



Tshwane University
of Technology
We empower people

20
YEARS
2004-2024

Celebrating 20 years of empowering people

STUDENT GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT | ISSUE 22-2024

LEADING THROUGH READING

TUT Journal



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Meet the JOURNALISTS



Amanda Nhlengethwa.

Be courageous and strive for success.



Lindokuhle Khumalo.

Don't be pushed around by the fears in your mind.
Be led by the dreams in your heart.



Sewela Seokotsa.

The beautiful thing about learning is that no one
can take it away from you.



Bongive Malaza.

The best education is the one that prepares you
for the unexpected.



Athule Rharha.

Let your writing speak immediately. Let people's
imagination travel through your storytelling.

Tshwane University of Technology hosted an Inspiring Breakfast Talk Series with Keynote Speaker

Ishmael Mnisi

By: Sewela Seokotsa

On August 22, 2024, Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) hosted an enlightening Breakfast Talk Series at Soshanguve North Campus. The event, organised by the Student Governance and Leadership Development (SGLD) division in collaboration with the Faculty of Humanities' Department of Journalism and Integrated Communication. It provided a valuable platform for students, faculty and industry professionals to engage in meaningful dialogue.



THE EVENT TOOK PLACE in the educational auditorium and featured a keynote address **Ishmael Mnisi**, a distinguished TUT graduate from the Faculty of Journalism. Currently serving as the spokesperson and Head of Marketing and Communication at the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), Mnisi is responsible for a wide range of activities including marketing strategies, media relations, speech writing, event coordination and social media management.

Mnisi's presentation focused on the theme of leadership and adaptive learning, emphasizing the importance of flexibility and growth in leadership roles. His thought-provoking insights captured the attention of the audience, prompting dynamic discussions about the evolving nature of leadership and management in today's fast-paced world. Mnisi's statement, *"change is the fiber of how people see"*, was a focal point, resonating deeply with attendees and stimulating further conversation on the topic.

In addition to his address, he participated in an engaging Q&A session. During this interactive segment, he answered a range of questions from the audience, offering practical advice and sharing personal anecdotes from his career. His responses highlighted the significance of continuous learning and resilience, underscoring how these qualities are essential for overcoming challenges and achieving success in both personal and professional spheres.

The Breakfast Talk Series not only provided valuable insights into effective leadership but also fostered a sense of community and collaboration among attendees. The event was a testament to TUT's commitment to promoting thought leadership and professional development among its students and faculty.



"change is the fiber of how people see"



TUT for tomorrow's innovators

By: Athule Rharha

**“If you want to go fast, go alone,
if you want to go far, go together”.**

On August 15, 2024 Student Governance and Leadership Development (SGLD) in collaboration with the faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment hosted a Breakfast series at Tshwane University of Technology Pretoria Campus.

SGLD PRESENTED A SESSION, connecting the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) students across different fields under the theme “*elevate your leadership*”. This dynamic program offers a unique opportunity for students to engage with inspiring leaders, develop changemaking skills, network and build connections.

The Head of Department (HOD) Andrew Makhushe commenced his talk by warmly welcoming everyone to the breakfast series, taking a moment to recognize and celebrate women in honor of Women’s month. He requested that students should listen to the guest speaker and learn more about his presentation.

Lufuno Ratsiku, a keynote speaker who presides as the President of the South African Council for the Project and Construction Management Professions (SACPCMP). Ratsiku is an eminent Built environment and Governance Professional (BCMP), currently holding multiple influential positions in the industry. As the Founder and Managing Director of Genuine Tenacity Consulting, he leads a prominent company specializing in Quantity Surveying and project management services, where his leadership drives innovative solutions within the built environment.

Ratsiku is also a valued member of the Eskom Pension and Provident Fund, safeguarding the interests of the funds members and overseeing its management. Additionally, he enriches the academic community as a part time post graduate lecturer in Project Management at TUT, imparting his vast industry knowledge to up and coming professionals.

His keynote address centered on the significance of collaboration, stressing its impact on fostering meaningful relationships and embracing teamwork. Collaboration is a universal key to success and whether an individual is an introvert or extrovert, it is essential to find ways to work with others to achieve their own objectives. He emphasized on not un-

“ treat others with kindness, as you never know when you might need their help in the future ”

dermining anyone because no one knows where the other person will end up in life, you might find that person in higher places you never thought they could be.

He shared a relatable high school anecdote where his classmate had not helped him regarding a question paper and only mentioned it after writing. This story drove home the importance of collaboration and treating others with kindness, as you never know when you might need their help in the future.

“Never undermine the person who is sitting next to you, start relationships when you are not looking for anything and they will pay you when you are looking for something and it will be organic”, said Ratsiku.

He also mentioned that he and Floyd Shivambu have a long history of collaborating and sharing

ideas during their university days. When they had to meet someone attempted to introduce them not knowing they had already established a connection. Shivambu was a Student Representative Council (SRC) in Wits and he was an SRC at TUT, their paths had crossed many times before.

Students were encouraged and urged by Ratsiku that they should embrace teamwork, pointing out that in the built environment sector, different professionals rely on each other to get the job done. He illustrated this by explaining that if the quantity surveyor does not fulfill their responsibilities, the project will likely face significant

delays. This underscores the vital need for collaboration and mutual support among team members.

“I am currently running a program and did not want to collaborate with anyone and at the end things did not work in my favor. Now things are worse and I need people to assist, this session really helped me a lot”, said Engineering Department President.

IIA SA GLOBAL

CEO & PRESIDENT VISIT

By Bongwiwe Malaza

“TUT is one of the three centres of excellence in the continent, that actually shows that as a varsity we are doing something correct and great”, said Board Chairman of Institute of Internal Auditors South Africa (IIA SA), Tshepo Mofokeng.

HE WAS DELIVERING an opening note at IIA SA Global CEO and President visit that took place on the 12th of August 2024 at the Tshwane University of Technology Multi-Purpose Hall, Ga-Rankuwa Campus. He highlighted how relieved he was that there will be so many Internal Auditors that will take over their duties when they went to retirement.

The IIA SA is part of an international network representing the interests of Internal Auditors worldwide. It defends and supports the fundamental principles of the profession - the Code of Ethics and the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing. The IIA SA supports the profession by providing a wide range of services dedicated to training and advancement of Internal Auditors and dynamically promoting and developing the profession in South Africa.

I have never regretted being an Auditor

The objectives of IIA SA are to develop the profession, its credibility and a prosperous business environment in South Africa. The IIA SA offers technical guidance, professional training programs, certification programs, continuing professional development opportunities, conferences and networking opportunities.

Anthony Pugliese Global CEO and President of the IIA who is known for his significant contribution within the Internal Auditing sector, was part of the invited keynote speakers. Pugliese reminded the students to never underestimate their importance in organisations they will work for in future. “For the past 34 years I have never regretted being an Auditor”, said Pugliese encouraging the students.

During the event a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) was also signed by Arlene- Lynn Volmink the IIA SA CEO. The MOU is an opening and endless platform between the IIA SA and the TUT as it will open opportunities like mentorship for the students of TUT by the IIA SA.

Throughout the event, there were performances by poets and singers which are also TUT students. A quiz game named Battle of Standards was played by students competing for various prizes. The Advance team won the quiz, taking home R5000.

“The IIA has assisted me a lot on how to implement the standards, policies and how to deal with a lot of things around the Internal Auditing sector. There was a lot of things I did not know of but today I gained so much knowledge. I was very inspired”, said Thulani Masango who is an aspiring Auditor.

Following the program’s conclusion, students seized the opportunity to ask the IIA SA CEO and President some questions.



Young Scientists display innovative ideas at Northern Gauteng Regional Science Expo fair

Eskom Expo hosted a Science Fair Expo for young scientists to discover their future at Tshwane University of Technology on August 23, 2024. The Eskom Expo is an exposition, where students can showcase their projects based on their own scientific investigations.

By: Athule Rharha

THEIR FOCUS EXTENDS beyond the competition as they aim to motivate students to continue pursuing fields within STEMI (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Innovation). Prior to the regional science fair, they begin with learner workshops around February, followed by a second workshop where students engage with mentors at various district expos.

These mentors provide valuable pointers on areas of improvement. As the event approaches, they conduct a final upgrade workshop where mentors work closely with the learners helping them prepare and build the confidence they need to compete. They pride themselves on being a competition where everyone has the potential to win a prize. Their scoring is designed so that any participant who achieves an average score in the 60s earns a bronze medal, those in the 70s receive silver and those above 80 are awarded gold.

Expo maintains transparency with their assessment criteria. Prof Ntebogeng Mokgakala-Fleischmann was one of the special guests. She is the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Science, Prof Mokgakala warmly welcomed the guests and students who attended the event.

The official project viewing was preceded by a fun entertainment session, aimed at putting learners at ease and creating a positive atmosphere. The number of learners that attended were 262 and the number of projects that were presented were 183. A panel of 142 judges was assembled to evaluate the projects, inclusive of convenors and chief judges.

Prudence Madiba, a special guest from Eskom who is a General Manager-Research Testing and Development. She is a professionally registered Electrical Engineer with 22 years of experiences and service at Eskom. "At Eskom expo for young scientists, we believe that your research and innovation journey have the potential to change your life for the better," said Madiba.

Inge Higgins is a grade 10 learner at Menlo Hoer Skool in Pretoria. Inge took part in the last two Eskom Science Expos with her project focusing on using Olive Pulp



as a substitute for plastic pot plants and assessing how biodegradable the pulp is. Inge received a silver medal in 2022 and was awarded the best junior scientist at the national expo last year. As part of the journey, Inge was privileged to visit Turkey to present her project nationally.

She shared motivating remarks with her peers and future scientists, "Be your best self and get out of your comfort zone. I have put so much effort into my project, your dedication will take you far" she said. Top 5 categories with the most projects that were presented were ENG=55, ENP=31, BIO=19, EVS=17 and CHB=11.

Eskom awards for best female winner went to Hadil Selmi, a grade 12 learner from Prestige Hammanskraal. Best innovation winner, Miane Campher, a grade 7 learner from Laerskool Lynnwood. The best energy project winner was Onkarabetsi Mashile, a grade 10 learner from Rephafogile Secondary school. Best Development Project winner was awarded to Tanaka Cynthia Nyamvere, grade 7 learner from Vukauzenzele Primary School.

The winners of Regional Special Awards were presented with trophies in recognition of their achievements. Tanaka Cynthia Nyamvere, a grade 7 learner from Vukauzenzele Primary School was awarded a trophy for best Junior Scientist. A group project by Tanatswa Nyamvere doing grade 10, from Thuto Bohlale Secondary School and Katiso Modiba, a grade 9 learner from Phateng Comprehensive School were awarded a trophy for best senior scientist. The school with the most Gold Medals went to Prestige College Hammanskraal. Best feeder that ran an expo with 500 projects at their school expo was Irene Primary School.

Motivational awards were bestowed by TUT to acknowledge excellence. The peo-

ple who received these awards were Gina Masia from Prestige college, Mahlatsi Mudau from Tswaing Secondary, Liyana Ndamase from Laerskool Fleur, Rector Dikgale from Tswaing Secondary, Nelari Khumalo from Irene primary school, Abdul Thanda from Magalies special school, Christaal Lee from Magalies special school, Tayssir Selmi from Prestige college Hammanskraal, Burger Duvenage from Laerskool Hennospark and Cristiaan Venter from Magalies special school.

Several schools earned partnership certificates. These schools included Prestige college hammanskraal, Pretoria Technical high school, Nkangala Engineering school, Mamelodi high school, Arcadia primary school, Magalies special school and University of Pretoria.

Gail Ndlovu Director of Regional Science Fair congratulated all Northern Gauteng Region participants after witnessing the incredible commitment from every participant. "We know the journey was not always easy and some of you faced challenges that led to difficult decisions. Others found that their ideas could not be fully recognized this year, to those who persevered and made it this far, we extend our warmest congratulations," expressed Ndlovu.

Teachers and coordinators were urged to constantly check their emails for further communication as the decision will be made the coming week before Friday, 30. The event was a success as parents of the learners got to witness their children's dedication on their projects.

2024 Mbombela Campus Manifesto!

By: Lindokuhle Khumalo

ON AUGUST 30, 2024, the Tshwane University of Technology's (TUT) Mbombela Campus buzzed with anticipation as students gathered for the highly anticipated Student Representative Council elections campus debate.

This debate provided a crucial platform for candidates to articulate their visions, policies and plans to the student body. As the university's student leadership gears up for a new term, the debate's outcome would significantly impact the campus future trajectory. In a spirited and engaging discussion, candidates tackled pressing issues, fielded tough questions and showcased their leadership credentials. Parties that participated in the manifesto are as follows: SASCO, EFFSC, SADESMO, SCO, PASMA, DA, MKYL, Action etc.

It was an exceedingly difficult debate for all the parties, as the opposing parties were singing while other parties wanted to

share the visions to students. Economic Freedom Fighters Student Command (EFFSC) promised students that if they vote for them they will make sure that the library that has not been operating operates 24/7 and employs graduates that are unemployed.

Sipheshile Shabalala who was a speaker of UMKhonto Wesizwe mentioned that "It is not fair that NSFAS is willing to fund people who are failing for one year, yet they are failing to fund students who are doing Advance Diplomas". The South African Student Congress (SASCO) said that they are dedicated in ensuring that all students have an opportunity to succeed without a barrier of academic or financial excursion.

All the participants' parties pleased students to vote for them and promised that they will bring change in the campus and create job opportunities for graduates.



SRC and SFC manifesto 2024 Emalahleni campus!

By: Lindokuhle Khumalo

TSHWANE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY'S (TUT) eMalahleni campus was abuzz with political fervour on August 29, 2024, as students gathered for the highly anticipated Student Representative Council (SRC) and Student Faculty Council (SFC) elections campus debate.

With the university's student leadership poised for renewal, this debate provided a vital platform for candidates to outline their visions, policies and plans to tackle pressing student concerns. The debate brought together aspirants from various student organisations and independent contenders, all vying for the critical roles that will shape the institution's future. Key issues such as academic support, student funding, campus safety and representation took centre stage, as candidates sought to convince their peers that they possess the leadership mettle to drive positive change. Parties that participated in the manifesto are as follows: Action SA, SASCO, EFFSC, SADESMO, SCO,

PASMA, DA, MKYL.

As South Africa grapples with the scourge of GBV, university campuses have become crucial battlegrounds in the fight against this pandemic. The debate offered a unique opportunity for political parties and candidates to articulate their strategies for combating GBV, supporting survivors and promoting gender equality.

All participating parties promised students change, Economic Freedom Fighters Student Command (EFFSC) promised students that education will free and they will fight against corruption that is happening in the University. UMKHONTO Wesizwe Youth League says since they are the new organisation if students vote for them, they will make a huge, good change in the university and at the university residences. All political parties say they are against gender-based violence and willing to have awareness of it and help students fight it.

SFC 4IR WORKSHOP



Student Representative Council (SRC) & Student Faculty Council (SFC)

Voting Results!

By: Amanda Nonsikelelo Nhlengethwa

THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

(SRC) is the highest level of student governance, with the responsibility of reflecting the student body's interests.

Key tasks and responsibilities include advocacy, policy development, event planning and student support.

THE STUDENT FACULTY COUNCIL

(SFC) represents students within the faculties or colleges and addresses academic and faculty challenges.

Key responsibilities include academic advocacy, faculty liaison and departmental support.

Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) held its annual online elections for 2024/ 2025 SRC and SFC from September 3-5, 2024. Members of the different structures were available on all TUT campuses to assist voters with online voting process.

According to Dr Gugulethu Xaba, Director of Student Governance Leadership and Development, *"TUT hired External Election Management (EEM) since TUT does not run its own elections because we believe that elections must be independent in all circumstances."*

Total number of students who voted was

33292 out of 64000 (51, 93%)

and the results are as follows:

PRETORIA CSRC SEAT ALLOCATION				Total Votes	12100	QUOTA	1211
STRUCTURE	ACRONYM	VOTES	SEATS	Gross Seats	Round 1	Round 2	Total
ACTIONSA	ACTIONSA	170	0	0.14	0	0	0
DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE STUDENT ORGANISATION	DASO	294	0	0.24	0	0	0
ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS STUDENT COMMAND	EFFSC	4188	3	3.46	3	0	3
SOUTH AFRICAN DEMOCRATIC STUDENTS MOVEMENT	SADESMO	666	1	0.55	0	1	1
SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS' CONGRESS	SASCO	3792	3	3.13	3	0	3
STUDENTS CHRISTIAN ORGANISATION	SCO	463	0	0.38	0	0	0
UMKHONTO WESIZWE YOUTH LEAGUE	MKYL	2398	2	1.98	1	1	2
UNITED AFRICAN TRANSFORMATION	UAT	129	0	0.11	0	0	0
Total Valid Votes		12100	9	Total Seats	7	2	9

EMALAHLENI CSRC SEAT ALLOCATION				Total Votes	2478	QUOTA	249
STRUCTURE	ACRONYM	VOTES	SEATS	Gross Seats	Round 1	Round 2	Total
AFRICAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY	ACDP	140	0	0.56	0	0	0
ACTIONSNA	ACTIONSNA	190	1	0.76	0	1	1
ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS STUDENT COMMAND	EFFSC	786	3	3.16	3	0	3
PAN AFRICANIST STUDENT MOMENT of AZANIA	PASMA	126	0	0.51	0	0	0
SOUTH AFRICAN DEMOCRATIC STUDENTS MOVEMENT	SADESMO	230	1	0.92	0	1	1
SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS' CONGRESS	SASCO	216	1	0.87	0	1	1
STUDENTS CHRISTIAN ORGANISATION	SCO	282	1	1.13	1	0	1
TSHWANE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY STUDENT ASSOCIATION	TUTSA	172	1	0.69	0	1	1
UMKHONTO WESIZWE STUDENT MOVEMENT	MKSM	336	1	1.35	1	0	1
Total Valid Votes		2478	9	Total Seats	5	4	9

GARANKUWA CSRC SEAT ALLOCATION				Total Votes	4156	QUOTA	417
STRUCTURE	ACRONYM	VOTES	SEATS	Gross Seats	Round 1	Round 2	Total
ACTIONSNA	ACTIONSNA	364	1	0.87	0	1	1
ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS STUDENT COMMAND	EFFSC	792	2	1.90	1	1	2
PAN AFRICANIST STUDENT MOVEMENT OF AZANIA	PASMA	235	0	0.56	0	0	0
SOUTH AFRICAN DEMOCRATIC STUDENTS MOVEMENT	SADESMO	517	1	1.24	1	0	1
SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS' CONGRESS	SASCO	837	2	2.01	2	0	2
STUDENTS CHRISTIAN ORGANISATION	SCO	357	1	0.86	0	1	1
TSHWANE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY STUDENT ASSOCIATION	TUTSA	231	0	0.55	0	0	0
UMKHONTO WESIZWE YOUTH LEAGUE	MKYL	823	2	1.98	1	1	2
Total Valid Votes		4156	9	Total Seats	5	4	9

MBOMBELA CSRC SEAT ALLOCATION				Total Votes	2179	QUOTA	219
STRUCTURES	ACRONYM	VOTES	SEATS	Gross Seats	Round 1	Round 2	Total
ACTIONSNA	ACTIONSNA	10	0	0.05	0	0	0
ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS STUDENT COMMAND	EFFSC	507	2	2.32	2	0	2
PAN AFRICANIST STUDENT MOVEMENT OF AZANIA	PASMA	164	1	0.75	0	1	1
RISE MZANSI	RISE MZANSI	2	0	0.01	0	0	0
SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS' CONGRESS	SASCO	774	3	3.54	3	0	3
STUDENTS CHRISTIAN ORGANISATION	SCO	330	1	1.51	1	0	1
TSHWANE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY STUDENT ASSOCIATION	TUTSA	3	0	0.01	0	0	0
UMKHONTO WESIZWE YOUTH LEAGUE	MKYL	389	2	1.78	1	1	2
Total Valid Votes		2179	9	Total Seats	7	2	9

Young Leaders Conference

By: Amanda Nonsikelelo Nhlengethwa

Internal Auditing is an unbiased, independent assurance and consulting activity that seeks to provide value and enhance an organisation's operations.

ON SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2024, The Institute of Internal Auditors South Africa (IIA SA) organised a Young Leaders Conference for students at the Tshwane University of Technology Ga-Rankuwa Campus for imparting them on how to become great Internal Auditors in the future. Several guest speakers from different companies attended the event, including Zanele Maduna, CEO of No-Valo Learning Centre, Jannor Connor from IIA SA, Gift Somokwane the young Internal Auditor of the year, Members from The South African Institute of Government Auditors (SAIGA), ISACA, IBDO and Nexia SAB&T.

According to Maduna, CEO of No-Valo Learning Centre, Leaping ahead is the way forward. *"There are three components of leaping ahead. The first is mindset. As a human being, you must cultivate self-leadership and growth amongst yourself. You must also embrace yourself, stay courageous and silent and self-reflection is the key for the mindset. The quote for the mindset is 'weather you think you can or think you can't, you're right by Henry Ford'".*

Jannor Connor, a Teacher and Manager, talked more about the foundations of Internal Auditing in South Africa. "Key aspects of Internal Auditing are objective assurance, consulting management, compliance, operational efficiency, engagement planning and field work. I would also like to discuss the internal audit competency framework, which has four knowledge levels: general awareness, applied knowledge, expert practitioner and clear professional at every career level".

David dos Santos is an Internal Auditor at Nexia SAB&T. *"The firm is for auditing and accounting, audit, cyber and so on. We also provide development opportunities by having vacation work on the internal auditing side from June to August, as well as development for underprivileged students. And our organisation is as the democracy of South Africa, we are 30 years this year".*

The IIA aims to assist young leaders to follow the right path in their career choice in upholding the Internal Audit profession the event was successfully all thanks to Siyakhula and other companies that participated.



TUT Animal Science Alumni makes it to MISS EARTH FINALIST!

By: Amanda Nonsikelelo Nhlengethwa

Miss Earth is an annual worldwide beauty contest that raises environmental awareness and conversation. The pageant's goal is to inspire women to become environmental ambassadors while also motivating people to take action to safeguard the earth.

OLERATO MTSHWENI is 24 years old and born and nurtured in Pretoria, a city famous for its Jacaranda trees. Mtshweni studied Animal Science at The Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) and she is a qualified Animal Science professional recognized by the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP).

"I studied animal science because that is where my heart was just full. I love animals wholeheartedly, which is why I am pursuing my Post-graduate diploma in animal science. I advocate for animal health and welfare, as well as against animal cruelty." Said Mtshweni.

"Entering Miss Earth South Africa was a natural choice for me because it combines my passions in both the welfare of animals and environmental sustainability. The organisation is committed to conserving and nurturing all components of the Earth and I believe that caring for animals is an important part of that purpose. Animals have a vital role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem and protecting their welfare is critical to biodiversity conservation." She Continued *"Through this platform, I hope to raise awareness about the interdependence of animal welfare and environmental sustainability, advocating for ethical treatment of animals while supporting practices across all realms of the Earth."*

The Miss Earth South Africa platform has fully highlighted the importance of individuals prioritizing environmental sustainability and increasing their understanding of how to be the change.

"My Mother inspires me a lot because she always strives to make me fulfil my full potential and desires, she leads with kindness, resilience and a deep commitment to making a positive impact."

Mtshweni epitomizes the quote, *"Be the best you can ever be, because you, me, are the best."* This phrase not only groomed me, but also demonstrated an unshakeable commitment to make the world a better place, which motivates me to pursue my passions, overcome obstacles and attempt to make real changes in my own manner.

As much as my journey demonstrates my passion for change and ability to lead with purpose, I would like the next person to know that it is okay not to be okay because you cannot have everything worked out, but instead to be content with who you are, keep shining and let your voice be the catalyst for an improved and brighter tomorrow. Added Mtshweni.

The winner, Crowded Miss Earth, serves as a global ambassador for environmental conservation, supporting activities and projects that encourage sustainability and conversation.



Be the best you can ever be, because you, me, are the best.

Mental Health Awareness Seminar Programme

By: Amanda Nonsikelelo Nhlengethwa

Mental health refers to a person's emotional, psychological and social well-being. Mental health is more than just the absence of mental illness; it is a state of general well-being. Mental health problems may affect anyone, regardless of age, background, or environment. Anxiety disorders, depressive disorders, trauma and stress-related illnesses, personality disorders and psychiatric disorders are all common mental health issues.

Tshwane University of Technology Student Governance and Development (SGLD) hosted a Mental Health Awareness Seminar Programme on September 7, 2024, at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) Ga-Rankuwa Campus.

The guest speakers of the day were, Basani Chauke, a celebrity, social worker, television presenter, mentor and facilitator and Zimingtonaphakade Mabunzi, a media personality and social entrepreneur as well as Hope Makgobatlou, the outgoing Student Representative Council (SRC) Deputy Secretary for the year 2023.

"Very demure ladies and gentlemen", Deputy Secretary Makgobatlou took the stage with a high note. "Today serves as a reminder that prioritizing wellbeing not just an individual's responsibility but a fundamental attendance to our community; each of us plays a crucial role in establishing culture and health where we support one another in our struggles."

She further mentioned *"Together, we can build an environment that promotes health and wellbeing, allowing us to grow academically, emotionally and physically. Thank you for your commitment to essential course, which will allow us to embark on a transformative journey with confidence and dedication. With that said, ladies*

and gentlemen, I urge each one of you who is here today to actively seek help for whatever you may be going through, whether it is emotional, physical, or pain that you are unable to express to the closest person to you. Thank you and welcome to our campus!"

This seminar offers us with an invaluable opportunity to study strategies share knowledge and connect with experts like themselves and peers like ourselves, allowing us to participate openly, ask questions and challenge ourselves to adopt a healthier lifestyle not only for our own benefit but also for the sake of our community and university", Said Sindisiwe Mbatha one of the student who attended the event

During the event, students were divided into two groups: one group attended a session by Basani Chauke, while the other group attended a session Zimingtonaphakade Mabunzi

According to Chauke, when you love, when you pick a best friend, there must be a reason behind that, everything you pick in life must have a cause behind it. Mental health affects how people think, feel and act, as well as how they deal with stress, relate to others and make decisions.

"Everything starts in your head and when you decide to love that boy, it begins in your mind rather than your heart. Good mental health helps people handle stress, establish healthy relationships and make decisions. In order to make decisions in life, you must be mentally stable".

In addition, she stated, *"the power is in your mind that is why*

I urge each one of you to actively seek help for whatever you may be going through





mental health is important because if you do not understand what mental health is how you are going to make the right friends, how are you going to interact with other people”.

Purposeful Living can be defined as living a life that is intentional, meaningful and focused toward fulfilling one’s values, goals and passions. *“My name is Zimingtonaphakade Mabunzi and I am a television presenter, former Miss South Africa runner-up, part-time model, actress and musician. I have learned more into purpose to help prepare me for the journey and allow me to pursue things that I want to do. Aside from being named Purposeful Living, it is also referred to as a sort of resistance.”*

Life’s challenges required resilience, not retreat. By embracing purposeful living, one can effectively resist the downward pull of adversity and cultivate a robust mental well-being.

The organiser of the event, Philani Hlatshwayo said that he is grateful for all guests who were able to attend the event even though he is aware that the campus is very far but they managed to come. Hlatshwayo added that they produce the best graduates.

Every individual must take responsibility and seek help if they feel they are not alright emotionally, physically, or academically. TUT provides a Student Support Hour for any student who needs help.



Disability Awareness Event

20 Year Reality check!

By: Amanda Nonsikelelo Nhlengethwa

Living with disability is the experience of having a physical, mental, or emotional condition that severely limits one or more major life activities. This can include physical disability, sensory disability, cognitive disability, mental health disability, chronic illness and neurodevelopment disability.

HAVING A CERTAIN DISABILITY requires adaptability, resilience, frequently and inventiveness. It is important to acknowledge the variety of disability experiences and encourage inclusivity, accessibility, as well as empowerment for all people.

The Disability Unit, in collaboration with the Directorate of Health and Wellness, Student Development and Support and TEED, held a Disability Awareness event at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) Ga-Rankuwa Campus. This event took place on September 18th, 2024.

Dylan Mashele PR and Communications Officer from National Council of & for the Persons with Disability (NCPD) explained *“I was born in the early 90s, I was born with disease, I believe that if my mother had she knew then that she was supposed to do a full examination of the child, they would have picked up that I have got Glaucoma. While doing grade Ten (10) that is where we started seeing the symptoms of the Juvenile Glaucoma which were, I could not see any more what is written on the green board, I would bump into pupil, I would see things from the distance then when I go closer I could not see those things, the education system kicked me from high school because I could not cope anymore”.*

He added *“I went to Dr. George Mukhari in Ga-Rankuwa and had five surgeries on my eyes, all of which contributed significantly to the damage to my vision. I got to the hospital with 60% eyesight in one eye and 20% vision in the other.”*

Rebecca Sikhosana from the Department of Higher Education and Training.

“We are honoured to be a part of this event and I am here to tell students that if they discover they have a condition, they should go to the disability support unit and declare it. Section 6 of the constitution has been changed to add South African sign language as an official language. Departments and organisations are responsible for ensuring that national and international instruments are implemented. Those instruments are called The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Per-

sons with Disability (UNCPRD) and the White Paper on the rights of Persons with Disability (2015).”

She Added *“Students with disabilities are unaware of their entitlement for human services funding. Students with disabilities who meet the normal academic financial requirements are eligible for NSFAS disability funding and they may also receive additional funds for assistive devices and human support. For example, if you want to see a doctor, you are entitled to R2000 each year in assessment fees. And those who need human support they are entitled to R50 000 once off, for learning material allowance students with disabilities are entitled to R6 000 per academic year, for living allowances students are entitled to R20 000 including meals.”*

Kagiso Gcanga, *“I represent Edit Micro Systems, a company that focuses on assistive technology. We have devices and we believe that everyone has the potential to contribute to society, such as being a taxpayer, if they are given the appropriate and right devices. We are trying to assist everyone to be as independent as possible and we are looking at different types of impairments. We cater for all impairments, including blindness, low vision and dyslexia.”*

One of the students, **Humphrey Mogajane** explained *“I have Megalocornea Intellectual Disability Syndrome, which is an incredibly rare illness that is defined by particular abnormalities. When writing an examination, you get an enlarged font question paper and you also get an extra time for the exam”.*

During the event, students were given the opportunity to raise their concerns so that they may receive assistance; many stated that the extra time granted during the exam is insufficient.

By accepting, recognizing and appreciating the experiences of persons with disabilities, society may create a more inclusive and equitable society.

We are trying to assist everyone to be as independent as possible



Minority Awareness Focusing on *mental health*

By: Amanda Nonsikelelo Nhlengethwa

A minority group is a smaller group of a larger community that shares similar qualities, experiences, or social identities but frequently differs from the dominant or majority group. These characteristics may include ethnicity (racial, national, or cultural), religion, language, sexual orientation or gender identity, disability or ability, age and socioeconomic status.

DIRECTORATE OF EXTRACURRICULAR DEVELOPMENT (DED), Health and Wellness in partnership with Student Development and Support, hosted a Minority Awareness Event focusing on mental health at the Tshwane University of Technology (Ga-Rankuwa) Campus. This event was hosted on the 19th of September 2024. During the event, there were special guest, **Gerald, Mondli Dlamini** actor and musician, **Ray Neo Buso** Actor, dancer Mc and content creator, Jingles and Musicians Afro Rhythm.

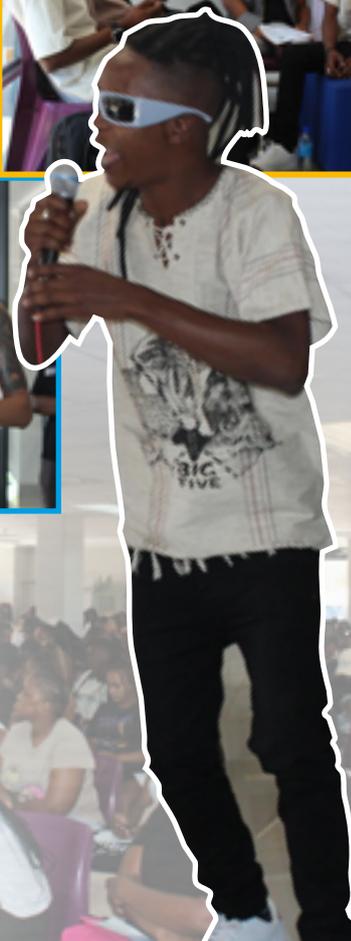
According to Dlamini, he just wanted to break everything down, as well as the people on the panel, so that the people who attended the event know why he was there and what is the main objective of the event. "So basically, when I got the call from the head of DED here in Ga-Rankuwa, Ntombi Mahlangu, stated that she wanted to achieve that was not really achieved last year when we had the same nature of the event, she wanted people to come and share their stories with everyone attended. Also open a floor for students to also come in and give their share, learn and build foundation where young people can move forward with the knowledge given by the people that have been there previously as a guest speakers. I am going to try to accommodate and include everyone", said Dlamini.

Ray Neo Buso stated that "I am an actor, so I will tell you more about my story. As a gay lad from Atteridgeville, I never imagined that I would be living this life. Before getting into TV, I went to study at the University of Pretoria (UP), where I received film and dramatic arts training. From then, I travelled to Cape Town and finished my dance training. After that, I started working in theatre in Cape Town and then moved abroad to dance. I was dancing for a German Cruise Ship for two years of my life up until COVID-19 happened."

Mandla Dlamini stated, "Whether you are disabled or a member of the LGBTQ community, it makes no difference; what matters is, whether you have empathy. You can see me and condemn my decisions, just to discover that I am full of life while you are not. You can also observe a spiritual gibe person and evaluate them according on how dirty they are, just to discover that they are 10 times cleaner than you. Most of the time, those that are highly negative to the community are likely to be part of us but hiding in the closet. Because if your life is fascinating enough to pursue your dreams, it does not matter who I am seeing; acceptance is the key in life".

Another speaker, Jingles stated, "I did not even reach high school, but you guys today are here in university, you are really blessed, some of us ended up in primary school".

"I believe that we could benefit from greater education on this campus about the LGBTQ community. It is good to open up about your sexuality; sexuality is something that is natural; I was born like this and I did not have a choice of who to love; we are moving forward because I live in a male-dominated environment and I can say they understand who I am; I can even walk around with my gown; I am a man, but then I am just a man who loves another man", said one of the student studying at Ga-Rankuwa Campus.



GA RANKUWA CAMPUS HOSTS

Heritage Day Celebration

By Athule Rharha

Heritage Day is a time to reflect on the shared human experience and the diverse cultural traditions that makes people who they are. The Directorate of Extracurricular Development hosted the Cultural Extravaganza on 19 September 2024, at Tshwane University of Technology, Ga Rankuwa Campus.

ACCORDING TO TERRY MABYE who is the campus SRC and events MC, The purpose of the event was to promote diversity and embrace different cultures in the institution. The event attracted a stellar lineup of special guests, including Nombulelo Mhlongo, a well-known actress for her role as Sne on etv soapie called Durban Gen. Blended arts group were also part of the special guests.

The Blended arts group is a vibrant collective of performers, they are dedicated to preserving and promoting cultural heritage through arts. With their unique blend of cultural dance styles, they kicked off the event with a stunning performance that showcased their versatility and passion. Its members This group is shining example of what can be achieved when dedicated young children come together to share their passion for the arts.

Promise Moagi, the founder and director of Blended arts said, *"We specialize in performing arts, the aim is to teach young girls and boys about culture and heritage. We come from a disadvantaged area, so this activity brings a positive moral in their lives"*. She further explained that this is the second time TUT invites them.

Lilow NTK, a musical artist from Mpumalanga also graced the audience with his presence and performance. The crowd was thrilled as he belted out his signature tunes, delivering a performance that was pure bliss. Each guest honored the theme with their own unique interpretation of traditional wear, which not only showcased their personal style but also celebrated their cultural roots.

"The event was very welcoming because besides our differences when it comes to our cultures and backgrounds, as students we celebrated it as one through dancing and wearing our

cultural attires. This is something our grandmothers used to do back in the days, to not forget who they are". Expressed Noluthando Shabangu, a journalism student at TUT.

In addition to the main performers, TUT students had also organised themselves into groups to entertain the crowd with their own brand of music and dances. Each group was afforded the opportunity to proudly showcase their cultural heritage, embracing their unique tradition and customs. Activities of the day included a cookoff. Each cultural group prepared traditional dishes that showcased culinary heritage, allowing everyone to taste and experience the richness of diverse traditions.

Ingoboco cultural group, a **Zulu culture** cooked Inyama yentloko (cow head), Umqombothi (traditional beer) and uphuthu. **Tsonga kingdom** prepared Mopani worms, Mandazi and Xigugu. The **Pedi group** cooked Mogodu, Morogo and sour pap. Each group got to taste a different African cuisine of the day.

The event was of great success and all the people present got to see special guest and all the stunning performances live. Hope and Terry who were MCs of the day thanked everyone for coming and honouring the invite and being at their best behavior.

According to Marobela Nkosinathi Light, event organiser from Directorate of Extracurricular Development, the event had a positive impact on the lives of students at large. The cultural extravaganza was all about cultural diversity, students learned about other cultures, traditional attires, dance and food. He further said that the event was a success and over 1000 students attended.



FROM ADVERTISING TO EMPOWERMENT: The Inspiring Journey of a *Passionate Career Counselor*

By: Lindokuhle Khumalo

Meet Lebo Mmekwa, a resilient and dedicated career counselor who has overcome personal challenges to empower young people in their career journey. Mmekwa was born and raised by both loving parents in Hammanskraal.

SHE STUDIED AT Selelo Primary School and attended her secondary level at Echibini Secondary School, she then moved to Botse Botse High school. After her matric, she enrolled at the University of Johannesburg (UJ) where she obtained her Bachelor in Psychology and went on to study at the University of South Africa (UNISA) where she obtained her Honors in Counseling Psychology. "I did not initially know what to study, I had many passions but struggled to choose one. I was guided by my high school teacher to consider psychology", said Mmekwa. She added that, her recent offer is to become an Educational Manager and that she has mentored and coached numerous young people, helping them become marketable.

Mmekwa shared seven principles of success which are: Stay resilient, work hard, Adapt and Learn, seek opportunities, persevere through rejection, invest in self improvement and give back. "I want to pursue my Masters in Counseling Psychology and become registered psychometric", Mmekwa disclosed. She further mentions that she aspire to establish a computer skills and receive career counseling through psychometric test sessions.

She further advises by saying "You must be intentional, deliberate and purposeful in your actions. I always say, every time you look at your phone, what are you feeding your soul with? Are you learning something new, reading, researching, or just playing?."

Your journey will undoubtedly be filled with challenges, but these challenges will shape your character and determination. I am a believer and God is my rock. In everything you do, remember to pray. You are your own brand, so make sure you always show up and do your best. Remember, success is a marathon, not a sprint. Be patient, stay determined and keep pushing forward. Your hard work and perseverance will ultimately pay off, just as they did for me."

During her journey Mmekwa came across challenges, "Throughout my journey, I have encountered numerous challenges that have shaped my resilience and determination. One of the most impactful challenge was when my father passed away while I was in grade 11 and he was a primary breadwinner. This sudden loss meant my mother had to resign from her job to take care of him, leaving our family in a difficult financial situation. I took on the responsibility to work hard and achieve my goals despite these hardships. Transitioning to university brought its own set of challenges", Mmekwa outlined.



She continues to say that she plan to continue giving back to the community by mentoring and supporting young people in their career journey. Additionally, her aim is to create programs and initiatives that can make a broader impact, helping more individuals realize their potential and succeed in their careers.

"I want to pursue my Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology and become a registered Psychometrist. I also aspire to establish a computer centre where young people can learn computer skills and receive career counseling through psychometric test sessions. This will help them choose the right career path and include a work readiness program to prepare graduates for the professional world. I plan to continue giving back to the community by mentoring and supporting young people in their career journeys".

Additionally, I aim to create programs and initiatives that can make a broader impact, helping more individuals realize their potential and succeed in their careers. My ultimate goal is to contribute significantly to the fields of psychology and career development, making a lasting difference in many lives helping them overcome obstacles, discover their true potential and achieve personal growth", Mmekwa concluded.

Mmekwa is inspiring many young people and empowering them in their journey of life. "Success is a marathon, not a sprint. Be patient, stay determined and keep pushing forward".

Mmekwa is inspiring many young people and empowering them in their journey of life. "Success is a marathon, not a sprint. Be patient, stay determined and keep pushing forward".



Student Representatives Council Annual Leadership Camp 2024

By: Lindokuhle Khumalo and Amanda Nhlengethwa

The Directorate of Student Governance and Leadership Development (SGLD) offers planned opportunities for students to integrate their curricular and extracurricular experiences to develop the knowledge, skills and experiences needed to make an impact in the world.

STUDENTS WERE GIVEN an opportunity to reach their potential by coaching them to recognize and enhance their strengths. They develop, implement creative solutions, engage others in accomplishing positive and substantive results.

The Directorate perceives itself as a refinery of leadership potential. The leadership camp started on 29 September to 03 October 2024 at Toppieshoek Outdoor Recreation Camp Site.

Day 1

All SRC members and staff members arrived at the Toppieshoek Outdoor Recreation Camp Site in Hartbeespoort Dam. All student leaders were given refreshments and were allocated rooms. SRC members went ahead to the photo shoot and later went to the Gala Dinner which took place at Seasons Conference Centre in Hartbeespoort.

President General, Banele Ntsele made his Inaugural speech. The President General in his speech outlined the poverty that the country is facing, he also stated that young people are brewing anger towards the poverty, he urged the VC to give them signal. Ntsele continued to state that last year budget cut on education affected majority of students and it shows that the government does not prioritize students. Education in South African government has become an expense rather than an investment. *“The reluctant was seen with NSFAS, students were nearly robbed their already insufficient allowances in the name of direct payments. Thousands of them were defunded and many evicted from their respective residences”.*

Ntsele addressed his fellow comrades that students are very angry in a way the issues are being addressed.

“We need to find the way to deal with the issues, we need to stand on the forefront of the revolution that demands justice, equality and freedom”. He further declared war against Gender Based Violence and they will fight until every student feel safe, survivor finds justice and perpetrator faces accountability.

In his closing he mentioned that they are reaffirming their unwavering commitment interest of black students, he further said that the SRC does not belong to management, they are duly elected to amplify students' voices, addressing students concerns and champion their causes. They have a clear mandate, to fight accessible education and inclusive spaces. He stated that they will challenge the management when is necessary

and they will not collaborate even when is beneficial for them. Their loyalty is with the students of people's university.

Vice Chancellor Professor Tinyiko Maluleka said, *“President General, I took a special note of many of the things that you said, I particularly liked the emphasis on mental health which is a big challenge in high education today. It warmed my heart to listen to you speak about students with disability and how we need to advocate for them and to ensure that the entire university is able to facilitate their burden. I also took note of the financial and access issues that you have raised in your address and we will definitely be discussing further, us and the SRC as to how we will tackle all these big issues that you are raising for us.”*

Prof. Maluleka added that, *“I am going to start my speech which is very short by quoting “Frantz Fanon which state” Each generation must, out of relative obscurity, discover its mission, fulfill it, or betray it.”* To Fulfill or betray a mission, each generation must first discover what its mission is. When we talk about the generational mission of Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) we are not speaking merely of one or two years in which there has been an SRC, we are talking about the generational mission of TUT ever since it has opened its doors on the 1st of January 2004. This means that, to think in a manner that seeks to fulfill a generational mission the SRC must build upon the continuities with the good work done by previous generations of students' leaders and SRC's here at TUT and in the country.

The SRC members need not merely to memorize and parrot the TUT values but they need to interiorize this and exhume these values. The signature TUT values are excellence, ethical conduct, fairness, resilience, compassion and diligence. If the SRC is to fulfill the TUT generational mission, they must put the academic project above other projects in the university. *“As the new SRC prepare themselves into leadership term tomorrow, I want to suggest that the academic project should be prioritized in your mind”*, stated Prof Maluleke.

The abiding mission of every SRC is to facilitate and to champion the academic project. The academic project is not some amorphous and theoretical theme that hangs like a cloud above the university, the academic project is not something untouchable, *“when I talk about the academic project I am talking*





about learning and passing. I am talking about learning to re-search and learning to innovate, Entrepreneurship, work integrated learning. I am talking about students making themselves not

merely certificated but employable and capable of inventing jobs. This is the biggest item on our agenda”, said Prof. Maluleke.

“To each one of the 61 members of the SRC, I say congratulations I know that to be eligible each and every one had to meet the academic threshold set by the university. In particular, I would like to congratulate again the incoming President General, the Secretary General and all the members of the top 7. Allow me to congratulate the 14 members of the SRC who have become members of submit as well as those who will become members of the council and as members of council, they represent the interests of the university”, added Prof. Maluleke.

“I look forward to make you the 13th members of the SRC who will serve in the Student Services Council, I also wish to congratulate the student structures that participated and got elected to the incoming SRC I was given the numbers here. All in all, there are 21 female members of the SRC and 14 male members of the SRC. When you produce free and fair elections year after year. Right there we are fulfilling the mission of the generation. When we elect the best calibre of student leaders like yourselves, you are also fulfilling the generational mission of our times”.

“Our generational mission is to become the university that makes knowledge work but among other things is to become a university that keeps moving from good to great. Each generation must, out of obscurity discover its mission, fulfill it or betray it. We at TUT with your assistance as student leaders are determined to fulfill our mission and we invite you to come help us to fulfill the mission as the university, thank you very much”, Prof. Maluleka concluded.

Day 2

Dr Nthangeni the Executive Director Student Academic and Extracurricular Development(SAED) in his opening and welcome acknowledged Dr. Gloria Serobe, Chair of Councilor Irvin, Vice Chancellor Prof. Tinyiko Maluleke, and Dr Sefolsha in her absentia. He further extended a warm welcome to the guest in attendance; Director of SGLD Dr Gugulethu Xaba, President General Banele Ntsele, SAED management committee, SGLD staff, HOD, guest of honors who are newly elected SRC members, programme facilitators and he observed the protocol.

He stated that it is a joy to invite the SRC to the session, which will help them expand on their existing talents. He reminded the SRC that they are the sole officially acknowledged student mouthpiece. Dr. Nthangeni assured the SRC that he believes that they are capable of handling the mission. He emphasized that as leaders, the SRC must teach and inform students about how the university runs and how choices are made within the institution. He told the student leaders that SGLD and his office will assist them in carrying out their mandate. He noted that the workshop serves as a platform for the SRC to bring their

A-game and deliver on their promises to students.

Dr. Nthangeni stated that this session will help the institution achieve its aims and take it from good to exceptional. He further informed the SRC that in order to be effective leaders, they needed to identify and address problem areas. He argued that leadership is determined not by a title, but by what you do once you have that title. The SRC was encouraged to focus on programs that address student concerns. Student leaders were instructed to be courteous, deliberate and treat all people fairly. The SRC was urged to collaborate as a group because they can do much more when they work together.

Dr. Albert Mbada the Director of Directorate of Extracurricular Development (DED),

Accommodation, residence, Life and Catering (ARLC) Director, Dr. Nita Van der Berg, SAED Public Relations Officer (PRO) Siyabonga Ntamo and Directorate of Sports and Recreation Dr. Nduvhuho Muthelo was talking about ethics leadership and student judicial services issues, the second presenter was Tseliso Mohlomi a Senior Director, he talked about institute for the Future of Work. “University exists for teaching and learning, Research and innovation. It is important for the council to form part of the establishment and be part of the mission, vision and values of the institution. Their duty is to act according to the rules and laws, Student leadership needs to understand their responsibility, Protect the reputation of the university”.



He also added being ethical means doing what is good, “not only to yourself but to others. What you view as ethical, someone else might view it as unethical and everyone has their own perspective. We are always going to view things differently, but we have one mission and vision. TUT embraces diversity, it does not matter where you come from. Students choose universities based on their reputation. TUT does not belong to anyone, preserve the brand for the future.”

Day 3

The University invited **Peter Machaka** and **Bongani Mhlanga** who are former SRC members. Machaka is from Soshanguve Campus a former Student Support Services (SSS) and Treasurer as well as Mhlanga former president of Emalahleni Campus.

According to Machaka “One of the key aspects in life that one needs to do is to embrace challenges that we face, as newly elected representatives you have a unique opportunity to make a meaningful impact into our institutions. Remember why you run for the office and never let the barren of the road hinder you from achieving your goals be kind, listen and help these values will guide you in making a difference in the lives of your fellow students. Never forget that you are not leading yourself, but you are leading about 62 000 plus students. The key principles for success, you need to listen, collaborate, emphasize and you need to communicate. He shared the key points to student leaders.”

He

Continues on page 22



Continued from page 21

also added “SRC term is temporary comrades, it comes and goes. You need to draw the wisdom of the outgoing SRC who emphasised the importance of serving with a clear concise and taking critics from a good faith. It is important as an SRC member to leave a legacy. You have the power to shape the student’s future.

Strive to leave a legacy, be the change that you wish the world could be. In closing comrades, I offer you these final words of encouragement, be kind remember that leadership is not about a title or position, but it is about influencing a life of another.”

Mhlanga Former SSS and former Emalahleni Campus President stated “I led as a SSS and as a President of Emalahleni Campus. 2017/2018 I led as SSS, I was young still new to politics. Take this opportunity and make sure you make an impact. Let us take this as a learning curve, you are going to learn by being an SRC, you are going to be engaging in boardrooms with management, you are going to be engage with stakeholders of the university and services providers. These experiences will carry you for life. We can be radical and respectful, you can make your point across without disrespecting the person who is listening to you. Make sure you engage and we are not saying comrades must not go to the street but going to the street while negotiating.”

He also added that “There is a slight difference between politics and governance and now you are in governance you can continue politicking but also understand that there is an aspect of governance you need to understand now and by governing, you are running the campus, you are part of the decision making of that campus, so you must come to the students and share your vision. Each and every position in the SRC has an important role to play. Let us work together build relations and prioritize the students”.

The session of students living with disability had two guest speakers namely **Lea Mokgabodi** and **Vuyo Segai**, who are both blind. Before the guest speaker could start with their presentations, Segai had few questions for the former SRC members Machaka and Mhlanga. Segai asked how did they made-sure that the disabled students were able maneuver around the campus during their term. Machaka responded to the questions by stating that, at Soshanguve they made sure pavement is

smooth.

Mokgabodi explained her challenges as a disabled student studying with abled students. “I could not attend classes for two weeks because I did not know where my lecture rooms were. After two weeks I got a classmate that assisted me to go to classes. The first day I attended the wrong class due to changes and I could not know because they did not make an announcement that accommodated us. As time goes by, I got used to go to class alone”. She suggested that for things to be easy for them in regard to the changes of classes, they must at least announce in the speakers that lecture rooms are changing to another lecture room.

Segai is a blind student studying at Soshanguve South Campus. He stated that he is doing a technical module and he got 0% on that module even the department does not know how to help him. He also mentioned that on the other modules, he is excelling.

After their presentation, all student leaders participated on activity outside facilitated by their mentor from disability department. On the activity, the student leaders acted blind then others were helping or directing them to everywhere they wanted to go. The aim of this activity was to make the student leaders feel how the students with disability feel every time specifically those who are blind.

Day 4

Mr Jonas Magedi, Acting Senior Director of TUTEH discussed the establishment of a student accommodation enterprise at the university in South Africa, which began in 2017 and was fully fledged by 2018. The enterprise aimed to provide quality student accommodation and generate revenue for the university. He discussed the key points as follows:

Background: The “Fees Must Fall” protest in 2015-2017 let to increased government funding for higher education, enabling universities to provide student accommodation.

- **Accomplishments:** The enterprise had accredited over 340 properties, with 10 leased properties and generates revenue through a 4% accreditation rate.
- **Challenges:** Some properties were exploiting students with high rates, prompting the Department of Higher Education(DHET) to introduce a R50 000 cap on student accommodation.
- **Regulation:** The accreditation process is regulated by minimal norms and standards.
- **Future Plans:** The university has decided to reintegrate the enterprise as a division within the institution.

Magedi after his presentation allowed questions from student leaders and asked for support to ensure the university’s success



in providing quality student accommodation.

Wally Langa from the Registrar; opened his presentation by explaining the new process of sending applications, the Infinity. He continued to state that when applying, one email should be used to apply for one person, meaning one email per student. When the TUT system is offline the FTEN system will still continue to allow people to apply. "Now your brothers and sisters when they are home and do not have scanners nearby, they can use their phones that to take those matric results or any other results, ID, proof of payment a picture and upload it the system will automate a process of compressing that document. Because currently when they apply for 2025 system will detect that the person matriculate in the required year".

Ruth Sumbane her presentation was based on what financial aid is offering, she stated that financial aid administers and manage funding, loans, bursaries external and internal grants as well as NSFAS. She further outlined the application process for NSFAS:

- 1. Application process:** Online applications open on September 20th, closing on December 15th, 2024, for 2025 funding.
- 2. Eligibility:** New students must apply. Students changing qualifications must reapply. Family income below R350,000 per annum qualifies for funding.
- 3. Academic criteria:** 60% pass rate needed for 2025 funding.
- 4. Verification:** Third-party verification to ensure correct information.
- 5. Reasons for funding rejection:** Failure to meet financial/academic criteria. Incorrect/false information. Dual registration.

Important Notes NSFAS funding priorities:

STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Loan options available for students with family income above R350,000. Funding can be withdrawn if eligibility criteria are no longer met.

She advised student leaders to apply for 2025 funding, ensure accurate information to avoid rejection and address dual registration issues.



Day 5

Last day

Political Excursion: GAUTENG LEGISLATURE

The Gauteng Legislature presentation took student leaders through the process of law making at the provincial level, the mandate of the provincial parliament, how the legislature is constituted and how members of the provincial legislature (MPLs) are elected. Like South Africa's national parliament, provincial legislatures have committees that play an oversight role over the different portfolios in the executive of the province. They explained the spear that is usually at the parliament, when it is placed horizontal it means the session is still going on, when it is facing up it means the session is paused and when it is placed on the floor it means the session is done. They also explained the meanings of the paintings that are on the walls and the seating pattern.

Gauteng Legislature has two arms which is Administrative Arm (it is led by the secretary whom you can call the CEO) and political Arm (it is led by chairperson of the committee) lastly it was mentioned that the seats of each South African political party has.





Student Faculty Council Strategic Planning

By Amanda Nonsikelelo Nhlengethwa and Lindokuhle Khumalo

Student and Extracurricular Development (SAED) together with Directorate of Student Governance and Leadership Development (SGLD) hosted a Student Faculty Council Strategic planning at Toopieshoek from 16-18 October 2025, where newly elected representatives were being taught everything they should know and how they should behave in their term of being leader.

ON THE 16TH OF OCTOBER 2024 (Day1), Dr Gugulethu Xaba welcomed everyone who attended the Strategic planning. Dr Xaba advises all students that they need to balance everything during their term academics and leadership Dr made an example with people who are attending church that if you attend a church, you must also make sure that academically you also pass. "make sure that the main thing remains the main thing."

Dr Xaba continued to say that their leadership and success must make other students successful. They need to know student's issues, create safe environment for people who are LGBTQ+ on campus and come up with ideas to improve students life on campus. ETO General, Ms. Confidence Mohale congratulated all the SFC members and wished them well in their journey of being leaders.

During the training there were special guest that were invited that were coming from different departments of the institution

Addressing about student ethics, **Mr. Muthelo Ndivhuho from Certified Ethics Office** encouraged students to recognize their responsibility and the significance of knowing the rules. *"The importance of ethics is to protect the university's and yourselves' reputation and the responsibility of SFC is to comply*

with TUT student's rules." Mr. Muthelo stated that if SFC members fail to cooperate, they face suspension, harm to the university's reputation, the loss of both present and potential students and the loss of skilled jobs. Muthelo advised SFCs to make informed judgments as he concluded.

Dr. Shafeeka Dockrat from Student Development Support (SDS) Speaking on Student Academic Matters, Dr. Shafeeka Dockrat described how Student Development Support (SDS) helps students succeed academically and offers them life skills and psychiatric treatments. For academic achievement, they provide career assistance, career evaluation and mentorship training. For psychological services, they provide group therapy, support groups and a gender-based violence desk. Fundamental Learning Modules on Life Skills are offered.





2024/25!

She further explained TUT's policy, which is to take all appropriate measures to effectively and efficiently handle students' academic grievances. Members of SFC participated in a game in which they were split up into groups. Each group member had to roll a die and the number that emerged meant that other members should ask that person a certain question. The game's objective is to increase SFC members' communication skills while teaching them problem-solving techniques and who to talk to about certain issues.

The **SDO of Soshanguve Campus, Mr. Phakisho Mehlope**, was in charge of the SGLD Faculty Programs activities. Training for Class Representatives in the First-Year Student Integration Program The goal of the first-year students' integration program, which is to facilitate their smooth adjustment to university life, was explained by Functional Leadership Training. Since some students attend universities just because they completed high school, their goal is to ensure that they have the necessary orientation. Due to the high number of student suicides, they must be aware of the academic standards and available resources.

"SFC members needs to understand leadership and know how to differentiate between being famous and leading SFC members needs to know how to lead and to follow, be central and marginal, love people, be humble and live by."

Ms. Ivy from the Disability Unity spoke about how SFC members should make sure that students with disability get all the assistance they need academically. She also shared recommended languages and languages that should be avoided when speaking to people with disability. We can say a person with disability not disabled person, we can say person with psychological disability not insane or crazy, we can say person with intellectual disability not slow person. Ms Ivy played a game with the SFC members where they were blind folded and experience what blind students go thought when they come across barriers on campus. Ms Ivy advised students that they treat students with disabilities they way they should be treated not special but the right way.

On the second day of October 17, 2024, the institution invited deans from every department. **Assistant Dean of Economics and Finance, Dr. Langa.**

Accounting, Auditing, Economics, Finance and Investment and Public Sector Finance are the five departments that make up

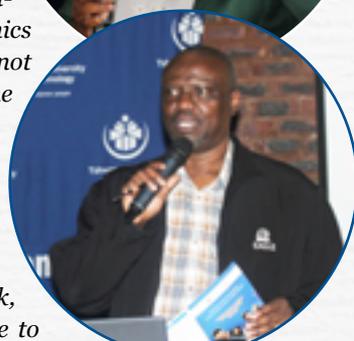
Economics and Finance. *"The issue is that, as TUT, we say that the students must be globally relevant. Are our graduates and students studying economics and finance globally relevant? I'm not sure about it, though. Considering the current global trend, it is necessary to have students who will adhere to strict discipline, who will attend class and who will be a resource for resolving academic issues."*

"We are still occupied with test week, which was delayed by two weeks due to load shedding for 5 hours at our campus GA Rankuwa. Load shedding causes us to postpone and I am asking myself, can somebody finish a scope within 5 hours of load shedding? Somebody who had 3 weeks to prepare for a particular test. And we are talking about people who are in the disciple of disciple, people who are going to become Auditors, people who would like to become CA and RGA's"

She added *"I am saying as much as we can to put a flower colourful about TUT, I am not seeing myself having confidence to say I am producing that which I can be proud of, at least not now, maybe in the future."*

Busi Mashaba SFC mentor and SFC Guardian at ARTS Campus *"As Faculty of Arts and Design we are a very practical faculty and our students know. We have 6 Departments which are."*

- 1. Design studies**, Fashion Design where they do stitches shirt and everything clothing so now as the entire SFC's and SRC'S if you need clothes, jackets please come to Arts and Design we are going to sort you out.
- 2. Fine and Studio Arts**, where they do a lot of paintings, they also painted a Leadership Hall in Pretoria campus SGLD.



Continues on page 26

- 3. **Jewellery** - they design rings and all sorts of jewellery and as I said we are very practical at Arts and Design we just use our hands and we deliver magic. And our faculty is known as the best in the world.
- 4. **Interior Design**, they visualize anything, they do things on their computers and draw something and make some decorations.
- 5. **Performing Arts**, where we do Music, Jazz, Opera, we have Theatre Arts, they produce new drama they use their acting skills, we have Dance, where they dance ballet.
- 6. **Visual Communication**, they do Photography they also do Graphic design.

Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Science Yolanda Haven-ga stated that the are three sub-streams of the Faculty of Sciences—Natural Sciences, Chemistry and several Agricultural Sciences, such as Crop Animal Sciences—as well as the Health Sciences, Pharmacy and Nursing—are, in my opinion, the most crucial aspects of the faculty. We offer courses in the eMalahleni, Mbombela and Polokwane campuses in addition to our two sites, the Arcadia Campus and the Pretoria West Campus.



Prof. Bongazana Dondolo, Acting Assistant Dean at the School of Education in Humanities, said, *“We are big, second biggest to be precise, we are very bi-ased, we have education, policing, law, journalism, integrated communication, Public Affairs, language practice, traf-ficking and etc.”*

She continued *“everyone in this room is from a grade 1 classroom and in order for us to graduate from TUT prepared for the future, we must first be ethical leaders. We must engage effectively to ensure that we won’t face unnecessary challenges, so as leaders, we expect you to begin negotiating with the students and bring forward any problems you attempted to resolve but were unable to do so because you know the policies and how to go ahead.”*

Students are engaging, but occasionally their engagement may be quite aggressive. Effective communication is essential, as are future-ready skills and global citizenship. *“The majority of our kids are the best; if you go to journalism, you’ll see that they are the greatest; if you check SABC and Newsroom Africa, you’ll see that they are our TUT students; and if you go to schools, I’m happy to report that the first student they will hire is from TUT.”*

18 October 2024 Last day (Day 3) According to **Dr Nesamvuni**

on Academic ,It is the policy of the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), to identify and monitor the progress of students who do not comply with the minimum progress requirements for a specific qualification.

Students who do not meet such requirements may be placed on probation with conditions or excluded from further studies in that programme, department or faculty in accordance with the guidelines described in this policy.

Academic Exclusion at TUT means readmission refusal from a specific qualification, department or faculty for a set period of time due to the student’s failure to comply with the minimum progress requirements as describe in this policy.

Academic Probation means conditional grace period in the exclusion process which provides the student the opportunity, through specific conditions and interventions, to comply with exclusion.

Reasons for exclusion

Increase access:

DHET enrolment plan caps the number of funded full-time equivalent students enrolled at the public tertiary institutions = denial of space to new entrants.

Financial viability:

Poor performing students hampers throughput. A lower success rate diminishes earnings from teaching output units.

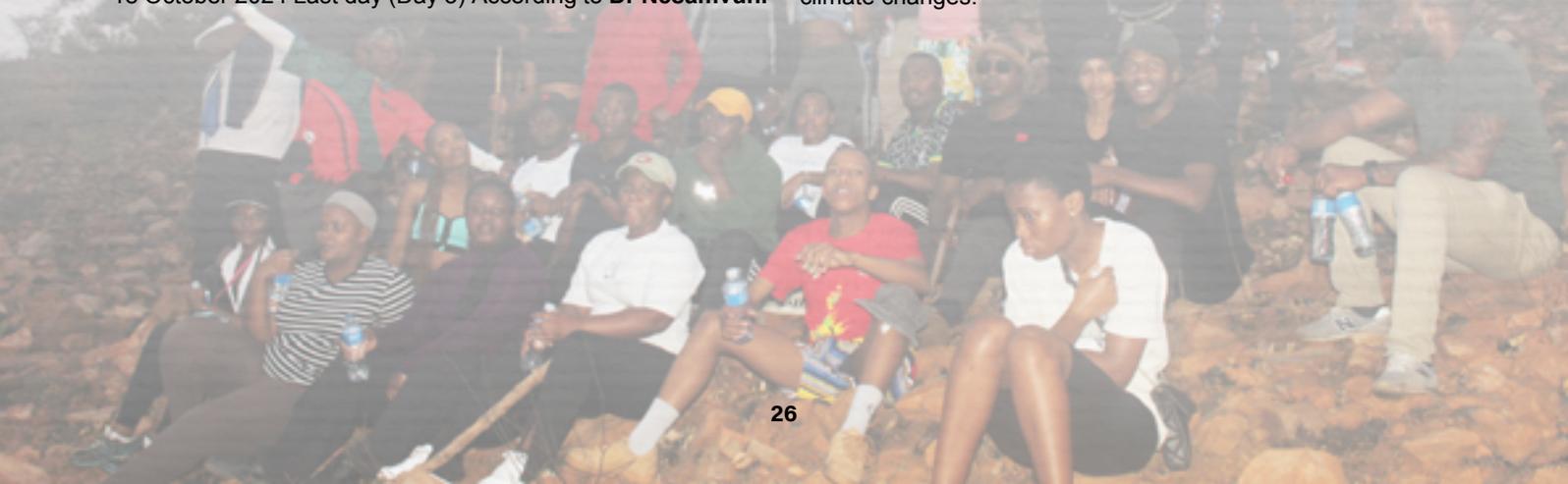
Facilities:

If poor performing students are allowed to stay in the system, accommodation in laboratories and other facilities will be over-burdened.

Change:

student may have enrolled for wrong qualification.

Strategic financial planning provides a thorough framework for risk mitigation, opportunity capitalization and financial resource management. For companies looking to stay ahead of the curve, SFC will continue to be an essential tool as the business climate changes.





TUT Ga-Rankuwa Hosts Annual *Prestige Awards*

By: Sewela Seokotsa

ON THE 18TH OF OCTOBER, the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) Ga-Rankuwa Campus held its annual Accommodation Residence Life and Catering (ARLC) Prestige Awards. This event celebrates outstanding achievements across various domains, highlighting the university's commitment to fostering a supportive environment for its students.

The program commenced with the residence Head of Department (HOD) Stephen Ledwaba, who welcomed attendees and expressed his gratitude to the organizing team, students and special guests, including Pontsho Msimanga and keynote speaker Mr. Jongizizwe Dlabathi.

The Director of ARLC, Dr. Nita Van den Berg, addressed the audience, thanking guests and heads of departments while wishing students success in their endeavours.

Masego Mashishi, the former Residence Committee (RC) Chairperson and a second-year Diploma in Economics student, shared her reflections on her time in office. Despite facing challenges, she emphasized the invaluable lessons learned, particularly in communication. She encouraged her peers to continue supporting one another and expressed her gratitude for their backing throughout the year.

Ditebogo Mataboge former Student Representative Council (SRC) served as Student Support Services (SSS), extended her message of gratitude *"To our advisors and staff, thank you for your guidance and support. As I pass the baton, I have every confidence that our student society will continue to thrive. Keep pushing boundaries, keep striving for excellence. As I leave this role, I carry with me unforgettable memories, valuable lessons and lifelong connections. I urge you all to continue working together, supporting one another and striving for excellence"*.

The evening not only recognized individual achievements but also reinforced the sense of community within TUT, inspiring students to strive for excellence. After all the speeches, Jongizizwe Dlabathi was given the opportunity to share his thoughts with the students

and guests. He began by expressing his gratitude for the invitation—not only to participate in this prestigious event but also to deliver a brief address aimed at motivating and enriching the understanding of leadership. He sincerely appreciated this privilege, recognizing that others could have been chosen.

Dlabathi had the opportunity to study at this institution and serve in various leadership roles. He felt a strong sense of connection to the university, which has played a significant role in shaping him. He took a moment to congratulate all the staff members and student leaders being recognized for their outstanding academic performance.

"Acknowledging those who excel is essential and such gatherings serve to inspire our peers and encourage even better performance. We are in a space that not only empowers us but also challenges us to translate our knowledge into impact. If we fail to do so, the value of our excellence comes into question", said Dlabathi. He emphasized key leadership responsibilities, such as leading by example, exercising a sense of responsibility and practicing ethical leadership.

All students who attended the prestigious awards event were honoured with Residence Portfolio Awards. Masego Mashishi & Refiloe Mokoena (in her absentia) received Excellence Recognition Awards, while Itumeleng Molose was recognized as the most active person in the office.

Tebogo Mohlatlole, who is pursuing an Advanced Diploma in Financial Management (CFA) along with Economics Management Analysis, received three awards for his hard work and dedication. He received the awards under the following categories: HOD's award, Special Recognition Award and Staff Member of the Year Award. He expressed his appreciation for the ARLC department, stating, *"I feel honoured and encouraged to do better in everything I do. You never know when the best day of your life will come, when you will be recognized and lifted among others. I am a happy person."*

An aspiring story of *Dr. Annah Sefolosha*



By: Sewela Seokotsa

Dr. Annah Sefolosha's journey reflects resilience and determination. Born in Mamelodi, South Africa, she began her education amidst the tumultuous backdrop of the 1976 riots. After moving through several primary schools, she completed her early education at Somishanang Higher Primary and transitioned to Lehlabile High School in 1983, where she focused on subjects that aligned with her aspirations in science.

DESPITE THE CHALLENGES of civil unrest in 1985, which forced high school students in Mamelodi to repeat the year, Dr. Sefolosha remained committed to her studies.

Her perseverance shone through as she consistently ranked among the top students, earning excellence certificates and reinforcing her dedication to her academic goals. This early foundation laid the groundwork for her future achievements in the field of science. Dr. Annah Sefolosha completed her matric in 1988 and began her journey at the University of South Africa (UNISA) to pursue a Bachelor of Science (BSc). However, financial constraints posed significant challenges. In 1989, while still enrolled at UNISA, she applied to nursing colleges and was selected for a six-month pre-selection programme at Pretoria West, Lebone College of Nursing. This opportunity forced her to pause her BSc studies and shift her focus to nursing.

In 1990, Dr. Sefolosha entered a four-year nursing diploma program, where she gained practical experience through her Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) at Kalafong Hospital. Her dedication and hard work during her training earned her numerous awards and prizes. She ultimately graduated Cum Laude in 1994, marking a significant milestone in her nursing career and reflecting her commitment to excellence in her education. She dedicated seven years to working in the Maternity Ward at Mamelodi Hospital.

In 1998, while continuing her work there, she pursued an Advanced Diploma in Nursing Dynamics, specializing in Education and Management, at Rand Afrikaans University (now the University of Johannesburg), which she completed in 1999. That same year, she enrolled in a Bachelor of Nursing Science (BCur) degree at the University of Pretoria (UP), aligning her studies with her aspirations of becoming a teacher or manager in the nursing field, she specialized in Education and Management, graduating Cum Laude in 2002. During this time, she also pursued a Diploma in Occupational Health Nursing at Technicon Pretoria (now Tshwane University of Technology), also graduating Cum Laude. Her commitment to education and leadership continued to shine through her academic achievements and professional endeavors.

When she became a new mother, Dr. Sefolosha made the decision to leave her shift work at the hospital and transition to office hours as an occupational health nurse in the motor industry in Pretoria from 2001 to 2003. This shift allowed her to prioritize caring for her children while continuing to work. In her role in the motor industry, she conducted primary health care, performed medical assessments, managed workplace injuries and handled employee claims administration.

In 2003, while Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) was still known as Technikon Pretoria, she saw an advertisement for a campus health nurse position. Recognizing

it as a chance to further her career in a supportive educational environment, she applied and successfully secured the role. This marked the beginning of her transformative journey at TUT on 1 September 2003, allowing her to balance her nursing expertise with her passion in an educational environment. In her new role, she was responsible for promoting health and wellness among students and staff, providing primary health care services and implementing health education programmes. This position allowed her to apply her clinical skills while also focusing on preventive care and health promotion within the university community.

In 2006, while still employed at TUT, she enrolled in a Master's Degree in Nursing Science programme, specializing in Management. Balancing her professional responsibilities with her academic pursuits, she was determined to deepen her knowledge and skills in health care management. Her Master's dissertation focused on the diversity management of nursing teams, a topic particularly relevant in the context of increasingly multicultural and diverse work environments within healthcare settings, where effective teamwork is essential for delivering quality patient care.

In her research, Dr. Sefolosha explored how diverse backgrounds, including variations in culture, ethnicity, gender, qualifications and experience impact team dynamics and performance in nursing. She aimed to identify best practices for fostering an inclusive workplace that values each team member's contributions while addressing potential challenges related to communication and collaboration. Her findings emphasized the importance of embracing diversity to enhance team cohesion, improve problem-solving and ultimately deliver better patient outcomes. She completed her Master's degree in 2008, graduating Cum Laude, a testament to her dedication and academic excellence, just as she had achieved with her previous qualifications.

While pursuing her Master's degree, Dr. Sefolosha had the opportunity to participate in the Linnaeus-Palme exchange programme, a collaborative initiative aimed at enhancing educational and research ties between South Africa and Sweden. This programme took place at Blekinge Institute of Technology (BIT), Karlsrona, Sweden and was facilitated by UP. The programme promotes academic exchanges, enabling students from South African and Swedish institutions to study and conduct research in each other's countries. This experience proved invaluable as she studied Health Care Systems and Management, with a particular focus on the organisation and delivery of health care systems in developed countries. At BIT, her coursework covered essential topics such as health policy, quality management in health care and the integration of health services. This curriculum provided her with a comprehensive understanding of how health systems operate in various contexts, highlighting the challenges and best practices associated with delivering effective health care. The knowledge she ac-

quired during this programme, prepared her to develop and implement strategies that enhance health outcomes and optimize service delivery in clinical settings. Additionally, Dr. Sefolosa pursued various certifications, including courses on family planning, HIV and antiretroviral treatment.

In 2008, TUT underwent organisational restructuring, leading to Dr. Annah Sefolosa's appointment as Head of the Department (HOD) in the Directorate of Health and Wellness under the Division of Student Affairs. She held this position until 2020, when she was promoted to Director of the same Directorate, a role she continues to serve in today. As HOD, she oversaw strategic planning, quality improvement and the licensing of health centres in collaboration with the Department of Health. She was particularly passionate about developing extracurricular programs aimed at enhancing student well-being. Recognizing the importance of addressing students' diverse needs, she implemented initiatives promoting physical and mental health, prevention and management of gender-based violence (GBV) and social integration. She advocated for improvements to facilities at the Pretoria Campus and worked to create opportunities for students to undertake their Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) practicals within the Directorate.

In 2013, driven by a desire for deeper knowledge and personal development, she began her PhD in Nursing Science studies. Her commitment to continuous growth motivated her to take this important step. In 2015, TUT granted her study leave, supported by SANTRUST, allowing her a year of focused research. She completed her PhD in 2018, concentrating on promoting access to health care services inclusive of Sexual Minority LGBTQ+ groups. Her research highlighted the barriers faced by these communities and advocated for more equitable health care practices. In 2019, she published an article in the Journal of Homosexuality, further contributing to the discourse on LGBTQ+ health issues and solidifying her role as an advocate for inclusive health services.

When COVID-19 struck in 2020, Dr. Sefolosa became an instrumental member of the steering committee that assisted TUT in navigating the challenges posed by the pandemic. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, she collaborated with other university leaders to develop comprehensive safety protocols aimed at protecting the health and well-being of the campus community. She played a key role in educating both staff and students about these protocols, ensuring that everyone was informed about best practices for preventing the spread of the virus. She organised workshops, disseminated informational materials and utilized digital platforms to reach a wider audience, emphasizing the importance of hygiene, social distancing, vaccination and mental health support during this unprecedented time. In addition to education, she was actively involved in managing COVID-19 cases. This included coordinating testing to manage cluster outbreaks and contact tracing efforts, providing support for affected individuals and ensuring that appropriate measures were taken to isolate cases effectively. Her proactive approach helped to mitigate the spread of the virus within the university community. Recognizing the need for safe spaces during the pandemic, Dr. Sefolosa also arranged for isolation facilities outside the university, ensuring that students who tested positive had access to appropriate care while minimizing risk to others.

In July 2021, Dr. Sefolosa was appointed Acting Director of the Directorate of Wellness and in January 2022, she officially became the Director of the Directorate of Health and Wellness. In this role, she oversees all health and wellness activities aligned with the university's mission and vision, managing resources, funding and external partnerships while collaborating with relevant stakeholders and developing mem-

oranda of understanding (MOUs). Recognizing the critical need for improved facilities, she led the launch of a new health centre at the Arts Campus to enhance wellness services for students at both the Arts and Arcadia Campuses. Understanding that a well-equipped environment is essential for effective health promotion, she also advocated for upgrades to existing health centres to better serve the diverse needs of the student population. Her efforts included lobbying for the expansion of services and programmes, as well as additional resources for more comprehensive care, particularly the integration of digital health resources in response to the evolving healthcare landscape.

Through her advocacy and leadership, Dr. Sefolosa aims to create a holistic health environment that addresses medical needs while promoting overall well-being. Her vision for improved programmes and services has fostered a culture of wellness within the TUT community, encouraging students to engage in proactive health behaviours and seek support, ultimately contributing to their academic success and personal development.

Dr. Sefolosa is also actively involved in various committees and professional organisations, demonstrating her commitment to advancing health and wellness in both academic and community settings. She serves as the Chairperson of the Student Affairs and Extracurricular Development (SAED) Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) Committee, leading initiatives focused on ensuring a safe and healthy campus environment. Additionally, she is a member of several key committees, including the SHE Forum, the SAED Management Committee, the Institutional Health and Wellness Committee and the Employment Equity Transformation Committee.

Dr. Sefolosa's influence extends beyond the university; she is an external member of the National Health Organisation and serves on the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the South African Association for Campus Health Services (SAACHS), where she has been active for over 12 years. Additionally, she is a member of the Tshwane Metro AIDS District Health Council, contributing her expertise to public health initiatives in the region.

She also participates in the Gauteng Nursing Research Abstract Committee as an abstract committee member, where she reviews submissions and promotes quality research in nursing. Beyond her committee work, Dr. Sefolosa reviews articles for international journals, helping to ensure the integrity and quality of published research. Furthermore, she engages in postgraduate supervision, mentoring the next generation of health professionals and fostering their development in the field. Through these various roles, Dr. Sefolosa continues to make a significant impact on health education, policy and practice.

Her key message to the students is that they should prioritize their studies and not allow their backgrounds to dictate their futures.

She encourages students to be discerning about their peers, **choosing friendships that uplift and support** their academic goals while avoiding distractions.

She emphasizes the importance of **being true to oneself** and highlights the need to understand and maintain personal well-being.

By focusing on these principles, she believes students can navigate challenges and achieve their aspirations effectively.

The Journey of NTOMBI NDLOVU: From Soshanguve to Entrepreneurial Success

By: Sewela Seokotsa

Ntombi Ndlovu's story is one of resilience, determination and empowerment. Born in Soshanguve, Block NN, she is the second of nine siblings in a close-knit family that includes her sister, two younger brothers, a niece and her twin daughters.

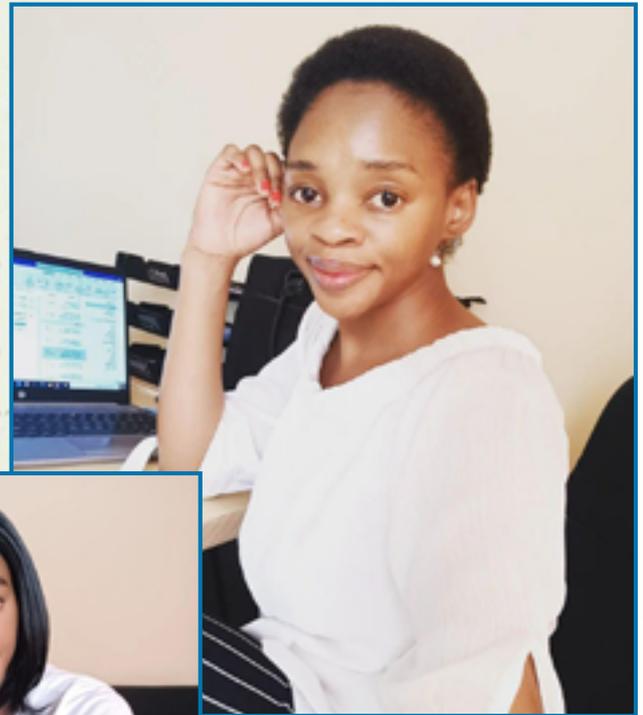
GROWING UP IN A MODEST ENVIRONMENT, Ndlovu attended Phakamonola Primary School and completed her secondary education at Botse Botse Senior Secondary School. Despite the financial challenges her family faced, her parents worked tirelessly to provide for them, instilling a sense of resilience that would shape Ndlovu's future. After completing her secondary school, Ndlovu pursued a National Diploma in Cost and Management Accounting, furthermore she studied a Bachelor of Technology. Though her initial passion was for law, she discovered a deep affinity for numbers and the clarity they bring to financial decisions. Currently, she is working on her CTA at the University of South Africa, steadily progressing towards her goal of becoming a Chartered Accountant.

One of the significant hurdles Ndlovu encountered was being the only female in her company during her South African Institute of Professional Accountant (SAIPA) articles. This unique position often led to differential treatment, compelling her to work twice as hard to demonstrate her capabilities. Nevertheless, her innate ability to work smart enabled her to navigate these challenges and excel in her role. Starting her articles at a small firm also forced her to quickly learn essential skills, such as preparing financial statements and ensuring compliance with business regulations, all of which played a crucial role in her career development.

In 2016, just a month after beginning her SAIPA articles, she took a bold step by registering her own company, Embarking Consulting (Pty) Ltd. Her entrepreneurial spirit had always driven her and she envisioned building a consulting firm that would empower others. This ambition became even more critical during the COVID-19 pandemic when many businesses struggled to stay afloat. Embarking Consulting emerged as a lifeline, helping numerous companies avoid bankruptcy and save countless jobs.

When the pandemic hit, Ndlovu and her sister both lost their jobs, prompting her to bring her sibling into the business. Together, they flourished and today, Embarking Consulting employs four individuals—two full-time and two part-time—who are all alumni of the Tshwane University of Technology. Ndlovu takes immense pride in inspiring her peers to start their own businesses, thereby contributing to the broader economic growth of their community.

Embarking Consulting specializes in various services, including bookkeeping, SARS compliance, CIPC services and labour relations. The firm aims to equip businesses with the tools needed for compliance and sustainable growth. Looking ahead, Ndlovu envisions a future where she owns multiple companies across different sectors, all contributing to South



Africa's economic landscape.

"I often say, Do not define me by my profession; I'm an entrepreneur," she asserts. Ndlovu's message is clear: with determination and hard work, anything is possible. She hopes to inspire young

black professionals, reminding them that their aspirations are within reach. "Black child, it is possible!"

Ndlovu's journey is a testament to the power of perseverance and her story serves as an inspiration to many aspiring entrepreneurs in South Africa, To Future Female Accountants,

"Our journeys may vary, but we share something powerful in common — we are women striving to make our mark. Never doubt your potential. Every achievement begins with a single idea and the fact that you are here means you are already on your way. Believe in yourself and know that you are capable of great things. As someone who has walked this path, I can tell you that challenges are part of the process, but so is your strength to overcome them. Do not look down on yourself or your abilities — you have what it takes to build and lead your own firm".

"Stay focused, stay determined and remember: every successful businesswoman started where you are today, with a vision and the courage to pursue it", she concluded.

A talented business women keeps community *fit & healthy*

By: Lindiwe Nkosi

A talented and brilliant 39 years old Thabiso Boshomane who hails from Soweto Meadowlands is a qualified Personal Trainer and Health Advisor. Boshomane is the youngest in her family and she lives with her older sister and mother.

“I **CONSIDER MYSELF BLESSED** and thank God everyday to have such a supportive family,” said Boshomane. *“It is hard starting a business and getting people to believe in me and my brand, but what motivates me is the love and support I get from my sisters”*, she added .

Boshomane matriculated in 2002 and studied IT programming in 2003 and 2004 with College Campus but was unable to finish her course due to financial difficulties. However, after many years of working in the corporate industry, she took a decision to follow her passion in sports and exercise. “I enrolled with ETA college and earned myself an Advance Personal Trainer Certificate level 5 in 2019. I am very passionate about education and expanding my knowledge and career. I plan to further my studies and learn more about fitness and sports industry,” said Boshomane.

She started her business in 2020 as a personal trainer and health advisor after she saw a gap in the market industry during covid pandemic period. *“Gyms were closed but more people still wanted help with their fitness goals,”* said Boshomane. She further added that this urged her to start boot camp session in her neighborhood, one on one session and online zoom consultation.

As personal trainers and health advisors they provide general information about supplements and health products. However, they are not licensed to prescribe health products or sell them. *“I still consider myself as a start-up entrepreneur, I have not officially launched and formalized my business, the financial and trust challenges are still a daily struggle,”* said Boshomane. She also added that her business has its ups and downs and a pick-up or increase only happens between September and early December. “People have summer goals and need my help and service the most”.

Every business has its challenges and obstacles that are faced daily. *“The challenges I face the most is the lack of commitment from clients, their unrealistic expectations such as weigh loss goals, nutrition plans and time management. Secondly, is the competition from other personal trainers that offer more variety of sessions. Lastly is pricing, some clients can be difficult and take up a lot of my time while providing little impact or money,”* Boshomane concluded.

“*what motivates me is the love and support I get from my sisters*”



The Directorate of Health and Wellness held its *prestigious awards to honor peer educators*

By: Lindiwe Nkosi

The Directorate of Health and Wellness provides primary medical health care services to students. The prestigious awards ceremony focuses on the peer education programme which is the Directorate of Health and Wellness initiative. The prestigious awards were held at Shai Shai Hills on the 2nd of November to honor and acknowledge peer educators. The awards ceremony was a success as students came in numbers to celebrate the most important event of the year.

PEER EDUCATION IS A STRATEGIC PROGRAMME whereby students who volunteer as peer educators are trained and motivated to carry out informal and organised educational activities. The programme further serves to extend access to health and wellness programmes to the students and accessible communities. "The main objectives of the Directorate of Health and Wellness is to offer and ensure that students acquire skills and knowledge on health and wellness issues," said Tendani Malange an HIV/AIDS programme coordinator health and wellness.

She further outlined "It also enables them to share the knowledge with fellow students, refer students experiencing challenges to the health and wellness center for support and assistance and lastly to promote behavior change amongst peers," said Malange.

Malange continued to state that the challenges they come across are the students who do not use the online/enabler self-booking system to make appointments for consultations. "The online booking is aimed at ensuring service delivery efficiency and convenience to the students".

The purpose of the event is to honor the students, their spirit of leadership and the spirit of volunteering. "We are here to celebrate your education in serving your fellow students and Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) at large," said Victoria Malatse the Head of Department (HOD) of the Directorate of Health and Wellness, Peer Educators are the heart of Directorate of Health and Wellness, without peer educators, half of what we have achieved this year was not going to be possible," said Malatse. She also added that peer educators are the bridge between them as the department and the students.

55 awards were given to students in honoring the work that they have done throughout the whole year. The 55 awards categories were as follows:

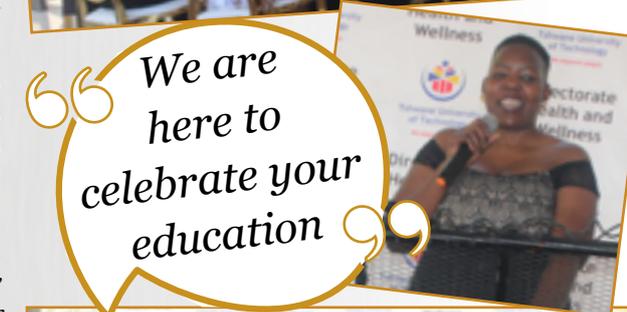
9 awards for educators committee members, **43** awards for peer educators and **3** awards for completing man to man programme.

A total of 43 students attended the event and honored the theme.

A 21-year-old Nomthandazo Nkambule who is an outgoing Chairperson and currently doing her third year in Financial Planning has obtained 2 awards. She obtained an award for a peer leader certificate as a chairperson and the peer educator's certificate.

Nkambule has faced challenges in her journey of being a student as well as a peer educator. "Finding a balance between being a leader and also being someone, the peer educators can relate without feeling scared to open up to me. As for my academics, the health and wellness pride itself on putting the academics first and that is how I was able to master my academics and overcoming challenges", said Nkambule.

She also encouraged students to take part in being peer educators and being student leaders. "Go ahead and join, I swear you will not regret it, it does not only help you be health wise, but you also gain friendship that will last you a lifetime," Nkambule concluded.



Newly Appointed Member of Mayoral Committee -TUT Alumni

By Duduzile Sindane

Vivian Kholofelo Morodi was born and raised in a loving family by her grandmother and mom, who always made sure she felt cherished and affirmed. Her early education journey took her to several schools, starting at Bafedi Primary School, Orange Grove Primary School, and Pietersburg Primary School. She then moved on to Capricorn High School and St Mark's College for her secondary education.

MORODI PURSUED HER TERTIARY EDUCATION with great enthusiasm *"I first enrolled at the People's University, Tshwane University of Technology, where I earned a B Tech Degree in Marketing. I chose this course because I was fascinated by the dynamics of consumer behaviour, the art of persuasive communication, and the strategic thinking involved in branding and advertising. Marketing felt like a natural fit for my interests and skills"*.

Later she expanded her academic horizons by studying for a BA PPE (Politics, Philosophy, and Economics) Degree at the University of South Africa (UNISA). The multidisciplinary course appealed to her because it provided a broader understanding of the societal, ethical, and economic issues that shape the world. *"I believed that a strong foundation in politics, philosophy, and economics would equip me with the analytical tools and critical thinking skills necessary to make a meaningful impact in various fields"*, said Morodi.

She further added that, *"overall, these courses have greatly influenced my perspective and prepared me for a career dedicated to making positive contributions to society. Life and studies presented me with several challenges that shaped my resilience and determination"*.

Morodi said that during her early years, moving between different schools was quite challenge. Adapting to new environments and making new friends while keeping up with her studies required a lot of flexibility and courage. However, these experiences taught her the value of adaptability and the importance of building strong support systems.

"At university, balancing academic demands with personal responsibilities was a significant challenge. Studying for my B Tech degree in Marketing and my BA PPE (Politics, Philosophy, and Economics) required intense focus and time management. There were times when juggling coursework, exams, and personal life felt overwhelming. But these challenges taught me the importance of perseverance, discipline, and effective time management", added Morodi.

She further mentioned that financial constraints were a recurring challenge. Pursuing higher education can be expensive, and there were moments when securing funding for her studies was difficult. However, the experiences made her more resourceful and determined to succeed despite the odds.

"Overall, these challenges, though tough, were instrumental in shaping my character and instilling a sense of determination and resilience that continues to drive me forward", said Morodi.

"My daily motivation is deeply rooted in the love and values instilled by my family. My granny inspires me to always work hard, be self-reliant, and give unconditional love. My children, with their pure love and honesty, remind me of the importance of staying true to myself and them. My brother's meticulous nature pushes me to be detail-oriented and strive for excellence in everything I do. Lastly, my mom's



ability to accept reality and remain positive, no matter the circumstances, guides me to approach life with grace and optimism", she added.

She became a member of the Mayoral Committee through a combination of dedication and recognition of her efforts. Morodi was appointed by Mayor Dr. Nasiphi Moyà, which was a significant honour for her. Prior to this, she served as a member of the Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC), where she worked diligently to improve financial oversight and accountability. *"My efforts in reducing unauthorized, irregular, fruitless, and Wasteful Expenditure (UIFW) were recognized, and I was awarded by the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) for these achievements. This recognition and my commitment to service delivery paved the way for my appointment to the Mayoral Committee"*, said Morodi.

Morodi believes that being elected was an incredibly humbling and exhilarating experience. She further mentioned that it felt like a culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and commitment to serving her community.

The support and trust from her peers and the community reinforced her determination to work tirelessly towards their shared goals. It was a moment of immense gratitude and a reminder of the importance of staying true to the values and principles that guide her work.

Looking ahead, Morodi's future plans are to continue serving the residents of Tshwane with dedication and passion. She aim to contribute to building South Africa into a true democracy that benefits all its people. By focusing on enhancing service delivery, fostering community engagement, and promoting sustainable development, she hopes to play a significant role in the country's progress.

"I am committed to supporting educational initiatives, empowering individuals, and advocating for improved healthcare and well-being. My ultimate goal is to help South Africa thrive and ensure that every resident of Tshwane feels valued, heard, and supported", added Morodi.

Morodi advised people who are looking up to her *"Work hard and stay dedicated to your goals. Do not let negativity or doubt weigh you down. Trust yourself and your abilities—you have the strength and potential to achieve amazing things. Stay focused, surround yourself with positive influences, and keep moving forward. Your perseverance and self-belief will pave the way for your success."*

"Remember, the journey may be tough at times, but every challenge you overcome will make you stronger and more resilient. Keep pushing forward and never lose sight of your dreams", concluded Morodi.

SGLD Annual Leadership Awards

By Duduzile Sindane

Student Governance and Leadership Development (SGLD) hosted its annual leadership awards at Joyville Animal Farm on the 1st of November 2024. The purpose of the awards was to show appreciation to students who worked hard and tirelessly in serving within the directorate.

THE SGLD Ga-Rankuwa and Mbombela Campus Head of Department (HOD) Philani Hlatshway welcomed everyone who was present and congratulated the awardees. Hlatshway continued to encourage the students to continue with the good work that they have done, also emphasized the issue of taking their academics seriously.

Leadership awards were awarded to students who participated in the SGLD mentorship, student leaders, top programs, peer facilitators, political structures, volunteers and TUT Journal WIL Candidates.

Every year SGLD recruits first year students to be ambassadors, on the mentorship program. Those who were ambassadors' previous year become mentors and the mentors become senior mentors. The three divisions perform different duties within the directorate from the beginning of the year till the end. Student leaders, structures, WIL Candidates, top programs and the structures play their vital role every year as well.

The SGLD then saw a need that every year they must show appreciation for the work that they have done. They showed their appreciation by giving them excellent awards. The awards had different categories because they all participated in different duties. Part of the categories for 2024 were: Political Organisation of The Year, Academic Organisation of The Year, Promising Organisation of The Year, Most Active Campus Student Representative Council (CSRC) Member, Most Dedicated CSRC member and Top achiever in the CSRC.

Under the top programs categories were: Most Committed Top Junior, Most Developed Top Junior, Most Creative Top Junior and Most Resourceful Top Junior. Under the top junior groups categories were: Most Outstanding Group and Most Resourceful Group. Peer Facilitator Categories was the Most Outstanding Peer Facilitator and The



Volunteer Was Most Committed Volunteer.

WIL Candidates (Journalist) categories were, Most Dedicated Journalist, Most Outstanding, Most Improved, Most Resourceful and Top Academic Achiever. The Mentorship Categories are as Follows: Most Committed, Most Resourceful, Most Improved Senior Mentor and Most Developed Mentor.

Athule Rharha who has completed her Work Integrated Learning with TUT Journal within the SGLD, was awarded three awards under the categories: Most Committed Journalist, Most Outstanding Journalist and the Top Achiever Journalist. *"I am truly humbled and grateful to receive the awards, I did not expect them. I am thankful to the university and the award committee for recognizing my hard work and passion for storytelling"*, said Rharha.

She further mentioned that awards are not just a recognition of her efforts, but also a testament to the support and guidance she

had received from her mentors and the editor. *"I am inspired to continue striving for excellence in journalism and to make a positive impact through my work. I thought the invitation was for me to just come cover the story as usual, little did I know my hard work is being recognized"*, concluded Rharha.

Other categories that formed part were: The Student Driver, Best Donor, Student Faculty Council (SFC) of the year and overall performer. The SFC of the year was awarded to Siyabonga Mncube who is the former SFC Chairperson of Faculty of Economics and Finance, he also obtained award of the SFC certificate and Student Leader of The Year.

"I am grateful that someone was watching the extra work that I put in during the year, I am humbled. As for the additional 3 certificates, I was awarded on the day that caught me off guard and by surprise. The awards are confirmation of the long nights and sacrifices that I have made in the last 12 months. This is a huge acknowledgment to my fellow council members both SRC and SFC it was a teamwork I could not have done it without them", said Mncube.

Blessing Keamogetwe Ndlovu is the student who obtained the overall performer award which is called HOD's awards. *"Receiving recognition was a truly humbling experience. It reminded me of the value of hard work, dedication and the incredible support of those around me. Moments like these inspire me to keep striving for excellence and to continue making a positive impact. I am especially grateful to the Economics Excellence Association and its committee for their unwavering commitment and teamwork. Their efforts have been instrumental in driving the success of our initiatives and this acknowledgment is as much theirs as it is mine"*, said Ndlovu.





Student Governance and Leadership Development
Tshwane University of Technology
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