

NEWS RELEASE

Raffle Winner Drives Away with UP's Beloved 1967 VW Beetle



June Petersen, the winner of the iconic 1967 Volkswagen Beetle.

PRETORIA – The [University of Pretoria](#) (UP) celebrated the conclusion of its iconic Beetle raffle, which is part of the [Giving Matters campaign](#). On 23 September 2024, the classic 1967 Volkswagen Beetle was handed over to the winner, Ms June Petersen.

This year's raffle has been one of the campaign's highlights, with the VW Beetle symbolising UP's rich history and its commitment to uplifting the community. Once owned by former Vice-Chancellor and Principal Prof C.H Rautenbach, the Beetle carries significant sentimental value, making it a fitting prize for such a meaningful initiative.

"Winning this Beetle is incredible, but what truly matters to me is the chance to support students in need," Petersen said. "I bought a ticket with their futures in mind, not just to win."

The raffle was the culmination of an annual campaign that began three years ago, aiming to raise R100 million by 2024. The campaign focuses on supporting 'missing-middle' students – those who are not eligible for government funding or various bursaries but still struggle to afford higher education. The excitement surrounding the raffle significantly boosted awareness and contributions, bringing the University closer to its ambitious fundraising goal.

With 9,574 raffle tickets sold, a remarkable R475 462 was raised. In total, the campaign has raised R93 101 262, leaving UP on the verge of reaching its target. To date, the funds raised through the Giving campaign have been used to provide financial assistance to over 400 students and support various strategic projects at the university.

Prof Loretta Feris, Vice-Principal: Academic, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all the participants. "We are so appreciative to everyone for participating in this raffle and campaign, and we encourage you to keep on giving; no matter how big or small, every contribution counts!"

Prof Feris' message echoed the broader spirit of the campaign, highlighting how collective efforts can make a meaningful impact on the lives of students. Thank you to all supporters of the campaign, who have helped us make meaningful strides towards ensuring a brighter future for our students. To make a donation, [click here](#).

--- End ---

>> [Watch the winning announcement](#)

>> [Watch the phone call with the winner](#)

>> [Watch the handover of the beetle](#)

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