



# REPUBLIC

Soshanguve Campus Magazine

Vol 1 Issue 2 2024



Tshwane University  
of Technology

*We empower people*

**20**  
YEARS  
2004-2024

#fromGood2Great

# Table of Contents

• Meet the Editorial Team.....	<b>1</b>
• 20 years of excellence celebrated at Soshanguve Campuses.....	<b>2</b>
• Dr Maria Mushaathoni heads up Journalism and Integrated Communication.....	<b>3</b>
• From ashes to hope, burnt home renovated in honour of 67 minutes of Mandela Day .....	<b>4</b>
• Accommodation, Residence Life and Catering hosts colourful Cultural Day.....	<b>5</b>
• Planting seeds of hope and change with Arifarane .....	<b>6</b>
• Unfiltered Reproductive Health: Embracing Transparency.....	<b>7</b>
• Student leadership elections, a turning point in student representation.....	<b>8</b>
• Fostering fitness and friendships during Soshanguve Sport Day .....	<b>9</b>
• CUCSA Games celebrate unity and sportsmanship across Southern Africa.....	<b>10</b>
• TUT hosts disability awareness to celebrate resilience.....	<b>11</b>
• Shaping TUT's Future: A visionary leader in action.....	<b>12</b>
• Department of Public Management recognises students' Academic Excellence .....	<b>13</b>
• DED hosts annual choir championship competition .....	<b>14</b>
• Mbalenhle Zuma wins 2024 Basadi Entertainment Journalist of the Year .....	<b>15</b>
• TUT Matsatsantsa Ladies FC athlete's journey is fuelled by passion.....	<b>16</b>
• TUT celebrates linguistic diversity.....	<b>17</b>
• Human Language Technologies workshop transforms language learning .....	<b>18</b>
• Men and masculinity redefined at innovative gathering .....	<b>19</b>
• Motsepe Foundation Youth-Tech Expo empowers students and inspires futures.....	<b>20</b>
• Honouring resilience by commemorating Women's Day with powerful insights.....	<b>21</b>
• TUT FM celebrates 30 years of excellence in broadcasting .....	<b>22</b>
• SWiP training empowers future translators.....	<b>23</b>
• Finding balance between academic goals and a fitness regimen .....	<b>24</b>
• HEDSA Gauteng chairperson, a trailblazing advocate for inclusive education.....	<b>25</b>
• TUT Career Expo connects students with influential corporation .....	<b>26</b>

# Meet the Editorial Team



**Dr Etienne van Wyk,**  
The Interim Campus Rector



**Monono Kgothatso Rapudi**  
Editor in Chief



**Unathi Nonjola**  
Student Journalist



**Precious Mkhize**  
Student Journalist



**Emanuel Makhurupetji**  
Soshanguve Campus President  
**Contact details:** +27 (71) 825-0090  
**Email:** Makhurupetji.E@tut.ac.za  
**Office:** Building 3, Boardroom



**Tadiwanashe Songore**  
Faculty of Information and Communication  
Technology (ICT) Chairperson  
**Contact details:** +27 (62) 962-2755  
**Email:** Songore.tb@tut.ac.za  
**Office:** B12-234



**Tyron Marhungani**  
Faculty of Humanities Chairperson  
**Contact details:** 072 270 7057  
**Email:** MarhunganiTN@tut.ac.za

## ONE REPUBLIC - Soshanguve Campus Magazine

- **Interim Campus Rector:** Etienne van Wyk
- **Overseer:** Rebone Molefe
- **Language editor:** Willa de Ryter Kaempffer
- **Editor in Chief:** Kgothatso Rapudi Monono
- **Journalists:**
  - Unathi Nonjola
  - Precious Mkhize
- **Layout and Design:**
  - TUT Printing Services

# 20 years of *excellence celebrated* at Soshanguve Campuses

By Kgothatso Monono

The Soshanguve Campuses marked TUT's significant milestone, 20 years of academic excellence and community engagement with a vibrant celebration that brought together students and staff in a day filled with fun, camaraderie and nostalgia.

**E**ncouraging staff and students to lace up their sneakers and hit the scenic paths around the campus, the anniversary celebration kicked off with a lively fun walk. In addition to promoting health and fitness, the walk also fostered a sense of community as participants joined together, sharing laughter and stories from their time at TUT.

After the fun walk, the event transitioned into a series of traditional indigenous games, which provided a wonderful opportunity for everyone to reconnect with their cultural heritage and celebrate TUT's rich cultural diversity. These games, steeped in tradition, showcased the importance of teamwork and friendly competition, creating an atmosphere of joy and engagement. Participants eagerly participated in tug-of-war, morabaraba and more.

The much-anticipated soccer match between staff members and students was undoubtedly the highlight of the day. With friendly rivalry in the air, teams took to the field, showcasing not only athletic skills but also the spirit of unity and support that defines the TUT community. Spectators gathered to cheer, creating a lively and festive atmosphere that echoed across the campus.

Ending in a dramatic tie, the match symbolised the balance between education and recreation that TUT strives to maintain. Whether on the field or in the stands, everyone shared in the excitement and camaraderie that

only sport can bring.

As the sun set over the Soshanguve Campuses, the celebration concluded with reflections on the past two decades of TUT's journey and envisioning the future. With new initiatives on the horizon, TUT aims to continue fostering an inclusive and innovative environment that empowers students to reach their full potential.

As TUT's Soshanguve Campuses celebrate this landmark anniversary, the day's energy and enthusiasm is a testament to the vibrant community that continues to thrive within the walls.

With a commitment to education, culture, and community, TUT stands poised to embrace the challenges and opportunities of the next 20 years, ensuring that its legacy of excellence endures for generations to come. 🌟



# Dr Maria Mushaathoni

## heads up Journalism and Integrated Communication

By Kgothatso Monono

**D**r Maria Mushaathoni, a well-established educator and researcher, has been appointed Head of the Department of Journalism and Integrated Communication with effect 1 August 2024.

Growing up in Diepkloof, Soweto, Johannesburg, she completed her high school education at Shayandima Secondary School in Limpopo. With more than 20 years of teaching experience at various higher education institutions, she has built a strong academic background in communication theory, intercultural communication and organisational communication.

Dr Mushaathoni's vision for the department aligns with the University's core objectives, which include impactful research, innovation, future-ready students, digital transformation and operational excellence. She emphasises the need to connect these broad goals with departmental activities.

"All our endeavours must be aimed at assisting the University in working towards achieving its strategic intent." My leadership approach is focused on ensuring that every step taken within the department contributes meaningfully to TUT's success," she said.

Having a united and supportive team is central to her strategy. Dr Mushaathoni acknowledges the importance of collaboration both within the department and with industry professionals.

She highlighted that "having a united team and solid relationships with industry professionals and organisations are the opportunities we will collectively seize to address challenges that may arise. My aim is to move the department "from good to great" by fostering these vital connections."

She is also passionate about ensuring that the curriculum stays relevant to the evolving demands of the job market. Dr Mushaathoni touched the importance of preparing students for the future, saying, "Our students are expected to attain specific competencies to navigate several uncertainties of the ever-changing journalism and communication job markets."

Dr Mushaathoni places a high value on collaboration among faculty members, which she believes leads to a more positive and productive department culture. "When people work together and feel connected, they become happier, and this leads to better work and more satisfied staff and students alike. As Head of the Department, I am committed to fostering a supportive environment where staff can thrive and work towards common goals," she added.

In addition to her focus on teaching, Dr Mushaathoni is dedicated to advancing impactful research. She believes that research should not only contribute to academia but also have a broader societal impact.

Diversity and inclusion are key to Dr Mushaathoni's leadership style. She believes that fostering a cohesive team is essential for achieving departmental success. A highly cohesive team is likely to be more committed to departmental goals and activities. By embracing inclusivity, she aims to create an environment where all members feel valued and work together toward shared objectives.

Her connection with alumni and the community plays an important role in her vision for the department. She plans to maintain ongoing engagement with alumni, recognising their contributions as essential to shaping the future direction of the department.

Reflecting on her role as Head of Department, Dr Mushaathoni affirmed her commitment to making a lasting impact. "I look forward to contributing to excellent decision-making, empowering colleagues, fostering team cohesion, as well as motivating and inspiring members of my team to achieve more for the benefit of students and staff alike." 🌟



When people work together and feel connected, they become happier, and this leads to better work and more satisfied staff and students alike. As Head of the Department, I am committed to fostering a supportive environment where staff can thrive and work towards common goals,



# From ashes to hope,

## burnt home renovated in honour of 67 minutes of Mandela Day

By Unathi Nonjola

In celebration of Nelson Mandela's legacy, teams from Student Affairs and Extracurricular Development (SAED), Accommodation, Residence, Life and Catering (ARLC) and student mentors embarked on a community service project to give hope and return dignity to a family in Soshanguve Block L. Inspired by Mandela's 67 minutes of service, the project involved the renovation of a house that had suffered significant fire damage.

TUT mentors and students dedicated their 67 minutes to fixing the burnt house. Working together, they divided into teams to handle various tasks including cleaning, painting and repairing damaged walls. Despite the challenges the project posed, their enthusiasm and teamwork were evident as they worked towards a common goal.

The grateful homeowner, Themba Mudawu, said: "In June 2020, I went to bed without blowing the candle out. I was soon awakened by smoke, and I struggled to breathe. Thankfully, my brother arrived just in time to help. I am truly grateful that the students and mentors chose to renovate my home in honour of Nelson Mandela's birthday. They also cleaned the yard, washed dishes and did so much more. I am really happy and thankful to everyone who assisted in fixing my home."

In addition to painting the walls, the floors were cleaned, furniture repaired, and broken windows replaced. The students and mentors' efforts improved the family's living conditions, while symbolising unity and community spirit. Working together, they forged strong connections and gained valuable insights into teamwork, empathy and social responsibility.

Tshepang Manyesa, Student Development Practitioner, said: "The specific project to repair the burned house, is part of the Security Sector Education and Training (SASSETA) initiative at the Soshanguve South campus. In a collective effort to contribute to the family's well-being, the different directorates worked together to make the family home liveable again."

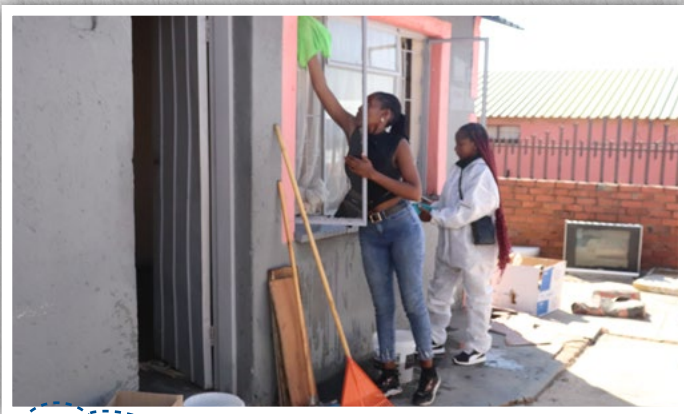


From left, Themba Modawe (House Owner), Precious Nyembezi (ARLC), Tshepang Manyesa (SGLD), Lloyd Moshoeshe (ARLC)

In honouring Mandela's legacy, the participants demonstrated that even small acts of kindness, performed with passion and purpose, can have a profound impact. Upon completion of the project, they left behind a house that was safe and welcoming as well as a testament to the power of community service.

"It was extremely rewarding to help with the renovations. As part of the Residence Committee, I am committed to support students in need. This year, I made it a priority to contribute fully to this meaningful 67-minute community outreach effort," Xikhongelo Austine Mongwe, Chairperson of the SOSH 5 Residence reflected.

The true beneficiaries of this project were not just the family who received a renovated home, but also the students who gained a deeper understanding of the significance of community service and social responsibility. 🌟



Students cleaning the windows of the house



Students collecting rubbish

It was extremely rewarding to help with the renovations. As part of the Residence Committee, I am committed to support students in need. This year, I made it a priority to contribute fully to this meaningful 67-minute community outreach effort.

Xikhongelo Austine Mongwe, Chairperson of the SOSH 5 Residence

# Accommodation, Residence Life and Catering HOSTS COLOURFUL CULTURAL DAY

By Kgothatso Monono

**H**onouring Heritage Day, the Soshanguve Campuses came alive on 28 September 2024 with the sound, colour and flavours of diverse cultures during its Cultural Day celebration, organised by Accommodation, Residence Life and Catering (ARLC). The lively event displayed the University community's rich cultural heritage, while fostering unity and appreciation among students.

Nine residences, Sosh 1, Sosh 2, Sosh 3, Sosh 4, Sosh 5, Student town, TCE 1, TCE 2 and Telkom participated in the event, each representing a unique cultural background. Various tribes including Pedi, Zulu, Ndebele, Swati, Tsonga, Venda, Sotho, Tswana, and Afrikaners were represented

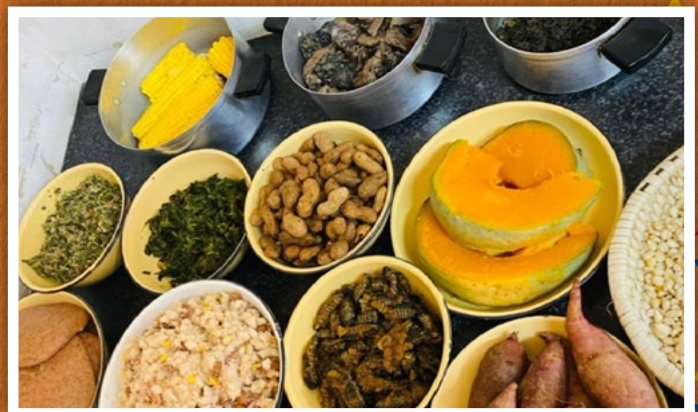
The air buzzed with excitement as students adorned themselves in traditional attire, proudly displaying their heritage. From vibrant fabrics to intricate jewellery, their attire reflected the beauty and diversity of the cultures represented.

The array of scrumptious dishes was another highlight of the day, with each residence offering traditional food that tantalized the taste buds. Judges could sample a variety of flavours, from savoury stews to sweet desserts, providing a culinary journey around the world. The food stalls not only satisfied hunger but also celebrated the culinary traditions of each culture, creating a rich sensory experience.

The event featured lively, captivating dance performances, with each residence performing traditional dances and telling their stories through movement and rhythm. The infectious energy on stage drew enthusiastic applause from spectators, encouraging many to join in the celebration.

To add a competitive spirit to the festivities, residences received awards in various categories including the best cultural attire, the most delicious food, the most engaging dance performance and the best decorations. This recognition contributed to the spirit of camaraderie and pride among the participants, motivating them to showcase their cultures in creative and meaningful ways.

Through shared experiences, participants learned about each other's traditions, fostering mutual respect and understanding. Attendees left with a sense of pride in their heritage and a deeper appreciation for the diversity that enriches the TUT community. 🌍



# Planting seeds of *hope and change* with Arifarane

By Kgothatso Monono

**T**he spirit of innovation and community thrives at TUT's Soshanguve Campuses, thanks to a remarkable student, Elvis Malemela, third-year IT student, academic mentor and the founder and chairperson of Arifarane.

Arifarane, which translates to "growing together," embodies a mission that transcends the university campus. Under the mentorship of Mr Daniel Ramokgadi, Elvis and his fellow ICT students are tackling poverty through the power of sustainable food production.

Elvis, together with his committee members, namely: Zwavudi Ramabulana, Gomolemo Dikutle and Motea Magoro are not just cultivating crops; he is cultivating hope, empowerment and a vision for a sustainable future.

Their guiding philosophy is simple yet profound: "Give a person a dollar and they eat for a day; teach them to make a dollar and they eat for life." This mantra drives their initiative, encouraging students to reap the benefits of the vegetables grown in the campus garden while inspiring them to start their own gardens at home and within their communities.

The impact of Arifarane extends well beyond the campus. Through community outreach initiatives, the organisation provides nutritious meals to homeless and disadvantaged people in the Soshanguve area. In addition to feeding those in need, Elvis and his team foster a sense of community, bridging gaps and sparking conversations about food security and self-sufficiency. They also organise food drives, engaging local schools and residents, which solidifies their commitment to uplifting those around them.

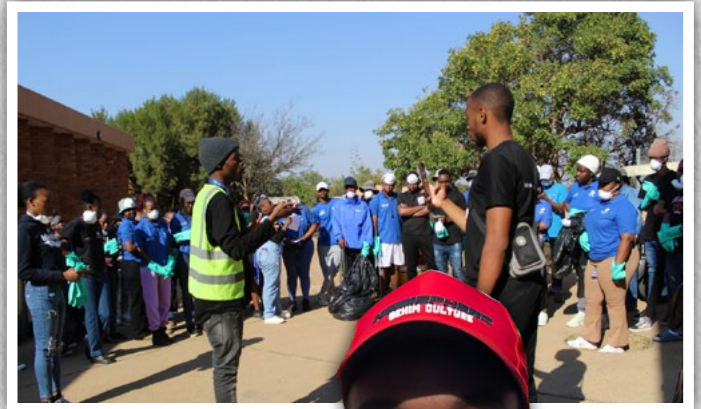
Elvis's vision does not stop with feeding the hungry. There is also "Code Zero: Think Before You Trash" campaign, in which Arifarane collaborated with Accommodation Residence Life and Catering (ARLC) and the Landscape Department to clean up campus residences. This initiative not only beautifies the environment but also cultivates a sense

of responsibility among students, reminding everyone that we share a collective duty to care for our surroundings.

Looking to the future, Arifarane is poised to take on a new challenge: integrating technology into agriculture. Elvis envisions blending traditional gardening techniques with cutting-edge innovations, exploring smart farming practices that can boost productivity and empowering students. This forward-thinking approach aims to equip students with essential skills for the evolving agricultural landscape, ensuring they are ready for whatever the future holds.

Elvis Malemela's leadership in Arifarane is a shining example of how student-driven initiatives can make a significant impact. By combining compassion with action, he and his peers are addressing immediate needs while fostering a culture of sustainability and community empowerment.

As he continues to navigate his academic journey, Elvis embodies the spirit of change, proving that with creativity, collaboration and a heart for service, students can plant the seeds of transformation, nurturing not just their own futures, but the futures of their communities as well. 🌱



“Give a person a dollar and they eat for a day; teach them to make a dollar and they eat for life.”



# UNFILTERED REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH: Embracing Transparency

By Unathi Nonjola

On Thursday, 14 August 2024, the Tshwane University of Technology's (TUT) Directorate of Health and Wellness, in partnership with Tshwane District Health and Blitz, spearheaded a pioneering event, Unfiltered Reproductive Health, to foster openness and education around reproductive health among students at the Soshanguve South Campus.

'Wrapped in Pleasure, Wrapped in Safety' was a comprehensive effort to educate students on safe sex practices and the importance of regular testing for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV.

Focusing on transparency and accessibility, several key organizations contributed to the day's activities. Right to Care provided insights into voluntary male circumcision, while WITS RHI offered information on HIV-related services, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

"The primary goal of this initiative is to reach as many students as possible. We collaborate with Blitz because their services are youth-friendly and we also use peer educators to spread the word about health events across campus. We mobilise peers to inform students, as well as create and post posters in hotspot areas," explained Sister Betty Mkhabela, a Nurse at TUT's Soshanguve South campus.

The event featured a range of services, including HIV counselling and testing (HCT), family planning advice, oral contraceptives, breast examinations, STI screening and treatment, as well as providing PrEP and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP).

Caroline Nxumalo, Nurse leader from the Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute (Wits RHI), highlighted the importance of such events: "Today we are here to conduct HIV testing, provide PrEP and educate students about safe sex practices. It is crucial for students to also educate themselves about reproductive health by reading and staying informed."

The main purpose of Unfiltered Reproductive Health was to create a welcoming environment for students to engage in their health and cultivate a generation that is both well-educated, able to take charge of their reproductive well-being and are free from illness.

"The most important aspect of reproductive health education is understanding the consequences of neglecting it. Regular check-ups and understanding your body are essential. We can enhance reproductive health education by getting young people to understand the importance of being aware of how your body functions," Dimpho Kgolane, Peer Educator, said.



Carol Nxumalo-WITS RHI Nurse



Health and Wellness Peer Educators

The impact of embracing unfiltered conversations around reproductive health is profound. It empowers individuals as well as contribute to a healthier, more informed community. As we continue to break down the barriers of silence and stigma surrounding reproductive health, we pave the way for improved public health outcomes and greater autonomy for all. 🌟



TUT's Unfiltered Reproductive Health event proves the power of open dialogue and education in shaping a healthier, more informed society. Prioritising these conversations is key to fostering a foundation of well-being, autonomy and community health.

# Student leadership elections, a turning point in student representation

By Unathi Nonjola



A manifesto debate hosted by Student Governance and Leadership Development (SGLD) bringing Soshanguve Campus Student Representative Council (CSRC) and Students Faculty Council (SFC) to talk to students, assisted in creating an outline for student organisations who were contesting in the 2024/25 CSRC and SFC elections.

As the Soshanguve Campuses geared up for the Campus Student Representative Council (CSRC) and Students Faculty Council (SFC) 2024/2025 manifesto, the campus was buzzing with discussions, debates and deliberations. Candidates from diverse backgrounds and different parties lobbied energetically as the upcoming elections promised to be vital for student governance and representation.

According to Tshepang Manyesa, Student Development practitioner, the manifesto provided a platform for student structures to sell their strategies and ideas to the students as to why they should vote for them.

A growing awareness of pressing issues affecting campus life, sparked participation in the manifesto, which was not only about choosing representatives, it also presented an opportunity for students to voice their concerns on these critical matters including mental health resources, campus safety, academic integrity, inclusion and sustainability.

As with any election, endorsements play a significant role. Prominent student parties and influential campus figures expressed their support for specific candidates, adding an extra layer of complexity to the debate.

The Campus Student Representative Council (CSRC) and Students Faculty Council (SFC) election 2024/2025 shaped up to be a transformative event in campus life. With increased engagement from the student body and pressing issues at the forefront, the elections could redefine student governance for years to come. As candidates prepared to take the stand, one thing was clear: the voices of students will play an important role in shaping the future. 🌐



# Fostering fitness and friendships during **Soshanguve Sport Day**

By Unathi Nonjola

On a sunny day, filled with anticipation, TUT's Soshanguve South Campus transformed into a hub of activity during its annual Sport Day on 21 September 2024. Organised by Accommodation, Residence Life, and Catering (ARLC), the event offered students an opportunity to display their athletic skills and have fun together.

The day kicked off with students and mentors gathering in a spirited environment, ready to engage in a variety of sports, including soccer, basketball and athletics, alongside indigenous games that celebrated South Africa's rich cultural heritage. Excitement peaked as teams competed fiercely, demonstrating both skill and sportsmanship while cheering each other on.

Patson Sibanda, Head of the ARLC department at the Campus, emphasised the event's significance: "Sport Day offers students a platform to shine beyond academics. It encourages physical fitness and allows many to explore potential careers in sports, whether as athletes, coaches, or managers."

A key highlight of Sport Day is its commitment to unity and inclusivity. Teams were thoughtfully compiled, bringing together individuals from various backgrounds and disciplines. This approach fostered collaboration and showed that the true essence of sport lies in community spirit, not just competition.

The event culminated in a lively prize-giving ceremony, where exceptional performances and sportsmanship were celebrated. Trophies and medals were awarded not only for athletic achievement but also for embodying teamwork and positivity. Special awards recognised individuals who displayed outstanding dedication and enthusiasm throughout the day.

In a vote of thanks, Austine Mongwe, Chairperson of Sosh 5 residence, said: "I am thankful to ARLC for hosting Sport Day. It was a fantastic opportunity for us to showcase our talents. I would like to encourage everyone to participate in such events and support one another."

Mathebula Ripfumelo, Chairperson of Telkom Residence, highlighted the impact of the event on their netball team, stating, "We had not played any matches this month, so this event was crucial for our preparation. It benefited both the team and all participating students." 🏆



CCT FC Team



Sosha 2 FC Team



Netball players in the field



Soccer players in the field



I am thankful to ARLC for hosting Sport Day. It was a fantastic opportunity for us to showcase our talents. I would like to encourage everyone to participate in such events and support one another.

Austine Mongwe, Chairperson of Sosh 5 residence



# CUCSA Games *celebrate unity and sportsmanship* across Southern Africa

By Unathi Nonjola

The 2024 Confederation of Universities and Colleges Sports Associations (CUCSA) Games, organised by University Sport South Africa (USSA) in collaboration with the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) and the City of Tshwane (CoT), marked the celebration of outstanding sportsmanship and camaraderie. The first of its kind in the 21st edition of the CUCSA Region V Games, this year's event brought together student athletes from various institutions across Southern Africa.

Held from 6 to 13 July 2024, the games featured a wide range of sports, including athletics, football, basketball, table tennis, volleyball and netball. The opening ceremony took place at TUT on 8 July 2024, while the closing ceremony was hosted by the University of Pretoria on 12 July 2024.

According to Elijah Ncube, Head of Sport and Recreation at the Soshanguve Campus, five national teams from Southern Africa

participated: Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Malawi. "The CUCSA Games not only highlighted the spirit of competition but also strengthened the bonds among universities in the region," he said.

Discussions on how to build on the successes of this year's games for future editions, have already commenced. Organisers expressed their commitment to making the CUCSA Games an annual celebration of athleticism, education and cross-cultural relations.

"The CUCSA Games inspired many student athletes to believe in their abilities and fostered good relationships among region five countries. It provided a fantastic platform for students to showcase their talents," said Makamu Khomanani, basketball player for TUT's Knight team.

Beyond the competitive events, the CUCSA Games highlighted the importance of health and wellness. Athletes and coaches could attend and reap the benefits of workshops on nutrition, mental health and injury prevention.

"Although Basketball is not yet a major career path in South Africa, the motivation I saw among participants after the tournament was incredible, with many reaching out for information about the team and training," Tshepo Matsie, the Knight Basketball team Coach, said about the challenges basketball players in South Africa face.

The CUCSA Games at TUT and UP offered 1022 student athletes a unique blend of competition, learning, and friendship. Participants left Pretoria not only with medals but also with lifelong memories and new connections that exemplify the true spirit of the CUCSA Games. South African teams excelled, earning top medals and showcasing their talent. The success of TUT's players, technical team, and staff contributed significantly to the event's achievements, laying a strong foundation for future sporting collaboration in the region. 🌟



Makamu Khomanani



The CUCSA Games not only highlighted the spirit of competition but also strengthened the bonds among universities in the region.

— Elijah Ncube, Head of Sport and Recreation at the Soshanguve Campus



# TUT hosts disability awareness to celebrate resilience

By Precious Mkhize

In a powerful display of unity and empowerment, the Disability Unit, in partnership with the Directorate of Health and Wellness, Student Development and Support (SDS) and TEED, hosted an enlightening disability awareness event at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT)'s Soshanguve Campus, marking 20 years of progress and challenges in the realm of disability rights.

The event aimed to celebrate the strengths, resilience and talents of individuals with disabilities, while honouring their contributions and achievements despite the obstacles they face.

Ivy Morulane, Disability Unit Coordinator, emphasised the importance of creating an inclusive environment. "It is crucial for each department at TUT to take responsibility for ensuring accessibility for all, whether disabled or not."

Attendees could enjoy inspiring performances by disabled students showcasing their unique musical talents. The Nzimande Chaos team shared their passion for music, reminding everyone of the incredible abilities that often lie just beneath the surface.

Eva Sebotsone, Deputy Chairperson of the Tshwane Albinism Task Force, shed light on the specific challenges individuals with albinism face. She spoke candidly about the sensitivity of their skin, especially during summer

and the importance of using sunscreen to prevent sunburn and skin cancer.

"Our eyes are also sensitive to sunlight, which is why we always wear spectacles to protect ourselves," she explained.

The event welcomed a diverse group of participants, which included disabled students and staff members, fostering a sense of community and support. It served as an important platform for disabled students to voice their concerns and aspirations for a more supportive campus environment. Students without disabilities also participated, showing solidarity and commitment to raising awareness for the often-overlooked community.

Cry Hopane, living with disabilities, spoke earnestly about how the lack of inclusivity has affected disabled students and staff members. "There is no progress or improvement in ensuring that facilities on this campus accommodate those using wheelchairs or who are blind. For many years we have been asking the University to take responsibility in ensuring access for everyone, despite their disabilities."

This disability awareness event was more than just a celebration; it was a call to action for TUT and its stakeholders to prioritise inclusivity and accessibility for all students and staff. By acknowledging the challenges individuals with disabilities face, TUT is paving the way for a more equitable and supportive educational environment. 🌟



Eva Sebotsone- Deputy Chairperson of Tshwane Albinism Task Force



Ivy Morulane- Disability Unit Coordinator



Students who attended the event

# Shaping TUT's Future: A visionary leader in action

By Kgothatso Monono

At TUT's Soshanguve Campuses, a passionate force for change is making waves. Meet Kenny Magolego, a dynamic member of the Campus Management Committee (CMC) whose journey is fuelled by ambition and perseverance. Hailing from Soshanguve, Kenny embodies the spirit of young leaders today, striving to make a meaningful impact on ca

**A**rmed with a Diploma in Office Management from the University of South Africa (UNISA) and currently pursuing a third-level Diploma in Contact Centre Management at TUT, his educational path has been rich with experiences that translate into valuable skills in campus management.

What sets Kenny apart is a remarkable talent for organisation. With a flair for planning events, managing schedules and coordinating activities, he is the driving force behind engaging experiences for students. "Organising events is my strongest point," he shares, reflecting a genuine passion for fostering community spirit.



Kenny Magolego

Among the numerous contributions to campus life, the successful sport day events stand out as a highlight. These gatherings showcase staff and student talents while also building lasting connections.

"Seeing staff members and students come together and enjoying these events is incredibly rewarding. I want to influence meaningful development at TUT and a clear vision that resonates with their commitment to growth," he said.

Looking to the future, this visionary leader has set ambitious goals, including the aspiration to become TUT's Vice-Chancellor, to empower young people and bring about positive changes within the institution.

Challenges are not unfamiliar to him. One notable experience involved tackling delayed responses from Technical Services. Rather than waiting, Kenny took a proactive approach, engaging directly with the team to enhance communication and collaboration.

"Establishing a solid working relationship has made a significant difference, emphasising the power of taking initiative. Open dialogue is essential, underscoring a commitment to inclusivity that permeates the leadership style," he noted.

Describing his leadership style as collaborative and inclusive, he fosters a sense of ownership among committee members, enhancing collective commitment.

Guided by the principles of transparency, accountability and inclusivity, Kenny's work on the Campus Management Committee exemplifies dedication to improving TUT for everyone. With a clear vision and unwavering determination, this leader is poised to play a crucial role in shaping TUT's future and inspiring the next generation of leaders. 🌟



Seeing staff members and students come together and enjoying these events is incredibly rewarding. I want to influence meaningful development at TUT and a clear vision that resonates with their commitment to growth.

Kenny Magolego



# Department of Public Management recognises students' Academic Excellence

By Precious Mkhize

The Department of Public Management celebrated the academic achievements of its students during an inspiring event, "And Still I Rise", held at the Soshanguve South Campus Student Center.

Revisiting a tradition of recognizing academic success that had not occurred for some time and moderated by Roni Modimela, the event attracted students, lecturers and notable figures from the campus community. Special guests included members of the House Committee, Nancy Sebola, Kabelo Maphosa, Amogelang Seboko as well as Tshepo Mhlala, Chairperson of the Public Management House Committee. The committee members were lauded for their commitment to student safety and community well-being.

Speaking on behalf of the House Committee, Tshepo Mhlala shared how valued the team felt at the event. "House Committee members and I believe that students need to be rewarded for their hard work and such recognition should be done more often. Those who did not make it, I would encourage them to keep trying and never give up."

The lecturers also played an important role in the celebration. Keynote speakers included Dr Caiphuus Maleka, Head of the Department, Mphihleni Magoro, Public Affairs Lecturer and a number of staff members

who had the honor of announcing the academic awards. Magoro emphasised the importance of celebrating student accomplishments and recognised Departmental staff for their joint effort to make the event a success.

"On behalf of the staff, we congratulate those who received awards and would like to remind everyone that education is a battle and so are your dreams," Magoro remarked.

A student who really moved the audience with her emotional response, Nomcebo Hlatshwayo, received third place. Overwhelmed by the recognition, Hlatshwayo shared how it was her first time being honored for her academic performance.

"I never thought I would be one of the top achievers. Consistency and support from my family were key to my success. I hope other students realise the importance of persistence. If I can do it, they can too." 🙌



Academic Excellence Awards attendees and recipients



Nomcebo Hlatshwayo- Academic Excellence Award Recipient



I never thought I would be one of the top achievers. Consistency and support from my family were key to my success. I hope other students realise the importance of persistence. If I can do it, they can too.

Nomcebo Hlatshwayo



DED hosts annual

# choir championship competition

By Unathi Nonjola

A variety of choirs in Soshanguve campuses convened at the Soshanguve South Campus on 13 September 2024, to participate in the choir competition hosted by the Directorate of Extracurricular Development. Setting the tone for the evening was an inspiring performance by the Madeira Acapellae Choir. As the competition progressed, each choir showcased their unique styles and hard work, impressing the audience with their singing.

Together Maebela, Project Manager for the Directorate, said: "It is great to see how much students enjoy our events. Our job is to support their academic success, and planning events like this motivates us to do our best. We had more than 500 students attending."

The Madeira Acapellae won first place for their creative mix of classical and modern music. Remedy SA took second place with a powerful performance that moved many in the audience to tears. The third prize went to the Association for Tertiary Zion Students (ATEZS), known for their vibrant harmonies and energy.

Vukani Buthelezi from ATEZS spoke about the challenges of preparing as defending champions: "It was tough this year because we had fewer members available for practice. Competing was a challenge, but it was also a rewarding experience."

Participants agreed that the competition was about more than just winning; it was a celebration of music, teamwork and dedication. Many expressed gratitude for the chance to connect with other music lovers and to grow as performers. In that manner, audience participation added to the fun, allowing attendees to vote for their favourite choir, making the event feel more like a community celebration.

Thandanani Thabede from Remedy SA shared, "The energy during our performance was amazing. It felt great to see our hard work pay off, and the support from everyone made it a memorable experience."

The choir competition provides a platform to demonstrate students' talent and creativity while promoting unity and artistic growth at the University. Events like this help to nurture and support the development of future artists and keep the University relevant in South Africa's cultural landscape. 🎵



Remedy SA Choir group



Association for Tertiary Zion Students (ATEZ) Choir group



# Mbalenhle Zuma Wins

## 2024 Basadi Entertainment Journalist of the Year

By Kgothatso Monono

In a dazzling celebration of talent and dedication, Mbalenhle Zuma, a proud TUT alumna, was honoured with the prestigious Basadi Music Awards Entertainment Journalist of the Year award on Sunday, 10 August 2024. This accolade not only highlights her remarkable career but also serves as a testament to her relentless pursuit of excellence in the world of entertainment journalism.

Hailing from the town of Cato Ridge in KwaZulu-Natal, Mbalenhle's journey from a budding journalist to a celebrated figure in the industry is nothing short of inspirational. Though she initially harboured a strong passion for broadcasting, Mbalenhle's decision to pivot towards writing has proven to be a game-changer. Her career began at Drum Magazine, where she undertook a variety of roles following her Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) period at Bua.

Reflecting on her early days, Zuma shared, "When I got an internship at Drum Magazine, I was told that I would do a bit of everything. My colleagues convinced me, and I also realised that entertainment news is consumed everywhere and there are a lot of stories to tell about people in different spaces."

Mbalenhle's commitment to crafting compelling entertainment stories soon caught the eye of Sunday World, where her insightful reporting has become a staple for readers. Despite the success, Mbalenhle confessed to being taken aback by her nomination for the Basadi Award.

"When I got the nominations, I was surprised because I did not know that people liked my work. I guess this was God's timing. Being nominated meant that someone out there likes and has been following my work," she said.

The competition was fierce and Mbalenhle revealed her awe when she discovered one of her competitors was a former mentor from Drum Magazine.

"I was shaken by the journalists I was up against. One of them was my previous mentor from Drum Magazine," she admitted.

In an industry increasingly challenged by the rise of bloggers, social media and citizen journalism, Mbalenhle remains steadfast in her belief in the value of accurate, fact-based reporting.

"As entertainment journalists, we face challenges because of the increase of bloggers and social media. But I believe that one day people will see that accurate factual stories are with entertainment journalists," she asserted.

Looking at the future, Mbalenhle is hopeful that this award will pave the way for new opportunities and growth.

"I hope this award will open other doors for me and give me opportunities for growth. I am trying something new, including lifestyle journalism. I

hope that in time I can become an editor because there are few female editors in the industry. I hope one day I can start my own thing like a podcast," she said.

As Mbalenhle Zuma continues to push boundaries and explore new horizons, her remarkable achievement at the 2024 Basadi Music Awards serves as a beacon of inspiration for journalists everywhere. 🌟



When I got the nominations, I was surprised because I did not know that people liked my work. I guess this was God's timing. Being nominated meant that someone out there likes and has been following my work.



# TUT Matsatsantsa Ladies FC athlete's journey is fuelled by passion

By Kgothatso Monono

In the busy streets of Mokopane, Limpopo, a young girl named Johanna "Akeelah" Ramanna discovered her passion for soccer. Inspired by playful afternoons spent kicking a ball with friends and learning from her skilled father, Akeelah's love for the game blossomed. Little did she know that these street football matches would set the stage for a remarkable journey.



At 23 years old, Akeelah is not just a student pursuing a Diploma in Informatics; she is also a determined athlete carving her name in women's soccer. Her first taste of glory came during an exciting match against Durban University of Technology (DUT) in her first year at varsity. Akeelah earned the 'Player of the Match' award, helping her team secure a spot in the top five. The feeling of victory fuelled her passion further.

But staying focused during high-stakes games is not always easy. Akeelah has her secret weapons: she remains present, communicates clearly with her teammates and keeps hydrated.

"Deep breaths help me manage stress, while my favourite drill, the Cone-Weave sharpens my dribbling and decision-making skills," she stated.

She approaches high-pressure situations with calmness, breaking downplays to find opportunities and encouraging her teammates to stay united. Before each game, she channels her energy by visualising scoring goals, doing dynamic warm-ups and blasting her favourite energetic tunes.

Among her inspirations is Thembi Kgatlana, a true pioneer in women's football. Akeelah admires Kgatlana's talent and dedication, which motivate her to chase her own dreams on the pitch. Her advice for young players is:

"Believe in yourself and never hesitate to pursue your passion. Hard work opens doors."

Akeelah highlighted that, "Balancing academics and athletics can be tough, but I have a powerful motivator: maintaining a minimum of 65% in my studies in order to play soccer. This drive keeps me focused and dedicated, both in the classroom and on the field."

Looking ahead, Akeelah is laser-focused on the upcoming season, setting her sights on leading TUT to victory in the Varsity Cup 2025. After finishing as runners-up in 2024, she's ready to learn from this year's challenges and come back stronger.

Reflecting on her Varsity Cup 2024 experience, she acknowledges the physical toll and mental pressure of daily games, especially after facing the University of the Western Cape in the finals. While the silver medal stung initially, it now serves as a reminder of her team's resilience and potential.

With renewed determination, Akeelah is not just playing soccer; she's making her mark. As she dribbles toward her dreams, one thing is clear: the journey is just beginning, and glory is within reach! 🏆



Believe in yourself and never hesitate to pursue your passion.  
Hard work opens doors.

Prof Khumalo

# TUT celebrates *linguistic diversity*

By Precious Mkhize

The South African Centre for Digital Language Resources (SADILAR), the Gauteng Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation together with the Pan South African Language Board (PANSALB) celebrated International Translation Day at TUT's Pretoria Campus on 16 September.

The event aimed to highlight the importance of translation and recognise the vital contributions that translators, interpreters and terminologists make in bridging linguistic divides and facilitating global communication.

Moderated by Matema Moremi, lecturer in Language Practice, the gathering featured distinguished keynote speakers, including Nozipho Ndala, Manager of the Limpopo Legislature; Juan Steyn, SADILAR's Director of Operations; and Prof Langa Khumalo, Executive Director of SADILAR.

Ndala addressed the challenges African languages face, particularly the lack of established terminology compared to languages like English and Afrikaans. "Today's event has been a fantastic initiative. I truly believe that hosting more events like this will enhance the global communication we strive for."

Students from the Humanities and Language Practice programmes actively engaged in discussions with the panel, gaining insights into the resources needed to become effective translators.

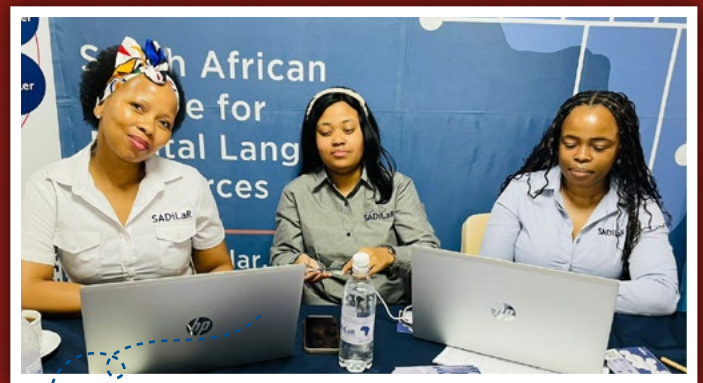
Khethiwe Moshego, Journalism student, thanked the organisers saying: "As an aspiring journalist, this event has been invaluable. It has shown me how to write effectively in languages other than my mother tongue. I believe we should celebrate our South African linguistic diversity much more."

Steyn provided insights into the higher education support SADILAR offers, highlighting the Digital Humanities Programme that aims to enhance research capacity by promoting the use of digital data and innovative methodologies within the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Prof Khumalo emphasised the importance of preparing for a future dominated by digitisation and innovation. "Your creativity will be driven by systems and it is essential to start thinking in that direction. Our languages must be supported by systems that prepare you for the future workforce."



Xolile Ntshangase - Applied Language Practice lecturer and Nozipho Ndala - Limpopo Legislature Manager



Association for Tertiary Zion Students (ATEZ) Choir group

SADILAR is here to provide you with the necessary resources and tools."

The event concluded with students and speakers engaging in open discussion and meaningful conversations about the significance of learning additional languages, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of linguistic diversity. 🌍



“Your creativity will be driven by systems and it is essential to start thinking in that direction. Our languages must be supported by systems that prepare you for the future workforce. SADILAR is here to provide you with the necessary resources and tools.”

Prof Khumalo

# HUMAN LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGIES

## workshop transforms language learning

By Precious Mkhize

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture in partnership with the Department of Applied Languages hosted an enriching Human Language Technologies Workshop at the Soshanguve South Campus in August 2024. The workshop, part of the Work Integrated Learning (WIL) programme, aimed at equipping third-year Language Practice students with essential skills for their future careers.

The workshop focused on making information accessible in various mother tongues and provided practical sessions on using translation tools for digital applications. Dr Sandra Rossouw, lecturer at the Department of Applied Languages, highlighted the initiative's goals. "We aim to train our students in OmegaT, a translation software, to gain a better understanding of the tools they will use in their careers. To ensure everyone received adequate attention, we divided the large group into two."

Thanks to the collaboration with industry partners, students also got a glimpse of the professional expectations they will face after graduation. Dr Rossouw noted, "All the students participating in this initiative will be graduating next year and we want to prepare them thoroughly for their future roles in the industry."

An excited Ripfumelo Mathebula, Language Practice student, said: "We have learned to use the OmegaT software for translations in our mother tongues. Many people do not understand English but can communicate in Tsonga or another language and I want to make sure different languages are accessible to everyone."

Despite some logistical hurdles, the organising team remained resilient. Petunia Lesele, Module Coordinator, shared her experience. "It was a challenge to find a venue that could accommodate both groups, but we adapted and changed locations. Being part of such an authentic and creative organising team made the event a remarkable success for both us and the students."

Opela Thole, Deputy Director for Human Language Technologies, emphasised the significance of the training: "Our department funds human language technologies, including Computer-Assisted Translation (CAT) systems. We were invited to provide this essential training to the third-year students, helping them understand what it takes to be a successful language practitioner."

Students gained valuable insights and hands-on experience in translation in preparation of their upcoming exams. The workshop enhanced their skills reinforced the importance of making language accessible to everyone, paving the way for their future careers in the field. 🌍



Opelo Thole - Deputy Director for Human Language Technologies DSAC



Petunia Lesele - WIL Module Coordinator and Dr Sandra Rossouw - Applied Languages Lecturer



Ripfumelo Mathebula - Applied Language practice student



Many people do not understand English but can communicate in Tsonga or another language and I want to make sure different languages are accessible to everyone.

Ripfumelo Mathebula, Language Practice student



# MEN AND MASCULINITY

## redefined at innovative gathering

By Unathi Nonjola

**T**UT's Soshanguve South Campus became a hub of introspection and dialogue during the Men and Masculinity Gathering hosted on 28 August 2024. This innovative event, organised by the Directorate of Student Development and Support (SDS), focused on the complexities of modern masculinity, especially emotional expression, respect for boundaries and the evolving role of men in contemporary society.

The day's proceedings began with a panel discussion featuring a wide range of professionals, including psychologists, educators and students. The panellists tackled the pressures that traditional masculinity norms impose on men, such as emotional stoicism, aggression and the reluctance to show vulnerability. Their insights illuminated how these entrenched norms can negatively affect mental health and interpersonal relationships.

"The purpose of the Men and Masculinity event is to create a platform for males to express themselves, acquire skills, and grow as individuals within the society. We are initiating this effort across various campuses to build awareness and establish support groups within student residences. Our goal is to provide ongoing support, information and resources that will aid in personal development and foster meaningful conversations," said Siyabonga Ntshangase, Psychologist at Student Development and Support (SDS) at the Ga-Rankuwa campus.

According to Ntshangase the initiative is just the beginning. The ultimate aim is to set up support groups that will provide a continuous space for men to discuss their challenges and seek guidance, thereby extending the dialogue beyond the event itself.

Following the panel discussion, attendees participated in smaller breakaway sessions designed to foster a deeper understanding of masculinity. These groups offered a safe space for participants to share their personal experiences and reflect on how cultural narratives have influenced their views on manhood.

Suprise Sekgobela, peer facilitator from Student Governance and Leadership Development (SGLD), reflected on the programme's impact. "The Men and Masculinity programme is highly recommended. It opened my eyes to important issues and provided a meaningful way to engage with others. The preparation and clarity of the discussions made the points raised especially impactful."

The gathering also featured interactive activities such as guided conversations on emotional expression, respecting boundaries and the importance of consent. Role-playing scenarios enabled participants to practice engaging in healthy dialogues and confront stereotypes in a supportive environment.

Dan Ramollo, Psychologist at SDS, Soshanguve South Campus, shared his thoughts on the event saying they aimed to engage at least 50 students that day. While the turnout was slightly less than anticipated, the level of participation and engagement exceeded their expectations.

"This pilot project is a stepping stone and we hope to expand it to more campuses next year, increasing both its scale and its impact," he shared. 🌟



Siyabonga Ntshangase - Psychologist SDS  
Ga-Rankuwa Campus



Suprise Sekgobela Peer Facilitator SGLD



Siyabonga Ntshangase - Psychologist SDS Ga-Rankuwa Campus and Dan Ramollo - Psychologist SDS Soshanguve Campus



The Men and Masculinity programme is highly recommended. It opened my eyes to important issues and provided a meaningful way to engage with others.



Suprise Sekgobela, Peer Facilitator

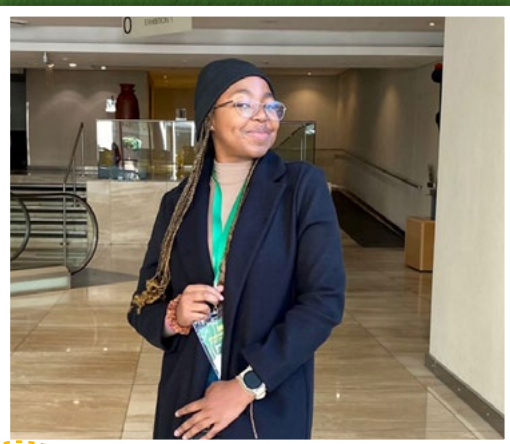
# Motsepe Foundation Youth-Tech Expo

## EMPOWERS STUDENTS AND INSPIRES FUTURES

By Precious Mkhize

Early in the second semester, the Motsepe Foundation hosted the highly anticipated Youth-Tech Expo at the Sandton Convention Centre. This inspiring event gathered students and recent graduates from various universities, offering them valuable insights into leveraging technology to overcome life's obstacles and unlock future opportunities.

Moderated by renowned sports anchor, Busisiwe Ngcobo, the expo featured an impressive lineup of speakers, including celebrated footballers Ronwen Williams, Bafana Bafana Captain, Neo Manyama, midfielder for Mamelodi Sundowns; and Terrence Mashego, defender for Mamelodi Sundowns. Each athlete shared personal stories of their journeys, highlighting the challenges they faced on their paths to success.



Nthabiseng Thongwana, Applied Language Practice student



From left, Arnold Nkuna-Integrated and Communications student, Phakisho Mehlaphe-Student Development Officer and Nthabiseng

Neo Manyama recounted the difficulties he encountered, including being ridiculed by coaches and peers for his height. He poignantly reflected on the rejection he felt when he did not make the Pirates team in grade nine, emphasizing the resilience required to pursue one's dreams.

Busisiwe Ngcobo resonated with Manyama's experiences, revealing her own struggles with rejection as a young teenager. She shared how her assertiveness often led others to dismiss her ambitions, illustrating the common thread of perseverance among the speakers and attendees alike.

Kholofelo Mokoena, Journalism student, expressed how profoundly the event impacted her. Inspired by Neo's story, she resolved to pursue her career in journalism despite facing belittlement from classmates regarding her appearance and comprehension skills.

Ronwen Williams emphasised the importance of having relatable role models. He advocated for aspiring individuals to seek mentors whose paths align with their own ambitions. Reflecting on his appointment as Bafana Bafana Captain, he described it as a transformative moment, one that propelled him to realise his potential when he committed himself fully to his goals.

Williams also highlighted the generational struggles many South Africans face and underscored the importance of providing future generations with access to opportunities through technology, especially as many job postings are now only found online.

The event proved to be a mutually enriching experience for the attendees and speakers, fostering a sense of connection and inspiration among the youth. In her closing remarks, Busisiwe Ngcobo led a prayer and encouraged graduates to value the internships available, reminding them that the journey to success often includes many rejections. 🙏



Patrick Motsepe-South African billionaire businessman and football administrator

Applying for internships can be stressful, especially with the likelihood of facing numerous rejections. However, the key is to remain persistent, there will always be a door waiting for you to open.

Busisiwe Ngcobo

# Honouring resilience by commemorating *Women's Day* with powerful insights

By Precious Mkhize

Behind every successful woman is a story waiting to be told. Three remarkable, empowered women shared their unique experiences, and the complexities experienced during their respective journeys with students at the Soshanguve South Campus on 14 August 2024 in celebration of Women's Day 2024.

**S**ibongile Nonyana, from Nonyana Campus Universal Access; Itumeleng Phiri, Senior Talent Acquisition Manager; and Tebogo Kgole an Advocate, delivered keynote addresses at the event hosted by Student Governance and Leadership Development (SGLD).

According to Sibongile Nonyana, the things that drove her to succeed was being a mother of two young children who still had to face the world, as well as realising her own dreams. According to her, listening to music was helpful as she got a chance to remind herself of the poorer circumstances she left at home.

Itumeleng Phiri, Senior Talent Acquisition Manager at Nedbank, revealed her story of perseverance and determination, highlighting the pivotal moments that shaped her remarkable journey.

Tebogo Kgole, an Advocate, offered insights towards the students who were affected by experiencing low self-esteem, motivated them to always put their trust in God who never fails. According to her, she did not think she would ever obtain a bursary because her aggregate mark was not a distinction, but she never gave up.

"I am a good writer, and I know how to convince people using my writing skills, so I wrote a motivational letter explaining how passionate I am, despite the marks I obtained that were definitely not impressive at all. By God's grace, I got the bursary and here I am today, an advocate who made it alive from the storm I was experiencing in finding a bursary and permanent job," Kgole shared.

Annah Malethebula, a Language Practice student who attended the event, said these speeches motivated and encouraged her to never give up on her dreams. "Giving up is never an option unless you have a second plan to change your life. These ladies inspired me more than anything. To be a strong woman is not child's play, it takes patience, faith and courage to make it through." 🙏



“ Giving up is never an option unless you have a second plan to change your life. These ladies inspired me more than anything. To be a strong woman is not child's play, it takes patience, faith and courage to make it through. ”

Tebogo Kgole, Advocate

# TUT FM celebrates 30 years of *excellence in broadcasting*

By Precious Mkhize

## TUT FM marks three decades of empowering students and delivering quality campus news

**T**UT FM 96.2, a South African University campus radio station based at TUT's Soshanguve South Campus, celebrated its 30th anniversary on 18 July 2024. For three decades, TUT FM has been a vital platform for students, providing a voice to the campus community and offering countless opportunities for aspiring broadcasters to hone their skills.

Since its founding in 1992, the station has played an important role in campus life by delivering accurate and timely news, offering entertainment and giving students the opportunity to share their stories. For the past 11 years, the station has been managed by Kedibone Mahapa, who took over in August 2013. Under her leadership, TUT FM has flourished, producing some of South Africa's top radio talent while maintaining its commitment to serving the TUT community.

One such success story is Oratile Kekana, now a news presenter at Capricorn FM. Reflecting on her journey, she credits TUT FM for shaping her career. In 2021, Kekana co-hosted the lunchtime show with Andiswa Zulu, an experience that taught her valuable lessons in scriptwriting and radio presenting. She emphasised the importance of TUT FM in her career, stating, "TUT FM deserves to be celebrated because many of us are products of the station. If it was not for TUT FM, I would not have made it this far. Station manager, Kedibone Mahapa, showed me and others the right direction to become the best radio presenters."

TUT FM's legacy is not only built on the success of its former presenters but also on its commitment to providing students with a platform to express themselves and develop their craft. The station has continuously provided opportunities for students to gain practical experience, whether

in presenting, producing, or behind-the-scenes roles. This hands-on experience has been instrumental in helping students prepare for careers in the media industry.

Journalism student Khethiwe Moshego echoed this sentiment, praising TUT FM for its role in keeping students informed and providing a space for open dialogue. "TUT FM has kept us updated on campus events and issues around us. It has also given students a platform to talk about the challenges we face, like academic stress, depression and the pressure to succeed. Hearing others share their experiences on the station has been reassuring because we realise, we are not alone."

As TUT FM marks this significant milestone, Kedibone said she was proud of the station's accomplishments. She acknowledged the collaborative efforts of presenters and interns in maintaining the station's authenticity and commitment to delivering quality content.

"It has been an exciting journey managing the station for over a decade. Consistency and authenticity have truly paid off and we plan to continue working hard to provide a platform for student voices," Kedibone added.

Since its inception, TUT FM has been dedicated to delivering verified and unbiased information to TUT students and the wider Soshanguve community. As it celebrates 30 years of broadcasting excellence, the station looks forward to many more years of empowering students, sharing stories and keeping the TUT community informed. 🌟



Journalism Broadcast (Live@12) Students



Kedibone Mahapa - TUT fm Station Manager



# SWiP training

# EMPOWERS FUTURE TRANSLATORS

By Precious Mkhize

A transformative training programme in partnership with the South African Centre for Digital Language Resources (SADILAR), the Pan South African Language Board (PANSALB), and the SADILAR-Wikipedia-PanSALB Project (SWiP), was hosted at the Tshwane University of Technology's Soshanguve South Campus from 26 to 31 August 2024. Aimed at final-year Language Practice students, the programme focused on equipping students with essential skills for their future careers in translation.

The training was designed to enhance students' proficiency as translators and foster a deeper understanding of the digital landscape. Bobby Shabangu, President of Wikimedia ZA, addressed the students on the nuances of Wikipedia, emphasising its role as a collaborative platform rather than a traditional encyclopedia.

"Wikipedia is written from a neutral point of view and is free content that anyone can use to write, edit and distribute. Since all editors can access it, there are no firm rules," he explained.

Students learned how to create their own Wikipedia accounts, enabling them to improve the accuracy of their translations into their mother tongues. They received tools and resources to draft articles in their preferred languages, thereby enhancing the representation of diverse linguistic backgrounds.

Nomsa Skosane, SADILAR DH Researcher for isiNdebele, highlighted the significance of the programme saying: "The students we train each year should take pride in their mother tongues. The main goal of this initiative is to improve the translation into our languages, not to diminish what makes us unique. Students will have the opportunity to write and edit articles in their preferred languages on Wikipedia."

The training programme attracted significant participation, especially since students recognised the value of this initiative in preparing them for their upcoming graduation.

Petunia Lesele, module coordinator for Language Practice, said: "This training was specifically designed for final-year students who needed both training and exposure. Coordinating the event was challenging but ultimately successful, as we worked hard to accommodate all students in one location."

Ripfumelo Mathebula, third-year Language Practice student, praised the program for its practical approach. He shared how the training enhanced his skills in drafting articles on Wikipedia and acknowledged the challenges faced during the sessions, which prompted valuable learning experiences.



Bobby Shabangu-President of Wikimedia ZA and Herschal Jackson



Dira Thokwane - Applied Languages Lecturer and Petunia Lesele -Language Practice WIL Coordinator



# Finding balance between academic goals and a fitness regimen

By Unathi Nonjola

In a world where academics and extracurricular activities often battle for time and attention, one student has managed to fuse his passion for fitness with his scholarly pursuits. Mpho Makondelela, 22-year-old student at the Tshwane University of Technology Soshanguve South Campus, is fast making a name for himself in the bodybuilding community while navigating the challenges of varsity life.

**M**pho's bodybuilding journey began when he was a first-year student. He joined the track team to improve his athleticism, and it wasn't long before he discovered a love for strength training.

"I was drawn to the idea of building strength and endurance and found that lifting weights empowered me in ways I had not expected. With encouragement from the coaches and peers, I began to focus on bodybuilding, discovering not just a hobby but a passion that would shape my life," he shared.

He added: "Waking up at 05:00 to hit the gym before classes start, sets a positive tone for my day and helps me relieve stress. By developing a strict routine and making fitness a non-negotiable part of my morning routine, I ensure that I can



dedicate my evenings to studying and socialising, thus balancing my academic responsibilities with my bodybuilding endeavours."

Despite the demanding schedule, Mpho has managed to compete in several amateur bodybuilding competitions. During the 2024 IFBB Gauteng North Provincials Under u23 / u75 kgs, he secured second place.

"Standing on stage was one of the most empowering experiences of my life. All the hard work and dedication paid off. Bodybuilding has taught me that determination is key, if you work hard, you can achieve anything."

Preparing for his next competition and juggling his studies, Mpho exemplifies the blend of hard work, discipline and passion that defines not only a successful bodybuilder but a resilient student, ready to face the world. 🏆



The Bodybuilding has taught me that determination is key, if you work hard, you can achieve anything

Mpho Makondelela



# HEDSA GAUTENG CHAIRPERSON,

## a trailblazing advocate for inclusive education

By Kgothatso Monono

In the dynamic landscape of higher education, Ivy Sarah Morulane, newly elected Chairperson of the Gauteng Region for the Higher Education Disability Services Association (HEDSA) and Disability Unit Coordinator at TUT, is emerging as a powerful advocate for inclusion, determination and transformative change for students with disabilities. Currently pursuing her PhD at TUT, Ivy's commitment to improving the lives of students with disabilities is both inspiring and impactful.

With a Master's degree that tackled the challenges visually impaired students face, Ivy's academic journey has always been intertwined with her passion for advocacy. Since 2008, she has served as a Disability Services practitioner, using her expertise to champion the rights of students often overlooked in educational settings.

Ivy's leadership shines brightly in her new role at HEDSA. In this capacity, she is not just a figurehead but a catalyst for change, working to establish an inclusive Post-School Education and Training (PSET) system across the region.

"Inclusion is not only a policy; it is a necessity," she stated emphatically, underlining her mission to ensure that all educational institutions recognise and fulfil their responsibilities toward students with disabilities.

Her influence extends even further after her recent appointment to the Board of the South African National Council for the Blind, where she serves on the Education Committee. Ivy is determined to reshape educational policies that will resonate throughout the country, giving voice to those who are often marginalised.

Collaboration is key to Ivy's approach. She has partnered with TUT's Curriculum Development Department to create an innovative online course on inclusive education and universal design.

Emphasising her belief that accessible education is foundational to fostering an equitable learning environment, she said "It is essential that educators have the tools to support every student."

Ivy also plays a vital role on the Campus Management Committee, where she contributes to strategic discussions aimed at enhancing campus accessibility and support services for students with disabilities.

Over the past three years, Ivy has led impactful disability awareness campaigns on the Pretoria campuses, sparking conversations that challenge stereotypes and foster a culture of understanding. Her ability to engage students and faculty alike has created a community that actively supports diversity.

"As a speaker, I am enthusiastic and persuasive, having delivered presentations at various conferences on topics such as the readiness of higher education institutions for inclusivity and the unique obstacles that visually impaired students face. Each engagement serves as a platform to share my insights and galvanise support for the cause," she highlighted.

Her philosophy revolves around lifelong learning and seizing opportunities for growth. Ivy believes in continuously challenging herself and collaborating with others, creating a constructive collaboration that fuels progress.

Ivy Sarah Morulane embodies the spirit of advocacy and change. Her work is a powerful reminder that education should be inclusive, empowering every student to thrive. With her unwavering dedication, Ivy is not just paving the way for future generations, she is rewriting the narrative for students with disabilities across South Africa. In her hands, the future is indeed promising. 🌟



Inclusion is not only a policy; it is a necessity,

Ivy Sarah Morulane



# TUT CAREER EXPO

## connects students with influential corporation

By Precious Mkhize

Late in July 2024, TUT's Directorate of Co-operative Education, hosted a collaborative Career Expo at the Soshanguve South campus. The event aimed to provide students and graduates with valuable information about learnerships, internships, and career planning. It was a platform where attendees could explore various career paths and gain insights into the professional world.

The Career Expo brought together leading organisations and institutions, including the South African Police Service (SAPS), the Institute of Information Technology Professionals South Africa (IITPSA), Geeks for Learning, BizMod, Microsoft, and many others. Martina Legoabe, the event coordinator for Soshanguve Campus, led the successful initiative, ensuring that attendees had access to critical information and networking opportunities.

One of the key participants was BizMod, an institution partnered with industry giants such as OpenText, Matrix42 and Salesforce. BizMod specializes in information privacy, data management and talent development.

Speaking on behalf of the institution, Ashleigh Kawocha, Talent Acquisition Manager, emphasised the value of their BizMod Talent Key program. "Our institution offers dynamic BizMod Talent Key, which combines in-house soft skills training with technical training. By partnering with key vendors, we curate a journey that prepares BizMod talent for the workplace," Kawocha explained.

She encouraged graduates to take advantage of the program to develop

future-ready technical skill sets, helping them to bridge the gap between education and employment.

The event had a lasting impact on many attendees, such as Sindiswa Mantshintshi, an Informatics student, who felt particularly inspired by the opportunities presented. "It is exciting and motivating to attend an event like this, where we get so much valuable information on how to apply for internships. I have been waiting for this kind of opportunity to help guide my career journey," she said.

Despite the logistical challenges faced in organising such a large-scale event, Legoabe expressed her satisfaction with its outcome. "We had to coordinate with many organisations and ensure they were available on the same date. It was complex, but ultimately worth it for the students and graduates," she said.

Several organisations provided gifts to participants who successfully answered questions related mostly to their field of study. The event left a lasting impression on the students and graduates, many of whom praised the inspiration and valuable knowledge gained from the experience. 🌟



It is exciting and motivating to attend an event like this, where we get so much valuable information on how to apply for internships. I have been waiting for this kind of opportunity to help guide my career journey.

Sindiswa Mantshintshi - Informatics Student

