

NEWS RELEASE

United Kingdom Friends of the University of Pretoria Foundation Launches to Foster Friendship and Support Educational Initiatives



Left to right: Josiah Mavundla, Sunil Maharaj (UP Vice Principal for Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Education), Alex Powell (UK Friends of UP Foundation board of trustees), Callie Lombard (UK Friends of UP Foundation board of trustees), Rikus Delpont and Naem Moolla.

London, UK – February 6, 2024 – The United Kingdom Friends of the University of Pretoria Foundation (UK Friends of UP) was officially launched on 5 February 2024, marking a significant milestone in fostering international collaboration and support for educational initiatives.

The UK Friends of UP aims to facilitate fundraising and support initiatives that enhance educational opportunities, research endeavours and community engagement at the University of Pretoria. Through strategic partnerships and philanthropic efforts, the foundation aims to make a meaningful impact on the lives of students, faculty and communities both locally and globally.

The launch event, held in London, was attended by UP alumni and supporters who share a common vision of promoting educational excellence and fostering meaningful connections between the United Kingdom and the University of Pretoria. Guest speaker was well-known host of the 702 Money Show, Bruce Whitfield.

In his keynote address, Vice-Principal: Research, Postgraduate Studies and Innovation Professor Sunil Maharaj emphasised the significance of friendship in shaping character and future prospects. Quoting an African proverb, he highlighted the correlation between one's associations and their trajectory in life. "Show me your friends, and I will show you your future," he remarked, underscoring the pivotal role of supportive relationships in personal and professional development.

The establishment of the UK Friends of UP signifies more than a formal organisation; it represents a commitment to nurturing meaningful connections and goodwill between individuals and institutions. As a registered overseas university charity, the foundation adheres to stringent legal, governance, and funding standards while embodying the spirit of friendship and mutual support.

"Friendship goes beyond mere association; it embodies goodwill, reciprocity and shared values," noted Prof Maharaj. "Tonight, we affirm our collective commitment as friends of the University of Pretoria, united in our dedication to advancing education and fostering global citizenship."

"Whether your donation is large or small, once-off or regular, your gift will help change more than one life," concluded Prof Maharaj.

For more information about the United Kingdom Friends of the University of Pretoria Foundation and ways to get involved, please visit: <https://up-foundation.org.uk/>

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Media enquiries can be directed to Mr Sashlin Girraj - Public Relations & Events Manager

Email: sashlin.girraj@up.ac.za | Cell: +27(0)72 447 3784

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

The University of Pretoria (UP) is one of the largest contact and residential universities in South Africa, with its administration offices located on its Hatfield Campus in Pretoria. This 115-year-old institution is also one of the largest producers of research in South Africa.

Spread over seven campuses, it has nine faculties and a business school, the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS). It is the only university in the country with a Faculty of Veterinary Science, which is ranked the best in Africa. UP has 120 academic departments and 92 centres and institutes, accommodating more than 56 000 students and offering about 1 100 study programmes. It has the most academic staff with PhDs (70%), NRF-rated researchers (613).

The 2024 Times Higher Education subject rankings placed UP first in South Africa in the fields of Law, Veterinary Science, Accounting and Finance; Agriculture and Forestry and Electrical and Electronic

Engineering. Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) ranked the University among the top five in Africa, as part of their 2024 World University Rankings (WUR). UP was the only South African university featured in the 2023 World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI), falling within in the 101-200 range of innovative universities.

For more information, please go to www.up.ac.za