



UNIVERSITY
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INTUTHUKO

Official UJ Development and Fundraising Magazine

The background is a warm-toned collage. At the top, a large, multi-story university building with a modern architectural style is visible. Below the building, there are several trees with dense foliage. In the foreground, a young woman with long, curly brown hair, wearing an orange long-sleeved shirt, is sitting at a desk. She is smiling and looking down at a laptop and an open notebook, with her hand on the keyboard. A network of thin white lines with small orange dots at the intersections is overlaid on the entire image, creating a digital or interconnected feel.

To all our beneficiaries Thank You!

"It is through your commitment to our institution that we have seen great success in this period. I wish you and your families a wonderful and safe festive season. We thank you for all you have done and look forward to kicking a new year off with you once again in our corner".

Professor Letlhokwa George Mpedi
Vice Chancellor and Principal

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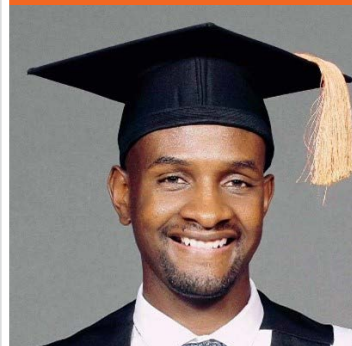


Ms Daphney
Nemakhavhani

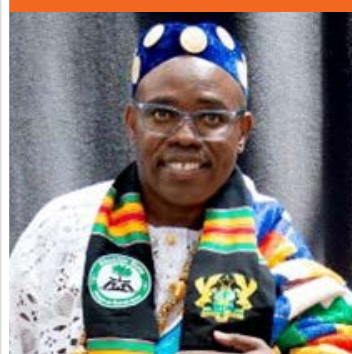


Ms Thuli Hlabahlaba

We acknowledge the University of Johannesburg's Faculties' support as well as the UJ Graphic Studio's support for graphics, design and layout.



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A portrait of Ms Nolwazi Mamorare, a woman with short dark hair, wearing a dark blue blazer over a light blue shirt and a dark patterned scarf. She is standing in front of a textured, light-colored wall.

FROM THE DESK OF THE CFO

Ms Nolwazi Mamorare

As we approach the end of another remarkable year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the journey we've undertaken together and celebrate the collective achievements that have made our institution shine brightly in 2023.

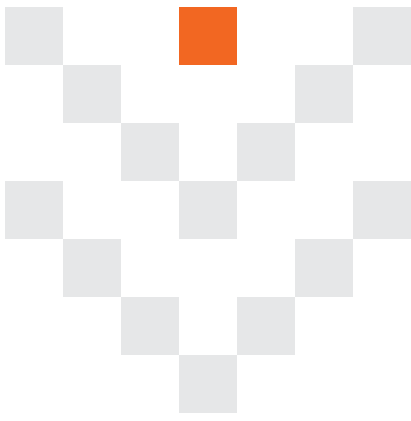
I am delighted to share that our various partnerships we have managed to provide bursaries for close to 20 000 students over and above the students that are annually assisted by the university trust fund. We have noted encouraging increase in the number of bursary recipients per province of origin as well as the gender distribution between 2022 and 2023. We have continued to make a positive impact on the communities we serve. Whether it's through our sustainability initiatives, community outreach programs, and strategic partnerships we as an institution continue contributing to a better world.

As we step into 2024 let's carry forward the momentum and enthusiasm that has defined our journey thus far. Together, we'll face new challenges and seize fresh opportunities, confident in our ability to overcome hurdles and achieve even greater heights.

I want to express my gratitude to each one of you, for your hard work, dedication, and passion. Your contributions have been integral to our success, and I am excited about the bright future we are creating together.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

Chief Financial Officer
Ms Nolwazi Mamorare



Foreword from Development and Fundraising Director



As we approach the end of another transformative year, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey we've shared and the positive change we've collectively achieved. In 2023, we faced unprecedented challenges, but your unwavering support has been our beacon of hope and strength. Together, we have been able to make a real and lasting impact on the lives of our students and those communities we serve. Your commitment to our mission has not only empowered our team but has also brought about tangible change in the communities we strive to uplift. Our projects have flourished, touching the lives of countless individuals, from empowering marginalized communities with education and skills training to implementing sustainable development initiatives, each endeavor has been a

testament to the positive change that can occur when passion, resources, and dedication converge.

As we look forward to the new year, we are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. Your continued support will be instrumental in expanding our reach, deepening our impact, and addressing emerging challenges. Together, we can build on the foundation we've laid and create an even more profound and lasting legacy for maximum societal impact. In the spirit of the holiday season, I extend my warmest wishes to you and your loved ones. May the coming year bring you joy, fulfillment, and the knowledge that your support is truly making a difference in the world.

I hope you enjoy the moving testimonies of the individuals and

communities that have been positively affected by the generous contributions you have provided. We showcase the ways in which your generosity has improved our student's lives, empowering them and building stronger communities. As we highlight real-life examples of how your kindness has resulted in significant change, you can see the domino effect of your gift and the larger effect of our university's efforts, demonstrating the positive change we are bringing about together.

Thank you for being a vital part of our journey. Here's to a new year filled with hope, resilience, and continued collaboration.

With deepest gratitude,
Ms Daphney Nemakhavhani ■



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Alumni Connect allows you to re-connect with UJ graduates and use the trusted UJ community to find a mentor or to offer mentorship.

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E-Academic Record

Get your E-Academic record at no cost.

Visit: www.uj.ac.za/academic-records

SCAN ME



Messages of appreciation from beneficiaries

"I just completed my final year in Emergency Medical Care at UJ. I would like to thank CAREERWISE for giving me the finances to complete my degree and giving me the opportunity to build my future."

Linoi Moravin

"I would like to thank you for the opportunity, given by CAREERWISE, to complete my studies. I am grateful to you for the funds to purchase the necessary equipment to assist me in achieving the desired outcomes. You have really helped and assisted me throughout my studies. I appreciate you and hope to be working for you once I have obtained my degree. Thank you abundantly for being a pillar of support towards my success".

Fransis Sekgobela

"I am currently doing my 2nd year in BTech Mechanical Engineering. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generosity and belief in the potential of students like me. Your support is not just an investment in my education but a contribution to the betterment of society through the empowerment of individuals who are eager to learn and make a difference.

Thank you to HENKEL for affording me a chance to reimagine the future."

Refiloe Maswikaneng

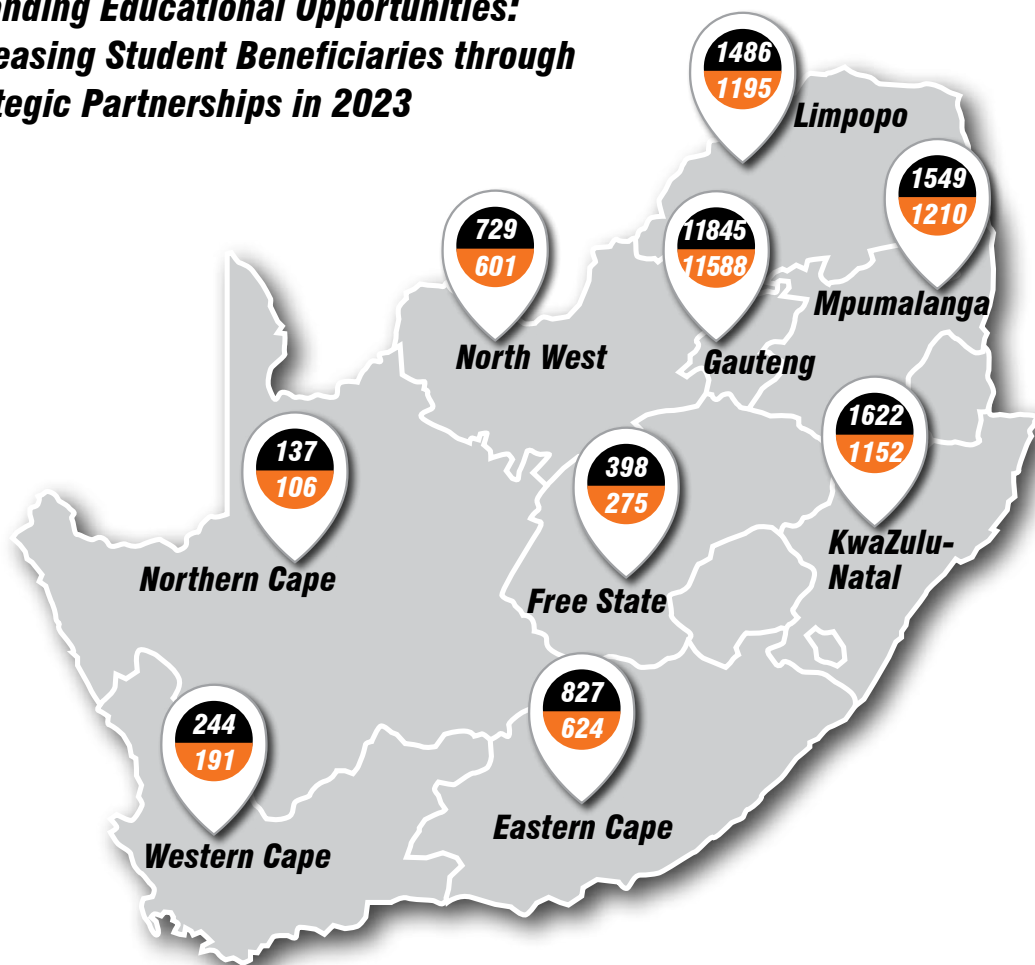
"I would like to thank you Allen Gray ORBIS Foundation for giving me the opportunity to go further with my education. What seemed to have been a difficult and turbulent year filled with many challenges and difficulties was brightened by this opportunity. It has given me great hope and appreciation of what this opportunity means not only for myself but other recipients as this opportunity will ensure a better future than the one we would have been afforded had we not received this opportunity".

Busisiwe Palesa Zwane

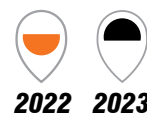
"Receiving this bursary from Hillensberg Trust has not only alleviated the financial burden that often accompanies pursuing higher education but has also provided me with the opportunity to focus wholeheartedly on my academic endeavors. Your generosity has made a significant impact on my educational journey, and I am truly humbled by your commitment to fostering the growth and development of students like myself. Thanks to your belief in the power of education, I am not only able to pursue my passion but also have the chance to explore new horizons and contribute meaningfully to society in the future. Your investment in my education is not just a financial contribution; it is a vote of confidence that inspires me to strive for excellence in all aspects of my academic and personal life".

Keegan McGregor

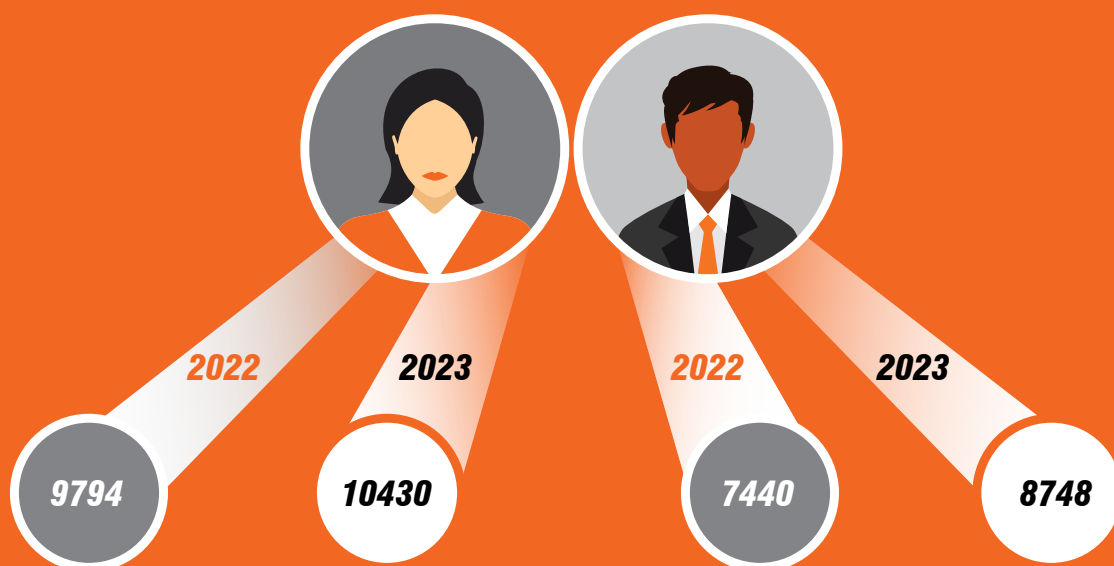
Expanding Educational Opportunities: Increasing Student Beneficiaries through Strategic Partnerships in 2023



Number of students beneficiaries between 2022 and 2023:



Enhancing Education Access: 2023 Student Beneficiaries Gender Distribution Analysis



Chevening scholarship takes UJ alumnus to new heights.

MBA CANDIDATE AT WARWICK BUSINESS SCHOOL, UNITED KINGDOM, AND CHEVENING SCHOLAR ROBERT NDEBELE HAS PLANS FOR HIS CAREER, FUTURE, AND OTHER YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS.

Robert Ndebele

Robert was recently selected for the British Chevening Full Scholarship Funding of around GBP 67,000 GBP (around R1,6 million) to pursue an MBA at Warwick University – the crown on a successful academic journey – and has taken sabbatical leave from his position at Asika Consulting to fully dedicate himself to the MBA programme and get the most out of it.

“The scholarship symbolises global recognition and the opportunity to learn from the best. It also represents an opportunity for me to grow personally, travel, and immerse myself in a culturally diverse and international environment,” he says.

With nine years of experience in public sector consulting, Robert worked across various projects, including spatial planning, statutory land use planning, planning law, policy development, and rural development. He has led and coordinated interdisciplinary teams on consulting projects, liaising with stakeholders and clients to ensure projects are completed on time and within budget.

The UJ alumnus, who studied town planning and construction management, grew up in a township

where poverty and inequality are rampant and has a deep understanding of the challenges many young South Africans face.

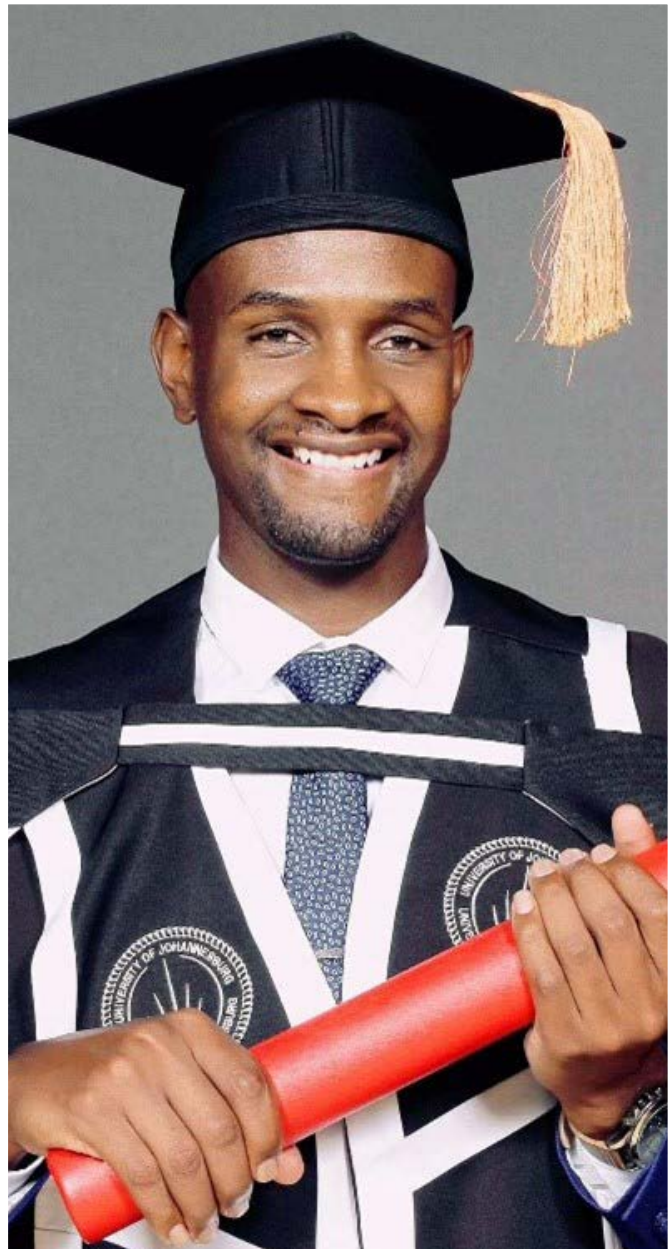
“I dream of establishing an NGO focused on tutoring, career counselling support, and tertiary education funding opportunities, especially for Grade 12 learners from disadvantaged backgrounds. In addition to working relentlessly towards their goals, I want to teach them never to overlook the importance of mentorship and building meaningful connections. These connections and guidance often open doors to unforeseen opportunities and collaborations.”

His desire to assist and support others has its roots in lessons learned from the past.

The most important lesson he learned at UJ had less to do with his studies per se than with the sheer determination and perseverance it took to get to campus on time every day.

“The challenges I faced, especially in my first year travelling daily in overcrowded and constantly late trains from Tembisa to the Doornfontein Campus, taught me the importance of resilience and a sense of purpose towards one’s goals,” he says.

Robert Ndebele obtained the following qualifications at UJ: National Diploma in Town and Regional Planning (2014), BTech Town and Regional Planning (2015), and MTech Construction Management (Distinction) (2019). ■



A trailblazer in accounting and business leadership

Dr Modi Hlobo

Having grown up in Rockville, Soweto, Dr Hlobo always knew she had a story to tell. Her parents are originally from Limpopo Ga-Marishane, and moved back there years ago, where they have since been.

She studied BCom Accounting and became a Chartered Accountant.

She then did her articles at ABSA and joined the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) post articles. She said this was where her interest in boards and being a board of directors began. She shared that her journey through her studies was not easy, but she picked herself up continually.

"What happened at the DBSA was that the companies that they had invested

in would need someone to sit on the board as an observer to see what is happening in a particular business – more like someone monitoring the asset," she explained.

After doing her articles, she started sitting on government municipal boards, particularly Johannesburg Municipal entities.

"I had a very good idea in terms of how boards run and what to expect."

She said Chief Justice Raymond Zondo inspired her topic for her PhD as he always questioned how board members ended up in certain boardrooms, and that was where the topic started.

"He always questioned this. While some of them (board members) are qualified, ethical issues are a challenge. So he made me revisit my journey and I could see there's something to be looked into here," she added.

In her study on competencies and qualities of Board of Directors for State Owned Entities, she looked at the best process internationally to develop her framework for screening South African board members before they are shortlisted for appointment.

The UJ seasoned academic researcher and chartered accountant made history in March when she graduated with a PhD in Accounting.

Dr Modi Hlobo is the first black staff member of the UJ's School of Accounting to graduate with this degree.

"I may not contribute to the Zondos but I've got a story to tell. As South Africans we complain a lot but we've got information that we can assist with. I felt that I needed to use what I have seen in both the public and private sector and contribute to making this country a better place," said Dr Hlobo.

Dr Hlobo, who now sits on the boards of JSE-listed companies, says she wants to continue to teach and empower young people.

"There is a child out there who is struggling with their studies and they think it's the end of the world when it's not. If I can do this, so can anyone," she said. ■

IF THERE'S SOMEONE WHOSE INSPIRING JOURNEY AND DEDICATION ARE BREAKING BARRIERS, YOU CANNOT LOOK FURTHER THAN DR MODI HLOBO.



UJ academics awarded South African Literary Awards

Two academics from the University of Johannesburg (UJ) have been awarded the prestigious South African Literary Award (SALA) in the Best Creative Non-Fiction category. Dr Sphiwo Mahala, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of English, and Professor Mandla J Radebe, the Associate Professor: Strategic Communication and Director for the Centre for Data and Digital Communications, were recognised for their outstanding works, *Can Themba: The Making and Breaking of the Intellectual Tsotsi* and *The Lost Prince of the ANC: The Life and Times of Jabulani Nobleman 'Mzala' Nxumalo*, respectively.

Dr Mahala's book, *Can Themba: The Making and Breaking of the Intellectual Tsotsi*, is an in-depth exploration of the life and work of Can Themba, a prominent South African intellectual and writer during the apartheid era. The book delves into Themba's complex persona, his contributions to South African literature, and the social and political context in which he lived and worked.

Says Dr Mahala: "I am deeply honored to share the South African Literary Award for Best Creative Non-Fiction with my esteemed colleague and friend, Prof Mandla J. Radebe. This award is a testament to the years of research and writing that culminated in the book '*Can Themba: The Making and Breaking of the Intellectual Tsotsi*' (Wits University Press, 2022). I am eternally grateful to the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study (JIAS) and the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences for their unwavering support throughout this journey. Winning this coveted award has provided me with an affirmation that I did not know I needed. This book represents my contribution to the scholarship of Black intellectual history and to the reconstruction of the legacy of Can Themba, an intellectual luminary who tragically passed away more than five decades ago."

Prof Radebe's book, *The Lost Prince of the ANC: The Life and Times of Jabulani Nobleman 'Mzala' Nxumalo*, is the first comprehensive biography of Jabulani Nobleman 'Mzala' Nxumalo, a key figure in the South African liberation movement. The book traces Nxumalo's life from his early years in rural South Africa to his untimely death in London in 1991. It explores his intellectual and political journey, his contributions to the anti-apartheid struggle, and his enduring influence on South African thought.

Prof Radebe echoed Dr Mahala's sentiments adding that this recognition is one that he will always cherish. "I wish to extend my appreciation to the write associates, the founder and custodian of these Awards, the national



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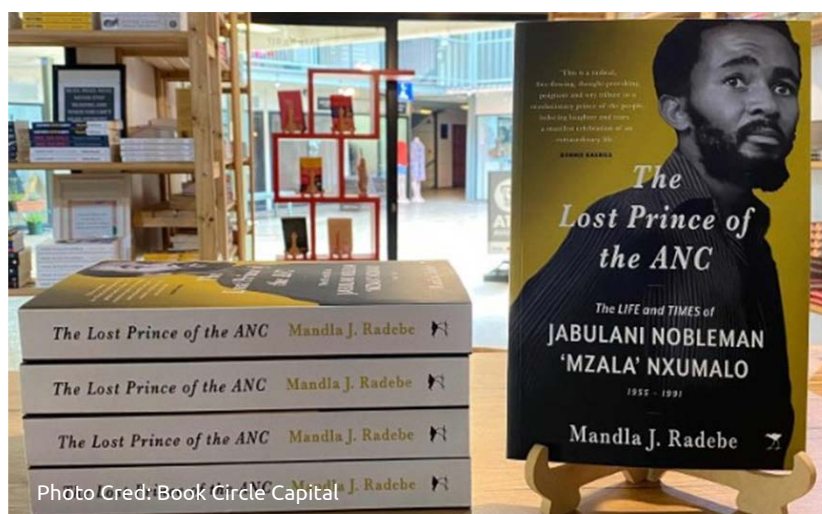


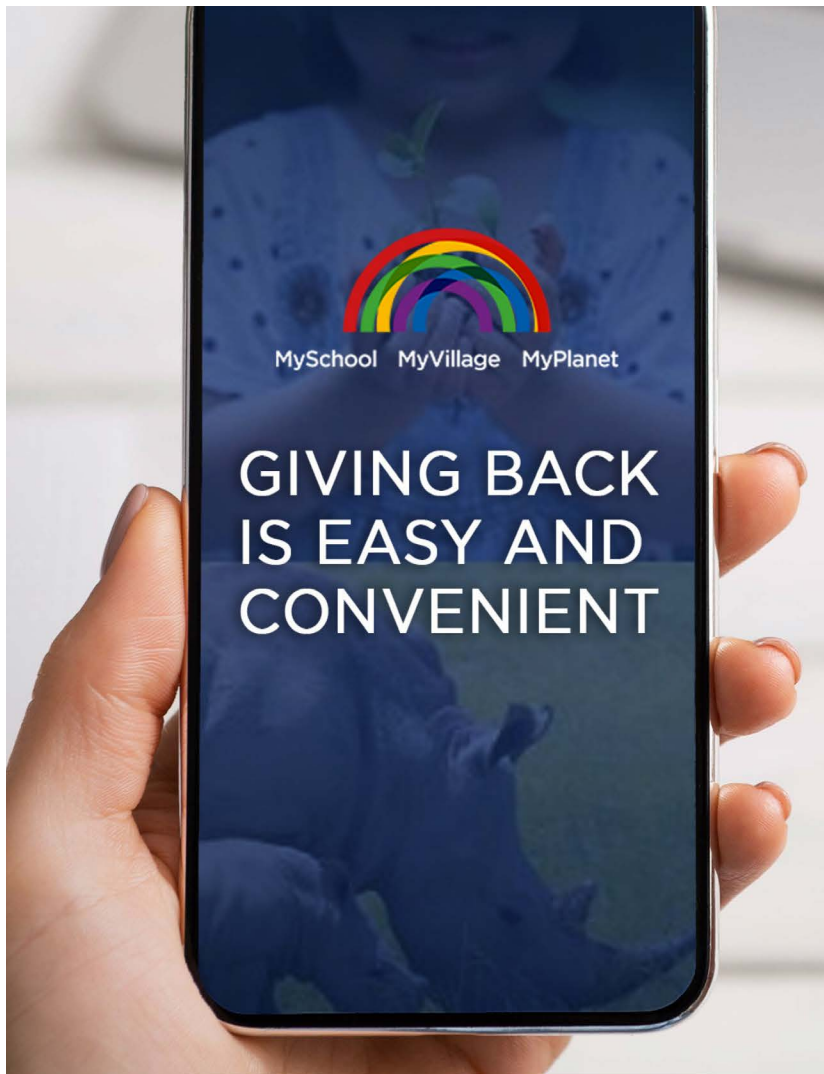
Photo Cred: Book Circle Capital

Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, the strategic partner for the awards and the North-West University as the host. Most importantly, my appreciation goes to Jacana Media the publisher of this book. *The Lost Prince of the ANC: The Life and Times of Jabulani Nobleman 'Mzala' Nxumalo*, was a labour of love, a journey of discovery and remembrance. I'm privileged to have had the opportunity to share this story, a piece of South African history, which is now has been recognised."

The SALA recognition for Dr Mahala and Prof Radebe is a testament to their exceptional scholarship and their commitment to telling the stories of

South Africa's past. Their works offer valuable insights into the country's rich history and cultural heritage, and they serve as a reminder of the important role of intellectuals in shaping society.

The University's Faculty of Humanities is immensely proud of the achievements of Dr Mahala and Professor Radebe. "Their dedication to research and their passion for storytelling has brought them this well-deserved recognition. The Faculty congratulates them on their outstanding contributions to South African literature and scholarship," said Prof Kammila Naidoo, the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, UJ. ■



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UJ scholars honoured as Members of South Africa's Academy of Science

Two academics from the University of Johannesburg (UJ) were among the 38 leading scholars and scientists inaugurated as Members of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) at the annual Awards Ceremony on 9 November 2023.

Umesh Ramnarain is a Professor in science education and Head of Department in Science and Technology Education at UJ. He is a renowned researcher in the field of science

education, with a particular focus on teacher education, curriculum development, and assessment. He is also a passionate advocate for inclusive and equitable science education for all learners.

Professor Salim Vally is the DHET-NRF SARCHI Chair in Community, Adult and Workers' Education based at the Faculty of Education, UJ, and a visiting professor at Nelson Mandela University. He is a leading expert in the field of

adult education, with a particular focus on community education, workers' education, and social justice. He is also a public intellectual and social activist who is committed to using education to transform society.

Their election to ASSAf is a testament to their outstanding scholarly achievements and their contributions to South African society. ■



Prof Tartibu illuminated the path to transforming engineering optimisation

In today's fast-paced technological landscape, solving intricate engineering problems has become a significant challenge. Conventional optimisation methods often struggle to find efficient solutions because of the complex and multifaceted nature of these issues. Lagouge Tartibu, a Professor in the field of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Johannesburg (UJ), believes there's a game-changing solution to this problem.

Prof Tartibu delivered his professorial inaugural address, titled "Evolutionary Algorithms: The Key to Cutting-Edge Engineering Optimisation," at the University's Ubuntu Chambers, Madibeng Building, Auckland Park Kingsway Campus on Monday, November 6, 2023. In his address, he delved into the exciting world of metaheuristic approaches, presenting them as a promising alternative for tackling complex engineering optimisation challenges.

Metaheuristic algorithms, he explained, draw inspiration from natural phenomena and problem-solving heuristics. They've demonstrated their effectiveness in navigating intricate solution spaces. By exploring the core principles of metaheuristics, including well-known algorithms like the ant colony optimisation algorithm, bat optimisation algorithm, whale optimisation algorithm, and grey wolf optimisation algorithm, Prof Tartibu shed light on how these versatile approaches can be tailored to formulate and address engineering problems effectively.

What's most striking about these approaches is their adaptability and versatility. They're not limited to a specific domain; instead, they're well-suited for a wide range of applications. Whether you need to identify the shortest path, optimise mathematical equations, enhance machining performance, or fine-tune thermal systems, metaheuristics can

offer valuable solutions, he explained.

During his presentation, Prof Tartibu consolidated his knowledge by showcasing tangible case studies and real-world applications. He emphasised the intricacies involved in defining engineering challenges, the effectiveness of machine learning models in forecasting and evaluating performance metrics, and the application of metaheuristic approaches to tackle multi-objective problems and derive optimal solutions.

In summary, he underlined the extraordinary potential of metaheuristics to bring about a revolution in the optimisation of intricate engineering problems, ushering in an era of innovative and sustainable solutions in the constantly evolving field of engineering.

Following Prof Tartibu's address, Professor Tien-Chien Jen, Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering Science at UJ, provided a brief response. ■

From left to right: Prof Daniel Mashao, Executive Dean: Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment; Prof Lagouge Tartibu; Dr Mpoti Ralephata, Chief Operating Officer





4th UJ Sport Conference explores the synergy of sports and medicine

This symbiotic relationship between sports and medicine formed the crux of conversations between researchers, sports athletes and students, coaches as well as medical experts during the 4th University of Johannesburg (UJ) Sport Conference held on Tuesday, 31 October and Wednesday, 01 November 2023.

Over the years, the practical integration of sports and medicine has evolved athlete performance and rehabilitation with the use of science in the sports sector.

The theme for the conference, “Integrating Science and Practice: A Multi-disciplinary Approach to Sports Medicine, Rehabilitation, and Performance Enhancement”, put key focus on subjects including identifying gaps and challenges in multi-disciplinary approaches; sharing best practices and evidence-based approaches; and medical care and performance enhancement for women’s sports.

“The conference sought to explore the potential benefits and challenges of integrating various disciplines to optimise athlete care, recovery, and performance. The conference aims to provide a platform for professionals from various disciplines to collaborate and share their expertise. We aim to enhance the collective understanding and approaches to sports medicine, rehabilitation and management,”

Sport Physician Dr Dhavina Naidoo delivered the keynote address on the first day, titled “Elevating excellence: a multi-disciplinary approach to medical care and performance enhancement in women’s sports – Insights, personal perspectives, and sport-specific strategies.”

In the eight clusters of the conference, panellists delved into sub-themes including Women in sports medicine, rehabilitation and performance enhancement.

Chief Medical Officer at South African Football Association (SAFA), Dr Thulani Ngwenya, delivered an in-depth presentation on “Ethical considerations in sports medicine and performance enhancement.”

Dr Ngwenya said professional sports medics have a duty to improve the quality of sports by refining their knowledge and adopting the use of digital technologies as well as following modern ethics.

“There are a number of things that sports doctors need to consider at all levels of sports. It is important that as sports medical professionals we guide our athletes and coaches properly when it comes to matters that affect their lives and sports when stakes are high.”

He added: “For instance, when an athlete in contact sport suffers a concussion, a doctor has the duty to override a coach or athlete’s decision to continue playing whether the team is playing a World Cup final or just a league match. Ethical Considerations in Sports are premised on confidentiality, informed consent, balancing health with desire to compete, conflict of interest, fairness, performance enhancing substances and the duty to report.”

UJ registered dietitian and sport scientist Dr Amanda Claassen-Smithers echoed Dr Ngwenya’s sentiments on the use of supplements for enhancing athletes’ performances.

“Your diet is the most effective way to get nutritious food to improve performance and fitness levels. There is a need to change the mindset that

supplements are the only way to gain fitness levels and improve performance. Sport codes are regulated. As such, some athletes find themselves on the wrong side of the law and face bans and other penalties because they did not consider the ethics behind the use of certain supplements.”

The second day of the conference continued on with further discussions on optimising performance and wellbeing in paralympic athletes among other topics.

Speakers shared experiences on the service provided at different Olympic and Paralympic Games. Chiropractor, Dr Brad Sandler highlighted the role that sports medics play in helping athletes perform at their optimum levels, as well as the difficulties they endured in learning to help some Paralympians who needed medical assistance and preparation for big moments during the games.

Dr Candice MacMillan and Ms Simone Ferreira shared presentations on “Advancements in injury prevention strategies: From laboratory to the field.”

In this cluster, Dr MacMillan said that correcting the little technical movements make a big difference in various forms. She was highlighting the importance of the availability of sports scientists and physicians in athletes’ training and competitions.

The conference also featured medical industry experts from national sports teams, including Rugby World Cup winning player RG Snyman, Springboks medical doctor Dr Jerome Mampane and Springboks physiotherapist Mr Aneurin Robyn as well as sport physician Dr Moshe Magathi, among other panellists. ■

ELEVATING BUILDING INSPECTION STANDARDS IN SOUTH AFRICA: UJ'S BUILDING INSPECTOR PROGRAMME

Recently the National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC) acknowledged a pressing need to enhance the competencies of Building Inspectors in South Africa, uncovering a significant shortfall of 30,000 to 50,000 qualified professionals in the field. To address this imperative challenge, the NHBRC collaborated with higher education institutions and the Local Government Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA) to establish a comprehensive curriculum for Building Inspectors. The University of Johannesburg (UJ) played a pivotal role in this collaborative effort.

"The University, in partnership with esteemed public and private sector entities, is proud to announce the launch of the Building Inspector Short Learning Programme," said Professor Jeffrey Mahachi, Head of School: Civil Engineering and the Built Environment at UJ. The Building Inspector Programme reaffirms UJ's commitment to delivering high-quality, practical education to meet the industry's evolving needs. The programme is tailored to equip learners with valuable hands-on experience in building inspections, effectively addressing the critical shortage of skilled professionals in the field.

The programme's central mission is to ensure learners acquire the essential skills and knowledge required to become adept building inspectors, ultimately enhancing the quality and safety of building projects in South Africa.

"It represents a collaborative effort with a consortium of public and private sector partners who share a common goal of elevating the standards of the building industry," noted Prof Mahachi. This innovative initiative directly addresses the pressing need for inspectors capable of assessing building plans, inspecting construction sites, and evaluating existing structures to ensure compliance with building regulations.

Prospective candidates for the programme are expected to meet specific educational and employment criteria. "Applicants should hold at least a National Qualification Framework (NQF) Level 6 qualification in relevant disciplines such as Architecture, Civil Engineering, Quantity Surveying, Construction Management, and Building Science," emphasised Prof Mahachi. Those already employed as Building

Inspectors must have a minimum of two years of verifiable work experience, while unemployed graduates must complete a 60-hour workplace-based learning component to gain vital practical exposure. This hands-on training opportunity is made possible through collaborations with the university's public and private sector partners.

The comprehensive curriculum of the Building Inspector Programme spans ten months, with block release sessions scheduled three days a week each month, totalling 180 contact hours, complemented by an additional 60 hours of practical training.

Upon successful completion of the programme and meeting its requirements, graduates will have the opportunity to elevate their

professional status. "Building Inspectors with the required qualifications and experience can register as candidates for Professional Building Inspectors with the South African Council for Project and Construction Management Professionals (SACPCMP)," said Prof Mahachi. This recognition not only acknowledges their dedication and competence but also underscores their commitment to maintaining the highest building inspection standards.

"This initiative represents a significant step towards fostering skilled professionals capable of upholding the highest standards in building inspection, contributing to the safety and quality of building projects, including housing, in South Africa," concluded Prof Mahachi. ■



UJ ACHIEVES REMARKABLE RESULTS IN TWO GLOBAL RANKINGS



The University of Johannesburg (UJ) has recently recorded improved achievements across various prestigious global university ranking systems, reaffirming its commitment to academic excellence and innovation. UJ has further consolidated its global stature, achieving impressive rankings in a diverse array of academic disciplines in two ranking systems, according to the latest results.

In the 2024 Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings by Subject (THE) Subject Rankings 2024, released on Thursday, October 26, 2023, UJ has been ranked in 11 subjects, climbing in 8 subjects and maintaining its position in one subject. Notably, UJ has claimed the top position in South Africa for four subjects: Business and Economics (201-250); Engineering (301-400); Physical Sciences (301-400); and Computer Science (401-500). The University now ranks second in the country for Education (176-200) and Psychology (301-400), and third for Social Sciences (201-250) and Life Sciences (301-400).

To explore the detailed results, please visit the Times Higher Education website at the following link: [THE Subject Rankings](#).

UJ has also continued its remarkable journey towards academic excellence in the 2023 Shanghai Ranking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects (GRAS). The 2023 edition of these rankings, released on October 27, 2023, highlights the university's diverse accomplishments. UJ debuted in five subjects, re-entered one, climbed in three subjects and maintained its rank in three others.

UJ claimed the top spot in South Africa for eight subjects: Hospitality and Tourism Management; Food Science and Technology, Sociology; Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences; Management, Earth Sciences; Electrical and Electronic Engineering; and Education. The results are now readily accessible on the ShanghaiRanking website at the following link: [GRAS 2023 Rankings](#).

UJ Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Letlhokwa Mpedi, expressed his pride at the latest results, stating: "UJ's remarkable performance in both of these rankings is a testament to its commitment to academic excellence and innovation across a diverse range of subjects. The University's dedication to producing quality and impactful research, fostering academic growth and preparing students for the future is evident in

these results. These rankings represent a significant milestone for South Africa's higher education landscape, demonstrating that South African universities can compete at the highest global level."

According to the latest 2023 Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings, released in June 2023, UJ is now the top producer of research outputs in South Africa, ranked at number 1 in the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)'s global goal of No Poverty. The University is ranked among the top 50 universities worldwide, at global position 46. No Poverty focuses on universities' research on poverty and their support for poor students and citizens in their local communities.

Earlier in May, the 2023 global ranking from the Center for World University Rankings (CWUR) ranked UJ among the top 3.1% universities worldwide, at a global position 628 (one place up from 629 the previous year). As many as 20 531 institutions were assessed, making this the largest academic ranking of global universities. Of those assessed, only the best 2 000 made the final cut to attain a ranking placement on the published global list. ■

UJ IN THE RANKINGS

2024 Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings by Subject (THE) Subject Rankings

UJ has been ranked in 11 subjects, climbing in 8 subjects and maintaining its position in one subject.

UJ has claimed the top position in South Africa for four subjects: Business and Economics (201-250); Engineering (301-400); Physical Sciences (301-400); and Computer Science (401-500).

The University now ranks second in the country for Education (176-200) and Psychology (301-400), and third for Social Sciences (201-250) and Life Sciences (301-400).

2023 Shanghai Ranking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects (GRAS)

UJ claimed the top spot in South Africa for eight subjects: Hospitality and Tourism Management; Food Science and Technology, Sociology; Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences; Management, Earth Sciences; Electrical and Electronic Engineering; and Education.

2023 Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings

UJ is now the top producer of research outputs in South Africa, ranked at number 1 in the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)'s global goal of No Poverty. The University is ranked among the top 50 universities worldwide, at global position 46. No Poverty focuses on universities' research on poverty and their support for poor students and citizens in their local communities.

2023 global ranking from the Center for World University Rankings (CWUR)

Ranked UJ among the top 3.1% universities worldwide, at a global position 628. As many as 20 531 institutions were assessed, making this the largest academic ranking of global universities. Of those assessed, only the best 2 000 made the final cut to attain a ranking placement on the published global list.



UJ researchers discover new bacterial species with healthcare potential in South African medicinal plant



Researchers from the University of Johannesburg have discovered a new bacteria species living inside an African medicinal plant, which may be found to have healthcare applications in future.

Prof Mahloro Serepa-Dlamini headed the team that isolated and identified the *Bacillus dicomae* sp. nov. species living inside an indigenous medicinal sub-Saharan plant, *Dicoma anomala*. She is the Head of the Department of Biotechnology and Food Technology at the University of Johannesburg (UJ).

The discovery is published in the *International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology*.

The *Dicoma anomala* plant is one of the commonly used medicinal plants in the southern African region. It is also known as fever bush. Traditionally it is used for treatment of diabetes mellitus by a cultural group in South Africa. It has also been researched by others for possible application against malaria.

The novel bacteria species the UJ researchers discovered, belongs to a group of bacteria (*Bacillus cereus*) with characteristics such as surviving heat, causing food poisoning, and causing pneumonia and heart disease in medical

settings. *Bacillus cereus* bacteria are also commonly found in soil, the ocean, vegetables, meat and dairy products.

Some of the *Bacillus cereus* group members have benefits in drug development, food production, use as probiotics and as biopesticides.

However, when *Bacillus cereus* bacteria live inside a plant as endophytes, they help to protect the plant, and boost its growth without harming the environment. Endophytes are involved in the manufacture of the active ingredients inside medicinal plants.

The research team previously engaged with native South Africans who use the plant for tooth ache, diarrhoea, colic, and intestinal worms. That piqued their interest, says Serepa-Dlamini.

"The plant has various uses across different ethnic groups in South Africa. We wanted to see if we can find bacterial endophyte species living inside the plant – hoping that they manufacture some of the medicinal

compounds found in the plant."

Their research is ongoing. Their work is now in a phase where they are exploring the biotechnological applications of *Bacillus dicomae* sp. nov. they discovered, adds Serepa-Dlamini.

"Novel bacterial species may possess unique biochemical properties, enzymes, or metabolites with potential applications in various industries, including pharmaceuticals, agriculture, food, and biotechnology.

"These discoveries can lead to the development of new products and technologies, driving economic growth.

"PhD student Ms Sephokoane Cindy Makuwa looked at the antimicrobial activity of the bacterium. Currently she's assaying its spores for a formulation which can be used against pathogenic fungal species," adds Serepa-Dlamini.

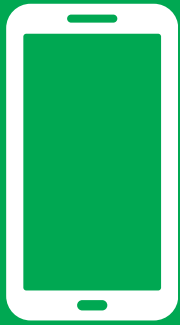
Bacillus dicomae sp. nov. species is first novel bacterial species to be discovered and described by UJ researchers. ■

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UJ's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Letlhokwa George Mpedi, honoured as Chief in Ghana

In a significant occasion that bridges continents and celebrates a deep commitment to education, research, and Pan-Africanism, Professor Letlhokwa George Mpedi, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Johannesburg (UJ), has been bestowed as a Chief in the Aboadze Kingdom in Ghana. His Royal Majesty Daasebre Kwebu Ewusi VII, the Paramount Chief of the Aboadze Kingdom bestowed this honour at a ceremony held on November 13, 2023, at UJ's Art Centre in South Africa.

The coronation ceremony marks the beginning of a remarkable journey for Prof Mpedi. It signifies a remarkable milestone in his illustrious career and his deep-rooted connection to Ghana. The second leg of the coronation will take place during the annual Daasebre Kwebu Ewusi VII festival in Ghana, scheduled for August 2024. His Royal

Majesty Daasebre Kwebu Ewusi VII, also known as the Omanhen (Overlord) of the Aboadze Traditional Kingdom, will preside over this momentous event.

Prof Mpedi's coronation as a Chief in Ghana is a testament to his lifelong commitment to fostering growth and development across the African continent. "This installation is being conferred on Prof Mpedi to acknowledge his impactful contributions in the area of research, mentorship to young Ghanaian men and women who had the rare opportunity to learn and continue to learn under his tutelage, as well as progressive collaborations between institutions of higher learning in Ghana and South Africa, which has seen several Ghanaian men and women benefit from postgraduate education in law," said His Royal Majesty Daasebre Kwebu Ewusi VII.

Professor Mpedi takes his oath of office during the coronation ceremony. Photo: Nokuthula Mbatha/University of Johannesburg

Throughout his distinguished career, Prof Mpedi has maintained a deep affection for Ghana, where he has been a visiting Professor at the Faculty of Law at Cape Coast University, authored a book on Labor Law in Ghana, and mentored numerous Ghanaian students. Furthermore, UJ's dedication to African-centred education has led to partnerships with several Ghanaian institutions, resulting in meaningful research and academic exchange.

Prof Mpedi's commitment to Pan-Africanism and societal impact is evident in UJ's educational initiatives, where they have formed valuable partnerships with various Ghanaian institutions. These collaborations have

Professor Letlhokwa Mpedi takes his oath.





(L-R): Chancellor of the University of Johannesburg Dr Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of UJ Professor Letlhokwa Mpedi, Queen Mother Obahemaa Kyeredeh Professor Refilwe Phaswana-Mafuya and His Majesty Daasebre Kwebu Ewusi VII. Photo: Nokuthula Mbatha/University of Johannesburg

paved the way for significant research and academic exchanges. Prof Mpedi stressed the importance of knowing who you are and what you stand for, echoing the words of the late Kofi Annan. This philosophy underlines the significance of making a positive societal impact and aligning one's efforts with a greater purpose.

As Prof Mpedi steps into the role of Chief in the Aboadze Kingdom, he recognises the responsibility that comes with this honour. He is committed to uplifting, empowering, and making meaningful contributions to the communities he serves in Ghana and beyond. Guided by the principles of Pan-Africanism and a belief in our shared humanity that transcends borders, he is determined to contribute to the development of the African continent.

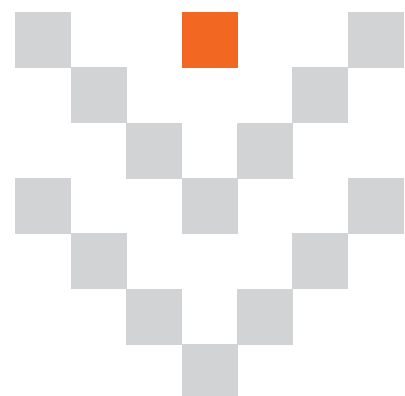
His Royal Majesty Daasebre Kwebu Ewusi VII emphasised: "Today's

coronation is not just Professor Mpedi's recognition, but also a celebration of shared values and common aspirations. We commend Prof Mpedi for his unwavering dedication to the betterment of our society and by extension the broader African continent."

In a moment of reflection, Prof Mpedi extended his gratitude to His Royal Majesty Daasebre Kwebu Ewusi VII for bestowing this honour upon him and to the people of the Aboadze Kingdom for their unwavering support. With a sense of purpose and a deep commitment to the shared vision, he looks forward to exploring new avenues for societal impact in collaboration with all.

Alongside Prof. Mpedi, Refilwe Phaswana-Mafuya, Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health, and the Director of the South African Medical Research Council/UJ Pan

African Centre for Epidemics Research (PACER) Extramural Unit, was honoured as the Queen of Research by the Aboadze Kingdom last year, emphasising UJ's commitment to excellence and collaboration across disciplines. ■





Alumni UK Chapter launch: celebrating UJ's global reach

The University of Johannesburg (UJ) has always been a beacon of educational excellence, nurturing a global network of alumni who have made significant impacts in various fields worldwide.

On 4 October 2023, UJ's proud legacy came to life as the UJ Alumni United Kingdom Chapter was officially launched. The event took place at the Radisson Blu Edwardian Grafton Hotel in London, England, offering a night of nostalgia, networking, and the creation of new connections.

Under the leadership of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of UJ, Professor Letlhokwa Mpedi, this event was a unique opportunity for UJ alumni living in the United Kingdom to reconnect with their alma mater, share memories, and establish new networks. Professor Mpedi extended a cordial invitation to all UJ alumni and their partners to join in this celebration of UJ's global reach and the accomplishments of its alumni in the UK.

In his address, Prof Mpedi encapsulated the essence of UJ's enduring commitment to education, innovation, and societal impact.

"UJ's history is rich and represents a long legacy that you are all now a part of," Professor Mpedi began. Indeed, UJ's journey has been a tapestry woven with the threads of educational excellence and innovation. Founded on principles of access and excellence, UJ has stood as a testament to the transformative power of education.

With its diverse student body, UJ serves as a microcosm of South African society. Professor Mpedi underscored, "We are undoubtedly a world in crisis which is reflected in our country and this vibrant city." The challenges faced by UJ's students, such as the digital divide,

mirror the complexities of modern South Africa.

Shifting the focus towards UJ's role in societal impact, Professor Mpedi spoke passionately about the university's commitment to humanity and innovation. He stated, "As we continue to make strides with technology, we must do so in a way that advances and positively impacts humanity and society."

He highlighted one of UJ's remarkable initiatives – the 3D printing project in collaboration with the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI). This project showcases how technology from the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) can be harnessed for sustainable solutions that benefit local communities. With the ability to build houses in a day, this innovation addresses pressing issues like homelessness and housing quality.

Professor Mpedi didn't shy away from sharing UJ's recent accomplishments, saying, "Just last week, UJ improved its global standing in the latest results of the 2024 Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings." UJ's ascent among the top 500 universities globally, in the 401 – 500 band, is a testament to its commitment to excellence.

The future of UJ is bright and forward-looking, as Professor Mpedi affirmed, "As these impressive feats demonstrate, UJ's future looks to burn even brighter! We are currently crafting a strategic plan, which will take us to 2035 that speaks to this

In closing, Professor Mpedi emphasised the pivotal role of UJ's alumni in shaping its future. "You are a living testament to the legacy and values of our institution," he acknowledged. He described alumni as a valuable network of potential collaborators, mentors, and advocates who contribute significantly to UJ's vision.

He concluded with a powerful African proverb: "With a little seed of imagination, you can grow a field of hope." This sentiment underscored the importance of alumni engagement and collaboration in realising the vision and potential of UJ.

The launch of the UJ Alumni UK Chapter marked another significant step in UJ's journey towards a brighter future, one that its alumni continue to play an integral role in shaping. ■



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Be the Bridge to the Future

UJ has since 2009 made R20 million (ZAR) available annually to assist more than 5 000 academically deserving and financially needy students. Play your part and match our contribution. Let's pay it forward and double our future impact.

Make a pledge or donate R100.00 or more towards this fund, each donation or pledge will enable a student to register for the 2024 academic year.

For more information contact the Development Office at **fundassist@uj.ac.za**

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Municipal Energy Planning Project

The amendment to the Schedule 2 of the Energy Regulation Act (ERA) has enabled municipalities to procure electricity from Independent Power Producers (IPPs). However, an establishment of a long-term energy needs and development of a feasible energy plan for short, mid, and long-term energy demand is highly critical. Unfortunately, most municipalities do not understand their energy requirements, available renewable energy resources within their region and technically-feasible energy mix worth exploring for a least-cost long-term energy sustainability for improved service delivery.

The University of Johannesburg Process, Energy, and Environmental Technology Station (UJ-PEETS) participated in the development of energy strategy and energy plan for Namakwa District Municipality (NDM) and Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone (MMSEZ). This project was fully funded by the Southern Africa Energy Programme of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID-SAEP). The eight (8) months project followed the road-mapping approach to stakeholder engagement and a co-creation approach to the development of the energy strategy and energy plan.

The project, led by Dr Paul Adedeji and Dr Obafemi Olatunji under the Energy Focus area of UJ-PEETS, focused on the establishing the long-term (20 years) energy needs of Namakwa District Municipality and the MMSEZ through technical analysis and modelling using the geographical load forecasting approach. Geospatial analysis of renewable energy resources available in these regions was also carried out. While the national Integrated Resource

Plan (IRP) aims at decommissioning coal-fired power plants in a phased approach and increasing the percentage of renewables in the national energy mix, there is need for Municipalities and Provinces to identify their role along this journey. An energy plan and energy strategy that details new generation capacities to be procured at what demand/year was also developed from a robust technical analysis using the least-cost approach.

Developing capacity within the District and the economic zone is very essential to ensure that the project implementation phase is realized. The project also involved a capacity development workshop wherein stakeholders were equipped with the energy planning and energy efficiency monitoring skills. This include the use heavy and low current energy monitoring equipment.

Socio-economic Impacts:

It is believed that the energy plan and strategy will enable stakeholders to make informed decisions, for instance, in the development of the Municipality Integrated Development Plan (IDP). The amount of new generation capacity that can be procured also provides the two sites with a baseline to inform strategic planning of other sectors. The capacity development workshop also equipped the NDM and MMSEZ technical personnel on how the energy plan can be updated should there be a significant change in the energy landscape of the region. As part of the value addition, 10 masters students are further funded under the EW-SETA bursary to undergo strategic research focussing on assessing the impact of the energy strategy and plan on other economic sectors within the two regions. ■



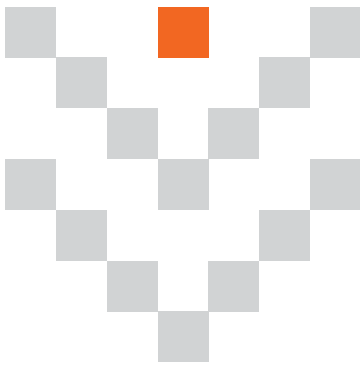
Vice Chancellor and Principal Prof Letlhokwa Mpedi walks the 5km



CFO Mrs Nolwazi Mamorare and Senior Director of Sport Miss Nomsa Mahlangu



Mr Mzwakhe Matukane Senior Director of Revenue administration



UJ Future Walk: A vibrant return to support students and promote active living

The UJ Future Walk returned on Saturday, 30 September 2023, after a five-year hiatus, with more than 200 participants converging at the AW Muller Stadium to walk in aid of students who cannot fully pay their tuition fees.

Participants walked through the Auckland Park Bunting Road (APB) Campus' walkways to complete a 2.5km, 5km, and 8km walking/running distances, including a 100m run for kids.

The event was led by UJ Sport in partnership with the UJ Development and Fundraising Office, and saw participation from dignitaries like the UJ Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Letlhokwa Mpedi, the UJ Chief Financial Officer Ms Nolwazi Mamorare, Chair of UJ Council Ms Xoliswa Kakana, MEC, SLG and ELG members.

Vice-Chancellor and Principal Prof Letlhokwa Mpedi walks the 8km

Speaking after completing his 9km walk, Prof Mpedi said, "There are two reasons why we are here. Firstly, to be physically active is good for one's health. We must encourage people to lead an active lifestyle through exercise. That's part of the UJ Sport mission. Secondly, we win in the process of participating in the UJ Future Walk because whatever small contribution we make by buying tickets goes into supporting academically deserving but needy students. In that way, we change the lives of our students, their families, and the communities they come from. Afterall, education is a human right."

Ms Mamorare added, "I feel fantastic after walking 5km during the UJ Future Walk. I have been part of the walkathon since its conception in 2015 and it's

lovely to see the event come back onto our annual University calendar. It's extremely important for people to get involved in the fundraising walk. As you know, the state of our economy means that a lot of our students and their parents cannot afford to pay their fees. We also see a sharp decline in the level of subsidies we are receiving from the state. So, we really need everybody to get involved in helping us help these students get the education they deserve."

Also speaking after completing an 8km walk, Ms Kakana said "I feel energized and I can actually go for another round. This initiative touched my heart hence I mobilised some friends and colleagues to be part of the walk to give financial support to our needy students. I promise you, I will make sure that I am here again in the next UJ Future Walk."

Dr Nolitha Vukuza, the Senior Executive Director: University Relations, UJ Sport and Student Affairs handed over medals to all the participants. "I dare say everybody is inspired. It's a beautiful day, the weather is clear and everyone is in good spirits. Of course, we are doing this for the future of our students who deserve to be at UJ but do not have the necessary means to pay for their fees," said Dr Vukuza.

Winner of the 5km run, Trevor Steyn from Johannesburg south, said he felt overwhelmed to win the 5km category for a good cause. "I run twice a week

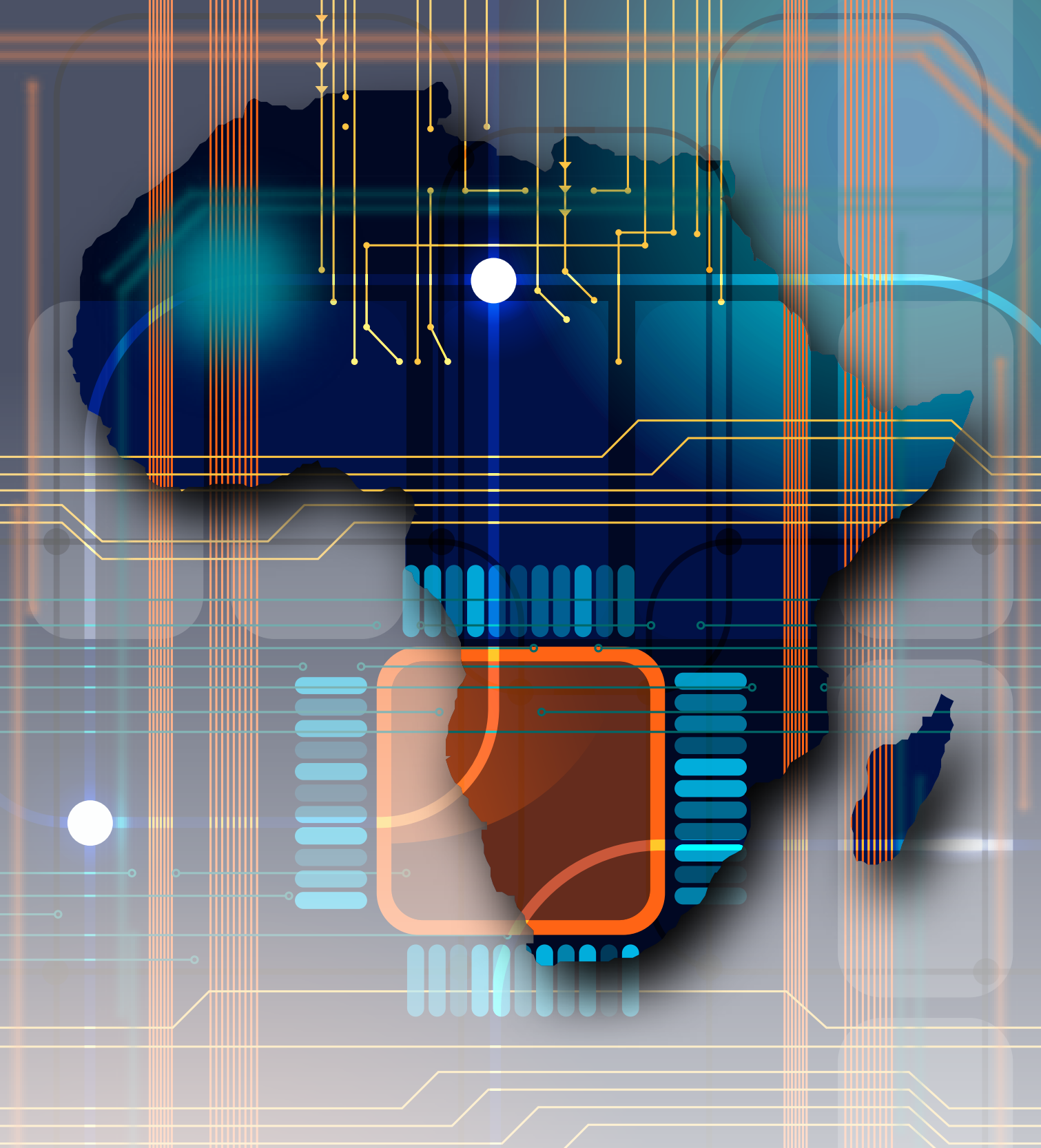
to keep fit. I saw the UJ social media posts about the UJ Future Walk and decided to join and be part of the changemakers. This is a good initiative, keep it up UJ," he said.

Sr. Miemie Geya, Director: UJ Centre for Student Health and Wellness, walked the 5km distance in 40 minutes. After the walk, Sr. Geya said, "I feel good, I was out of breath for a short while, but I am fine. It's important that we do this to stay healthy and prevent the non-communicable diseases. This is going to be an annual event, for those who have not joined this year please join us next year. The walkathon has a dual benefit; to help our academically deserving but needy students and good health purposes."

Youngster Bokang said he walked to get an extra steps for his health and to help give to those who want to get education. "To the young people out there, I'd like to encourage them to join initiatives like the UJ Future Walk to keep fit and in the process help students get educated."

Bokang said he wants to join the UJ Basketball Club after completing his matric.

Virgin Active fitness instructors, Lulu and Eddy from Maponya Mall and Glenvista, led the participants in warming up and cooling down exercises before and after the walk to help them avoid cramps and injuries. ■



MTN MEDIA INNOVATION SUMMIT

18 September 2023

Hosted by the University of Johannesburg

2023 MTN MEDIA INNOVATION SUMMIT: EXPLORING SA MEDIA BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES



The University of Johannesburg's (UJ) School of Communication in collaboration with the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study (JIAS) hosted the 2023 MTN Media Innovation Summit under the theme: Business Journalism and Media Business Opportunities: The South African Perspective.

The summit, which took place on Monday 18 September 2023, was a culmination of the MTN Media Innovation Programme which is a certificate course offered to journalists and media professionals at the Pan-Atlantic University (PAU) in partnership with MTN Nigeria.

Part of the PAU and MTN partnership entails training and exposing the programme participants to innovative media business practices aimed at building much-needed sustainability in the industry.

During her welcoming speech, Professor Kammila Naidoo, Dean of

the Faculty of Humanities, emphasised the significance of collaborative interactions, highlighting their crucial role in creating room for fresh and innovative ideas to flourish.

"What we hope for is a strong and proactive media with relevant skills and expertise with transformation at the forefront of agendas and with platforms that share and inspire and that will be sustained by its drive for social justice and making a difference to the lives of ordinary people."

Dr Bongani Ngqulunga, JIAS Director, spoke on the importance of media in strengthening democracies and the critical role free media has to play.

"That is the reason why this summit is so important. There are so many changes and challenges that face the media today. In a continent like Africa, we welcome this partnership."

The program of the summit was made up of two panels – Business Journalism

and Media Business Opportunities in Africa: The South African Perspectives and The Imperatives of Development Journalism in Africa.

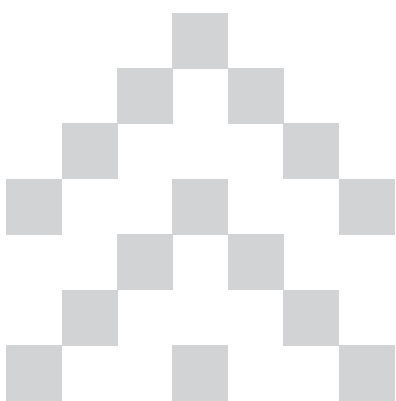
Mr. Funso Aina, Senior Manager of External Relations at MTN Nigeria, stressed the media's vital role as a societal watchdog and a source of public trust. He underscored the necessity of empowering the media to consistently hold those in power accountable and ensure people are well-informed. To ensure the media's continued growth and success, this program aims to cultivate both professional and entrepreneurial skills among media professionals.

Mr. Isaac-Ogugua Ezechukwu, Director of Professional Education at PAU, emphasised the significance of elevating the media, as it contributes to strengthening economies, democracies, and fostering cultural ties that promote social cohesion.

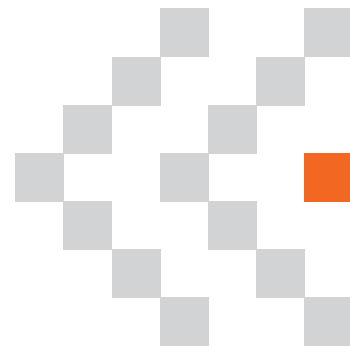
Speakers for the first panel included Prof Nixon Kariithi, CEO: Tangaza Africa Media, Prof Admire Mare, Associate Professor, School of Communications, William Bird, Director: Media Monitoring Africa, and Prof Mandla Radebe, Director: Centre for Data and Digital Communications.

For the second panel, speakers included Dr Prinola Govenden, Senior Lecturer, School of Communication, Pontsho Pilane, Award winning journalist for The Mail & Guardian, Lumko Mtimde, ICT, media and regulatory expert in Government capacities.

The summit was attended by civil society, government, media professionals, and renowned academics locally and internationally. ■



Water reclamation from municipality wastewater for potable reuse



The purpose of the project is to explore the feasibility of water reclamation for production of clean drinking water in township communities. Specifically, the focus is on Diepsloot Township in Johannesburg, South Africa, which has a continuously rising population and experiences frequent water shortages. By examining the potential of water reclamation to provide clean drinking water, the project aimed to create a positive impact on these communities facing common challenges such as limited access to essential public services, rapid population growth, and socio-economic difficulties. This project has the potential to provide over 100 litres of clean water per person per day for the 350 000 residents of Diepsloot Township.

The project was conducted in partnership with MINTEK, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and The Copperbelt University (a

public university in Kitwe, Zambia). Collaboration between research institutions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and municipal authorities was crucial for the success of the project, as it allowed for comprehensive data collection and conceptualisation of innovative solutions. The project aimed to inform urban planning and policy-making processes for implementation of more sustainable solutions.

The potential primary beneficiaries are the people living in Diepsloot Township who stand to gain access to a more reliable and sustainable source of clean drinking water. This project addresses the issue of water shortages in densely populated township communities by utilising treated municipality wastewater as a water resource. It provides a sustainable solution that improves access to clean drinking water and enhances quality of life for the

beneficiaries in alignment with United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all".

The unique aspect of this project is its ability to reclaim water effectively to provide clean drinking water for many people. It serves as an innovative approach that can be replicated in other areas facing similar challenges, offering a sustainable solution where natural water sources are limited.

This project was based on the research supported in part by the Leading Integrated Research for Agenda 2030 in Africa (LIRA 2030) Programme, which is implemented by the International Science Council (ISC) in partnership with the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC), and with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). ■



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IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR, OUR UNIVERSITY LAUNCHED THE DOUBLE OUR FUTURE IMPACT, A CAMPAIGN TO ASSIST AS MANY AS 10,000 STUDENTS WITH THEIR 2023 REGISTRATION FEES.

This is an extension of the University's funding drive to help the so-called Missing Middle, who are students who face financial exclusion.

- **The campaign has yielded R6.3 million** from the UJ community and donors.
- **Fifty-five (55%)** of the campaign beneficiaries are female students while **45%** are male between the ages of 18 and 25 years from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- **Fifty (50%)** of the 2023 double our future impact campaign beneficiaries were from the Sciences fields (Health Sciences, Science, and engineering).

- **20% of the beneficiaries registered for qualification in the fields of finance, accounting, and information technology.**
- **Students registered for qualifications in law, arts, humanities, and education accounted for 30% of our beneficiaries.**

As the holiday season approaches, we invite you to be a beacon of hope and opportunity for deserving students. Let's come together to make a lasting impact on education and empower the next generation. Your support can unlock doors to knowledge, dreams, and a brighter future.

Join Us in Double our Future Impact!

This holiday season let's unite in our commitment to education. Together, we can empower students to reach their full potential and shape a world where knowledge knows no bounds.

Donate R100.00 or more towards to make a difference today. Your contribution is not just a gift; it's an investment in the future of countless individuals. Each donation or pledge will enable a student to register for the 2024 academic year.

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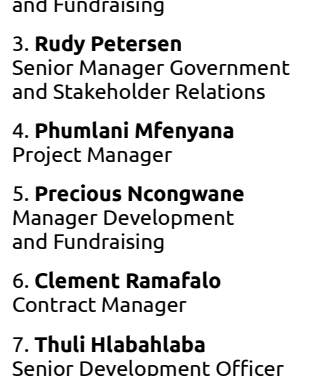
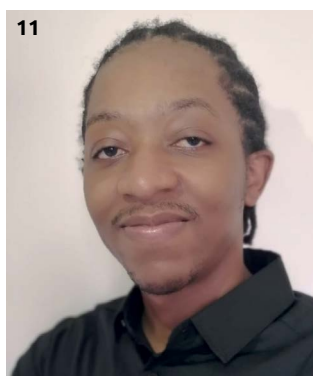
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YOUR FUTURE

Together, we have been able to make a real and lasting impact on the lives of our students and those communities we serve. Your commitment to our mission has not only empowered our team but has also brought about tangible change in the communities we strive to uplift. Our projects have flourished, touching the lives of countless individuals, from empowering marginalized communities with education and skills training to implementing sustainable development initiatives, each endeavor has been a testament to the positive change that can occur when passion, resources, and dedication converge.

Thank you!



Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

1. **Mzwakhe Matukane**
Senior Director
(Revenue Administration)
2. **Daphney Nemakhavhani**
Director Development
and Fundraising
3. **Rudy Petersen**
Senior Manager Government
and Stakeholder Relations
4. **Phumlani Mfenyana**
Project Manager
5. **Precious Ncongwane**
Manager Development
and Fundraising
6. **Clement Ramafalo**
Contract Manager
7. **Thuli Hlabahlaba**
Senior Development Officer
8. **Jacob Senoamadi**
Senior Development Officer
9. **Itumeleng Johannes Malefetsa**
Development Officer
10. **Dr Dawn Isabel Nagar**
Proposal Writer
11. **Ndabenhle Manyoni**
Database Analyst
12. **Cagney K. Govender**
Administrative Officer
13. **Veronica Diale**
Administrative Officer
14. **Nonkululeko Charmaine Nhlapo**
General Assistant