



VAAL UNIVERSITY
OF TECHNOLOGY

Inspiring thought. Shaping talent.



VUT
CENTRE FOR
ACADEMIC
DEVELOPMENT

CENTRE FOR ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



TEACHING
& LEARNING
FOCUS
2023

ENABLING AND ADVANCING STUDENT SUCCESS



CONTENT

CAD Events and Stories



CREATING A CULTURE OF INNOVATION BY FOLLOWING OUR EVENTS CALENDAR

Compiled Sipho Nkosi event coordinator and multimedia Moesha Moiloa event coordinator and multimedia intern

Article Written Event coordinator and multimedia intern

Article Edited by Jacob Thamaga African Languages Manger

Articles by Pabalelo Mahole, Ayanda Dupa , Jacob Malape WIL interns

Articles by Qhawekazi Memani and Themba Nyovane

Advancement department

Thandile Langeni designed the SRC Calender



	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo				
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IF-OPEN/CONSTITUTION	E-LEARNING	E-LEARNING	SKILLS	STAFF DEVELOPMENT	WRITING LAB	FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE	LEARNING COMMUNITIES	TUTOR DEVELOPMENT	YEAR OF THE ARTS	CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION
20-21Mar Institutional audit 15-14 Apr- working committee meeting 27-28Apr Transferring courses of tutors and members 16 Nov-Heating June 16 celebration day 22 Sept- Heritage day celebration	27-29 Mar- Data workshop	27-31 Mar- MB3 data science introduction course	13-17 Mar- Online portfolio development 27-31 Mar- Online assessment development 28 Sept- CAD Conference 3 Apr- Teaching and learning	22Mar-Reading strategies, referencing and paraphrasing work 29Mar- writing assignments, introduction & conclusion 3Apr-Ready journal articles 19Apr-writing your research proposal 26Apr-Writing your literature review 30May-Writing your research methodology 10May-Reading strategies 21May-Referencing & paraphrasing 21Jun-Writing your research proposal	13-16 Feb- 1 st orientation work 18 Feb- Welcome day 22-23 Apr- 1 st Year awards	20-23 Feb- Academic workshop 24 Feb- Fun day	03Mar-Information session-online 08-09Mar- Tutor training workshop 23Mar-Workshop/African languages 03Mar-Reflection workshop-online 29-30Mar- Tutor training workshop 13Apr-VuLinda & African languages 26Apr-Using effective problem-solving skills to enhance coloring 24Apr-Online coloring skills-online 18May-Effective exam coaching skills 22May-Reflective workshop-online 05-30Jun-Anticipated dates for examination and semester recap	25-28 Apr- Film master class 29 Apr- M3 & M3s VUT —May- Fine art exhibition —May- Best of the best awards 29-30 Jun- VU's youth month	24 Sept- Career fair 24 Nov- Employer awards function	

CAD POP-UP MONTH: AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

Newsletter Highlights

Teaching and Learning Conference 2022

FIRST YEAR TOP ARCHIEVERS AWARDS 2023

Lunch Time seminar

CAD Interns Graduation 2023

Book Launch

AFRICAN LANGUAGES UNIT

Recognition awards

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION

Vaal Film Festival

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Vaal University of Technology

Teaching and Learning Conference 2022

REFLECTS ON EXPERIENCES PRE, DURING AND POST COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR



First and foremost...

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the parameters of the higher education sector as institutions had to ensure academic progression, with no student left behind in their studies. This was a period where institutions had to learn about the differences in university selections pre and post COVID-19 pandemic, which might help them focus on related constraints in the post-pandemic era.

To address such parameters, on Wednesday, 23 November 2022, the Vaal University of Technology (VUT)'s Centre for Academic Development (CAD) recently held its annual mega Conference themed: "The well-being of academics and professional staff – voices and experiences during and post Covid-19".

The Conference sought to address the challenges that the higher education sector faced in the past two years in South Africa and globally, with the Covid-19 pandemic resulting in emergency remote teaching and learning. The Conference gave both academic and professional staff a platform to share their research and experiences on the impact that "the new normal" had on their overall well-being.

Dr Muntuwenkosi Chili said

Giving his welcoming address, Dr Muntuwenkosi Chili, the CAD Executive Director, mentioned that the teaching and learning environment must be enabled for both students and staff. It also requires ongoing attention to the structure and content of the curriculum and to the ways that scholarship and research impact this curriculum. "The Centre strive to provide quality education through capacity building of academics in technology-infused learning and teaching methodologies that are student-centred and enable epistemological access through a technology-infused and data-informed educational support leading to student success", he added.

He further shared that the Conference is the space for Academic Developers, practitioners, academics and university leaders, educational experts etc., to reflect and advance the future of higher education by broaching meaningful conversations and a way forward on teaching and learning and how interventions can be focused to achieve student success while maintaining the quality and integrity of our assessments. He added that "through this Conference, we want the VUT community and academics to be proud and to be the custodian of this gathering – one which must become a flagship event on our teaching and learning calendar and that of many institutions in the higher education sector. The CAD has only one path, and that is growth and excellence. We cannot afford to look back and be characterized otherwise. The future must pull and determine us".



Prof Maggi Linington
DVC /SSS Teaching and learning

Professor Maggie Linington, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching, Learning and Student Support Services, addressed the theme and mentioned that the pandemic came at a time when most organisations and institutions didn't have change management, project management and contingency plans for such parameters. She added that with all challenges that came with the pandemic, "we have survived the extreme and have learnt the extreme from the pandemic."

Prof Linington shared her thoughts on the pandemic and what must be learned from it. She stated that we learnt to multi-task and have devised solutions to continue with the teaching and learning programmes that led to blended learning. "Contact learning was disrupted by the pandemic and resulted in online blended learning, which affected student engagement. The reality is that students need to be engaged to further progress in their study programme", alluded Prof Linington. She added that students' success is everyone's responsibility and must be shared responsibility. "We need to make sure our seed (students) grows".



OUR KEY NOTE SPEAKERS



Dr Lindiwe Tshuma



Prof Moeketsi Letseka



Dr Teboho Pitso



Several speakers presented on the topic and gave insightful information that can create more debates and solutions to the challenges faced pre, during and post Covid-19 to better the well-being of academics, students, and professional staff.



THE TEAM BEHIND



ABSTRACT SESSIONS



TEACHING AND LEARNING
EXCELLENCE
Awards 2022



CAD RECOGNITION AWARDS



On Wednesday, 23 November 2022, the Vaal University of Technology (VUT) Centre for Academic Development rolled out a red carpet for its academics during the Teaching Excellence Awards (TEA) held at Emerald Casino and Resort. The awards aim to celebrate and honour exceptional academics taking quality teaching to greater heights at VUT.

**CONGRATULATIONS
WINNERS 2021
AWARDS** TO THE
RECOGNITION



MRS RONELLE PRINSLOO

from the Legal Sciences
department



MS NKULULEKO KHUMALO

from the Visual Arts & Design



MS MATHILDA LAUBSCHER

from the Tourism & Integrated
Communication Department

2021 HIGHEST AWARDS

MS ONICA MATSHEKE

from the Logistics & Supply Chain Management





2022 RECOGNITION AWARDS



DR KGOMOTSO MTSHATSHENI
from the Biotechnology &
Chemistry Department

DR DAVID SHOOTO
from the Biotechnology &
Chemistry Department

MR QUINTIN SENEKAL
from the Tourism & Integrated
Communication Department



DR SUMERI TESNER
from the Retail, Marketing &
Sport Management



DR RONEL CASSIM
from the Accountancy
Department (Received by the
HoD: Accountancy Department-
Dr GaudaMaseko)



DR THOKOZANI XABA
from the Biotechnology & Chemistry Department



CAD STAFF DEVELOPMENT AWARDS





VUT 2023 ORIENTATION WEEK GETS UNDERWAY WITH A TWIST OF FUN AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMPETENCY SKILLS



The Vaal University of University (VUT) 2023 first-year students had the honor of attending a face-to-face orientation after this important event in the academic calendar of newcomers was held through an online and blended approach in the last two years due to COVID-19 precautionary measures.

The VUT orientation week, famously known as O-Week began on a high note with excitement, dancing and laughter as thousands of first year students showed up at the VUT Vanderbijlpark campus on 13 February 2023. The orientation week is set to run until 24 February 2023 and is organised by the Centre of Academic Development (CAD) together with the Student Support Services Department (SSS) and the four faculties within VUT.

With plenty of foot traffic along VUT’s corridors and precincts, the new students made their way to the Desmond Tutu Great Hall and the Amphitheatre where the orientation was conducted by the faculty Executive Deans, Head of Departments (HOD’s) and support department staff. The students later moved to enjoy guided tours around campus

According to Dr Jeremiah Madzimore: First Year Coordinator within the CAD, the O-Week is designed to help new students understand the University’s learning and teaching environment and assist them in conforming and familiarizing themselves with the campus and other services rendered by VUT. During each session, Dr Madzimore encouraged the first years to utilise the VUT online module which is designed for student use and to make use of all support structures at their disposal.

Additionally, Mr Madzimore urged the first-year students to voice their orientation 2023 experiences through real-time interactions and a survey that will be uploaded on the VUT first year orientation online module.

Junior Mathiso: first year Chemical Engineering student, was amongst the students who attended the orientation for the Faculty of Engineering and toured the campus. “Attending the orientation was great for me. I wanted to identify with my lecturers and tutorial classrooms before the commencement of classes. It was pretty interesting to see what the University has to offer and I look forward to my stay,” he said

By Qhawekazi Memani

Bongiwe Mbele and Mulalo Mahlatsi who both senior students and were now part of the acting mentors during the orientation week, stated that when they were admitted to join the University they did not have an opportunity to explore the campus like the 2023 first year students did. “Being part of the experience and assisting has been very fulfilling,” they said.

A prevalent message delivered by all the Deans and HODs was that now that the students are in university, learning is different and they are fully responsible for their learning, lecturers act as catalysts and in three years’ time they are expected to graduate. Above all, the newbies were advised to choose friends wisely and develop competency skills like emotional intelligence.

The orientation week will be accompanied by a sports day, a welcome day on Saturday, 18 February 2023 and academic success workshops which are due to take place on Monday, 20 – 24 February 2023 for each faculty.



Dr Jeremiah Madzimore FYE Coordinator





DR SIBUSISO MCHUNU: DIRECTOR STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES ADDRESSING THE STUDENTS

WELCOMING CEREMONY SETS THE TONE FOR THE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS AT VUT

By: Theledi Tebello

In their numbers and not drawn back by the heavy down pours of rain, the Vaal University of Technology (VUT) newcomers flocked the Desmond Tutu Great Hall for their First Year Experience (FYE) Orientation Welcome Ceremony on Saturday, 18 February 2023.

It is official, the 2023 first year cohort has now become part of the vibrant, multicultural MaVUTi student community of 18 000 students. The purpose of the FYE Orientation Welcome Ceremony was to solely welcome and integrate the first-time incoming students for the year 2023 to their new academic home.

Setting the tone and welcoming the students to the ceremony was the acting director of Student Life and Governance, Mr Lucas Mahooa who painted a homey picture in an inclusive environment in the heart of every participant.

This ceremony was the first of its kind since the unprecedented disruptions inflicted by the COVID-19 pandemic

In his address to the students, the Executive Director of the Student Support Services, Dr Sibusiso Mchunu welcomed the students in his capacity as the dean of students and on behalf of the VUT Management. "Welcome to VUT, where you have access to a wide range of student support services and campus facilities that play an important part of your student experience. The academic life only features 30% of your student experience, the rest is your co-curricular and extracurricular activities to support your learning and development," Dr Mchunu admonished the students

Prior to the welcoming ceremony, the previous week saw the first-year students visit their different faculties where they gained valuable insight in their chosen programmes, taking tours of the campus and engaging with their lecturers, classmates, current students, and different support departments.

Introducing the Student Representative Council Body to everyone present was the SRC President, Mr Maanda Masendi who motivated the students on how they can turn their challenges to opportunities. He further shared with the audience his daunting experience of being enrolled as a first-year student with close to no resources to start his academic journey but managed to thrive through hard work and resilience. "Work hard and remain focused on your studies," Mr Masendi said.

Each SRC Portfolio was introduced to the students and assurance was made to the students that every member of the student council is readily available to provide support and guidance every step of the way throughout their academic journey

Various speakers provided words of encouragement and motivation to the students to dedicate themselves to a life of continuous self-improvement and growth. It is without doubt that the First Year Students went back to their residences with a vision of successful outcomes in their academic journey at the VUT.

In no time, the students were on their feet dancing to the tunes of well-known national DJ, Tyler ICU, and many other performances





VUT FACULTY ADVISORS HOST SUCCESS WORKSHOP TO HONOR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS FOR ACADEMIC JOURNEY AHEAD.

By *QHAWEKAZI MEMANI*

“The Institution has a huge role to play in ensuring student success, however the students have to play their part as well. This includes being disciplined, responsible, dedicated, and hard working. VUT is on the right track, the University has most of the programs implemented that enhance student success and these include academic advising, mentorship, to name a few.” said Sanele Nxumalo, Engineering Faculty Advisor.

In addition to a well organised week-long orientation programme that took place at the University from 20-24th February 2023, the Academic Advising Unit of the Centre for Academic Development (CAD) faculty advisors in collaboration with the Student Counselling and Support Services team offered success workshops for all new Vaal University of Technology (VUT) students

The workshops were all conducted at the VUT Desmond Tutu Great Hall.

The success workshops were aimed at giving students the knowledge and abilities they need to succeed at the university.

According to Mothusi Samosamo, CAD Learning Development Coordinator, there is no quick fix for success, therefore the workshops seek to empower students while enabling them to identify and apply academic habits and soft skills in a deeper understanding that will at the end of the day fulfil their purpose of being at VUT.

Planning for the upcoming semester, academic tips, guidance on mental health difficulties and what to expect in therapy or counselling were all covered in the workshop’s proceedings.

One of the students who attended the workshop, Refilwe Olifant, an Internal Auditing first year student said: “I found the workshop very interesting and thoughtful. I have gained information that I know will benefit me now and in the future.”

Close off 0-week 2023 in fun way



April Graduation

OUR CAD YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
GRAD!
CONGRATULATIONS



The center of Academic Development WIL Interns graduates under the faculty of Human science ,obtaining their qualifications in Public Relations Management. Mbali Nkosi , Pearl Tsabedze. CAD also welcomes a new intern from camppus tv Moiloa Moesha.



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FYE EXTENDED ORIENTATION 2023

By: Moiloa Moesha

Center for Academic Development (CAD), held the extended Orientation Programme at Science Park, Sebokeng Campus on the 8th of May 2023. Students and VUT Departments including Student Counseling Support, Finance and Clinic honoured the invitation by coming in numbers under the rainy weather.

Dr C. Chitumwa - the HOD for Education Department welcomed students' appreciation for choosing Vaal University of Technology as their path to a brighter future.



Captured by: VUT CAMPUS TV.

The CAD's First Year Experience Coordinator, DR J Madzimure stated that the extension was designed to include students that could not attend the O-Week in February. "Orientation is designed for students to understand the teaching and learning of the University and to make the environment familiar to them" Dr Madzimure stated. He further stated that students need to normalize the VUT Online Module which serves as support and manual to their university experience. It is unfortunate that the Campus tour had to be rescheduled and assigned to various departments such as Library due to poor weather.



The day would have not been successful without the assistance of 2023 Young Professionals of CAD (i.e., Ms Maqwazima, Moiloa, Langeni, Tsabedze, Dlamini and Nkosi), Events Co-Ordinator, Mr S Nkosi and our Faculty Advisors for assisting our students on daily basis. For more information regarding the O-WEEK, please visit the Vaal University of Technology's Website.

2022 TOP ACHIEVER AWARDS

Inspiring thought. Shaping talent

BY: MOILOA MOESHA

12 MAY 2023



Vaal University of Technology's Center for Academic Development held its Second Top Achiever Awards honouring students with certificates of excellence for their outstanding performance in 2022 academic year as first-year students. The Center awarded only 40 students, that is; 10 per faculty.

Addressing the top achievers during registration process, one of the students mentioned how difficult and challenging it was for her to adapt to Varsity environment and this award will keep her motivated.



Faculty Deans, parents and tutors came through to congratulate and support the students. "As a parent, it is overwhelming to see your child excelling without your supervision, not all the kids sent to university by their parents' respect that. I am proud of my son" said one of the parents.

For recognition, CAD thanked these colleagues; Dr Jerry Madzimure - the FYE Co- Ordinator, Dr Annie Moletsane - the Director for Student Support Services, Dr Corneli van de Walt - the FYE Manager, Faculty Deans, and tutors for their sterling support to students and advocating for academic excellence.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS !



1st Year Top Achievers



Congratulations



TRANSLANGUAGING

1



WORKSHOP



NJABULO KHOZA

On the 17th of May 2023, the Vaal University of Technology (VUT) – Tutors Development Unit (TDU) and African Languages Development Unit (ALDU) within the Centre for Academic Development (CAD) hosted a translanguaging workshop for the tutors and mentors sponsored by University Capacity Development Programme (UCDP) at PS building, second floor, teaching venue four.

The workshop was chaired by Mr N Khoza the coordinator of Tutor's Development Unit, Mr J Thamaga the acting manager of the ALDU and Mr N Sehlahla Language Practitioner (ALDU) present about the language policies and the importance of advancing and promoting African Languages in higher institutions. ALDU aims to advance, promote, preserve, and develop the historically marginalized African languages, the main aim of the workshop was to train and educate tutors and mentors about the importance of translanguaging in teaching for higher institutions. Through multilingualism in teaching and learning, a fluid platform for access is essential in order to have inclusive education, improve communication, enhance learning outcomes, culturally responsive pedagogy, empowerment and identity.



JACOB THAMAGA

Africa is the world's most linguistically diverse continent with over 6000 different languages; most say it's a rainbow nation because of the different cultural practices and languages. The Constitution of South Africa recognises 11 official languages and should all be treated equally.

"Language is a means of expressing one's thoughts and feelings. Language is the embodiment of people's history; language is not just words combined together, it is a culture, a tradition and a unification of a community. It is about time we learn to embrace our uniqueness and unite in diversity." Neo Sehlahla



NEO SEHLAHLA

#UNITINGINDIVERSITY

#MYLANGUAGEMYIDENTITY

BY

#EMPOWERINGOURAFRICANLANGUAGES

PABALELO MAHOLE & AYANDA DUPA [ALDU INTERN]

VAAL FILM FESTIVAL

"YEAR OF THE ARTS"

MOILOA MOESHA

Vaal University of Technology through its Center for Academic Development held the Vaal Film Festival from the 17th until the 19th of May 2023, in collaboration with Sollywood South Africa, Gauteng Film Commission and Emfuleni Local Municipality which bore a successful and memorable festival.

The Visual Arts students got a chance to showcase their work in a room full of experts, while being mentored on how they should navigate the film industry. Dr Zama Qambi from the Sollywood SA highlighted the background and purpose of the event and further mentioned that Sollywood aims to employ graduates and give them a chance in the field.

Dr John Kani honoured the Invitation and came through for the festival. He spoke about his knowledge and experiences with the intention of motivating and showing our students the life of an artist and how things need to be held once you are in.

The legendary and multi-award-winning artist toured around the institution and visited the Bantu Art Gallery, Advancement Department and Sisonke Student Restaurant. CAD on behalf of the university conveyed the message of gratitude to appreciate Executive Mayor of Emfuleni, Mr Siphso Radebe for addressing our guests and welcoming them in the Emfuleni Region and lastly to acknowledge the key speakers, Mr J Radebe, Dr Cynthia Khumalo and others.



LUNCH TIME SEMINAR: STAFF DEVELOPMENT UNIT



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LUNCH TIME SEMINAR STAFF DEVELOPMENT UNIT

COORDINATOR: MS DLAMINI

TIME: 13:00-14:00PM

DATE	TOPIC	FACILITATOR
17 MAY 2023	FACILITATION SKILLS	MS HEUER
24 MAY 2023	AFRICAN SPIRITUALITY AND ACADEMIC WELL-BEING	DR PITSO
31 MAY 2023	MANAGING WORKPLACE ANXIETY	MS HEUER
07 MAY 2023	STAFF EVALUATION	DR PILLAY
14 JUNE 2023	CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS	MS HEUER
21 JUNE 2023	USING CHATGPT FOR ASSESSMENT IN HE: A CONVERSATION	MS BOOYSEN
28 JUNE 2023	CURRICULUM TRANSFORMATION	DR TJABANE & DR PILLAY

SPEAKERS



Ms Heuer
DIRECTOR: STAFF AND
STUDENT SUPPORT



Dr Pitso
PROJECT LEADER: CIE



Dr Tjabane
MANAGER: STAFF
DEVELOPMENT



Dr Pillay
EVALUATOR



Ms Booysen
TEACHING AND
LEARNING SPECIALIST

[Lunch time seminar link](#)

ANDRIES POTGIETER BLVD, VANDERBIJLPARK, 1900

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www.vut.ac.za





JUNE 2023

Siyaya

Steering your finances forward



TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES CONSUMER FINANCIAL EDUCATION

By Moilola Moesha

Centre for Academic Development held a 2 days financial education workshop at CAD in collaboration with Toyota financial services. The workshop aimed in giving VUT Staff and students more insight in budgeting and credit management .

The financial advisor Ms Moipone made sure that everyone participates and gain more knowledge through activities and question and answer session. She highlighted reasons that leads to debts and how it can be overcome . Before you save or invest with a financial insitution seek advice from the financial advisor and that will results in better financial stability.

YOU CAN CONTACT : THE FINANCIAL
SECTOR CONDUCT AUTHORITY ON

Tel: 0800 203 722

Email: info@fsca.co.za

Website: www.fsca.co.za


COMMEMORATION DAY

15 June 2023

By: Pabalelo Mologadi Mahole

The role of students in the implementation of multilingual language policy in the higher education.

On 15th June 2023 Vaal University of Technology(VUT)- African Languages Developments Unit (ALDU) within the Center for Academic Development (CAD), in partnership with the Gauteng Department of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation, hosted a 16 June commemoration day at PS building, 1st floor.



As we celebrate youth month, we remember the youth of 1976 which took to the streets of Soweto to have a peaceful protest to fight against the 1974 order which had been passed, requiring that certain subjects be taught in institutions is successful. Afrikaans, a language they don't understand.

As South Africans, Youth Day is observed in honor of all the children who lost their life's while participating in the protest; Hector Peterson being the well-known child who died at the age of 13, who eventually came to represent the movement as a whole. political life.

as we commemorate this day, the African Languages Development Unit looks at the impact language has on students' academic success and the role the students play in making sure that the implementation of multilingual languages policy in higher

The language policy was implemented for student to ensure that no student is left behind academically due to language barriers. The significance of language and access to language skills is crucial in ensuring individuals' right to fully participate in and contribute to South African society's social, cultural, intellectual, economic, and



Language has been and continues to be a barrier to access and success in higher education, both in terms of African and other languages not being developed as academic/scientific languages and in terms of the majority of students entering higher education not being fully proficient in English. If we have tests written both in English and Afrikaans, what is stopping us as Africans to do the same?.

Africa is a rainbow nation because of the different cultural practices and languages yet we as Africans still have the pressure that we must be fluent in English because people do not know our languages, If we do not teach them then who will?, it is our duty and our responsible as the youth of today to make sure that our African languages are developed and used in higher institutions or any working place so that language does not become that barrier that hinders our sisters and brothers to reach their full potential. The youth of June 16 did it, and if we can stand together and unite in our divisiveness we can make it happen.

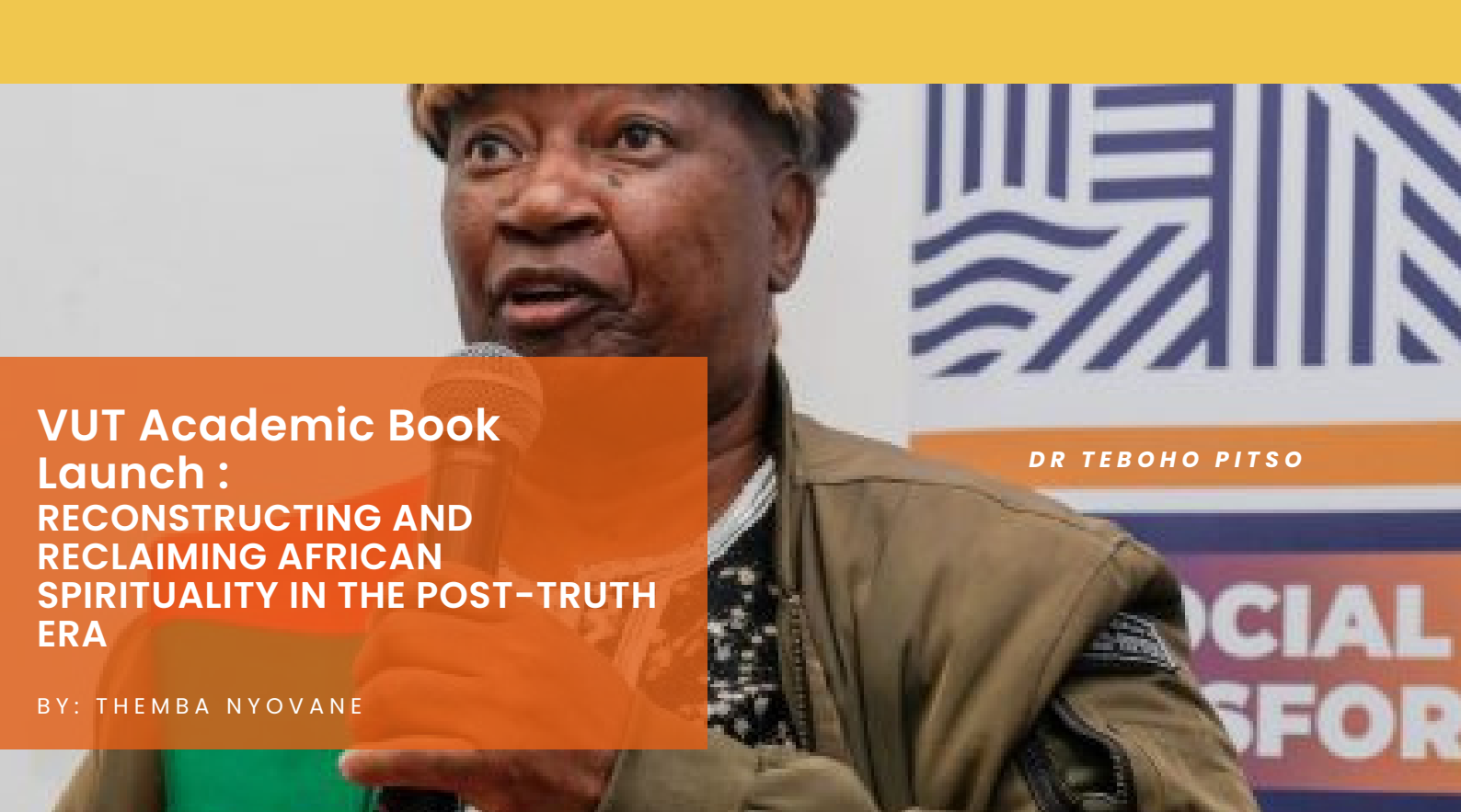
As our former President Thabo Mbeki once said "... the building blocks of this nation are all our languages working together, our unique idiomatic expressions that reveal the inner meanings of our experiences. These are the foundations on which our common dream of nationhood should be built...The nurturing of this reality depends on our willingness to learn the languages of others, so that we in practice accord all our languages the same respect. In sharing one's language with another, one does not lose possession of one's words, but agrees to share these words so as to enrich the lives of others. For it is when the borderline between one language and another is erased, when the social barriers between the speaker of one language and another are broken, that a bridge is built, connecting what were previously two separate sites into one big space for human interaction, and, out of this, a new world emerges and a new nation is born."



*#My Language
,my identity*







VUT Academic Book Launch : RECONSTRUCTING AND RECLAIMING AFRICAN SPIRITUALITY IN THE POST-TRUTH ERA

DR TEBOHO PITSO

BY: THEMBA NYOVANE

On 22 June 2023, the Vaal University of Technology (VUT) community, distinguished guests from the length and breadth of the African continent, as well as the family and friends of Dr. Teboho Pitso gathered at the University to witness the successful launch of his book titled: *The Forgotten – Restructuring and Reclaiming African Spirituality in the Post-Truth Era*. The launch was hosted by the VUT's Centre for Academic Development and the Social Justice & Transformation Department at African Languages Auditorium

In the book, Dr Pitso who is also the Senior Project Manager for the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at VUT, makes a case that Africa is the origin of all knowledge, Science, Mathematics, Engineering, Technology, religion, and philosophy as it challenges entrenched imperialist myths of a backward Africa. He also explains well-being from an African perspective focusing on four virtues that define African spirituality: temperance, fortitude, prudence, and restorative justice. Among the speakers at the launch, was Prof PLO Lumumba, a renowned legal practitioner and professor of Public Law who was also the book reviewer that underwent double-blind review.

Welcoming distinguished guests was Dr Muntuwenkosi Chili, Executive Director for the Centre for Academic Development (CAD) at VUT, who said: "The book endeavors to give voice to the forgotten narratives, to restore dignity to the lion hearted and to reclaim the essence of African Spirituality. It is a quest for the truth and invitation to remember and a call to action. Also, it compares us to explore the realms beyond what we perceive and to embrace" our essence of being

Dr Chili adds that through teaching and learning the book aims to empower students as well as the VUT community at large. "Producing social justice pioneers that will be the new eyes, new knowledge and to push analysis towards a more holistic embracing of African spirituality as an essential fuel to Africans and, human development. In correlation to the higher learning institutions the book aims to influence and to restore the stolen identity to explore certain universal themes that have an impact in the future and liberation of Africa."



According to the book, our identity resembles our true reflection and African Spirituality for us to know the future and our roots. The role of identity is fundamental to every existence of human beings, through understanding the cultural historical backgrounds that continued to shape and nurture those that paved the way before us

.Addressing the filled to capacity Auditorium, Dr Pitso said reclaiming the values of Africa can be done through the application of understanding into practice by citizens (Africans) especially in the global South. This, he said, will afford African continent to retrieve its own knowledge, giving a sense of piece, wholeness and balance. “Also, this will hoist and improve teaching & learning curriculum creating consciousness to citizens to be of inherent essence and have to achieve a fixed identity in different institutions of learning which includes homes, churches, schools, and universities.” He further mentioned that “Decolonization is about grounding one’s identity in terms of African cognitive content and owning the African Narrative” encouraging guests about being the site of truth, and to embrace their Africaness through diversity and unity.

.The success of the book launch was also enhanced by entertainment groups which were a resemblance of Africanity in diverse cultural backgrounds and traditional attires. Prof Lumumba, who joined the book launch virtually, congratulated Dr Pitso saying that the book is a great contribution to the body of work on African Spirituality.





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Parents Meeting

Support for the parents of First-year students with special focus on first-generation students

QHAWEKAZI MEMANI

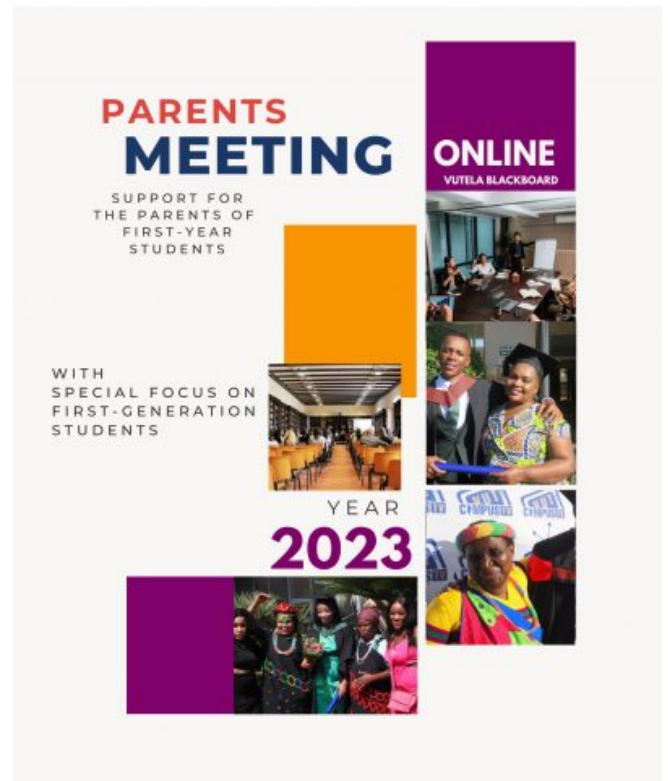
An online engagement pilot programme for parents or guardians of the Vaal University of Technology's (VUT) first-year students was successfully launched during the early evening of 4 July 2023. A research study conducted in 2021 by Dr Corneli van der Walt, a VUT Manager: First Year Experience and Mr Mothusi Samosamo from the Centre for Academic Development (CAD) on the success strategies of first-year student top achievers, served as inspiration for the project. According to the duo, findings from the study highlighted the importance of family support in the top achievers' academic success. Colleagues with an interest in the First Year Experience from the CAD and the Student Counselling and Support Department came together to devise the project and to develop an implementation plan. Parents or guardians were invited to participate in June 2023.

Approximately 170 parents, guardians and siblings joined the online meeting hosted on the VUTela platform. Ms Tisetso Mohloai, acting Manager from the eLearning Unit within the CAD, provided technical guidance and support to realise the meeting. In addition, the first programme session constituted presentations on the context and aim of the programme itself, as well as the support network available to first-year students

In addition, the first programme session constituted presentations on the context and aim of the programme itself, as well as the support network available to first-year students.

The overall aims of the parent engagement pilot programme are to provide parents and/or guardians of first-year students with relevant information to be able to support their student during their first year of study and thereafter in enhanced ways. The programme also seeks to learn about parents' experiences in relation to supporting their students, as well as to engage them on their educational and/or support needs within the aims and scope of the programme.

During the first programme session, Ms Remeketse Makateng, Student Faculty Advisor at the Faculty of Management Sciences, and Ms Selloane Makau, Registered Counsellor at the Student Counselling and Support Department, presented the support network to first-year students constituting various services, programme and/or initiatives



The parents, guardians and/or siblings were kept engaged through short polls relevant to the presentations, as well as through a lively chat that was facilitated by the student counsellors in collaboration with the academic faculty advisors. Moreover, Mr Siphon Nkosi, CAD Events Coordinator, secured sponsorships for the pilot programme from Cell C and MTN, which was represented by Ms Renee Viviers, at the meeting.

A lucky draw was done towards the end of the meeting, and five parents won data from MTN. The meeting concluded by inviting parents to participate in a second meeting that is scheduled to take place in October 2023. The meeting will focus on first-year student mental health and issues of stigmatisation, as well as the implications thereof for their success at university.



U-BELONG LEARNERSHIP

U-Belong learnerships with T3 Telecommunications collaborated with the Vaal University of Technology through the Centre for Academic Development to give out leadership to VUT unemployed graduates around the Vaal region.

U- Belong focuses on upskilling unemployed people, particularly in sales and operational selling abilities, in order to integrate them into the mainstream economy and give long-term earning options.

3 weeks workshop was held at PS Building auditorium and graduates who qualified for the learnership indeed attended in numbers. The workshop served a purpose of breaking down the contract terms and what employees need to note about the whole 12 months learnership. This learnership does not only give out experience to our graduates through sales but further offer them life cover benefits and Cellphones which will be loaded with data monthly.

Another interesting factor about the opportunity is that the training force came through to give training about files and 5 clusters. Katlego Morake said that the participants will be awarded with the National senior certificate if their files are competent. It is indeed great to see our graduates receiving opportunities through the institutions. All thanks to Siphon Nkosi for sharing and making sure that the opportunity gets out and keeping our graduates motivated.



MOILOA MOESHA



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TWO-DAY WORKSHOP TO TRANSFORM THE VUT STRATEGY INTO REALITY

By: Nontobeko Moimane

Professor Maggi Linington, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Teaching, Learning, and Quality Promotion (TLQ) at the Vaal University of Technology (VUT), recently spearheaded a transformative two-day workshop dedicated to shaping the roadmap for VUT 2033+ implementation. This undertaking reflects the University's commitment to realising its strategic vision.

During this workshop, Prof Linington emphasised the importance of engaging faculty and directorates in the implementation plan. It is crucial, she explained, for portfolio leadership to align with the strategic objectives and success drivers, working collaboratively to craft a plan that will effectively translate the primary strategy into tangible reality. "The fruitful outcomes of this workshop will have a far-reaching impact, as they will not only inform the plans within faculties, directorates, and departments but will also directly contribute to budget submissions, ensuring that the necessary resources are allocated to support the plan's execution," Prof Linington said.

At the core of VUT's vision and mission is the aspiration to foster "Learning and Innovation for a Digitally Smart and Sustainable Industrial Progress and Socio-Economic Transformation." This mission seeks to produce techno-entrepreneurial graduates and innovators who will serve as catalysts for a vibrant transformation of society and industry. Professor Maggi's unwavering belief in this mission is evident when she states, "Strategies are not realised without intention." She remains committed in her principle that the vision and mission outlined for VUT can be transformed into a vibrant reality, and she is particularly inspired by the untapped potential within the Teaching and Learning (T&L) portfolio and the students who choose VUT as their academic home.

Professor Maggi's commitment to this vision is further demonstrated by her dedication to crafting a robust T&L portfolio implementation plan. "This plan is a collaborative effort, carefully developed by a dedicated team within the portfolio, with the key goal of ensuring that VUT delivers on the promise stated in the revised strategic plan. Through this effort, VUT is prepared to achieve its mission and contribute significantly to the advancement of knowledge, innovation, and socio-economic progress in the digital age", stated Prof Linington.

MATHEMATICS IS A UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

UK-BASED PROFESSOR TELLS ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS AT VUT.



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DR MATHEUS DE ANDRADE, AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR FROM THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON (UCL) IN LONDON, ENGLAND

.Recently, the Vaal University of Technology (VUT)'s Faculty of Engineering and Technology hosted Dr Matheus de Andrade, an Assistant Professor from the University College London (UCL) in London, England. He was in the country on invitation to speak at the 6th Biennial Conference of the South African Society of Engineering Education that took place from 11 – 13 July 2023.

During his visit, Dr Matheus shared his expertise in integrated and connected engineering mathematics as part of the “Bringing Life to our Engineering Curricula” project (iecurricula.co.za). The project aims to review the engineering curricula holistically with input from students, academic staff, industry, and the engineering accreditation body (ECSA).

He stressed the importance of lasting change and innovation in teaching and learning to promote lifelong learning. He also advocated for curricular and pedagogic reforms to educate engineers by integrating knowledge and professional skills and embracing multidisciplinary learning.

Addressing the students during what was termed “Coffee Break with Dr Matheus de Andrade”, the UK-based professor encouraged them to view mathematics as a universal language and a tool for better understanding the world. He engaged them in a hands-on activity, modelling the flow of water streams connecting the North American Great Lakes using different equations and conservation of mass. This practical demonstration illustrated how mathematics can be applied to real-world situations and create new opportunities.

Dr Matheus is known for his expertise in designing and delivering engineering mathematics teaching at UCL, focusing on problem-based and student-centered learning, flipped learning, and mathematics teaching for sustainability. His contributions to educational reform earned him the 2020 UCL Engineering Education award, and he has been recognized as a leading example of collaborative engineering education in the 2022 CEEDA report.

www.vut.ac.za/centre-for-academic-development

$$y = mx + b$$

$$d = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$$

$$ax + by = c$$

$$M = \left(\frac{x_1 + x_2}{2}, \frac{y_1 + y_2}{2} \right)$$



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Women's Month 2023: Student Advisor dedicated to uplifting VUT students and empowering their educational journeys

Millicent Kagiso Seripe

By: Nontobeko Moimane

Lerato Motlounge holds the role of a student advisor within the Centre of Academic Development (CAD) Department at the Vaal University of Technology (VUT). Joining VUT in late 2021 as an Academic Advisor within the department's Academic Advising unit, she has fully embraced her responsibilities – a remarkable journey characterized by dedication, personal growth, and a profound commitment to empowering and uplifting students in their pursuit of educational aspirations. Lerato holds degrees from the VUT, University of the Free State (UFS) and the University of South Africa (UNISA) totaling four qualifications. "I'm excited to be pursuing my fifth qualification, recognizing the immense potential education offers for transformation and growth," she said.

She said she was pleased with the significant impact she has had on both the Golden Key International Honour Society and as a member of the JB Marks Alumni Education Trust Fund. "In the Golden Key Society, my contributions have transformed how members engage with academic content and collaborate on projects, particularly through research assistance and academic writing support. This has elevated members' academic pursuits and intellectual growth, fostering lively discussions and knowledge sharing within the society's online forums. As part of the JB Marks Alumni Education Trust Fund, the focus on nurturing young talent has inspired me to pursue excellence and contribute to the community's betterment going forward," shared.

A pivotal aspect of her contribution to women's empowerment, stemming from her background in psychology and education, lies in cultivating a comprehensive approach to advising. "I recognize that academic achievement is inherently intertwined with personal development. I am determined to establish a secure and nurturing environment where young women can openly engage in conversations about their ambitions, worries, and aspirations," she conveyed.

In addressing the theme for Women's Month 2023, Lerato underlines the transformative power of education, emphasizing its potential to dismantle gender barriers and foster equality. Through tailored guidance and unwavering support, she has been instrumental in empowering young women to make informed decisions about their educational trajectories. From assisting them in navigating demanding coursework to aiding them in discovering their distinctive strengths and passions. Her role as an academic advisor transcends mere course selection; it centers on fostering self-assurance and belief. "I've been privileged to serve as a guiding beacon for countless students who have dared to dream big and strive to realize their utmost potential," she said.



She further added, “Women’s Month holds a significant place in a nation where echoes of adversity and determination still resonate. This occasion extends beyond a mere date on the calendar; it signifies a reason for celebration and a rallying cry deeply intertwined with our country’s history and essence. Moreover, women’s empowerment to me is far more than a passing buzzword; it forms a guiding philosophy that shapes my interactions with every student.”

“It also serves as a poignant reminder that the journey toward gender parity is still ongoing. Irrespective of gender, a collective commitment to this endeavor is essential. I’ve come to recognize that gender equality constitutes a core human rights issue, impacting everyone through the lens of ‘Generation Equality,’ and it influences both men and women alike. This journey beckons upon men to stand as allies and advocates, standing shoulder to shoulder with women in the pursuit of a just and equitable society,” she concluded.



VUT YOUNG WOMAN STAFF BELIEVES IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS A MEANS OF SELF-EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN

Millicent Kagiso Seripe

By: Nontobeko Moimane

As part of the month-long ongoing drive to pay special tribute to the remarkable women of the Vaal University of Technology (VUT), Corporate Communications caught up with Millicent Kagiso Seripe, an Administrator at the University's Centre for Academic Development (CAD).

Millicent is a driven and bright young woman originally from Phokeng in Rustenburg, North West, where she completed her basic education before proceeding to VUT where she obtained a National Diploma in Public Relations Management. A staunch believer in personal development through education, she went on to complete a Short Learning Programme on Project Management Principles and Techniques at the North-West University (NWU).

During her study years at VUT, she joined the HIV Unit as a Peer Helper and later in 2014, volunteered as an administrator in a partnership program between De-Beers and VUT which provided extra classes to Grade 12 learners. To get her career off the ground, she started as an intern at VUT and due to her commitment and hard work, she got the role of Communication Assistant and eventually landed her current position. Millicent has extensive experience in organizational communication and office administration, particularly in the demanding academic setting of VUT. She's proven herself in coordinating events such as conferences, workshops, and seminars, consistently meeting deadlines and upholding professional and ethical standards

Alongside her studies, she discovered a passion for entrepreneurship and launched her own successful makeup business ([Lashes and Makeup by MK](#)). She expanded her endeavors by starting a YouTube channel ([MK Seripe](#)), sharing business startup ideas and her interests like DIY projects and decor. However, her entrepreneurial mind didn't allow her to stop there – she recently launched a new venture creating aprons for cooking enthusiasts, promoting the slogan “be beautiful in your cooking”. As exemplified in her multiple business ventures, she believes strongly in entrepreneurship as a key ingredient in fast-tracking women empowerment.

Since joining VUT, her track record demonstrates her reliability, hardworking nature, and goal-oriented mindset, and in all the roles she has occupied, she is known for bringing creativity, innovation, and new initiatives to the table, making her an asset to the institution.





INFORMATION SHARING SESSION HELPS ASPIRANT VUT ELECTRICAL ENGINEER NAVIGATE THEIR ACADEMIC JOURNEY AND PREPARES THEM FOR THE FUTURE

BY: THEMBA NYOVANE

Recently, the Electrical Engineering Department at the Vaal University of Technology (VUT) held an information-sharing session with its students, mostly seniors.

Held at the Desmond Tutu Great Hall, the aim of the event was to provide insights and guidance to students, helping them navigate their academic journey by effectively making use of the support resources available to them within the university. The interactive information-sharing session saw presentations from various departments including Student Support Services (SSS), the Centre for Academic Development (CAD), and the Co-operative Education (Co-op Ed).

One of the speakers, Mr. Issac Kyere, who serves as the Work Integrated Learning (WIL) Coordinator and an Electrical Engineering lecturer, emphasized the significance of graduate attributes – those essential skills and knowledge that the university community strives to impart to students during their period of study. These attributes become crucial when students transition to the workforce, particularly the ability to collaborate within a team. “The industry demands problem-solving skills and the capacity to add value, making these attributes important,” he said.

Mr Mattew Thekiso, the Discipline Coordinator in the Electrical Engineering department also stressed the importance of these graduate attributes, saying. He underscored the fact that applying acquired skills after completing one’s qualifications is a key factor in employability. Industries actively seek individuals who not only possess theoretical knowledge but can also apply their skills effectively. He stressed the value of registering with the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA), the professional body governing the field of Engineering. “ECSA plays a pivotal role in accrediting engineering programs, registering professionals, and regulating their practice.”

The event also tackled the vital topic of mental health. Nomangwane Mbele, a representative from SSS acknowledged that apart from academic challenges, students face various personal and emotional obstacles that can impact their studies. However, she said, the division is committed to ensuring a high-quality student experience in a supportive environment. On the importance of utilizing university-provided resources, including counselling, career guidance, and life coaching, she said these services are designed to create a conducive and supportive atmosphere for focused studying.

Co-operative Education Department's Mr. Edwin Mabelane also weighed in and provided insights into skills development through the practical application of theoretical knowledge. He highlighted the significance of understanding the department's role, which is to bridge the gap between students and potential employers. Mr. Mabelane urged students to engage with the department as they prepare for Work Based Learning Programs and Internship opportunities. The department's efforts aim to integrate academic learning into real-world workplaces, benefiting both students and employers through industry collaborations.

Lastly, Mr Mothusi Samosamo a learning development Co-ordinator from the CAD shared valuable information related to interviews and CV writing. He encouraged students to participate in mentorship programs that facilitate skills development and aid their journey into the professional world.

VUT Academic Advising
Presents
Rising beyond expectations & limitations!
A Motivational Seminar for 1st Year Students

20 October 2023
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Desmond Tutu Hall
freebies to be given

Siso Xaba
Leadership Coach

Rakhomo Mokhoke
Capacity Development Strategist

Neo Mohlala
Language Practitioner

Ehis Ebhonu
CEO
Kapito's Lounge

Selepe Madisha
Inspirational & Motivational Speaker, Leadership Mentor



Motivational seminar inspires VUT first-year students towards lifelong success

On 20 October 2023, the Vaal University of Technology's (VUT) Academic Advising Unit Centre within the Centre for Academic Development (CAD) took a proactive step in supporting the University first-year students across all four faculties.

The occasion was a motivational seminar aimed to ignite passion for academic success and instil a culture of unwavering resilience among the students.

In his welcoming address, Mr Mothusi Samosamo, the VUT Learning Development Coordinator, extended warm thanks to the students for their presence and stressed the availability of tailored programs within CAD. He urged students to take full advantage of the department's resources.

The seminar's guest speaker, Mr Selepe Madisha, an accomplished VUT alumnus, director, and inspirational speaker, took the stage alongside other speakers to share invaluable insights on achieving lifelong academic success. He emphasized that in today's rapidly evolving world, seeing tangible results is crucial. With the job market shifting and artificial intelligence becoming increasingly prevalent, students need to strategize for the future.

The central theme of the seminar was to guide students towards achieving academic success throughout their lives. Different speakers provided practical tips, shared insightful information about VUT as a brand, offered guidance on Academic Advising, shared personal life stories, and provided effective strategies to help students navigate their academic journeys.

The program featured captivating dance performances, a poignant poem titled 'Scared' delivered by Thembisile Rose Hlalukane, a third-year student at VUT, and a compelling drama piece performed by the talented Creative Arts Group, all of whom were VUT students. These powerful performances conveyed a vital message: students must make informed choices, learn when to assert themselves and say 'NO', and, above all, be encouraged to pursue their dreams even in the face of fear.

In agreement with their moving motivation, Rakhomo Mokhoke, Capacity Development Strategist, and Neo Sehlhla, VUT Language Practitioner, enlightened the students: "Never make life-altering decisions in a crowd; stand alone. You'll never win if you forever go with the wind. Learn to say NO! We all have a stimulus; it is up to you to choose what triggers it (positively/negatively), and it is up to you to choose. And above all, do not forget to think about yourself, how deserving you are, and how much of a victor you are. Tools have been suggested by the speakers; it is now up to you to operate at your optimum best."

The event concluded on an exhilarating note, featuring a lucky draw that left many students departing with delightful goodie bags. Mr Ehis Ebhonu, VUTFM Sales and Marketing Coordinator and a multi-business owner, graced the occasion as the guest speaker. In a touching gesture, he presented an honorarium to the talented poet, Thembisile Rose Hlalukane, in recognition of her enchanting performance.

In closing the Academic Advising team thanked everyone for attending and handed over gifts to the speakers meanwhile. Through events like these, VUT's Academic Advising Unit continue to demonstrate their commitment to nurturing holistic student development and fostering a culture of academic excellence. The Academic Advising Unit extends special thanks to CAD, Co-Operative Education, Faculty of Applied Science, MaVUTi Shop, NTEU, and TTO for their generous contributions that made this seminar possible.

Mentor Awards 2023



The Centre for Academic Development's (CAD) Mentoring Programme at the Vaal University of Technology (VUT) recently celebrated its cohort of peer mentors by acknowledging and awarding them for their dedication and hard work. These awards stand as a testament to the tireless efforts of these mentors in fostering a supportive, encouraging, and inclusive learning environment, pivotal in the psychosocial development of first-year students.

Stepping into a new university environment can be an overwhelming experience for many first-year students. From tackling accommodation logistics to forging new friendships and navigating a network of classes and subjects, the challenges can seem overwhelming. The presence of a team of experienced students designated to welcome and guide these newcomers towards the necessary resources and support is pivotal, transforming what could be a distressing experience into a manageable one. This is the primary aim of the mentorship program at VUT.

The mentors, reflecting on their journey, expressed how this experience has been transformative, providing them with a wealth of knowledge in connecting and engaging with their fellow students. "Initially, we didn't grasp the extent of the impact we could have on first-year students," shared the mentors, adding that the program served as a platform for personal growth and learning, and an important step towards the realisation of their aspirations.

"In the school of leadership, graduation isn't the endpoint; progress is perpetual," emphasised Mr. Rakhomo Elliot Mokhoke in his motivational address. "True champions seldom pause for celebration. Instead, they acknowledge milestones briefly and forge ahead." He outlined key attitudes essential for continued ascension, highlighting the essence of a perpetual learner and a servant mindset. Concluding with a touching reminder, he urged, "Let's not settle prematurely, lest we unknowingly render ourselves irrelevant in this journey called life."

These honored mentors showcase a commitment that extends beyond the confines of the mentorship program, displaying a dedication to further supporting students in their academic journey.

SYMPOSIUM HELPS STUDENTS UNLOCK THE POWER OF INSIGHT-DRIVEN PUBLIC RELATIONS



The Department of Tourism and Integrated Communication at the Vaal University of Technology (VUT) recently hosted a dynamic Public Relations Management Student Symposium at the iconic Desmond Tutu Great Hall on the Vanderbijlpark campus. The symposium centered around the theme “Unlocking the Power of Insight-Driven PR.”

Its core aim was to immerse the PR students in the operational particulars of the industry by providing exposure to diverse PR professionals across various specialised fields. Professor Lazarus Maleho, Acting Executive Dean for the Faculty of Human Sciences, emphasised in his welcoming address that the symposium bridged the gap between theory and practice, enriching students’ academic journey with practical insights vital for their future careers.

This sentiment was also shared by Ms Sibongile Mokaean, Public Relations Lecturer and Programme Coordinator who was also the brains behind the symposium. In giving the purpose of the event, Mokaean remarked that the platform served as a link for students to establish connections with PR and Communications experts, fostering engagement and networking opportunities crucial for a comprehensive understanding of industry demands and aspirations. She added that the symposium had been an annual event until it went on hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The event featured presentations by esteemed professionals such as Ms. Lebo Matsoso, Head of Brand Marketing Communications, Sponsorships, and Collaborations at Mercedes Benz SA; Mr. Dumile Mlambo, HOD of Corporate Communications at VUT; Mr. Teboho Ntsabiseng, Stakeholder Relations and Public Policy Regulatory Specialist at Sasol Firm; Ms. Thembi Matjokana, Acting Project Manager at Emfuleni Local Municipality; Ms. Cleo Madini, Marketing Officer at Ardagh Glass Packaging; and Tebello Mokuoane, a VUT Alumnus and co-founder of VUT Campus TV. Their invaluable insights and expertise equipped students with a deeper understanding of the multifaceted PR and Communications industry.

This symposium empowered students to explore diverse career paths within the expansive landscape of PR and Communications. The extensive array of spheres and fields within the industry offered students a chance to tailor their career choices to their passions and strengths. Moreover, students actively engaged in a stimulating question-and-answer session with both the esteemed guests and their peers, further enhancing their comprehension and involvement.

Balancing enriching insights with a touch of leisure, the event also incorporated entertainment, providing the future PR mavens with a chance to unwind while enriching their knowledge base through robust interactions with industry experts.

Described by the organisers and those in attendance as a resounding success, the symposium was a testament to the collaborative efforts spearheaded by various departments within the university, including Tourism and Integrated Communication department, Advancement department, as well as the Center of Academic Development (CAD). Glued together by passion for public relations as a discipline and the zeal to contribute to the empowerment of its future professionals, this collaboration was pivotal in coordinating an event that seamlessly blended expertise, engagement, and academic enrichment.

AWARDS CELEBRATE VIBRANT VUT STUDENT LIFE AND RECOGNISES OUTSTANDING OUT OF THE CLASSROOM ACHIEVERS



Students are the future of the nation. They are the builders of tomorrow. They are the nation's pride- a pride that needs to be encouraged to achieve more and more. With this in mind, the Vaal University of Technology (VUT) Student Life and Governance Department supported by Advancement Department (PR Unit), Sports and Recreation Department and Residence Living and Learning, deemed it necessary to host the Student Life Achievement Awards to appreciate the hard work of their students outside of the lecture halls.

A first for VUT, this auspicious event took place on the 17 November, at the VUT Southern Gauteng Science and Technology. The event sought, to salute the unwavering commitment of the students' outstanding personal performance, and provide them with tangible forms of recognition that they can proudly take with as testament to the recognition of their hard work and accomplishment, motivating them to strive for excellence in the future.

Kicking off the ceremony with an opening and welcome address, Dr Sibusiso Mchunu, SSS Executive Director, emphasised the importance of the ceremony. "Young people that we are here to honour today, have chosen differently - they chose to make VUT one of the leading institutions in student development activities. Whether you consider sports, entrepreneurship or leadership activities, these students do not make excuses. They raise the flag of the institution despite all the challenges we face", he commented, adding that they are proud to be associated with such excellence, which he says boils down to hard-work, sacrifice and a clear vision. Mchunu also said that they requested members of management to attend because they have a responsibility to remind young people of what Sir Isaac Newton once said: "If I can see far, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants. It is therefore important for young people to have mentors that guide them as they pursue their goals in life". In view of that, student support Services recognises the interconnectedness of the institution as well as the interdependence of different stakeholders of VUT. So instead of us dealing with challenges as isolated, we leverage on the skills and better working- relationships with other staff members in order to be more effective. I am sure you are all eager for this award ceremony to commence so, in closing, you are all welcome to this memorable occasion. Especially to all the young achievers that are with us today, may your future be worthy of your dreams", he concluded.

Newly elected Student Representative Council (SRC) President, Mr Twanano Hlongwane also added voice, saying he couldn't be prouder of the hard work and dedication of his fellow students. "Today I am so privileged to stand in front of you because of what you have accomplished. We as the SRC are very proud of you. Your dedication and perseverance have paid off. Congratulations on your well-deserved success", he said.

AWARDS CELEBRATE VIBRANT VUT STUDENT LIFE AND RECOGNISES OUTSTANDING OUT OF THE CLASSROOM ACHIEVERS

The Student Life Achievement Awards went well with the different presenters excited to announce the winners. The winners were announced as follows:

Community Engagement Award- Nhlanhla Khoza
Global Citizenship Award- Djemima Bulanga
Environmental Stewardship Award- Green Campus Initiative
Fastest Growing Religious Structure Award- The Twelve Apostles Church in Trinity Structural Group (TFACTSO)
Fastest Growing Social Structure Award- Creative Arts and Culture
Fastest Growing Academic Structure Award- Women in Engineering
Fastest Growing Political Structure Award- Student Christian Organisation
Fastest Growing Cultural Structure Award- Ubuhle BukaZulu
Success Against All Odds Award- Ndayotewa Berly
Most Improved Residence Life Programme Award- Bantu Talent Hub
Best House Committee Member- Thimna Tyali
Social Entrepreneurship Award- Enactus
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Award- Palesa Hlape
Mental Health and Wellness Advocate Award- Tswarelo Mpheti
Sport Code of the Year (Indoor) Award - VUT Volleyball
Sport Code of the Year (Outdoor) Award- VUT Softball
Sportsman of the Year Award- Serame Gumede
Sportswoman of the Year Award- Pretty Gwangwa
Team Manager of the Year Award- Lesego Molefe
Coach of the Year Award - Norman Dlomo
Student Volunteer of the Year Award- Carcidio Khoza.
Flagship Award- Ntokozo Mgidi
The Outgoing Student Representative Council Award- SRC for the year 2022/2023
Overcoming Barriers Award- Selby Ngomane

Mr Selby Ngomane lost his sight completely in the year 2014 during his final semester at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT). Despite losing his sight, Mr Ngomane showed extraordinary courage and perseverance in overcoming his personal challenges. He rose through the harsh challenges and went ahead to pursue his studies at OPTIMA College, where he positioned himself for independence and learnt to use a computer and a smartphone.

He later enrolled at VUT in 2022 for his Diploma in Labour Law and in the same year, he got married to the love of his life who stood by him after losing his eyesight. Ngomane later completed his qualification with twenty-four (24) distinctions out of thirty-three (33) modules despite all odds.

After the award winners were announced, Prof Chengedzai Mafini, the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Management Sciences, delivered the keynote address. "I am here to acknowledge that VUT has talent. What happened today demonstrates that VUT has got talent. What Selby Ngomane has managed to do is beyond the obvious -24 distinctions! That shows that we have the brains to make it out there. The results we have today demonstrates that where there is hard work, there'll always be good results. I would like to convey my gratitude to Dr Mnchunu and his team for organising an occasion of this magnitude. This is beautiful. This is amazing. I believe that it takes a lot to ensure that all these bits and pieces are stitched together and to guarantee that an event as grand as this one," he mentioned.

He added that, "Some of you will leave the institution at the end of the year, I want to say to you that when you go out there please become the ambassadors of VUT. Your qualification has power and its power is within your mouth. Go out there and tell them that you are from VUT and you are dangerous as they come", he said with a smile.

As the room was filled with ululations, melodies, laughter and cheerful soul, Dr Mnchunu took to the stage to share his closing remarks. He thanked everyone for making the day a special one and was hopeful that there'll be many more events of this magnitude to come, in celebration of the wonderful work of the VUT students.

VUT would like to congratulate all the students who received the awards and would like to wish them the best that life has to offer.



GOOGLE EVENT OFFERS VUT TECH-SAVVY STUDENTS HANDS-ON LEARNING FROM ITS LEADING DEVELOPERS

By: Themba Nyovane



Recently, the Vaal University of Technology (VUT)'s Centre for the Academic Development (CAD) in collaboration with Google Developer's Groups (GDG) Vaal hosted an educational programme – the Google I/O Extended 2023.

The event afforded valuable insights and opportunities for students, particularly those studying Information Technology (IT) and Computer Science. The event showcased the latest technology applications and mobile development, as well as Google's latest developer solutions, products, and technologies that help to work smarter and simplify development workflow and aligns well with the rapidly evolving landscape of technology.

Pemhiwa also said mobile application development has become a crucial field, given the widespread use of smartphones and the increasing demand for mobile applications across various industries and academic institutions.

“Computers are increasing in our world, and so is mobile application development. This process involves writing software for small, wireless computing devices, such as smartphones and other hand-held devices. In today's world, mobile applications are often developed specifically to take advantage of the unique features of a particular mobile device. For instance, a gaming app might be written to take advantage of the iPhone's accelerometer, or a mobile health app might be written to take advantage of a smartwatch's temperature sensor” said Tashinga Pemhiwa a mobile and web developer.

Furthermore, he shed some light on the significance of technology transition shifting from Java application system to Jet Pack Compose model. Jet Pack Compose is Android's recommended modern toolkit for building native User Interface (UI). It simplifies and accelerates UI development on Android. Quickly bring app to life with less code, powerful tools, and intuitive Kotlin APIs. “Building across devices using Jetpack Compose allows you to build beautiful apps across devices, on phones, tablets, foldables, ChromeOS and Wear OS” he said, adding that the exposure of Jet Pack Compose technologies will greatly benefit students by preparing them for real-world challenges and enhancing their skill sets.

Mike Tshimanga, a mentor, and Managing Director at Paytoll encouraged students to be part of their colloquial initiatives which will assist with better skills to this rapidly moving technology. He also mentioned that this will enable students to work smarter and simplify their development workflows in their journey of learning, while also increasing efficiency and productivity, allowing them to focus more on creating innovative solutions.



Co-op Education hosts a successful Career Fair

CAD MAVUTI POP-UP MARKET JOINS THE DAY



Mrs Moletsane welcoming industry partners and students at the career fair

Co-operative Education at Vaal University of Technology (VUT) plays an enormous role in the Institution's strategic goals by marketing student placements to industry partners, partnering, encouraging engagement, and establishing relationships for the benefit of students. Pursuant to this core mandate, Co-operative Education within the Centre for Academic Development (CAD) hosted a Career Fair on campus on 07 September 2022.

Pursuant to this core mandate, Co-operative Education within the Centre for Academic Development (CAD) hosted a Career Fair on campus on 07 September 2022. The main objective of the Career Fair was to support students and graduates in their career fields by affording them opportunities to interact with industry partners who guided them towards making informed decisions and the right career choices for the future.



In her welcoming address, Mrs. Annie Moletsane: Director: Student Academic Development Support & Work Integrated Learning, expressed her gratitude to all the companies at the event. She emphasized that we have all seen the implications of COVID-19 on companies, where some closed and some left in a dire state. "Through it all, you overcame and recovered. That said, we honour all of you for making it and accommodating the University to support placing our students. We hope for an exhibition of this magnitude in the future and partnerships that will last a lifetime for the benefit of our students".

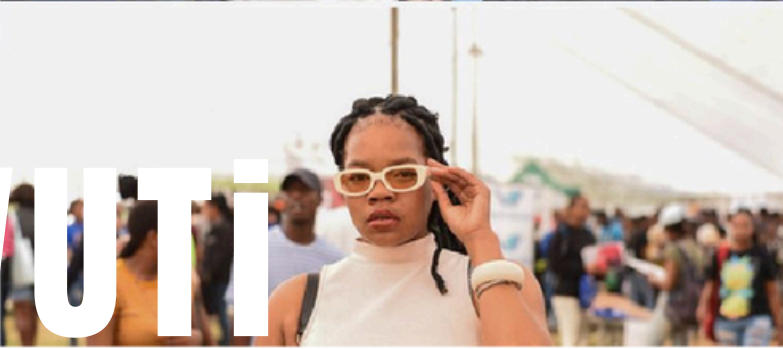
Mrs. Moletsane advised the students to use the opportunity and information provided at the Career Fair to develop themselves in their chosen career paths.

The students, who came in huge numbers to attend the Career Fair, expressed their gratitude for the initiative which they deemed as "an eye-opener and engaging." The highlight of the event was the different companies offering students bursaries, learnerships, graduate internships and job opportunities. Above all, winning incredible prizes from the industry exhibitors created a wonderful atmosphere for the students, even though some attended classes in between



CAREER

FAIR DAY



MAVUTI



POPUP



DSC_3325
by Vaal University of Technology

Empowering Futures: VUT Career Fair helps students make sound career choices



The Vaal University of Technology's (VUT) Co-Operative Education Department recently hosted a Career Fair, demonstrating a resounding commitment to nurturing the potential of students and graduates.

This occasion transcended a mere gathering – it served as a platform for providing invaluable support to students and graduates embarking on their professional journeys by facilitating interactions between them and industry leaders. During the session, industry leaders offered attendees some much-needed guidance towards making informed career choices for a brighter future. Moreso, the information shared on the day played an instrumental role in helping the soon to enter the market cohort to navigate the often-tricky maze of career choices, ensuring they had a clear vision of their professional paths.

Additionally, attendees gained insights into learnerships, internships, bursaries, and industry placement opportunities provided by the various companies that had exhibition stalls on the day.

According to the organisers, the significance of a career fair in a higher education setting, cannot be overstated, as it serves as a bridge connecting academic knowledge with real-world opportunities. “This event embodied this philosophy, as the interactions extended beyond traditional classroom learning, offering a deeper understanding of what awaits them in the professional world.”

One of the students who attended the event, Promise Khoza who is enrolled for a Diploma in Safety Management, said “the Career Fair exceeded my expectations in every way. The range of companies present and the genuine interest they showed in helping us navigate our career choices was impressive. I left with a clearer sense of direction and a newfound excitement for what lies ahead. This event truly showcased the power of education in conjunction with industry support.”

Another one, Mantombi Sibaya, a Diploma in Public Relations Management student commented: “Attending the 2023 Career Fair was a game-changer for me. The opportunity to interact with industry professionals and gain insights into potential career paths was invaluable. I was able to make connections that I believe will shape my future positively. Kudos to VUT’s Co-Operative Education Department for organizing such a transformative event.”

HERITAGE DAY: A VIBRANT CELEBRATION OF OUR UNITY IN DIVERSITY



The Vaal University of Technology (VUT), in collaboration with the Gauteng Department of Sport, Arts, Culture, and Recreation, celebrated Heritage Day on 21 September 2023, at the Amphitheatre within VUT's Vanderbijlpark Campus.

Held under the theme: 'Promoting cultural diversity, social cohesion, reconciliation, peace and economic development', the event celebrated the diversity of our nation's rich cultures, emphasizing the unique elements that define our heritage.

During the event, distinguished speakers including Mr Mabutho "Kid" Sithole, actor and founder of Ilifa, and Mr Sphephelo Buthelezi, a member of the Buthelezi Clan and uNdunankulu kaZulu, urged each one of the hundreds of staff and students to embrace their mother tongue as a vessel of culture and wisdom that connects us to our roots.

Mr. Vido Kungune, Acting Director of Internationalisation at VUT, highlighted the unity brought about by sports, drawing parallels to the South African Rugby team's international success. He underlined VUT's commitment to cultural diversity, social cohesion, and internationalisation, with a focus on combating issues like tribalism and xenophobia.

Another speaker on the day, Mr. Jacob Thamaga, the acting manager for African Languages Development Unit (ALDU) at VUT, reiterated UNESCO's definition of heritage and emphasized the fundamental human right of preserving cultural identity. He also emphasized VUT's role in promoting African languages, citing its Language Policy which, he said is currently being rolled out across all levels of the University.

In the end, a shared sentiment by all speakers was for everyone to actively preserve and understand their unique heritage, emphasising its role in shaping identity and values.

In addition to celebrating unity in diversity, the event overall served as a powerful reminder that heritage is a living entity evolving with each generation. For many who were in attendance, it left behind a renewed sense of pride in their heritage, inspiring commitment to its preservation for future generations.

Student and local entrepreneurs gain essential business intelligence from the VUT networking Business Summit



On 20 October 2023, the Vaal University of Technology (VUT) drew scores of budding studentpreneurs, local small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) entrepreneurs, as well as business and government sector experts under one roof for the much-anticipated Networking Business Summit.

Held at the VUT Quest Conference Centre, the Summit was a culmination of a dynamic collaboration between the VUT students pursuing Advanced Diploma in Public Relations and the Emfuleni Local Municipality.

From the planning stage to the day of the event, the Summit was organised by the students as part of their academic assessment project. Annually, the PR students are required to plan and execute an event with a social responsibility twist attached to it. This is aimed at honing the students' skills in the discipline of PR and event planning to ensure that they are ready for the world of work upon graduating.

The focus of this interactive event was designed to provide attendees with a platform to debate, network, gain valuable business intelligence and insights from sector experts. Representatives from various government agencies such as the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), Gauteng Enterprise Propeller (GEP) and Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) also presented the different funding and support mechanisms that are available for start-up companies.

The full day's event covered various aspects of entrepreneurship, including business planning, financial management, marketing strategies, and the use of modern technologies to enhance business operations.

Notably, in addition to the thought-provoking conversations and exchange of innovative ideas, the more than one hundred business enthusiasts were taken through the importance of registering their Intellectual property. This segment of the program was led by Mrs Martha Ikome, an IP Advisor and Acting Senior Manager for Technology Transfer Office at VUT. Ikome's talk was centred around making participants aware and understand that without protecting their ideas, they would not be able to reap the full benefits of their inventions.

One of the standout features of the summit was that it provided a platform for local businesses and start-ups to showcase their products and services in an exhibition area, fostering collaboration and networking opportunities for attendees. Participants had the chance to interact with these businesses, gain first-hand experience in various industries, and explore potential partnerships and opportunities.

To give the day's keynote address was Kamogelo Aphane, a VUT alumnus and Founder and Managing Director of The Portable PA and Publicist, a communications and brand reputation management company that helps company and individual brands curate their desired brand voices. In her talk, Aphane emphasised the importance of being focused and intentional in all that you do as an entrepreneur. "Don't be an all-rounder, know what your specialisation is, focus on it and be intentional about it," she said.

She also gave a masterclass on making use of social media for personal branding, adding that one's online conduct may have an impact on their brands in the long run - be it for job or business opportunities. As a PR graduate from VUT herself, Aphane urged current students to take all the knowledge imparted to them by their lecturers, saying she is where she is because of those lifelong lessons.

Kgomotso Jane Nkosi, a student and project leader for the event said as PR students they recognize the significance of effective networking in the business world, adding that a well-executed networking event can lead to valuable connections, partnerships, and opportunities. "Organizing a successful networking business summit is no small task, but it can yield substantial rewards. Specifically, organising such an event as PR students demanded a blend of strategic thinking, audience insight, and resource management. By adhering to these fundamental principles, we crafted an event that not only achieved its goals but also left a lasting impact on participants while setting a solid foundation for future summits," said Khomotso.

Other companies that made presentations on the day included Seriti Coal Mine, Bang Capital, Sibanyeni Metro, Eyethu Computer School, Emfuleni Informal Traders Association and Farming community.

In the end, the overarching goal of the Business Summit of igniting the entrepreneurial spirit among students and aspiring businesspeople by providing them with the tools and inspiration they need to chart their own path in the business world, was achieved. This was even more so evident from the interactive question and answer session that proved how inquisitive participants were.

CAD UP and Coming Events



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VUT CENTRE FOR ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

MAVUTI POP-up YEAR MARKET OF THE ARTS 2023/24

15TH SEPTEMBER - VUT AMPHITHEATRE
20 SEPTEMBER - CAREER FAIR CO-OP
21 SEPTEMBER HERITAGE DAY BY AFD- VUT AMPHITHEATRE
06 OCTOBER - ACTIVATION FOR WELLNESS AT AMPHITHEATRE
07TH OCTOBER 2023 WELLNESS 5KM WALK & RUN AT VUT ISAK STEYL STADIUM

STALLS ARE ALLOWED, BOOK A STALLS AT CAD PS BUILDING 317
SCAN QR CODE AND WIN

TIME: 10:00 - 14:00

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Speaker: Jonathan Whitehead

VUT Teaching and Learning Conference

ENABLING AND ADVANCING STUDENT SUCCESS
27 - 29 SEPTEMBER 2023

Host: Centre for Academic Development
Conference proceedings will be published in Springer

THEME: ENABLING AND ADVANCING STUDENT SUCCESS

Enabling and increasing opportunities for student success is a key focus of the Department of Higher Education Training (DHET). Similarly, it is crucial for institutions to demonstrate their capacity to provide exceptional teaching and learning for overall education by realizing that student success is much more than just successful completion rates. It encapsulates other facets of a student's life such as their social and emotional health, their capacity for managing stress and juggling competing demands on their time, and their level of preparedness for society at large, further education, and the world of work. There is therefore a need to adapt current techniques and adopt new ones, as well as reassess curriculum design, and reflect deeply on several aspects of present policy and practice.

The conference will provide an inclusive space and platform for researchers, teachers, academics, academic developers, and other stakeholders to share their research, best practices, and innovative approaches in exploring the role of universities, UoTs, and TVET colleges toward enabling and advancing student success.

SUB-THEMES

- 21st-century skills and graduate attributes
- Academic literacies
- Big data and learning analytics
- Blended learning / Technology in teaching and learning: The new normal and emerging technologies
- Curriculum design, development, and alignment
- Work-integrated Education for the 21st-century workforce
- Assessment practices and the relevance thereof
- Tourism, environment and community engagement
- Education for sustainable development
- Entrepreneurship
- Innovations and emerging technologies for the 21st Century Teaching & Learning
- Professional development for the 21st-century university teacher: What should we be focusing on?
- Student identity-who are we dealing with? Who are our students of the 21st-century student?
- Climate change

Registration Fees:

- Non-VUT Participants Fee - R3 000 VAT Incl.
- 27 September 2023:
Pre-Conference Workshop: Writing for Publication - R1 000 VAT Incl.
Data Analytics - R1 000 VAT Incl.

Paper and poster presentations are welcome.

Details:

27-29 September 2023
Emerald Resort Hotel
Cadconference@vut.ac.za

For Registration, scan QR Code or follow the link below:
<https://forms.office.com/r/LnqNLbXmp6>

www.vut.ac.za

TEACHING AND LEARNING CONFERENCE PUT A SPOTLIGHT ON ENABLING AND ADVANCING STUDENT SUCCESS



Education, often described as the key to empowerment, plays a pivotal role in shaping our future. The recent Vaal University of Technology's (VUT) Teaching and Learning Conference, jointly organized by the Centre of Academic Development (CAD) and the Faculty of Human Sciences, echoed this sentiment.

The conference was held at the Emerald Resort Casino from September 27 – 29 September 2023 under the theme “Enabling and Advancing Student Success”.

This event, which has been a decade-long tradition at VUT, marked the second time that external stakeholders were invited. In 2022, the conference hosted 120 delegates, a number that grew to 200 participants, with over 50 coming from other universities, including private ones. This gathering also draws attendees from key sector stakeholders such as the Council on Higher Education (CHE) and Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET).

The heart of this conference beat for excellence in education and the empowerment of our students, with a mission to ensure that every student, regardless of their background or circumstances, can reach their full potential. The primary objective of this conference was to promote staff development and provide a platform for collaboration, learning, and inspiration. It also aimed to explore current trends and research in the field of student success.

In his opening remarks, Dr Muntuwenkosi Chili, Executive Director for CAD emphasised that in a rapidly evolving educational landscape, the commitment to nurturing the potential of every student has never been more vital. “As educators, administrators, and researchers, we understand that fostering student success extends beyond traditional classroom boundaries. It encompasses innovative pedagogies, supportive learning environments, and a profound dedication to equity and inclusion,” said Dr Chili.

The first day of the conference was dedicated to pre-conference workshops.

The conference featured distinguished keynote speakers, including Dr. Phethiwe Matutu, the CEO of Universities South Africa (USAF); Professor Dick Ngambi, a renowned expert in Education Technology at the University of Cape Town (UCT); and Professor Mirna Nel, Deputy Dean for Research at the Faculty of Humanities, North-West University (NWU). They were warmly welcomed by Professor Maggie Linington, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Teaching, Learning, and Quality at VUT.

Dr. Matutu, a mathematician by discipline, emphasized the importance of enhancing teaching within educational institutions, stressing that teaching and learning extend beyond the classroom. She urged universities to establish clear policy guidelines and frameworks for digital learning platforms. She also highlighted the role of the USAF's digital platform guidelines in guiding universities to implement digital teaching and learning programs while ensuring student success.

Furthermore, Dr. Matutu and Prof. Ngambi expressed concern that many universities lack a plan for incorporating technologies like ChatGPT into their assessment processes. They pointed out that ChatGPT is becoming increasingly relevant in higher education, with institutions relying on platforms such as TURNITIN to check students' work for plagiarism and formatting issues.

During discussions with participants, including Mr. Bibin George, a Physics Lecturer from Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT), it became evident that teaching and learning conferences like this one are invaluable. Participants sought innovative pedagogies and assessment approaches, emphasizing the importance of considering students' backgrounds and the need to decolonize the curriculum.

Behind the scenes, Ms. Rodean Boysean and her team worked tirelessly to make the conference a success. Despite the challenges, they were proud of their outstanding team's ability to overcome obstacles. Rodean expressed excitement about the conference's growth and its potential to become a national teaching and learning conference.

Notably, the conference received generous support from sponsors, including Cengage Publishing Company, VtC, DHET's University Capacity Development Programme (UCDP) and Blackboard+Learn.

In conclusion, it is the vision of Dr Chili that Teaching and Learning Conference at VUT becomes a national event as it stands as a beacon of hope and progress in the realm of education. With a commitment to student success, innovation in teaching, and the incorporation of emerging technologies, this conference paves the way for a brighter future in education.

EMPOWERING SOUTH AFRICAN YOUTH WITH E-SKILLS



On 27 September 2023, the Vaal University of Technology (VUT) E-Skills in collaboration with the Department of Correctional Services (DCS), the Human Capital Learning Solutions (HCLS) and partners, held the E-Skills Information Communication Technology (ICT) SMME certificate ceremony in Alberton Civic Centre.

During the ceremony, a total of 215 certificates were awarded in the area of telecommunications.

In addition to upskilling the participating youth with technical skills in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), the programme also afforded them with opportunities to be entrepreneurs to help tackle unemployment.

“We value skills to support the young unemployed South Africans, and mostly from the rural and township areas. With twelve years of doing projects of this nature, through a cohort partnership, the HCLMS introduced the Economic Stimulus Programme that provided skills development to five hundred unemployed learners between the ages of 21- and 35 from Gauteng, Northern Cape as well as Limpopo. The Cellphone Repair and Digital Terrestrial Television programme will give learners the ability to create self-employment,” said Mr. Harry Mathabathe, the HCLS Director.

Through the Private Public Partnership model Ms Antoinette Lombard, the VUT E-Skills Director, introduced the key facets of sustainable Small, Medium-sized, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) development in South Africa.” The private public partnership model is a beacon of hope for the youth in rural and townships communities across South Africa,” she said. She highlighted that collaboration between VUT and HCLS has developed an integrated Information and communications technology model to the unemployed youth in underserved areas. She also stressed out that the model has been tested over the past seven years and what we are celebrating here today is the outcome impact of the model. On SMMEs playing a huge role in driving economic growth, reducing inequality, and creating employment opportunities, MS Lombard said: “Together we are a formidable force that addresses socio-economic challenges, empowering the youth with skills and knowledge needed for the 21st century market”.

The Deputy Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Nkosi Phathekile Holomisa also graced the event and congratulated the certificate awardees. “Community Correction is responsible for the facilitation of acceptance and social reintegration of offenders into their respective communities and the creation of an environment that is conducive to the successful reintegration of offenders,”- said Minister Holomisa. He concluded by adding that the ceremony gave credence of enterprising and entrepreneurial efforts of the Department, with a three-year Memorandum of Agreement signed with National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa (NEMISA) to assist to leverage the ICT SMME model developed by HCLS and VUT. This will drive for digital skills literacy and does not leave parolees and victims of crime behind.



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MAVUTI POP-up YEAR MARKET OF THE ARTS 2023/24

- 15TH SEPTEMBER - VUT AMPHITHEATRE
- 20 SEPTEMBER - CAREER FAIR CO-OP
- 21 SEPTEMBER HERITAGE DAY BY AFD- VUT AMPHITHEATRE
- 06 OCTOBER - ACTIVATION FOR WELLNESS AT AMPHITHEATRE
- 07TH OCTOBER 2023 WELLNESS 5KM WALK & RUN AT VUT ISAK STEYL STADIUM

STALLS ARE ALLOWED, BOOK A STALLS AT CAD PS BUILDING 317
SCAN QR CODE AND WIN

TIME: 10:00 - 14:00

SCAN ME

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OF TECHNOLOGY**
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SRC 2022/23 CALENDAR

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

- Vanderbijlpark Campus
Andries Potgieter Blvd
Vanderbijlpark, 1900, South Africa
- Private Bag X021
Vanderbijlpark, 1911, South Africa
www.vut.ac.za
- +27(0)16 950 9970
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PRESIDENT

JANUARY						
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AMANDA MANYI
DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL



STEMBELE DLEPU
DEPUTY
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VHUTSHILA MANGANYI
TREASURE GENERAL



TSHEPO NDLOVU
ACADEMIC OFFICER

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TSHEPANG MABULA
LEGAL AND
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WATCHFULL MLAMBO
ENTERTAINMENT OFFICER

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LONDIWE DLADLA
HOUSING AND CATERING

SOUTH AFRICAN HOLIDAY'S

Jan 1 New year's Day
Jan 2 Public Holiday

MAR 21 Human Rights Day

Apr 7 Good Friday
Apr 9 Easter Sunday
Apr 10 Family Day

Apr 27 Freedom Day
May 1 Worker's Day

May 14 Mother's Day

Jun 16 Youth Day
Jun 18 Father's Day
Jul 18 Nelson Mandela Day

Aug 9 National Women's Day

Sep 24 Heritage Day

Sep 25 Public Holiday

Dec 16 Day of Reconciliation

Dec 25 Christmas Day
Dec 26 Day of Goodwill



THABO NHLAPO
MEDIA OFFICER



KGOTHATSO MAMABOLO
SPORTS OFFICER



BANDILE SITHEBE
GENDER OFFICER



PALESA HLOPE
RELIGIOUS OFFICER