would like these foundations to raise funds to support student access and for lecturers to be able to access research possibilities in both the US and UK."

According to Samantha Castle, Senior Manager of Alumni Relations at UP, it is important for the University to share information with alumni so they can be UP ambassadors abroad. "This is another way for alumni to stay connected with one another overseas and to create networking opportunities in a particular country. These foundations will also help the University to raise funds and build mentorship programmes."

By Xolani Mathibela



UP's Samantha Castle with Pumeza Albert and Yolana du Plessis.



Board members of the UP USA Foundation with Prof Tawana Kupe at the launch. They are (from left): Dylan Lotter, Laurie Olivier, Prof Tawana Kupe, Albert Maartens, and Eugene Cornelius.

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

- School of Medicine
- School of Dentistry
- School of Healthcare Sciences
- School of Health Systems & Public Health (postgraduate)



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SCAN ME

4IR

We have welcomed "Stevie", a mobile robot that helps with medical treatment of hospital patients



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Web of Science (WoS) Essential Science Indicators (ESI)

43 specialised academic departments

11 undergraduate degree programmes

280 postgraduate degree programmes

#LifeChangers

Global reach **good for students**

The University of Pretoria collaborates with over 3 000 institutions across the globe and has some 230 international institution-wide partnerships across 70 countries and six continents. In 2022, a few more international partnerships were strengthened.

University of Bristol, United Kingdom

The Pro Vice-Chancellor for Education at the University of Bristol, Prof Tansy Jessop, visited the University of Pretoria (UP) to discuss areas where both universities can produce transdisciplinary research, improve their curricula and create opportunities for students.

Prof Loretta Feris, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic at UP, addressed a number of issues of universal interest. These include student mental health and identifying at-risk students early by monitoring class attendance and participation. She pointed out that first-generation students also need support and the University of Bristol has mechanisms in place that actively identify, select and support them.



Setsipane Mokoduwe, Head: International Cooperation Division at UP; Prof Tansy Jessop, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Education at the University of Bristol; and Fudie Nsibandé, Junior International Programme Officer, UP.

Carleton University, Canada

UP Vice-Chancellor and Principal Prof Tawana Kupe and Carleton University President and Vice-Chancellor Dr Benoit-Antoine Bacon formalised an institutional agreement to facilitate transdisciplinary research collaboration and student and faculty exchange. The agreement was signed in the presence of SA High Commissioner to Canada HE Rieaz Shaik.

The agreement, which was signed at Carleton University campus in Ottawa, forms part of UP's internationalisation and global engagement initiative – the African Global University Project (AGUP), which intends to develop much deeper and meaningful collaboration with selected institutions across the world to address local and global challenges, particularly as they relate to the African context.



Carleton University President and Vice-Chancellor Dr Benoit-Antoine Bacon, South African High Commissioner to Canada HE Rieaz Shaik and UP Vice-Chancellor and Principal Prof Tawana Kupe.

University of York, United Kingdom

Earlier this year, UP accepted an invitation to become a member of the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN), a global community of universities who leverage partnerships and collaboration. York is a fellow member. UP had already enjoyed fruitful discussions with York throughout 2022 and a visit in November 2022 built on these talks.

UP's Prof Tawana Kupe noted: "UP's vision is to be an African university with global relevance and impact, and this cannot be done without strong international partners. York is a like-minded institution with which we would like to develop a long-term relationship as a core partner under UP's Africa Global University Project."



The University of York's Vice-Chancellor and President, Prof Charlie Jeffrey, with UP Vice-Chancellor and Principal Prof Tawana Kupe, at the University of York.

Florida International University, United States

The University Partnership to Grow Administration and Education (UPGRADE) enhances university partnerships between the US and South Africa and focuses on increasing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) capacity as well as improving the knowledge and skills in university administration. Florida International University (FIU) leads the project, with the US Embassy in South Africa providing financial support. The South African partner institutions are University of Pretoria, Tshwane University of Technology, University of Limpopo and University of Mpumalanga.

Michigan State University, United States

The University of Pretoria (UP) and Michigan State University have partnered in a knowledge exchange programme to strengthen student success and well-being.

The universities received \$20 000 (about R360 000) through the Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) towards their partnership programme.

"The grant is centred around enabling mobility because... we exchange and derive knowledge by actually being on the site and meeting people, hearing what they do, and seeing how that can help us enhance our offerings at UP," said Dr Kgadi Mathabathe, Deputy Director: Academic Development at UP.



From left are Jonelle Golding (MSU, Interim Director of University Advising), Hestie Byles (UP, Academic Advising Manager), Kgadi Mathabathe (UP, Deputy Director: Academic Development), Bethany Judge (MSU, Director of Undergraduate Engagement Initiatives), and James Lucas (MSU, Assistant Dean for Global Education and Curriculum).



Prof Natasja Holtzhausen, Director of the Centre for the Future of Work, with Libby the robotic library assistant, UP Vice-Chancellor Prof Tawana Kupe and Dr Olebogeng Selebi, Deputy Director of the Centre.

Centre future-proofs society

Step inside the Centre for the Future of Work, which helps to create a society that can prosper within an environment of technology and change.

The Centre for the Future of Work (CFoW), launched in May 2022, is a key connector between the University of Pretoria (UP) and the public and private sectors, and will encompass the concept of Society 5.0.

"Society 5.0 is a system where the combination of human skills, collaborative robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) complement one another in the service of humanity and the planet," said the Centre's Director, Professor Natasja Holtzhausen of UP's Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences. "By proactively contributing to this, the CFoW will be Africa's centre of excellence on the future of work, producing scientific and popular publications, advisory services and training."

The Centre can help any organisation or institution to future-proof their workforce and determine what they would need to help employees reskill and upskill for the future of work, as well as reimagine what the workplace of the future will look like.

In line with this, the CFoW is working with one of the largest mining groups in South Africa to help the organisation rebuild its training for artisans, as about one-third of their current training is no longer appropriate.

"We need new technologies and approaches that advance humanity at every level and that take us into future worlds of work. UP has been working hard at this," Prof Holtzhausen said. "For example, in 2015, the Department of Mining Engineering modernised education with the Kumba Virtual Reality Centre for Mine Design, which features a 360-degree cylinder that immerses students in an underground or any mining scenario. The mine of the near future will automate most activities to improve productivity, safety and working conditions."

Integration at work

"It's imperative for South African organisations to prepare their people for the future, to alleviate the unsustainably high level of unemployment and to bring our talented people, young and older, into the next era of work," said UP Vice-Chancellor and Principal Prof Tawana Kupe. "We are already seeing the arts and humanities integrating with science, technology, engineering and mathematics to an unprecedented degree. New professions and jobs require us to be entrepreneurial, creative and innovative. The CFoW taps into this."

He referred to UP's telemedicine mobile robot, Stevie, as a good example of human and robotic collaboration. Stevie joined the Faculty of Health Sciences at Steve Biko Academic Hospital in July 2021; its digital screen assists in the treatment of intensive care unit (ICU) patients through instant live discussion and communication with ICU teams in Germany and South Africa.

Another robot, Libby, a library assistant, joined UP in 2019, while the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology has acquired smWoef, a quadrupedal robot (robot dog) that will be used as a Smart Alternative Transportation Platform (SATP) to enable data collection in hard-to-reach and at-risk locations, and for routine data collection efforts.

Fast Fact

The CFoW will offer a range of short learning programmes, while its PhD students and postdoctoral fellows will make the future of work their research focus.

Celebrating 85 years of preparing students for life

The Faculty of Education celebrated 85 years of teaching, learning and research with a week-long programme that challenged body and mind and culminated in a gala dinner.

The Faculty of Education celebrated its 85th anniversary with several events that took place in October 2022. The week-long celebrations started with a Faculty Research Day showcasing different research projects that academics are engaged in or that were recently completed. This was followed by an awards ceremony during which the Faculty celebrated researchers who had excelled in the area of journal outputs as well as supervisors with the highest numbers of postgraduate students who had graduated in the minimum time.

Postgraduate students were invited to attend a Research Indaba, during which they also presented their work. This was followed by another awards ceremony at which postgraduates received different awards in categories such as novice research; research in progress;

completed research; best presentation; and most innovative methodology presentation.

House Education Committee members were given the responsibility to put together activities for the students, and they had organised an exciting programme that included sporting activities, board games and indigenous games.

The atmosphere was fun-filled as over 500 students from different levels of study gathered at the Groenkloof Boma. Many had the opportunity to meet their Dean for the first time and experienced exciting moments when he joined them in playing games in which prizes could be won. This was followed by a photo session to capture memorable moments. Everyone was treated to ice cream and cotton candy thereafter.



Faculty of Education Dean Prof Chika Sehoole

The Faculty also hosted members of the University Executive and its external stakeholders at a gala dinner. Dignitaries at the event included Dr Naledi Pandor, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation; Prof Jonathan Jansen, distinguished Professor of Education at Stellenbosch University and President of the Academy of Science of South Africa, who was also the guest speaker; Ms Michelle Mathey, Director of Teacher Education and Research in the Department of Higher Education and Training; Ms Jenny Glennie, Executive Director of the South African Institute of Distance Education; and Ms Confidence Dikgolethe, newly appointed CEO of the IEB and member of the UP Faculty of Education Advisory Board.

The last day was dedicated to staff celebrations that started with a fun walk in the morning and ended with festivities at the Boma.

By Prof Chika Sehoole, Dr Sharon Mashau and Iyanda Phahlane



From 'vac job' to director

Never underestimate the importance of a vacation job. For one UP Law alumnus this led to a dream position.



The University of Pretoria (UP) produces graduates that are highly sought after and is ranked 190th in the world for Employer Reputation by the 2023 QS World University Rankings.

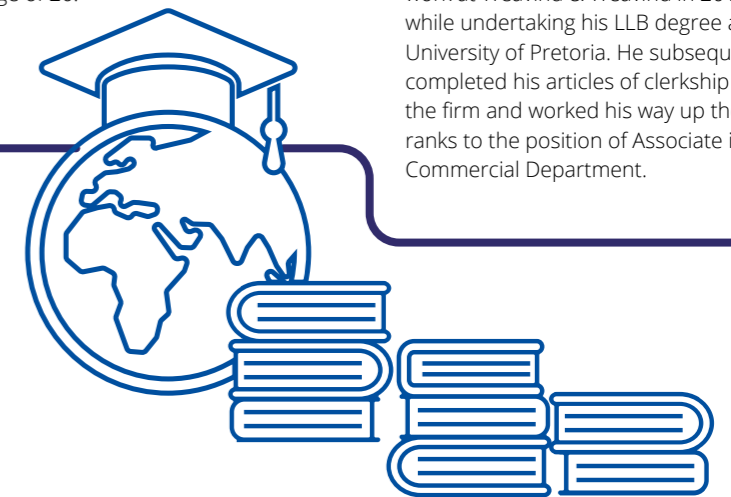
One alumnus who reinforces that reputation is Thato Lepinka, who was recently appointed as a director of Weavind & Weavind Inc Attorneys.

When Lepinka completed his LLB degree at the UP Law Faculty in 2014 and took up vocational training (articles of clerkship) as a candidate attorney at Weavind & Weavind Inc, UP Law staff predicted Thato's success at the firm. He had continued to show resilience while juggling his LLB studies and being fully committed to the firm where he began vacation work at the tender age of 20.

As a legal practitioner, Lepinka has a diverse practice, not only focusing on general litigation, but also assisting clients in labour and commercial disputes involving government parastatals. His areas of specialisation include, among others, Property law, Liquidation and Insolvency, Procurement and Administrative law.

Upon his appointment an elated Lepinka commented: "It has been a long journey, but worth it nonetheless. I wouldn't have reached this milestone if it wasn't for those who continued to support and believe in me throughout my journey. I've learnt a great deal about the human qualities of courage, perseverance and patience."

Thato's professional tenure at the firm started when he enrolled for vacation work at Weavind & Weavind in 2012 while undertaking his LLB degree at the University of Pretoria. He subsequently completed his articles of clerkship at the firm and worked his way up the ranks to the position of Associate in the Commercial Department.



Top 200 in the world

In the 2022 URAP World University Rankings, which focus on academic quality, the University of Pretoria was ranked among the Top 200 universities in the world for Law

and Legal Studies. It was the first time that this subject was ranked. The subject rankings look at 79 fields of study across various faculties, and UP is ranked in 33 fields.

Recognition for Theology and Religion leadership

The University of Pretoria's Faculty of Theology and Religion is the largest of its kind in South Africa, with 780 undergraduate and postgraduate students. Its leadership has gained worldwide recognition, resulting in some major moves.



**Prof
Jerry Pillay**

Reverend Professor Jerry Pillay, Dean of the Faculty of Theology and Religion, has been elected general secretary of the global faith-based organisation the World Council of Churches (WCC).

The soft-spoken churchman will leave academia at the end of the year to head the 74-year-old Swiss-Christian organisation committed to ecumenism (the belief that Christians of different denominations should work together to promote Christian unity).

Prof Pillay has many years of service in the leadership of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa and in the ecumenical movement in South Africa and abroad. He was elected as the first President of the World Communion of Reformed Churches from 2010-2017. He is involved in the ecumenical movement in South Africa, serving on the South African Council of Churches, the National Church Leaders' Consultation, and other global ecumenical bodies such as the World Council of Churches and the Council for World Mission.

Prof Pillay starts his new role at the WCC on 1 January 2023.



**Prof
Ernest van Eck**

Dr Ernest van Eck, Deputy Dean, has been appointed as the new Principal of Knox College. Dr van Eck held dual roles within the Faculty as Deputy Dean for Research and Postgraduate Studies, and Head of Department for New Testament and Related Literature. He has extensive experience in curriculum development, having implemented two major new curricula in the Faculty and a hybrid model of teaching and learning.

Dr van Eck helped steer his Faculty to top-10 rankings in citations per paper, placing it ahead of many well-known institutions around the world. He has supervised or co-supervised almost 100 postgraduate students over the years, and he is highly regarded for his own teaching, research, and publications. His resumé includes 50 publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals and over 100 co-authored papers, study guides, books, chapters in books, and conference presentations.

He has won Lecturer of the Year or Excellence in Teaching Awards in four of the last ten years.



**Prof
Jaco Beyers**

Professor Jaco Beyers, previously head of the Teaching and Learning committee, has been appointed as the Deputy Dean: Teaching and Learning in the Faculty of Theology and Religion. Prof Beyers is the section editor of the encyclopaedia *Christian-Muslim Relations* (CMR 1900), an international research project coordinating research from southern Africa.

His research interests include secularisation, interreligious dialogue, the theology of religions and religious studies, focusing on religion and art. He has attended a number of international conferences and his work has appeared in various peer-reviewed journals and book chapters.

We congratulate Prof Beyers on his appointment and wish him well in his new role as a member of the University's management team.

THE FACULTY OF ENGINEERING, BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

TOP 550 QS-RATED SUBJECTS

- Chemical engineering
- Computer science and information systems
- Electrical, electronic and computer engineering
- Mechanical and aeronautical engineering
- Mineral and mining engineering
- Architecture and built environment

The Faculty's state-of-the-art Engineering 4.0 Complex and digital labs allow for participation in the University's flagship Digital Twin Cities initiative, among others. EBIT believes that, while technology is the catalyst for change, humans are the sustaining force. We develop new mindsets and find new ways of working to encourage independent thinking and a desire to discover and create new knowledge that will make a difference in the world.

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Read *Innovate*, Issue 17 (2022)



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Tikologo ya Kago le Theknolotši ya Tshedimošo

Make today matter

Hands-on space for future-fit graduates

UP launches a digital laboratory to develop agile, employable students ready for the future world of work.

The constantly evolving world of work places great demands on students, and even greater responsibility on lecturers to equip them for this world.

The University of Pretoria (UP)'s newly-launched employability-focused Digital Capability Laboratory aims to address South Africa's staggering youth unemployment rate by upskilling students to develop them into employable, innovative and solution-driven graduates.

The lab was launched as part of the European Union's (EU) Erasmus+ SUCSESS Project, an initiative that researches ways to boost student employability in South Africa. UP is one of six higher education institutions involved in this project. At UP, the project is led by Berendien Lubbe, Emeritus Professor and Senior Research Associate in UP's Department of Historical and Heritage Studies.

The lab will employ digital collaborative learning as part of UP's efforts to develop future-fit programmes. UP Vice-Chancellor and Principal Prof Tawana

Kupe said it is crucial for the University to prepare and equip its students for the future world of work, which is anticipated to be vastly different from the current one.

"This next generation of graduates is expected to change jobs and professions multiple times across many new emerging sectors, and will need to continuously up-skill in order to stay employable. Education authors worldwide concur that the current educational systems and qualifications will rapidly become dated and obsolete. It is therefore important that we recognise which essential skills need to be developed for our graduates to actualise themselves and function optimally in the workplace, as well as contribute to the developmental aspirations of South Africa and Africa," he said at the launch.

The Digital Capability Lab will be transdisciplinary-focused, and will be managed by the faculties of Humanities and Economic and Management Sciences and UP's Department of Career Services. Professor Sandy Africa, Deputy Dean: Teaching and Learning in the Faculty of Humanities, said the lab's equipment and technologies will harness the students'

limitless potential and nurture their talents, while preparing them to be agile in their future working environments.

"When innovative ideas, industry tools, community engagement and professional simulations are effectively applied to real-world scenarios and contexts, youth employment opportunities in the global south become endless," said Prof Africa.

Echoing Prof Africa's sentiments on the essence of technology in boosting employability, Professor Margaret Chitiga-Mabugu, Dean of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, said one of the Faculty's key focus areas is to develop employable graduates who will use technology to be part of a skilled and innovative labour force in South Africa.

Prof Chitiga-Mabugu added that postgraduate students in the business management and financial management programmes have already started using the lab to identify financial vulnerabilities in companies and explaining these using economic and supply chain data.

Link and learn

The University's Career Services Office has partnered with the UP Alumni Relations Office to make its Mentorship Programme available within the UP Alumni Connect app.

Oprah Winfrey, herself a mentor to many women, has succinctly summarised the role a mentor plays: "A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself."

Dr Krinesha George, Project Coordinator: Mentorships and Employability at the University of Pretoria's (UP) Career Services, explained further: "The journey of mentorship is a process that involves the development and growth of an individual with the aid of an experienced professional. The role of mentors is to provide support and guidance to their mentees regarding aspects of their social life or career functions."

The University of Pretoria Career Services Mentorship Programme was launched in 2019. It is implemented across all faculties and is available to final-year students. "The programme recognises the importance of students needing the guidance of industry specialists to prepare them for the world of work," Dr George said. "It aims to link students (mentees) with industry experts (mentors)

for a period of six months. The minimum requirement is four mentoring sessions, conducted either online or face-to-face."

The Career Services Office identifies mentors through various platforms, such as LinkedIn, its alumni platform and industry database, and now through the UP Alumni Connect app. Mentors who qualify to participate in the programme are matched with mentees based on the gender preference of the mentee, and the mentor's qualifications, skills, expertise, and field of interest.

The programme includes a series of webinars that are available to all mentees. "We hosted a total of 36 webinars based on topics relevant to the student population," Dr George mentioned. "Our webinars were also extended to industry, where students were offered volunteering opportunities, graduate placements, internships, and bursaries."

The Career Services Office's mentor database consists of 1 370 industry experts, and 1 193 final-year students applied for mentoring in 2022. A feedback survey was completed by 87% of

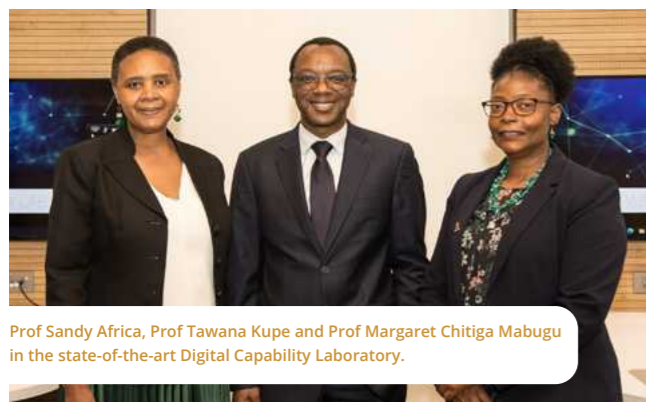
mentees, with results showing that 84% of final-year students who participated benefited from the programme.

"The Career Services Mentorship Programme for 2023 will be launched in December 2022 to ensure that final-year students can gain maximum benefit from the programme," Dr George said.



Join the UP Alumni Connect app from your app store, or by visiting <https://upalumniconnect.com/>

To apply, mentors can complete the Google form at <https://forms.gle/ZgjbPZc5HSqTdZp66>



Prof Sandy Africa, Prof Tawana Kupe and Prof Margaret Chitiga Mabugu in the state-of-the-art Digital Capability Laboratory.



Vice-Chancellor Prof Kupe and Iina Soiri of the Embassy of Finland at the official opening of the laboratory, which offers a creative and unique space for hands-on digital capability building.

Performance measurement

The Career Services Office sets goals for both mentors and mentees to attain by the end of the programme.

Goals for mentors:

- Growth of leadership skills
- Development of reputation as an advisor and guide for others
- Strengthening of emotional intelligence and communication skills
- Gaining new perspectives
- Gaining recognition for one's skills and experience
- Benefiting from a sense of fulfilment and personal growth
- Enhancing one's CV

Goals for mentees:

- Skills development
- Career planning
- Networking
- Workplace learning and exposure
- Problem-solving skills
- Gain visibility for potential opportunities
- Gain practical advice on job search techniques and skills

Back with a bang, bigger and better!

After being closed for two years due to the pandemic, Sci-Enza is making science fun again. Children of all ages were stimulated to experiment. Some parents were less enthusiastic about the explosive results ...

Since opening its doors to the public on 19 July 2022 after being closed for two years due to the pandemic, Sci-Enza has been buzzing with visitors and experiments. Judging from the range of visitors – learners, teachers, parents, students – people have been yearning to once again experience the fun and interactive science that Sci-Enza provides.

Besides individual requests and school visits, the centre has successfully hosted two holiday programmes, both sold-out hits, with requests for future events.

Another highlight was the visits from Australia's Deputy High Commissioner, David Geyer, and Dr Graham Walker from the Australian National University. Dr Walker presented Science Circus shows for which tickets were sold out, and which left Sci-Enza visitors mesmerised. Some parents found the show inspiring and named it "a fantastic show" while others stated that their children were so excited that they could not stop talking about the great time they had. A few mentioned that they even tried some of the easier experiments at home, but they ended up having to clean the mess off their ceilings.

Sci-Enza staff had been waiting for two years in anticipation of once again opening the centre's doors. "We never thought there would be a day where we missed the laughter and cheerful chattering of our visitors," said Ms Puleng Tsie, the centre's manager. "However, we used that time to prepare for a time when we would open."

It has been quite a shift opening to the public. Moremi Melato, an intern at Sci-Enza, who started working here during the pandemic when the centre was still closed to the public, said: "When the centre opened it was intimidating because we were only used to presenting to senior staff with no crowds. The workload also increased, but with enough practice while the centre was closed, we were able to present programmes to the visitors with confidence."



“

Presenting in front of the crowds has **built my confidence** and **improved my skills** of communicating science to other people.
Moremi Melato, intern

We learn new things every day, and interact with different people with a goal of making science **accessible in a fun and entertaining way.**
Precious Makau, intern

”

Precious Makau, also an intern at Sci-Enza, added: "It has been quite a learning journey; not a smooth one, but a worthwhile one. We learn new things every day, and interact with different people with a goal of making science accessible in a fun and entertaining way. I am definitely becoming a better person."

What's next on the agenda for the Sci-Enza science centre? Busisiwe Hadebe, a senior staff member, says "even bigger and more exciting holiday programmes, hosting more special science shows and talks by renowned experts, and launching the UP research showcase exhibition in the centre."

Written by Retshegofaditswe Sekgwelelo and edited by Puleng Tsie



Fast Fact

Sci-Enza is the oldest interactive science centre in South Africa and situated in the grounds of the University of Pretoria.

Our robot works like a dog

smWoef, the University of Pretoria's new robotic dog, can be as agile as a normal dog, as fearless and as trainable to perform at its owner's command. No treats are needed.

It can dance. It can sniff. It does a backflip with ease. And it's a bit of a show-off, whether prancing around an avocado orchard or accompanying the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Tawana Kupe, when he entertains VIPs.

Meet smWoef, the University's new robot dog, a 12kg Unitree A1 that stands under half a metre tall.

Professor Wynand Steyn, Head of the Department of Civil Engineering in UP's Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology, was the one who named smWoef. The "sm" stands for "smart" because it is a Smart Alternative Transportation Platform connected to the internet, and "woef" is the Afrikaans spelling for "woof", the sound a dog makes. Despite the formulation of its name, however, it is pronounced as one syllable – "smwoef".



smWoef arrived at UP from China last year without its lithium-ion battery pack, which had to be shipped separately because it is hazardous. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the battery was stuck in Hong Kong for months. However, the enterprising researchers at UP's Engineering 4.0 facility – which focuses on research on smart transport, cities and infrastructure – made a plan.

Andre Broekman, who was in the final year of his PhD in railway engineering, said: "We tethered it to an electrical cable, so it looked like it was on a leash. When we eventually got the batteries and controller it could start walking about and doing its thing. So, it's actually still a puppy undergoing its training."

Most of its day-to-day workings fall on Jordan Mostert, a civil engineering technologist who, quite by chance, landed at UP for his two-year internship with the Department of Science and Innovation. "When smWoef came, I was the one who figured out his applications and exactly how he works. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me," Mostert said. "At the moment it's a big learning tool for us in terms of programming, data collection, and type of applications it can be used for. Once we have a solid proof of concept we can apply it to different scenarios and get data."

One of the highlights of these trials was smWoef's visit to ZZZ's headquarters in Mooketsi, Limpopo, where it navigated between avocado trees to test its ability to collect data to generate a digital copy of the surroundings.

It had been suggested that smWoef could be used in orchards to count fruit and take air quality measurements. "It's an ideal candidate for that because it can do

so continuously and track changes over time," Broekman said.

Being able to gauge temperature means it can, for example, monitor greenhouses for optimum growth of seedlings, and test industrial cooling systems.

Being able to smell means it can operate like a sniffer dog and be programmed to analyse and track a smell.

Being able to traverse difficult-to-access terrains, and do so without leaving DNA like humans would, means it can collect data from scenes without contaminating them.

"The sky's the limit. We're enjoying throwing around ideas and coming up with even more exciting ways that smWoef can change the way we do things," Broekman said.



A computer on paws

smWoef has quite the pedigree:

Cost: US\$15 000 (R250 000)

Weight: 12kg

Drive: Four motors allow it to move at up to 4.4km/h

Distance: It can operate at up to 8m by remote control or be programmed for longer distances

Capacity: It can carry equipment weighing up to 5kg, such as a super-fast laser LiDAR (light detection and ranging) scanner

Wired: It has ports on its back for inputting Internet of Things (IOT) devices such as temperature sensors and an artificial nose

Groundbreaking finds challenges trade dates

New research in the Kruger National Park shows that humans once occupied the area about 1 500 years ago with artifacts dating back to before those of Mapungubwe, where the oldest form of human life was found.

Image credit: M Van Aswegen



Archaeologists from UP and SANP excavating in the Kruger National Park.



A 200-year-old clay pot collected from an archaeological site next to the Letaba River.

New research undertaken by an archaeological team from the University of Pretoria (UP) shows that the Letaba region in the Kruger National Park is key to unravelling the earliest links between southern Africa and the larger Indian Ocean world.

In 2021 and 2022, UP's Department of Archaeology started new excavations on two 8th-10th century Iron Age settlements along the Letaba River. The sites were initially discovered by UP archaeologists in 1979, but a revisit of the material in the department's collections prompted renewed excavations.

"We have been finding some of the earliest evidence for sustained trade with the Indian Ocean world," said UP anthropologist Dr Xandor Antonites.

"Some of the artifacts that we are finding predate Mapungubwe by about 400 years and some of these artifacts are late Persian, where modern-day Iran is, or early Islamic.

"The evidence for that are these glazed ceramics, and the only other place we've found them was in KwaZulu-Natal," Antonites said.

These early Islamic ceramics are exceptionally rare in southern Africa and date to the earliest phases of long-distance international trade. Other important evidence for early trade includes Asian glass beads, imported seashells, and the earliest known evidence for local cotton spinning – a technology imported from the East African coast. This burgeoning long-distance trade in turn stimulated intensive big game-hunting activities along

the Letaba – with a primary focus on large herding species such as buffalo, zebra, blue wildebeest, and giraffe. Other large species also targeted include elephant, black rhino, roan, and kudu.

"Our research suggests that animal products, such as skins, pelts, shells, horns, and ivory, were likely exchanged for exotic trade goods by traders from the East African coast," Antonites commented. This points to a dynamic landscape between 1 000 and 1 200 years ago, where early international trade was intricately linked to the exploitation of animal resources. The research remains ongoing and groundbreaking finds are expected from upcoming seasons of excavations.

Additional information from Business Insider SA

Coordinated care is the cure

UP is playing a pivotal role in addressing homelessness in Tshwane.



Professors Jannie Hugo, Debashis Basu and Stephan de Beer have joined forces to coordinate care for homeless people.

Three professors at the University of Pretoria (UP), in three different disciplines, have joined forces to coordinate care for homeless people. And it is starting to make an impact. The professors are contributing to a national policy for the homeless, with a project that forms part of the framework for South Africa's National Health Insurance (NHI), in collaboration with the Presidency of South Africa.

Coordinating care is the most important aspect to ensure the success of the NHI, according to Prof Jannie Hugo, who heads up the Department of Family Medicine. "This means building efficiencies that don't exist. Our country, our society, our systems are notorious for being uncoordinated."

During a meeting of the United Nations Habitat and the Institute for Global Homelessness in New York in April, Prof Stephan de Beer at UP's Centre for Faith and Community spoke about UP's involvement in the Tshwane Homelessness Forum. Established in 2015 between local government, non-profit organisations and universities, the forum's policy on homelessness is now being implemented by the Tshwane City Council.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic precipitated the establishment of a Homeless Task Team. Asked by the Tshwane City Council to formalise it, the University created an operational centre. It is run by

the non-profit sector and the University provides technical capacity and research support.

"In a 10-day period, we were able to open 27 temporary shelters housing 2 000 people, complemented by psychosocial and healthcare services, family reconciliation, and vocational preparation. We managed to do in 10 days what we could not do in 10 years before that. We can never again say it's impossible to house the homeless population, because COVID proved we can if we want to. For the first time, the province has a policy on homelessness and invests in homeless programmes," said Prof de Beer.

Prof Basu attributed the success of UP's health interventions with homeless communities to the university's approach, a sense of goodwill that its prominent branding reinforced.

"I've seen it repeatedly: when we enter a community and they see the UP car, they're satisfied and say, 'OK, let them

come'. That gives us a tremendous opportunity," said Prof Basu.

UP is now integrating its work with Tshwane's homeless into the first steps towards an operational NHI.

UP's project is linking the registration of IDs, the government's Health Patient Registration System (HPRS) and the COVID-19 Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS) with the National Health Laboratory (NHL) service, which is the database of 40 million people who have a medical specimen in that lab. A fifth component is hospital file numbers from those seeking care at the Steve Biko Academic Hospital.

"We are integrating these five elements into one database for 'Joe Slow', so that person 'Joe Slow' can be identified from all the numbers in our system. And we have started integrating homeless people into that system. This is a long journey, and we have taken the first steps," said Prof Basu.

“

This is a very particular focus to coordinate care. It's not an NGO project distributing blankets. It's... a research endeavour to say: how do we implement this in a structured manner that has impact and that makes sense in the long run?

Professor Jannie Hugo

”

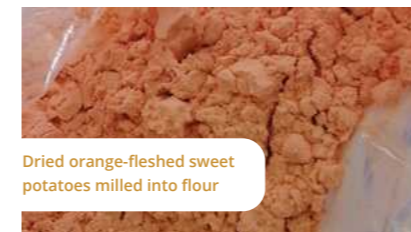
Flour power

UP researchers boost the nutritive benefits of sweet potato with novel drying technology.

Researchers at the University of Pretoria (UP) have found a way to make orange-fleshed sweet potato last longer in an effort to benefit from this smart crop and address micronutrient deficiencies among young children and pregnant women.

As part of InnoFoodAfrica, a multinational, cross-continental project that aims to enhance food and nutrition security in Africa, UP researchers have discovered that they can leverage the health benefits of the vegetable by making it into flour.

Orange sweet potatoes contain beta-carotene, which is converted into vitamin A in the body. However, these potatoes have a short shelf life of only two to three weeks. By making flour out of them, the UP team has found a way to expand the number of ways orange-fleshed sweet potatoes can be used.



Dried orange-fleshed sweet potatoes milled into flour

PhD Food Sciences candidate Daddy Kgonothi has been central to the development of this flour, and has been working under the guidance of Professor Naushad Emmambux and Dr Nwabisa Mehlomakulu of the Department of Consumer and Food Sciences at UP.

"We dried the sweet potatoes and made it into flour by way of various drying

methods, which we compared with the freeze-drying method," Kgonothi explains. "Since it is a very perishable product, drying and milling the potatoes into flour is one of the best methods one can apply as flours can have a shelf life of at least a year."

The whole process took about three weeks, which included testing the drying process and doing the actual drying and milling. "We used microwaves, infrared applications and convection ovens to dry the potatoes, and discovered that when we combined microwave drying with infrared drying, the process was much faster. There was also a higher retention of beta-carotene," Kgonothi says.

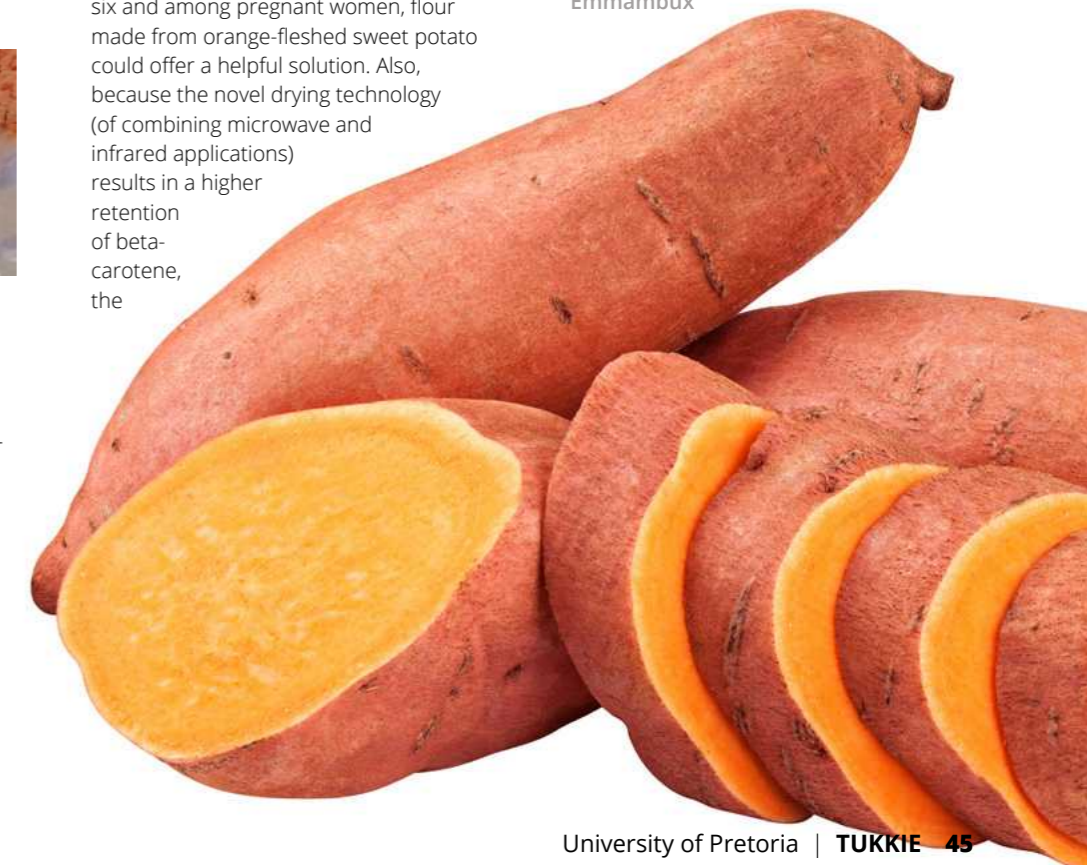
With vitamin A deficiency being one of the leading causes of micronutrient deficiencies in children up to the age of six and among pregnant women, flour made from orange-fleshed sweet potato could offer a helpful solution. Also, because the novel drying technology (of combining microwave and infrared applications) results in a higher retention of beta-carotene, the

orange-fleshed sweet potato flour that is produced will be a particularly strong source of vitamin A.

"The flour is also a good source of dietary fibre, and of minerals such as iron, zinc and phosphorus," Kgonothi says.

"Orange-fleshed sweet potatoes can be used in several ways," he adds. "One way is to boil it as a root and consume it, or to make fried chips from it. As flour, the application of orange-fleshed sweet potatoes is more diverse: the flour can be used in baked products like fortified bread or biscuits; as stabilisers in soups; as a thickening agent, due to its rich dietary fibre; and because of its low viscosity, it can be used to make baby food – it is easy for infants to swallow."

By Prof Mohammad Naushad Emmambux



Shooting for success off the field

Some highly successful soccer players are known for scoring financial goals during their short careers. The Player Transition programme ensures that knowledge is the best defence.

The PSL Player Transition Programme was introduced earlier this year to equip PSL players with the necessary knowledge and skills to find careers off and beyond the field.

Designed by UP's Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS), in partnership with MultiChoice, the course produced its first graduates in November 2022.

Kaizer Chiefs goalkeeper Itumeleng Khune, Orlando Pirates playmaker Vincent Pule, Kennedy Mweene from Mamelodi Sundowns, and a number of other soccer players received their certificates from PSL chairman Irvin Khoza at their graduation. Dr Khoza, MultiChoice South Africa executives, and family members of

the graduates attended the graduation ceremony.

Despite their glamorous lifestyles and high salaries, soccer players have had a history of failing to navigate financial obstacles during their short careers. The press is often filled with stories of once-successful players now destitute. The lack of financial and business skills often renders some of the most talented players broke after retirement.

The transition programme is a custom-made six-month course aimed at empowering soccer players with the skills to help them find careers off the field after they retire. A total of 64 soccer players from the 16 PSL clubs enrolled in the first phase of the programme.

Khoza advised players on the importance of using strategies off the field that have been learnt on the field, and to be prepared for any eventuality. He emphasised that while soccer gives players a great headstart, life after a football career was just as important. "GIBS brings about the formal part that orientates the player through the singular lens of football."

Khoza also added that with the programme's backing, soccer players had a greater chance of entering into administrative roles within the football fraternity.

The programme is a legacy project for MultiChoice and is scheduled to run for three years.



Orlando Pirates' Vincent Pule and Innocent Maela



Musa Nyatama from Swallows FC with Pogiso Mahlangu, who plays for Sekhukhune United FC.



Kaizer Chiefs' Itumeleng Khune and his wife Sphelele Makhunga.

100 litters tells a tale of puppy love

UP's Faculty of Veterinary Science joined the South African Guide-Dogs Association in celebrating the 100th guide-dog litter conceived via artificial insemination.

A special litter of eight puppies was born to a yellow Labrador named Petra on 14 October 2022. They are the 100th guide-dog litter conceived via artificial insemination with frozen semen collected by Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital (OVAH) staff from a dog named Murray.

Of the 100 litters born since the programme was launched in 2014, 98 have been successfully raised. Most puppies were subsequently trained as guide dogs for visually impaired people, as support to children on the autism spectrum, and as service dogs to people struggling with physical disabilities. Staff at the OVAH Reproduction Clinic say they feel "like honorary aunts and uncles" whenever they see one of their assistance dogs on duty.

"Since 2014 we exclusively use OVAH's services to ensure that enough assistance dogs are available," says Leigh de Beaufort, who is in charge of kennels, puppy breeding and puppy raising at the South African Guide-Dogs Association (SAGA).



This special litter of eight puppies was born to a yellow Labrador named Petra on 14 October 2022 at SAGA's Puppy Centre in Johannesburg. She was inseminated with frozen semen collected by the University of Pretoria's Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital staff from a dog named Murray.

Helping others

"It is a privilege to help people living with disabilities in this way," veterinary reproductive specialist Dr Susan Fouché says about the work the OVAH Reproduction Clinic does. "Our whole clinic is involved in managing and handling the female dogs, from the moment they are receptive, or 'in heat'."

The specialists involved (Dr Fouché, Dr Geoff Brown, and Prof Martin Schulman) perform clinical procedures and test progesterone levels (a hormone secreted by the ovaries) to determine when the best time is to secure conception. "Because of dogs' particular reproductive cycles, this can take up to three weeks," adds senior veterinary sister Nicolien Fourie. "During this time, staff provide the dogs with enough food, love and attention, and of course exercise too."

Specialised insemination technique

Once the optimal time for insemination is determined, OVAH staff inject frozen-thawed semen through a pipette directly into the lumen of the dog's uterus. A technique called trans-cervical artificial insemination (TCI) is used. Reproduction specialists at OVAH have used this method since 2014, after acquiring a ridged video-endoscope, which allows them to watch on screen as they pass a flexible pipette through the animal's cervix and into the uterus.

There is therefore no need for surgical artificial insemination under general anaesthesia, Dr Fouché says. TCI reduces risks to the animals involved and improves animal welfare.

Fast Fact

Petra's litter is the "P" litter, meaning that all of her puppies' names will begin with the letter "P"



New alumni chapter adds to UP's status

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).

Since 2016, 366 top scholars have been awarded the VCDMA, which grants recipients funding for the duration of their undergraduate studies.

"The chapter aims to promote professional and social interaction, ensure continuation and success of the VCDMA initiative, and mentorship of all interested members," explained Jaco-Louis Venter, former VCDMA recipient and Acting Chairperson of the new chapter. "The idea of forming the chapter was started by Mr Wallace Isaacs, Deputy Director of the Department of Enrolment and Student Administration," he added.

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



UP Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Tawana Kupe had a meet-and-greet session with students who are the 2022 recipients of the Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Merit Award (VCDMA).

hands," he said. "Launching and becoming part of an alumni chapter shows a commitment not only to your alma mater, but goes much deeper than that – it 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."

Samantha Castle, Senior Manager of Alumni Relations at UP, hopes this chapter will grow in leaps and bounds.

"All the efforts and contributions from the alumni chapters help UP to maintain its highly rated status in the global educational environment," she said.

By Mecayla Maseka



MEET NEW COMMITTEE FOR TUKSCLUB 60+

A new committee for TuksClub 60+ was elected at the Annual General Meeting. They are (from left): Winston Campbell, Deputy Chairman; Elize Pretorius, Secretary; Frans Krause, Treasurer; Nic Ackermann, Additional Member; and Tonie Viljoen, Chairman.

Fast Fact

The Mining Alumni Society chapter is UP's longest-running chapter. It has been meeting since 1977 with the main aim of providing mining students with financial support, job opportunities in the industry and mentorship for junior members.

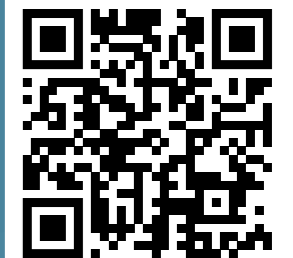
Next Generation Employment



Graduates face an increasingly competitive and constantly changing world.

The GIBS full-time PDBA is an honours equivalent degree that exposes recent graduates to leading business trends and builds the skills needed for future career success.

- > This programme is ideal for those students completing their undergraduate studies in 2022.
- > A business degree is not required for admission.
- > Increase your employability by gaining a deep understanding of the evolving business landscape.
- > The programme includes a workplace internship.



Gordon Institute of Business Science
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Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration
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An overture to unity

The bright lights and melodies at the Principal's Concert signalled more than a return to 'normal' or a celebration of music from Africa and beyond. They signalled the start of a collective effort to make the world a better place.

After two years of quiet, the University of Pretoria campus resounded to the sounds of peace.

The much-anticipated annual Principal's Concert was held on the Aula lawn at the Hatfield Campus under the theme Ukuthula: Celebration of Peace; a symbol of unity in the university community's collective efforts to make the world a better place for all.

Over 900 guests enjoyed an offering of various genres of music by the UP Symphony Orchestra, UP Aula Cultural Ensemble, Onderstepoort Community Choir, UP Chorale, and the UP Camerata.

The concert has not been hosted in person since 2020 due to national lockdowns and social distancing restrictions necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the past, this annual event included a few guests in an intimate setting. This year, however, the concert showcased musicians in an open-air setting.



"Poet Maya Angelou poignantly wrote that 'Nobody can make it out here alone', a powerful reminder of our fragility as a species, and our dependence on each other," UP Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Tawana Kupe said.

"Since life has its ebbs and flows and it is really difficult to make it alone, we are using this event as a fundraiser to help provide access to those students who cannot afford to study here. The university is open to all academically deserving students, who receive a world-class education, then go out and find jobs so that they can contribute to the economy and make a difference to society," he explained.

In addition to the music, the guests were enthralled by colourful light displays on stage and light projections onto the surrounding buildings and trees. "This helped to immerse the audience in the journey the music took them on," explained Johnnie Heinemann, Multi-Media Event Trading's Managing Director.

Dr Faith Mathibedi, an Educational Consultant from UP's Department of Education Innovation, commented: "I always try to attend the Principal's Concert and missed it when it could not be held due to the pandemic. When I saw the invitation, I was very excited and could not wait for the day to arrive.



"The set-up was incredible, from the ticket collection and welcoming drinks to the comfortable café chairs. I also enjoyed the music, choice of songs, the orchestra, the Mass Choir ... half the time I had goosebumps! I wish there was a recording in the form of a CD to buy," she said.

Prof Kupe extended his appreciation to all members of the UP community who donated in the Giving Day campaign and made an appeal to the audience to donate and create a culture of philanthropy and to support students in need.

"Many students and families have been adversely affected by the pandemic. Coupled with this, government subsidies to universities have been on the decline for several years. Again, we cannot go it alone. We need partners to help us raise funds to sustain the high standards our UP community is accustomed to.

"Therefore, we are here to see how our collective efforts can help to alleviate the funding challenges and to raise the much-needed funds to provide our students with the quality education we are known for. We also need to support the projects that make us one of the leading tertiary institutions in the world," Prof Kupe said.

By Paseka Gaola

12 countries 73 students Infinite opportunities

Fast Fact
UP students are encouraged to explore study opportunities abroad wherever possible. Contact the International Office for more information.

Student exchanges are a key driver of internationalisation in the University, and the first group of international students to arrive on campus since 2020 added to the rich tapestry of diversity.

Our doors are once again open as the University of Pretoria (UP) welcomed the first arrival of students from abroad since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This international group of exchange students, who attended the University during the second semester, comprised 73 students from UP's partner universities in Belgium, Italy, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Austria, Sweden, Spain, Switzerland and Japan, as well as elective students from the Czech Republic and Nigeria.

"Student exchanges are a reciprocal arrangement between UP and numerous universities globally," said Setsipane Mokoduwe, Head of International Cooperation in the Department of Research and Innovation. "These arrangements afford students an opportunity to study at

partner universities for one or two semesters, and allow them to learn from their peers, and experience the different cultures, perspectives and customs in another country. This international experience also affords the students opportunities to establish global networks and build resilience, thus contributing to building global graduates and global citizens."

For some students, this was the first time that they had travelled outside of Europe.

"Out of all the options that I could choose, I decided to go with UP," said Ebba van Merwijk, who attends Leiden University in the Netherlands. "I have never been outside of Europe; I also wanted to break my own stereotype of Africa, especially South Africa, and UP seems like a great school. I am happy to be here."

"I have never been to Africa before, so I thought coming here would be a great opportunity," said Viivi Ropponen of Erasmus University in Rotterdam. "I opted for UP because I had heard a lot of positive feedback from previous exchange students. I am loving it so far; people here are really warm and welcoming."

"I am interested in the colonial history of the Netherlands and learning about South Africa's past and post-apartheid era," said James Steijger of the University of Amsterdam, who is in South Africa to do fieldwork for his dissertation. "I am loving UP thus far!"

"The presence of these students is an opportunity for our local students to embrace, connect and engage with the broad international community on campus," Mokoduwe added.

By Paseka Gaola



MAMELODI CAMPUS - THE SOCIAL INNOVATION HUB OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA (UP)

As UP's flagship campus for the Extended Curriculum Programmes (ECPs), and as its social innovation hub, the Mamelodi Campus strives to be the gateway of choice to Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM)-related fields of study for talented learners with demonstrated potential and academic acumen.

The Campus seeks to assist learners to successfully transition from high school to university-level academic engagement to ensure success in their elected fields of study at UP.



ACADEMIC OFFERING

- 1 BCom ECP
- 3 BSc ECPs
- STREAM 1: Physical Sciences
- STREAM 2: Mathematical Sciences
- STREAM 3: Biological and Agricultural Sciences



COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

- STEM Sensory Garden
- Community vegetable garden
- After-school Football Programme
- CAFCA Music School
- Mae Jemison US Science Reading Room



COMMUNITY CLINICS

- 1: Centre for Faith and Community
- 2: Business Hub
- 3: Animal Health Clinic
- 4: Siyathemba Occupational Therapy Clinic



We welcome our newly appointed director, Prof Ntebogeng Mokgalaka-Fleischmann, to the Mamelodi Campus



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA



Learning at work

Community engagement develops social responsibility as well as character: our students learn how to work with underserved communities, help them solve immediate problems, and transfer skills in order for them to independently solve problems in future.

Engagement with society and communities links the research and teaching skills of our staff and students to the specific needs of individual communities, thus impacting communities positively. In turn, student life and the attributes developed while at university are enriched through their service-learning and engagement.

A major part of community engagement at UP is curricular – that is, students earn credits towards their degrees while applying their knowledge in the service of the community.

In service of care and competence

For more than a decade, the Mamelodi Animal Health Clinic has helped local residents to care for their pets. This primary care clinic on the University of Pretoria's (UP's) Mamelodi Campus is managed as a satellite of the Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital by the UP Faculty of Veterinary Science.

Valuable services such as vaccinations and sterilisations are provided under the ethos "It takes nothing from a human to be kind to an animal".

The clinic, which was set up in 2011 by Dr Cherri Liebenberg, forms part of UP's endeavours to provide services to communities situated around its campuses, as well as valuable hands-on clinical experience for its final-year Veterinary Science students.

Resident veterinarian Dr Jeanne Rudman says the facility has over the past 11 years seen significant growth in the number of animals it cares for each month. She ascribes this to the level of service provided, the passion and enthusiasm of the visiting Veterinary Science students, and their rapport with community members and their pets.

Along the way the clinic has significantly raised awareness among community members about how to best care for their dogs and cats. "Through our vaccination programme we are helping to create a rabies-free Mamelodi. Many people are now also able to breed with dogs, because they can get their animals vaccinated or treated successfully if puppies for instance pick up the potentially deadly parvovirus," Dr Rudman says.

She tells the story of a UP student at the Mamelodi Campus who is self-funding his university studies by breeding Rottweiler dogs. "He says he had the courage to become a breeder because of the vaccinations for puppies and other help he can so easily access here at the clinic. He knows he has the clinic to fall back on."

Dr Rudman's dream is to see the facility expand to house a separate unit dedicated to doing sterilisations.

Every week, a new group of six final-year Veterinary Science students and one final-year Veterinary Nursing student from the Veterinary Science Faculty visit the Mamelodi Campus to help out at the clinic on a rotational basis.

"Because we are so short-staffed, each extra pair of hands really makes all the difference. We therefore rely heavily on

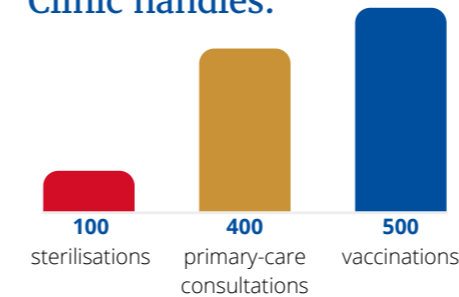
the students' help to provide the best possible primary-care service to our clients," Dr Rudman says.

Since the beginning of 2022 the clinic has also enjoyed the services of a second qualified veterinarian, Dr Nicola Griffin, thanks to the national Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's community service programme for newly qualified vets.



Besides gaining confidence and skill, students also get valuable 'puppy therapy', because so many young dogs are brought in for vaccinations.

In one month, the Mamelodi Animal Health Clinic handles:



Typical visitors:

Dogs
Cats
The odd goat or sheep



Fast Fact

All procedures are done at cost at this non-profit clinic.

A consultation costs R50, and diagnostic blood or faecal tests R10.

“ We want to help make the nation a nation of skilful readers. ”
Dr Mia Le Roux

Unlock the world of literacy, unlock the world

Without sufficient literacy skills, no successful learning can take place. And without the ability to learn successfully, academic achievement is usually low, which predicts poor job opportunities and poverty.

This is why the Fostering Life-Long team at the University of Pretoria (UP) recently launched a project to encourage a love of reading and to improve literacy skills among learners at Gauteng schools.

The team – which consists of Dr Mia Le Roux, Dr Salomé Geertsema and Dr Carmen Milton – is collaborating with the Tshwane North branch of the Gauteng Department of Education, the World Literacy Foundation (WLF), Sun Books and the National Reading Coalition to tackle the problem head on.

"Part of the collaboration is to enhance literacy skills by introducing electronic materials created to improve reading and spelling skills," said Dr Le Roux, a senior lecturer in UP's Department of Speech-

Language Pathology and Audiology. "The materials are loaded onto tablets that are sponsored by Sun Books and the WLF."

The project also includes reading days, which involves the team going to schools selected by the Tshwane North Department of Education. "It is important to try to stimulate a love and enjoyment of reading; that usually improves literacy skills, because children are more willing to read when they enjoy what they are doing," she explained.

"Improving literacy skills in the early years is important, which is why we started at primary schools; we are focusing on pre-school grades as well. Additionally, we hope to expand the project to include secondary schools. We want to help make the nation a nation of skilful readers.

"Unlocking the world of literacy is unlocking the world," Dr Le Roux said. "Children of all ages should realise that reading is not just an academic activity, but an enjoyable activity that enriches your life on various levels."

By Mecayla Maseka



During special reading days, students from the Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology read stories to the learners before playing fun, educational games based on the stories.

At the top of their class

UP's top scholars were honoured in style – and in person – during the glitzy Academic Achievers' Awards.

The crème de la crème of academia took centre stage at the 22nd Annual Academic Achievers' Awards, where the University of Pretoria (UP) celebrated scholars for their outstanding interdisciplinary research.

The annual award ceremony, which took place virtually for the past two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, honoured 133 winners across eight categories, including 110 National Research Foundation (NRF)-rated scientists.

"As academic achievers you have demonstrated your academic excellence, which is generally defined as the ability to perform, achieve, and excel in teaching and learning, research, innovation, and engagement," said UP Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Tawana Kupe.

"We need far more academics to make sure our voices and expert comments are heard; that we share your research and findings. All of you here today have the gift of extraordinarily bright minds, and we need you to speak up and speak out in your areas of knowledge."

Prof Kupe said in many ways academic achievement addresses consciousness and community need, both locally and globally.

"It serves to take us further and higher in our lifetime, to contribute solutions to the issues raised in the Sustainable Development Goals and Africa Agenda 2063. You have honoured yourselves as individuals and you have honoured UP. Your reputations precede you in the best of ways, offering you access to the world, to people and places for

whom a whole range of opportunities are available, including key leadership roles," he concluded.

During his keynote address Professor Kopano Ratele of Stellenbosch University's Department of Psychology said, "I hope that the recognition is the cherry on top of work that is meaningful. I hope you have been feeling satisfied and even happy. I hope that you feel that you have something more important beyond what we came to celebrate tonight."

For him, the achievements that brought him happiness were those he regarded as enduringly meaningful. "The things I do for which I am recognised I would do even if no one gave me an award," Prof Ratele said.

Prof Karen Harris, Head of Department: Historical and Heritage Studies and Director of the University Archives, received the Chancellor's Award in the teaching and learning category. For her the acknowledgement endorses her endeavours to keep making a difference in the lives of her students.

"For more than three decades teaching has been my passion. My life has been immensely enriched by the undergraduate students I have taught and the postgraduate students I have supervised," she commented.

Dr Jonathan Okeke Chimakonam, an associate professor in the Department of Philosophy, received the Vice-Chancellor's Book Award, which recognises outstanding scholarly books, monographs and collections.

"This award does a world of good to my psyche. Many of my students, past and present, and academics who admire my work, will most certainly be happy for me. You can expect that the news of this award will inspire colloquia, research theses, rejoinders, and special issues dedicated to exploring the ideas in the book. Such is the greatest honour an academic could ever receive," Dr Chimakonam said.

Professor Marietjie Venter of the Department of Medical Virology, who won one of the three The Conversation Africa Awards for Communication Excellence, said: "I am honoured by the recognition from The Conversation and to be part of the NGSSA (Network for Genomics Surveillance in South Africa) team. I would like to dedicate this award to my UP team and all the scientists and doctors who worked hard throughout the pandemic to fight the COVID-19 virus."

When accepting the Chancellor's Award, which acknowledges exceptional achievement in the field of research, Prof Charles Fombad said the recognition will lead to new opportunities that will allow him to interact and work closely with leading researchers from around the world.

"I believe that through such academic exchanges, it will enhance my ability to assist my students. At the end of the day, my humble goal is to redouble my efforts and continue to contribute to ensure that my faculty remains the best in Africa and my University becomes the best on the continent."

By Xolani Mathibela

“My humble goal is to redouble my efforts and continue to contribute to ensure that my faculty remains the best in Africa and my University becomes the best on the continent.”

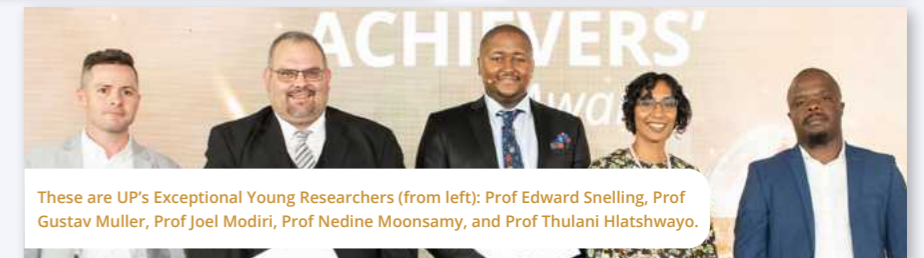
Prof Charles Fombad



Prof Charles Fombad, Chancellor's Award for exceptional achievement in the field of research, and Prof Karen Harris, Chancellor's Award in the teaching and learning category.



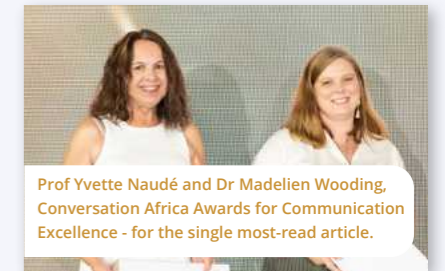
Prof Hanneke du Preez and Tanya Hill, Teaching Excellence Award.



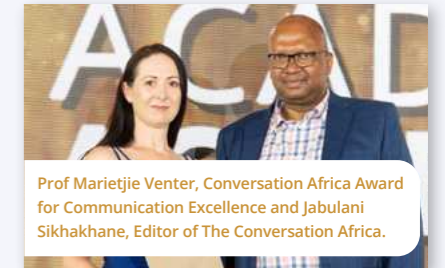
These are UP's Exceptional Young Researchers (from left): Prof Edward Snelling, Prof Gustav Muller, Prof Joel Modiri, Prof Nedine Moonsamy, and Prof Thulani Hlatshwayo.



The following were recognised as Exceptional Academic Achievers (from left): Prof Steve Cornelius, Prof Ann Skelton, Prof Alta van der Merwe, Prof Andre Ganswindt, Prof Christian Pirk, and Prof Vasu Reddy.



Prof Yvette Naudé and Dr Madelien Wooding, Conversation Africa Awards for Communication Excellence - for the single most-read article.



Prof Marietjie Venter, Conversation Africa Award for Communication Excellence and Jabulani Sikhakhane, Editor of The Conversation Africa.



Dr Jonathan Okeke Chimakonam, Vice-Chancellor's Book Award, and Kusenji Dlamini, Chair of the UP Council.



A-rated scientists Prof Nigel Bennett and Prof De Wet Swanepoel.



Prof Adrian Shrader, Teaching Excellence Award and Prof Loretta Feris, UP Vice-Principal: Academic.



Dr Renata Eccles and Dr Esedra Kruger, Community Engagement Award.



Prof Johan Olivier, Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellent Supervision.

UP's winners take it all

UP has long been considered Africa's sporting powerhouse, nurturing some of Africa's greatest athletes through the Tuks High Performance Centre. These are the winners who in 2022 reached for their personal best, ascended the medals podium and flew the TuksSport banner high.



Sportswoman of the Year: Michaela Whitebooi

Michaela Whitebooi's refusal to curb her dreams is why she received the Bestmed Tuks Sportswoman of the Year award. And deservedly so.

During the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, she won gold in the judo under-48kg category, the first South African female judoka to win gold at a major international competition.

For Whitebooi, her success has been a long time in the making. Ten years to be exact.

While she won various gold medals and titles all over Africa, victories in the rest of the world eluded her. She admitted that, at times, she lacked confidence. There were often tears of disappointment. But through every setback, her resolve never to quit strengthened. She never doubted that she had the makings to be a champion.

The first sign that things were changing was when she won a silver medal during the European Open Cup Tournament. "It was the confidence booster I needed

as it made me realise my potential. I also realised after the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games that my most significant drawback was a lack of international experience.

"Thanks to support from TuksSport, my sponsors and Judo South Africa, I could attend more international training camps this year and compete internationally more often. This international exposure has helped me to trust in my abilities and I am more confident when I step onto the mats. I know now what I need to do to win."

Sportsman of the Year: Jovan van Vuuren

Those interested in a conversation about perfection should speak to the Bestmed Tuks Sportsman of the Year, Jovan van Vuuren.

He believes there is no such thing as perfection in sports. But saying that does not mean that he is not striving for it. Every time Van Vuuren competes in a long jump competition, it is with the idea to come as close as possible to that ultimate performance.

"To me, perfection is that chase to an ever-elusive goal. You can never give up. You've got to keep on going for it. It means striving to be better today than you were yesterday. That is how records get set," explains the master's student.

Van Vuuren certainly set some personal "records" this year: His breakthrough moment was winning a bronze medal at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, only the third time since 1994 that a South African long jumper has medalled at the Commonwealth Games.

Another definite highlight was his 8.16-metre effort during the Gauteng North Champs. It ranks him seventh on South Africa's all-time list for best performances. Internationally his 8.16 metres ranks as one of the 19th-best distances for the season. Van Vuuren went on to win the South African title as well. It is the first time he has done so.



Other winners



- Benjamin Richardson, the Student Sportsman of the year, was a bronze medallist at the World Junior Athletics Championships.
- Erin Gallagher, who won silver in the 50m-butterfly, is the Student Sportswoman of the year.
- Rocco Meiring, whose swimmers won seven medals at the Games, is the individual coach of the year.

Tuks hockey teams flick their way into the history books

TuksHockey made history when their women's and men's teams clinched Varsity Tournament titles within hours.

In the history of Varsity Sports, this has not been seen. The chances that men's and women's teams of the same university ever repeat this feat on the same day are slim.

Both Tuks teams had their work cut out to win. The women's team only secured their victory against Maties in the game's last two minutes. Fittingly it was the team's captain, Tegan Fourie, who scored the winning goal. The final score was 4-3.

The men's final between Tuks and Wits turned out to be a battle of the drag flickers. Every goal came from a penalty corner. Tuks's captain, Guy Morgan, and Brad Sherwood were phenomenal, never missing. Morgan scored a hat trick. The final score was 4-3.



Our hockey champions in action: Othantile Zulu (left) and Brad Sherwood (below).



The last time the men got to play Varsity hockey was in 2018. Tuks ended up being the champions.

According to Sigz Ntuli, the men's coach: "The final was an excellent example of how good Guy (Morgan) and Brad (Sherwood) are as drag flickers. They are world-class. Guy proved that during last year's Junior World Cup Tournament by being one of the top goal scorers. Bradley is a classic striker who can score in any situation."

Key staff appointments



Professor Jaco Beyers was appointed as the Deputy Dean: Teaching and Learning in the Faculty of Theology and Religion, from 1 October 2022 until 30 September 2026.

After completing his undergraduate studies at the University of Pretoria (UP), Prof Beyers entered the ministry and served in several congregations. During this period he completed his postgraduate studies at the Universities of Bayreuth, Marburg and Heidelberg in Germany.

In 2011, he joined the Department of Science of Religion and Missiology at UP and, after having acted as the programme manager for the programme Religion Studies since 2102, he was appointed as an associate professor in 2015, and as Head of the Department of Religion Studies in 2019.

He has been a member of the Advisory Board for the Curriculum Innovation Board, which forms part of the initiatives of the Future Talent Council, Stockholm, Sweden since 2016, and a research fellow at the Johannes A'Lasco Research Institute in Emden, Germany since 2019.



Ms Nicola Macleod was appointed as the TuksSport Deputy Director: Coaching and Performance Management, effective 1 October 2022.

Macleod has filled various roles within the sporting performance as well as wellness sectors over several years. Her experience and qualifications actively contribute to the next chapter of sport at the University of Pretoria.

She holds an undergraduate degree in Human Movement Sciences from UP, as well as an Honours degree in Human Movement Sciences with specialisation in Biokinetics. Along with these she has obtained several certificates in the sport and fitness sector along with having completed various short courses within the business and leadership space.



Dr Heide Hackmann was appointed as Director: Future Africa, with effect from 1 October 2022 until 30 September 2026.

She brings to the University more than 20 years of international experience in science and technology policy, global science strategy and systems development, as well as international science advice and diplomacy.

Dr Hackmann served as Chief Executive Officer of the International Science Council (ISC) from 2018 onwards, and as Executive Director of the ISC's two predecessor organisations: the International Social Science Council (2007-2015), and the International Council of Scientific Unions (2015-2018).

She holds a Bachelor of Social Science degree with Honours in Sociology from the former University of Natal, an MPhil in Contemporary Social Theory from the University of Cambridge in the UK and a PhD in Science and Technology Studies from the University of Twente in the Netherlands.



Professor Sunil Maharaj was appointed as the Vice-Principal: Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Education, effective 1 August 2022, for five years.

Prof Maharaj has more than 35 years' experience in industry as a microwave and radio-frequency design engineer, academic and consultant. He has extensive experience as an established scholar with international standing and commendable scholarly work.

He was appointed a full professor at UP in 2014, has held several leadership roles including Head of Department, and has served two full terms as the Dean of EBIT, which is the largest faculty at UP and the largest Engineering faculty in southern Africa.

He holds a SENTECH Chair in Broadband Wireless Multimedia.



Professor Loretta Feris was appointed as the Vice-Principal: Academic, effective from 1 July 2022, taking over from Professor Norman Duncan, who retired in August.

Prof Feris has 28 years of experience as an established scholar with international standing and commendable scholarly work, with eight of those years at a senior management level.

She has experience in teaching and learning through her participation in multiple academic committees, including the UCT teaching and learning, language and social responsiveness committees.

From 2004 to 2009 Prof Feris was Associate Prof of Law and Programme Manager of the International Trade and Investment Law in Africa programme at UP. Prior to that she was involved in several roles at the Washington College of Law, American University, Washington, DC in the USA.



Professor Ntebogeng Sharon Mokgalaka-Fleischmann was appointed as the Director: Mamelodi Campus with effect from 1 July 2022.

She has worked in the higher education sector in different capacities for the past 24 years and has held several management roles in this sector.

She holds a C2 NRF rating and was one of the founding members of the Synchrotron Radiation Research Roadmap Implementation Committee and the South African Chairperson for the South Africa Swedish University Forum Academic Advisory Committee for Climate Change, Natural Resources and Sustainability from 2019 to 2021.

Prof Mokgalaka-Fleischmann is also council member of the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) and chairs the Qualifications Assessment sub-committee of SACNASP.

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