



Vaal University of Technology

Your world to a better future



#issue 1

NEWSLETTER

2017 GOING INTO 2018



**AFRICAN LANGUAGES
DEVELOPMENT**

**VUT
101**

**THE ACADEMIC OF 2017
FUTURE REALITIES**

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Work Integrated Learning Students

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PS-BUILDING

Under the auspices of the CAD, the new PS building was opened in late 2017. The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) approved funding for the project and the VUT community is proud to welcome the latest state of the art building on campus.

Besides the CAD, the building will further house the CAD's subunit of the African Languages department and furthermore house the Social Justice and Transformation department as well as the Disability Unit.

The PS building features a large capacity auditorium as well as 4 Labs, 6 teaching venues and a world class boardroom. The digital building supports enhanced technology and is filled with green technology such as energy and water saving features.



Message from the Executive Director: CAD Dr Pauline Machika

The new PS building symbolizes the VUT's commitment towards higher education and students access and retention. A special thanks to the VC – Prof Gordon Zide, DVC – Prof Peter K. Dzvimbo and the CFO – Mr Coertze; for their commitment towards the completion of the building.

Thanks to Prof Swanepoel who project managed the development of the building.

The official launch will be organised by Corporate Affairs in the second semester.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:





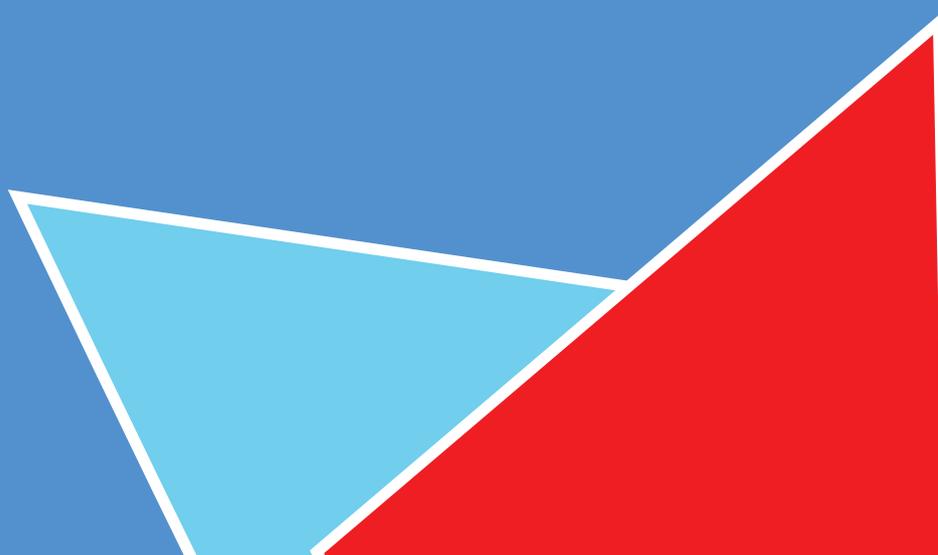
The Academic of 2017 FUTURE REALITIES

CAD Conference: Future realities November 14-16th 2017

The CAD annual Academic Staff Development conference held at Emerald Resort and Casino was a jam-packed event of information, dialogue and keynote speakers from South Africa's leading Academics. Prof Jonathan Jansen, Prof Michael Pillay, Prof Siphamnadla Zondi, Prof Marie Thille, Prof Dick Ngambi and Prof Chris Landsberg shared thought provoking ideas on the state of the nation in terms of latest challenges that academics are faced with. Of the 26 Universities in South Africa more than half were represented at the conference.

Emerald Resort and Casino provided the ideal setting for the conference with its relaxed and sociable atmosphere. Indeed, conference participants were proud to boast that it was the best conference they attended in a long time. A cocktail event at Tsogo Riverside Sun and a Gala Dinner further capped off the event which saw queues of people waiting patiently to attend proceedings while waiters and waitresses ran amok to bring in more tables and chairs.

In terms of the conference outcomes and for those who missed the conference, a book is in the works featuring the best of the conference abstracts. The CAD look forward to welcoming the VUT community, domestic universities and international partners to the CAD Academic Staff Development Conference for 2018.



2018 ORIENTATION



The CAD kicked off its official year in January with the FYE orientation. Approximately 1600 students attended.

The orientation programme commenced on the 21st of January 2018 with the parents meeting. The parents meeting was attended by 571 parents and/or guardians and 175 first year students. The parents and students were welcomed and addressed by Prof Zide (Vice Chancellor), Prof Dvzimbo (Deputy Vice Chancellor: Academic and Research), Dr Machika (Executive Director: Centre for Academic Development) and the SRC President, Mr L Medupi.

All first year students were welcomed on the 22nd of January 2018 at the VUT Isak Steyl Stadium. During the programme, students were introduced to the various support units and the programme allowed for exhibitions from Ihau, Health and Wellness, Van Schaik's Book Store, French School International Relations Office, Vaal Triangle Computers and Books (VTC) and Standard bank.

On the 24th of January 2018 they were introduced to the different sporting codes at VUT in an interactive and fun way. In addition to the welcoming and faculty programmes, international students were welcomed and orientated on the 25th of January 2018.

Corneli van der Walt
CAD: FYE Manager



CAD is introducing



VUT101 is a transition programme that is aimed at giving first-year students the opportunity to learn skills that would assist with bridging the gap between high school and university.

VUT101 will be implemented during the orientation/transition period as an extended orientation programme, though the development of the programme will be ongoing in order to provide learning opportunities for students on a continuous basis.

As such, it also creates an opportunity for students to learn skills that would enable them to be more successful in their academic careers.



ORIENTATION WINNERS

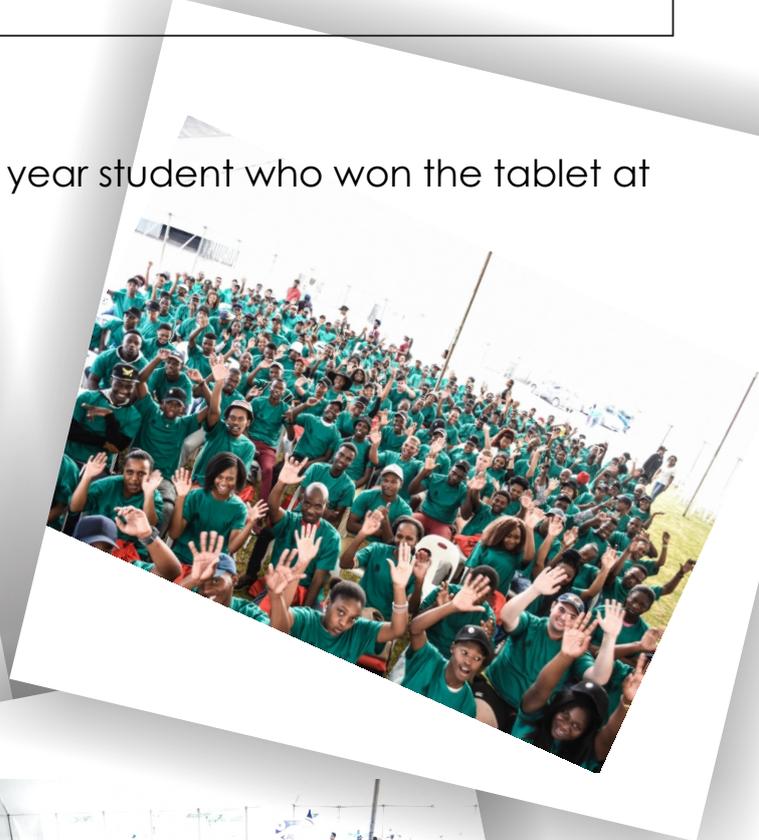
Product	Name & Surname
Tablet (Prestigio) SN: PMP260872301358	Tsebo Mohake
1TB Hard drive SN: E00637-1803	Pulane Mohapi
Stationery pack	Bokamoso Senatla
Ladies laptop Bag	Nombulelo Toti
Volcano Sling Bag	Tsebo Mohake

VALENTINES BOAT CRUISE WINNERS:

- Ndivhuwo Matodzi
- Ellen Molebatsi
- Princess Kwagati
- Phathutshedzo Mudangani
- Kabelo Nkoana

TABLET GIVE AWAY BY CAD:

Congratulations to M.S. Maluleke our first year student who won the tablet at the first-year orientation 2018.



NBTS

NATIONAL BENCHMARK TESTING

Testing took place during the first-year orientation week. This table provides an overview of the NBT test schedule, and the numbers of students who wrote the tests.

Faculty	Date of test	Number
Engineering and Technology	25 th of January 2018	440
Human Sciences	26 th of January 2018	410
Applied and Computer Sciences	29 th of January 2018	242
Management Sciences	30 th of January 2018	460
Total		1552

AFRICAN LANGUAGES DEVELOPMENT

The Vaal University of Technology (VUT) is very passionate about the development of African Indigenous Languages and that is why in 2017 it has established the African Languages Development Unit within the auspices of the Centre for Academic Development (CAD). This is a strategic for VUT and the focus of this unit among other things, is to implement the Language Policy of VUT through various interrelated and integrated Teaching and Learning activities that are language based. These activities will include projects such as translation of various university documents, provision of subtitles to various video recorded materials and as well as transcribing of various documents. Language awareness campaigns will also be part of these activities including the development of discipline specific glossaries in various African languages. One of the focus areas of this unit is to see that the provisions as espoused in the VUT Language Policy are implemented. The initiative by VUT to establish a Language Unit is very crucial as it will students benefit from both the social and cultural capital which will also improve on their learning.

In view of the above, in 2018 the African Languages Development Unit will be hosting the first annual 'Development in African Languages Institutions of Higher Learning in South Africa' Symposium. This years' symposium is titled "The Role of African Languages in Decolonising the Curriculum". The main purpose of the symposium among other things, is to explore the many facets of the concept 'decolonising the curriculum' in view of the development in African Indigenous Languages. The focus of this Symposium is to

explore, unpack and perhaps comprehend the apparently elusive concept of 'decolonising the curriculum' with specific reference to the development of African Indigenous Languages in institutions of higher learning. The development of African Indigenous Languages is an austere matter in institutions of higher learning for various reasons such as for the enhancement of Student Academic Support purpose. It is encouraging and interesting to see Universities of Technology such as VUT where issues of language are seldom engaged like taking this matter of the development of African Indigenous languages in their stride. It shows that the University is not timid about the issue. It is through this kind of projects that we will be able to scientify and intellectualize these languages by incorporating modernity in them. Furthermore, by engaging in language activities such as this, VUT is adhering to the recommendations made in the Language Policy in Higher Education (LPHE,2002).

In addition, it is envisaged that this symposium will provide a platform for various stakeholders and academics to engage on the understanding of this phenomena. Furthermore, this symposium seeks to forge synergistic relations with other African Language experts in other institutions of higher learning and as well as other stakeholders on indigenous language research and development for the purpose of Teaching and Learning enhancement. It is also hoped that this symposium will throw some light on transformative literacies and pedagogies in institutions of higher learning. Lastly, various but related sub-themes will also be engaged during this event.



Dr Tebogo Kekana
CAD: African Languages Manager



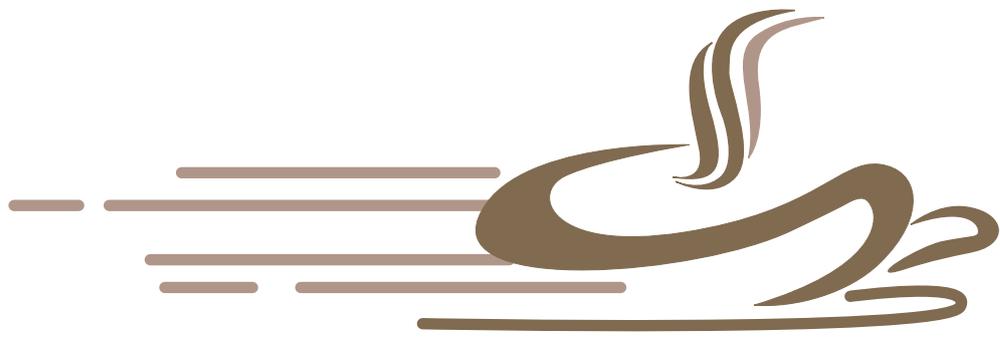


WORK INTEGRATED LEARNING STUDENTS

We are proud to welcome four 2018 WIL candidates to our Centre of Academic Development Department. WIL stands for Work-Integrated-Learning. CAD is very excited to have them join the team. Two of the students are from Gauteng and the other two from Limpopo, they are 3rd year Public Relations students.

This is the second batch of WIL students that the CAD has taken in since 2017. The CAD believes that it is important to give these young person's opportunities to learn.

The fantastic four are excited about this journey and hoping to leave a mark by the end of their WIL.
We wish them the best of luck.



espresso

Accelerated Blended Learning Design

E-learning unit launched its funky project Espresso on the vibrant platform VUTela.

We have reached a point at VUT whereby VUTela use has increased sufficiently for us to advocate for the deeper, more engaging use of VUTela that will foster improved teaching and learning in a blended delivery mode. Mehta, et.al. (2017) state that if a course is designed well, with due diligence to instructional design elements, such as course organization, direct instruction and quality assessments, it adds to the value that students derive from the online component of a blended course. Project Espresso will not only enable this new, more operationally efficient model of academic delivery to take place but it will transform the institution from a traditional contact based centre to one which can operate and perform across multiple levels of engagement, spaces and markets for further student enrolment.

The name: Project Espresso is a play on the name of the Espresso blended coffee and accelerated (express) development by a team of professionals supporting lecturers to maximize their efforts in delivering a blended learning module.

The project is divided into two complimentary processes that run concurrently: Digitization and Deployment / Blended learning facilitation. The goal of the digitization process is to render 50% of the 1400 modules by 2020 in all four faculties for greater engagement and uptake by students for learning development and delivery. The goal of the Deployment / Blended learning and facilitation project is to build the capacity of lecturers at VUT in the design, development and implementation of a blended learning module and the facilitation thereof. One of the key outcomes of this project is the transfer of skills of instructional design and content development to e-learning staff and academics of VUT. The Graphic design unit of CAD will work in close collaboration with content developers to design the graphical elements of a module in VUTela.

Currently we are in the process of completing the pilot phase of the Espresso Project whereby 30 modules will be fully redesigned and deployed for blended facilitation with a hot new look and feel.



Faiek Dolley
CAD: e-Learning Manager

MENTORS

Most of us know how difficult it can be to adjust in a new environment especially at the University. Mentors are more like sisters/brothers to first year students. The mentors support first year students experience a smooth transition from high school to University. There are 58 mentors from all faculties.

According to Linda Mandewo the Learning Development Coordinator, mentors are chosen through their academic performances and through interviews. The initial stage is that they are introduced to first years in class by lecturers, they form learning community groups and activities happen outside the normal academic classes in venues identified by the mentors. The advantage of being a mentor is that it develops interpersonal skills, it develops you as a role model, a team leader, as well as your professional and facilitation leadership skills. Our department encourages our mentors by awarding them with certificates at the end of the programme.



Linda Mandewo
CAD: Learning Communities

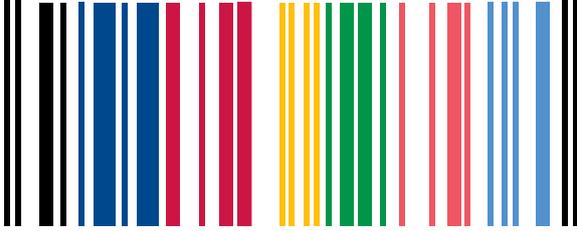
CAD UP AND COMING EVENTS:

- African Languages (Symposium) – 20 April 2018
- E-Learning (Symposium) – 15 May 2018
- Newly Appointed Academic Staff Orientation – July 2018
- CAD Academic Staff Development Conference – November 2018



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