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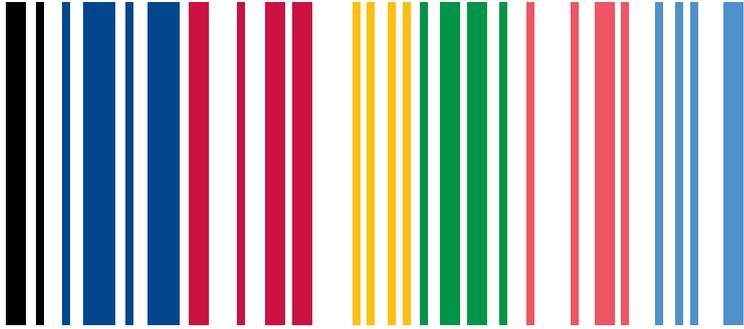
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Vaal University of Technology
Your world to a better future



What's Up @ VUT

YOUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
Issue 1 - 2018

PARENTS GIVEN A WARM WELCOME AT THE FYE O-WEEK



Smile for the camera: VUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Gordon Zide takes a pic with our first year students

Staff Reporter

Parents and first year students braved the heatwave, wearing smiles and looking forward to finding out what the year ahead has in store for them at the second annual First Year Experience (FYE) Parents Day. O-Week Parent's Day was held on 21 January at Vaal University of Technology's (VUT) Isak Steyl Stadium in Vanderbijlpark.

Parent's Day is an initiative that was developed by the Centre of Academic Development's Ms Hazel Mtshontshi (Former FYE Manager), who saw the importance of

the university management and support staff engaging with the parents of all first year students. It formed part of the Orientation Week programme (O-Week) which took place from 22 to 26 January involving representatives from VUT's Executive Management Committee and all departments that engage with student matters on a day to day basis such as the library, sports department, Clinic and HIV Unit, Student Support Services, residences and the student representative council (SRC).

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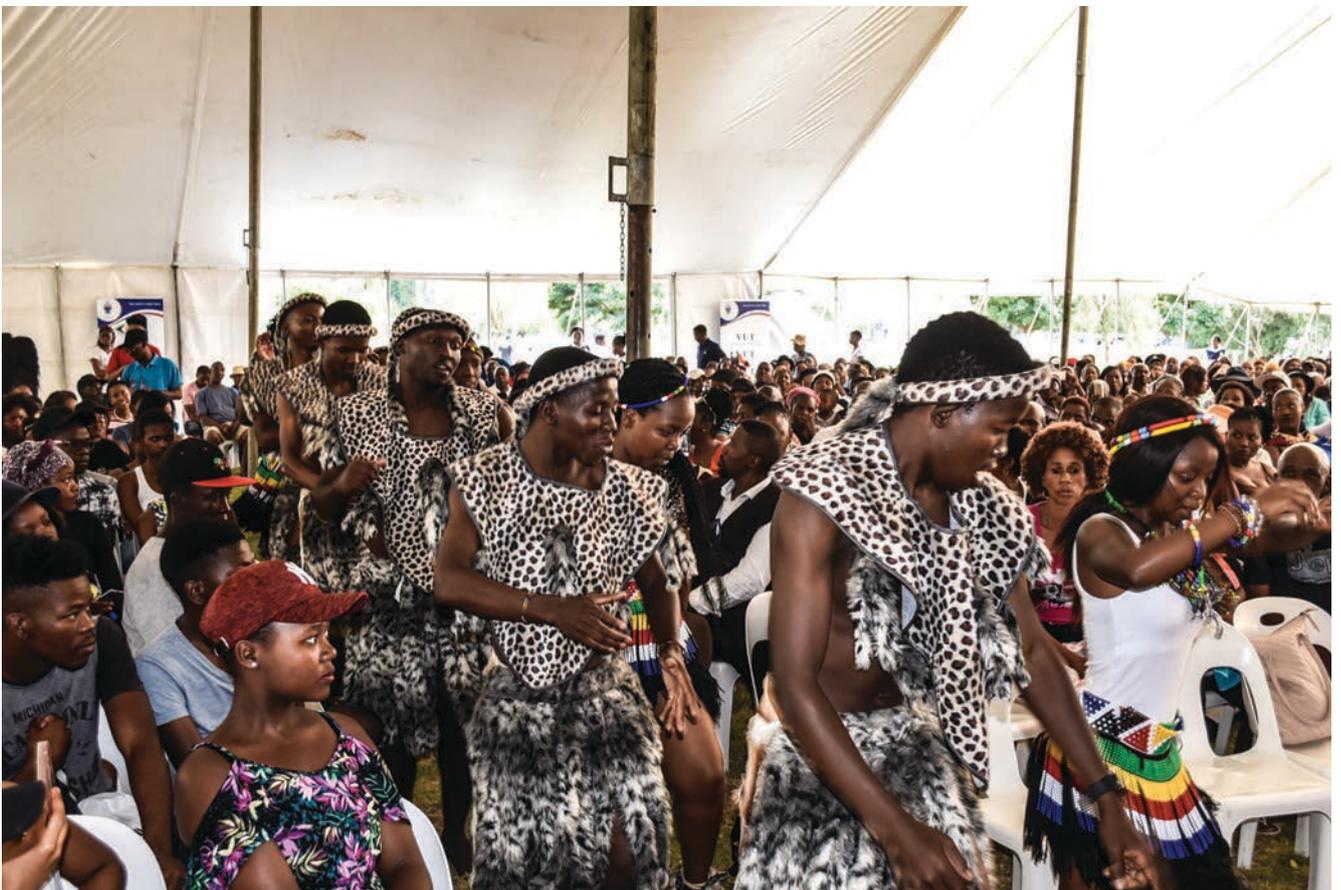
SRC President, Lemogang Medupi shared his words of support

Giving a short yet impactful welcome address, Dr Pauline Machika, Executive Director of the Centre of Academic Development expressed her pride in seeing how well attended the parents day was. She alluded that she wanted to see the very same faces, wearing their best outfits and graduation regalia within the next three years. She further urged the parents to be fully involved in following up on their children’s progress.

Buhle Buka-Zulu, a traditional dance group of VUT students set the scene by opening up with a fiery performance, setting the crowd ablaze before the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Gordon Zide addressed the parents and students.

Giving them a warm welcome, Prof Zide expressed his joy at seeing all the students there. He urged the young men and women to focus and respect their parents and to never forget where they come from as it is through the hard work of their parents that they are able to attend university today. Raising a controversial societal problem, Prof Zide made mention of the fact that due to social inequality, peer pressure and lack of finances to buy basic necessities, young girls often result in prostitution. He urged the first years to avoid that route and to speak up when they are in need as there are support systems in place at the university to ensure that students are assisted.

The president of the Student Representative Council (SRC), Mr Lemogang Medupi echoed the exact sentiments as Prof Zide. He said the SRC is there to assist in every aspect and students should always feel free to knock on their doors. The transition from high school to tertiary is not an easy one he said. He further added that the SRC is there to ensure that no learner goes to bed hungry, as they’re mantra is “Sifunda sidlile” loosely translated this means “We’ll study on full stomachs.” The SRC have pledged to help wherever they can and mentioned that together with the Poverty Alleviation initiative that is spear headed by Ms Kediemetse Mokotsi, the Director of Marketing and Public Relations they will ensure that the less privileged students always go to bed full and have their basic sanitary necessities.



Buhle Buka-Zulu provided the entertainment for the day

STRIVE FOR YOUR DREAMS: THE BEGINNING OF A GREAT JOURNEY



Dr Pauline Machika welcoming students

Qhawekazi Memani

“Dreams can become a reality if one works hard”, these are the words of wisdom shared by Dr Pauline Machika as she welcomed the 2018 Vaal University of Technology (VUT) first year students at the VUT Isak Steyl stadium on 22 January.

Dr Machika holds a Masters in Science qualification from the Oxford university amongst her other qualifications. In her welcome address she shared some of her experiences growing up in a small town. One involving her grade nine teacher who told her mom that she will never go to university.

With so many things happening in this generation and personal issues we each face. Some of the students may share the same experiences as Dr Machika. She shared that she persevered by grace and continued working on her dream every day, irrespective of what was said to her mom.

She furthermore advised the students not to get trapped in situations or other people’s opinions and encouraged the students to finish what they are starting by the age of 30 with a PhD. “People can define you but can’t make you. It’s only how much you allow yourself to grow that will help you to enjoy the life that you want,” she said.

Representatives from different university structures and departments such as the Student Support Services (SSS), the university clinic, International Office, HIV unit, E-learning, Corporate Affairs and the Judicial office addressed the students and informed them about the services they render and above all availed themselves to

assist the students with their needs on campus.

The representatives highlighted that VUT is a home away from home for the students. It has a big brother system, everything is at the tip of their fingers. They encouraged the students to fully utilize the information and contact numbers they are provided with on campus.



Ms Tisch Farrell; Branding and Marketing Manager from the Corporate Affairs Department shared VUT’s values, corporate and brand identity with our first years

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE FACULTY DAY FULL OF COLOUR AND EXCITEMENT!



Qhawekazi Memani

The annual First Year Experience Faculty Day kicked off on a high note, with a sea of blue, red, yellow and green shirts floating on campus. The Vaal University of Technology (VUT), Vanderbijlpark campus was alive and buzzing with noise and movement as all first year students were officially welcomed to their Faculties.

On 23 January, Faculty Heads of Departments and lecturers met the first year students with the aim of familiarizing the students with the university environment. Mentors from the Centre of Academic Development

(CAD) arranged for fun games and activities such as “navigating your way around campus.” This involved mentors showing the students how to navigate their way through the campus, and lecture venues with ease – also showing them and all the other important buildings on campus such as the library, cafeteria and gym.

Mentors are VUT students that are selected by the CAD to assist the first year students with anything they may need pertaining to their fields of studies.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS GIVEN A WARM SOUTH AFRICAN WELCOME

Puleng Maphisa

The year for stepping into the journey of acquiring an education abroad commenced when the Vaal University of Technology (VUT) took its first years through International Orientation day.

The VUT International Relations Office welcomed its students with open arms. The orientation was set to familiarise students with their new environment and to make them feel comfortable. The team members of the International office were introduced by the International Relations Manager Mr Siyabonga Kohli.

External guests were invited such as Home Affairs who advise students on Visa Regulations and Immigration laws pertinent note was made of Section 49 of the Immigration Act No13 of 2002 relating to punishable offences. (https://www.gov.za/sites/www.gov.za/files/a13-02_0.pdf) Medical aid scheme who elaborated on what students are medically covered for and how claims are managed, Standard bank and First National bank were at hand to assist with financial advice and the

Vanderbijlpark South African Police Services familiarise students with the crime that unfortunately affects the area, and how the student must protect him or herself

Members of the Vanderbijlpark SAPS mentioned that the most common crimes they come across are those of domestic violence, robbery and drugs.

SAPS spokesperson, Sergeant Gertrude Makhale, said that students, especially women, should avoid walking alone at night; they should try to walk together as a group.

VUT psychologist, Ms Zandile Shabangu from Student Counselling and Support, introduced students to that the support they offer like support group services, academic services and clinical psychology.

The Orientation day was closed with students being reminded that the International office is a safe space and that the office is there should they need them.



Home Affairs officials addressing students

FUN IN THE SUN AT O-WEEK SPORTS DAY!



Sports Day: The Sports Departments pulled out all stops to showcase the various sporting codes on offer at VUT

Qhawekazi Memani

The Vaal University of Technology Sports Department has sixteen sporting codes that cater for all students. VUT sports not only promotes health and fitness but a spirit of camaraderie and the establishment of life-long friendships through their sports teams.

The Orientation Week Sports day for all first years took place on 24 January. This was an opportunity for first

year students to select and join a sporting code that best suites them and their needs. Mr Thabo Mabulelong, Head of Department: Sports and Recreation described the day as one of celebration by the university, a day of fitness and fun for the VUT community and students, a day of finding athletes to capture nations and above all give platform for the students to discover their talents.

VUT fraud and verifications manager now a certified global fraud examiner

Qhawekazi Memani

The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE), the world's largest anti-fraud organisation and premier provider of anti-fraud training and education has awarded Shireen Henning; VUT CFE Manager: fraud and verification services a certificate as a fraud examiner with global credentials.

The aim of the ACFE is reducing business fraud worldwide and inspiring public confidence in the integrity and objectivity within the profession.

"As a qualified CFE now, I have joined the ranks of business and government professionals worldwide in the fight against fraud globally. " I have the ability to examine data and records to detect and trace fraudulent transactions; interview suspects to obtain information and confessions; write investigation reports; advise clients as to examination findings; testify at trial; understand the law as it relates to fraud and fraud investigations (national and internationally); and identify the underlying factors that motivate individuals to commit fraud", she shared.



Ms Shireen Henning; VUT CFE Manager: fraud and verification services

She had to meet a stringent criteria set by the ACFE and pass 'a very rigorous' examination administered. She further as a fraud examiner had to meet the necessary character, experience and education requirements by demonstrating knowledge in the four areas she described as critical to the fight against fraud:

1. Fraudulent Financial Transactions
2. Fraud Prevention and Deterrence
3. Legal Elements of Fraud
4. Fraud Investigation

She shared that her passion for solving fraud began in 2010, when she was first exposed to fraudulent documentation by the VUT Registrar, Dr Mokoena.

"The vision of taking it to the next level just grew in me. As I got more involved in the operation of fraud schemes, and understanding the damage that such schemes can cause to the University, the passion of becoming a 'fraud police' just ignited further in me. I've always wanted to become an asset to the University and

leave a legacy: I found it through protecting the integrity and reputation of the University by exposing and/or preventing fraud schemes, and further educating individuals on how to protect themselves from various fraud scams that are occurring daily.

In 2012 I motivated for the establishment of a fraud and verification unit. The Unit finally came into existence in 2013. Since then my journey to becoming a CFE was very exciting to me. I still can't believe that my career dream, set to myself in 2012, have finally become reality", she said.

She concluded by sharing that choosing this career path have not always been easy, as you are meet with a lot of opposition, usually from perpetrators, but she always finds strength and encouragement in the words of Edmund Burke: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men (women) do nothing".

She also expressed her gratitude to the Management of the University for placing their confidence in her and allowing to pursue this career path.

Leading innovators get selected for a trip to Royal Academy of Engineering in the UK



From left: Xolani Mthetwa B-Tech student and Tumisang Manyapelo National Diploma student

Selina Rapulana

Of the 15 interns of the Merseta programme, two will be taking part in an exciting programme that could change their lives.

Tumisang Manyapelo, who has a National Diploma in Mechanical Engineering and Xolani Mthethwa, who has B-Tech Degree in Chemical Engineering, head out to the United Kingdom on 3 February for two weeks to attend The Royal Academy of Engineering's Leaders in Innovation Fellowships (LIF) programme.

The programme aims to build the capacity of researchers for entrepreneurship and the commercialisation of their research projects. The programme identifies researchers within the partner country who are in the process of developing a business proposition for their innovation.

The selected researchers will benefit from a focused period of training, access to expert mentors and opportunities for international networking. In the short term they will develop, with the support of the programme, a commercialisation plan for their innovation and in the long term they will benefit from ongoing support at their home institution and access to an international network of peer innovators and mentors to take their plan forward. The programme is being delivered by the Academy as part of the UK Newton Fund which, through a variety of science and innovation activities, supports the economic development and social welfare of devel-

oping countries.

"Tshepo Mahanuke: Former Project Manager of the Merseta Programme, encouraged every intern to apply for the LIF programme through the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA). Interns who had an existing prototype, whether service- or product-based, were selected for the final round. Those who were selected had to apply online at the Royal Academy of Engineering," said Xolani. The selection process of the interns was done by TIA and the Royal Academy.

The two students are looking forward to this trip: Manyapelo said that he wants better insight into business planning and management, finance management, pitching and presenting, marketing and negotiation skills while Mthethwa said that he looks forward to the intensive training course on innovation as well as meeting engineers from different countries to share ideas on educational systems, industrial and economic factors and to build an international network.

The two students hope to apply the skills that they will gain in their businesses as Mthethwa is busy with restructuring the Carbon Arch Towers, which is the technology that was chosen by the Royal Academy of Engineering and Manyapelo is finalising his prototype design and registering the IP with CIPC (product design protection) through VUT. Moving forward, they wish to assist where they can at the Science Park.

Social Justice and Transformation Unit champions youth safety

Azande Ralephenya

“The Social Justice and Transformation Unit cannot sit back and fold their arms or be spectators while students, females in particular, are being victimised, abused by their male counterparts and criminals in and around their student accommodation,” said Mr Joseph Radebe, Manager of the Social Justice and Transformation Unit.

He was sharing his vision and goal of developing a Youth Safety Forum for the Vaal University of Technology (VUT) and surrounding communities at a meeting held at VUT on 26 January.

VUT support staff, the SRC, community and government safety representatives were in attendance at this meeting to form a new committee that aims to champion youth safety.

In leading the conversation, Mr Radebe touched on matters such as the development of a Safety Plan,

partnerships with local and national government safety departments and the 2018 safety awareness campaigns that are set to take place on campus.

Representing the Gauteng Department of Community Safety, Mr Teboho Mohomane said the drafting of a safety plan would be the first step towards kick-starting the campaign this year.

“We need to form partnerships with the municipal offices, SAPS, VUT and local community policing forums and draft a plan that speaks to the safety challenges we face in our community. This campaign is not a once-off initiative, but a long-term plan aimed at educating young people and eradicating violence in our communities and VUT in particular. Therefore it is important to ensure that we include and actively involve the students when drafting the plan. International students also need to be orientated around bylaws and regulations of the country and the university,” he said.



Representatives of community safety organisations, the SRC and VUT support staff in attendance at the first Youth Safety Forum meeting spearheaded by Mr Joseph Radebe – Manager of Social Justice and Transformation Unit

With partners such as the Gauteng Department of Community Safety, Emfuleni Municipality Community Safety, South African Police Service (SAPS) and local community safety representatives, the campaigns will be driven to interact more with students.

The committee indicated that they are targeting the week of 20 February to host the first safety awareness campaign which the MEC of Safety in Gauteng, Ms

Sizakele Nkosi Malobane is expected to attend. Since the focus is on protecting the youth from violence, especially young women, the Gauteng Department of Community Safety will be giving away whistles and pepper spray and have also indicated an interest in providing self-defence classes. Peer educators will also be involved giving the students the necessary training and advice on safety, HIV/AIDS and other matters relating to young people.

“

The Social Justice and Transformation Unit cannot sit back and fold their arms or be spectators while students, females in particular, are being victimised, abused by their male counterparts and criminals in and around their student accommodation,

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We welcome Mr Paul Dzumba to the VUT Family

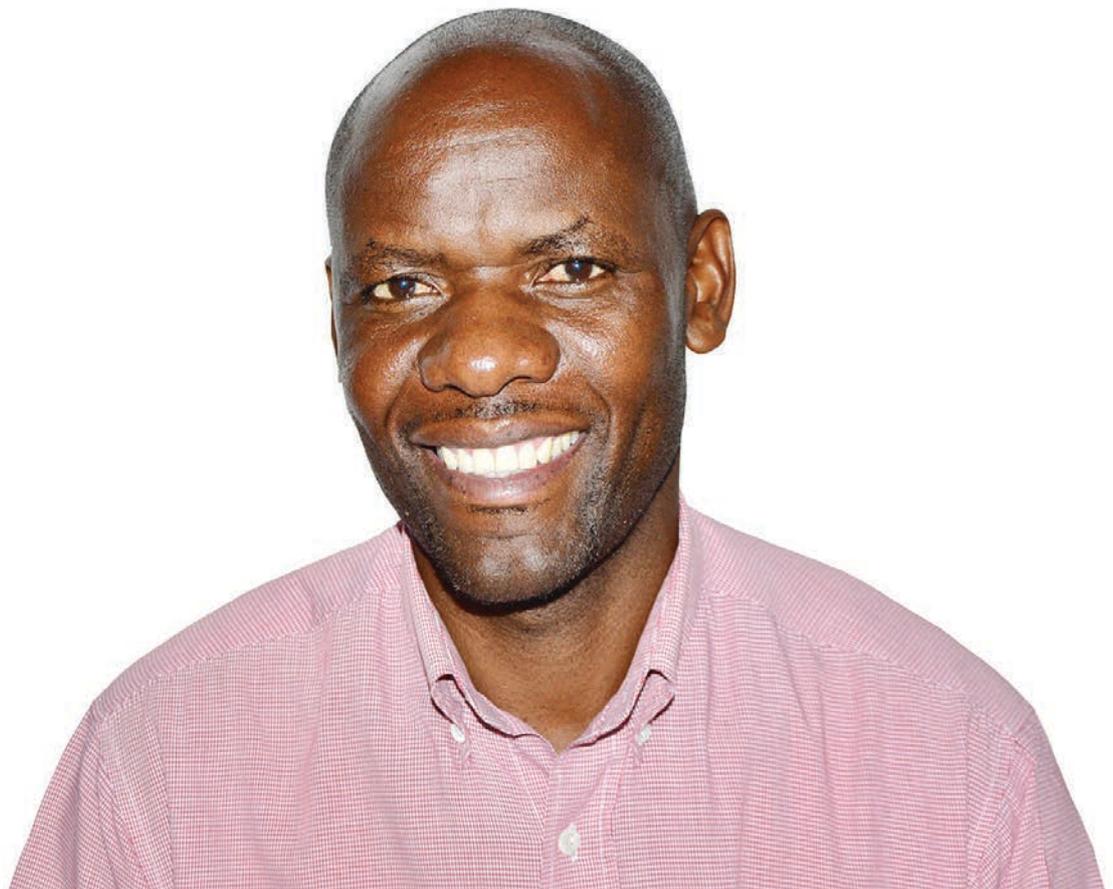
Staff Reporter

Paul Dzumba was appointed as a prison warden/correctional officer on 5 August 1997 by the Department of Correctional Services. At the time of his appointment he had a grade 12 certificate and a grade E security certificate. In 2002 he registered for an LLB degree at the University of Venda, which he completed in 2005 and went on to register for an LLM degree (Specialization in Labour Law) in 2006 at the University of Pretoria and graduated in 2007.

Whilst working in the Department of Correctional Services he was promoted to a position of Legal Admin Officer on the 2nd May 2007. In February 2009 he was requested to act as a Regional Coordinator: Employee Relations for Limpopo, Mpumalanga and North West Region. He was later seconded to the Office of the State Attorney Pretoria. Paul was promoted to the position of Employee Relations Manager on in March 2011 in Bethal. He was then appointed as an Advisor Industrial Relations in Eskom on 1 April 2013.

Paul has now joined the Vaal University of Technology Human Resources Team as an Employee Relations Specialist. We are confident that his vast experience and expertise in Labour Relations, Labour Law, involvement in General Public Service Sector Bargaining Council (GPSSBC), Public Service Coordinating Bargaining Council (PSCBC) as well as his proficiency in facilitation and training will add tremendous value to HR Operations, labour peace and justice at our institution. Welcome aboard Paul Dzumba!

Paul can be contacted at ntsolenid@vut.ac.za



Mr Paul Dzumba Employee Relations Specialist

