

# TUTDoR

## TUT Connect Volume 1 Number 3

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# ECONNECT

GOLAGANYA | CHUMANISA | KGOKAGANYA

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Zanzibar cycling infrastructure project 1..

## Architecture expert leads project to introduce bicycle pathways in Zanzibar

➤➤ Prof Amira Osman, South African Research Chair in Spatial Transformation and Professor in Architecture at TUT, is leading a project to introduce special pathways for bicycles in Zanzibar, especially in the Stone Town area.

The need to have more cyclists to reduce congestion of vehicles and traffic jams, will also be addressed. In her opening address at a workshop held at the Maru Maru hotel, she explained the importance of the Zanzibar cycling infrastructure project to contribute to ongoing conversations about African cities in particular, and cities of the global south in general. [READ MORE...](#)

## ➤➤ CERN donates computing equipment to South Africa

A recent ceremony at CERN marked the donation of computing equipment to TUT in South Africa. The ceremony was attended by Curtis Singo, Political and Economic Counsellor at the South Africa Embassy in Bern, Joachim Mnich, CERN's Director for Research and Computing and Bob Jones, Deputy Head of CERN's IT department.

On this occasion, 21 servers and 4 network switches were sent to TUT, where the equipment will be used to support academic and research projects. [READ MORE...](#)



Bob Jones (left), Deputy Head of CERN's IT Department, Curtis Singo (middle) Political and Economic Counsellor at the South Africa Embassy in Bern, and Joachim Mnich (right), CERN's Director for Research and Computing. (Image: CERN)

## PhD candidate represents TUT at World Congress of Nephrology

Siyanda Alex Ngema, a PhD candidate student registered at TUT for a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Sciences (Nursing), represented the University at the World Congress of Nephrology (WCN) - a scientific, educational and networking meeting of the International Society of Nephrology.

The WCN featured a four-day international symposium, presentations, training programmes and courses, which offered the latest science and state-of-the-art education in the nephrology sector. The event was held in Argentina, at the Buenos Aires Convention Centre (CEC). [READ MORE...](#)

*Siyanda Alex Ngema speaking to delegates at the WCN.*



## »» IfoW hosts seminar on occupations in high demand

TUT's Institute for the Future of Work (IFoW) hosted a hybrid seminar on Occupations in High Demand. The seminar was a collaborative effort with DHET and NEMISA and aimed at illuminating the evolving job landscape and opportunities presented by emerging technologies.

### Key Takeaways:

- Job market insights and essential skills for success.
- Impact of emerging technology across industries.
- Importance of micro-credentials and innovative learning.



*Nozipho Sihlahla, DCDT Senior Manager, addressing attendees on South Africa's Digital and Future Skills Strategy.*

## »» Empowering Women in the Automotive Sector



*The first cohort of the Future Dealership Development Programme (FDDP) and their loved ones attending the programme graduation ceremony.*

The inaugural Future Dealership Development Programme (FDDP), a significant milestone in empowering women within the automotive industry saw 20 dynamic women completing the programme, which equipped them with skills to become successful car dealership owners.

A collaborative effort between TUT's Institute for the Future of Work (IFOW), the Automotive Industry Transformation Fund (AITF), and Naamsa (the Automotive Business Council), the FDDP aims to cultivate female entrepreneurs and increase representation in the automotive sector.

## »» Student wins Roy Emerson Award

Asithandile Nicolene Dyantyi, a B degree in Environmental Health student at the Faculty of Science, will receive the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH)'s Roy Emerson Award at the 17th World Congress in Perth, Australia from 20 to 24 May 2024.

She won the award for an essay titled "Environmental Public Health Workforce Modernization: Utilizing Technological Advances Available in the Digital Age, to Help Prepare for Tomorrow's Challenges, Today." She will present the essay at the conference. [READ MORE...](#)



*Asithandile (centre) accompanied by staff members of the Department of Environmental Health and representatives of PPs Professionals.*

# Graduation Day @ Mbombela Campus

The Ehlanzeni District Municipality extended congratulations to TUT graduates who participated in the graduation ceremony held at the Mbombela Campus on 14 May 2024. Ehlanzeni District Municipality (EDM) is one of three districts in the Mpumalanga Province and comprises four local municipalities which are: Bushbuckridge, City of Mbombela, Nkomazi and Thaba Chweu.

A longstanding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between TUT and the Ehlanzeni District Municipality has been instrumental in fostering collaboration in various spheres, including education, research and community development. It is through such collaborations that the municipality empowers its youth and contributes to the socio-economic development of the region.

Dr Nontobeko Mahlalela, the Accounting Officer/Municipal Manager of the Ehlanzeni District Municipality, attended the graduation ceremony. Her presence at the ceremony symbolised the strong relationship between the municipality and TUT and underscored the municipality's commitment to supporting academic excellence and nurturing future leaders.



Dr Kenneth Netshiombo and Dr Nontobeko Mahlalela attending the graduation ceremony at the Mbombela Campus.

## FROM BOOM SHAKA TO TYLA (SEETHAL) – 30 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY IN SOUTH AFRICA

»»» [First published in the Daily Maverick under the title: National Development Plan – the greatest achievement so far of democratic South Africa](#)

*This is an abridged and edited version of the speech Prof Tinyiko Maluleke delivered at the NPC's plenary meeting in his capacity as Deputy Chairperson of the National Planning Commission on 30 April, 2024. The NPC is appointed by the President to advise the country on implementing the NDP vision 2030.*

Thirty years ago, there was no voters' roll to write home about; no constitution except for an interim one; no electoral commission except for the one that was hurriedly put together late in 1993; and no country, really - certainly no country that all South Africans could call home. [READ MORE...](#)



Boom Shaka members – Theo Nhlengethwa, Lebo Mathosa, Thembi Seete and Junior Sokhela. Picture: Media24.

# FoICT Girls in Tech embrace 4IR changes

By Kgothatso Monono

In the ever-evolving technological landscape, diversity and inclusion have become crucial pillars for innovation and progress. Despite significant strides in recent years, the gender gap in the tech industry remains a prevalent issue. One powerful avenue for addressing this gap is through “Girls in Tech” events. These events provide a platform for young girls to explore and engage in the world of technology, fostering a supportive community and paving the way for future female leaders in tech.

In the first quarter of 2024, the Faculty of ICT’s Girls in Tech hosted an event at the Council Chambers at the Soshanguve South Campus themed: “ChooseToChangeTheStatusQuo Girls in Tech 4IR”. The topic focused on challenges women leaders in the ICT sector face within their organisations and how future technologies will affect our ecosystem.

According to Simon Shila, TLOUYASHEELA Chairperson: “Many girls in the ICT sector lack information and that is where a mentorship programme is needed to help a person flourish. At TUT, we created a corporate exposure network session platform that addresses the challenge for young girls. The TLOUYASHEELA foundation continuously hosts corporate exposure network session events inviting Women Leaders in the ICT sector to share the challenges they face to help prepare our young girls for their journey in the ICT sector,” he said.

One of the most significant impacts of “Girls in Tech” is the cultivation of interest and confidence in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects from an early age. These events spark curiosity and passion for technology in girls who may not have had exposure to such opportunities otherwise. Through coding challenges, robotics demonstrations and STEM-focused games, girls discover the creativity and critical thinking skills inherent in tech fields, igniting a passion that can shape their academic and career paths.

Keynote speaker, Makano Mosidi, Group Chief Information Officer of the Public Investment Corporation, highlighted the importance of women being multi-skilled in what they do. “Women who excel in multiple areas within the ICT space are valuable assets to the industry. Their diverse skills, innovative mindset, leadership qualities and commitment to diversity and inclusion drive progress and shape the future of technology. By choosing to be one of these multi-talented women, we can create a more inclusive and dynamic tech industry that benefits everyone,” she said.



Makano Mosidi, Keynote Speaker

Simon Shila, TLOUYASHEELA Chairperson



## First Winner!

**Congratulations Nsizwa Nhlapo, Administration Assistant, Faculty of Management Sciences, the first winner in our [TUT Connect/Golaganya/Chumanisa/Kgokaganya](#) competition!**



# TUT's Hacker Society cultivates creativity

By Kgothatso Monono

In the dynamic TUT landscape, where innovation and technological advancement converge, there exists a hidden gem - the Hacker Society, a community of tech enthusiasts that was inspired by the Tshwane Varsity Hackathon (TVH) initiative.

The society focuses on guiding students, making them future-ready by exposing them to solving 21st-century problems and introducing them to hackathons, skills challenges, Sustainable Development Goals and more, with the mission to cultivate them to solve 4IR problems by creating viable and innovative solutions.



Members of the Hacker Society with Dr Etienne van Wyk, Executive Dean, FoICT.

The society fosters an environment where knowledge is freely exchanged, and skills are honed through hands-on experience and collaborative projects. It also develops student's critical thinking skills and give them opportunities for creativity, research and innovation as well as granting an environment where they learn, ideate and launch their own startups.

Thabiso Masuku, Hacker Society Chairperson, said he has benefited greatly from the Society. It has given him an opportunity to explore the ICT industry outside the classroom walls. "I can network at tech events; I am able to get out of my comfort zone and learn new technologies that are relevant and that make me a better candidate, since my focus is not only on academic performance and the institution's curriculum."

He added that he won the first Hackathon he attended, because of the environment the society has provided. "I ended up in the top five teams of other Nation-wide Hackathons I participated in. These include the African Bank Hackathon as well as the Geekulcha Hackathon, through the society's influence."

The Hacker Society aims to bridge the gap between academia and the ICT industry. The desire is to make it easier for students to land their first job, internship, or funding for their entrepreneurial ideas by exposing them to summits, hackathons, skills workshops and many more tech events where they can be able to upskill and network.

The Hacker Society is at the forefront of shaping the future of the students, both within the University community and beyond. Their dedication, ingenuity and unwavering commitment to ethical hacking demonstrate TUT's culture of innovation and excellence, inspiring the next generation of tech leaders to harness the power of technology for positive change. In their quest to safeguard the digital landscape, they embody the spirit of exploration and innovation that defines TUT's vibrant academic community.

## »»» Polokwane public lecture looks at role of statistics to improve life for South Africans



Nthambeleni Mukwevho

TUT's Polokwane-based Faculty of Humanities, in partnership with the South African Association of Public Administration and Management (SAAPAM), hosted a public lecture at Bolivia lodge in Polokwane in its quest to empower people and make knowledge work.

The lecture focused on providing a practical perspective of the role of statistics in the running of state affairs, with Limpopo head of Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), Nthambeleni Mukwevho, addressing questions on the tools that the State uses to administer state affairs with precision of thought and action. He advised provincial and local governments, the business community, politicians, researchers and other Limpopo stakeholders on the correct use of official statistics as verifiable evidence and a basis for policy formulation, programme planning and providing services to citizens, as well as impact evaluation.

He explained the role and importance of an independent Stats SA. "Stats SA is mandated to collect information and produce official statistics on various areas of the lives of South Africans. It is regulated by the Statistics Act (Act No. 6 of 1999), remains independent from government and political influence, but is accountable to the Minister in the Presidency," he said. [READ MORE...](#)

# FEBE hosts SaloneSatellite founder during Italian Design Day 2024



Renowned arts administrator, curator and founder of the SaloneSatellite, Marva Griffin pictured with Alberto Vecchi, the Ambassador of Italy to South Africa and winners for Italian Design Day, Amogelang Ntuli and Grace Hikwa.

By Mosima Rafapa

The Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment’s (FEBE) Department of Architecture and Industrial Design hosted the queen of the world’s largest design fair, Marva Griffin and the Ambassador of Italy to South Africa, Alberto Vecchi, to celebrate Italian Design Day 2024, which is celebrated globally on various days to promote Italian design and architecture.

The theme of the 8th Italian Design Day was **“Manufacturing value: inclusiveness, innovation, and sustainability.”** As part of the South African celebrations, the Department of Architecture and Industrial Design launched a 24-hour national student design competition where Griffin, the Ambassador of Italian Design, delivered a keynote speech. In 2016, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation bestowed this honour on her.

Griffin is a prominent arts administrator, founder and curator of *SaloneSatellite* in Milan. This annual exhibition, which takes place at the *Salone del Mobile* in Milan, Italy, is the largest furniture trade fair globally. For the past 25 years, it has been a platform for young designers and architects to showcase their work and gain

recognition. This year, the exhibition will feature around 600 young designers and 22 international design schools and universities from countries worldwide. The event will showcase the latest furniture, lighting, and home furnishings.

“I have been assigned to celebrate Italian Design Day in your country. This event provides an international platform to exhibit the excellence of Italian design. This year’s focus is on the production process, which results in industrial design objects that are both visually appealing and of high material value. These processes harmoniously combine traditional methods and craftsmanship with the latest technological advancements,” said Griffin.


Dr Tariéné Gaum, the HoD for Architecture and Industrial Design, said students were fortunate to be at the forefront of sharing in expert knowledge and passion for innovative designs, as presented by Ms Griffin. “Ms Griffin’s annual events embody the values of inclusiveness, innovation and sustainability in design. We are elated that our students had the opportunity to learn from her.”

The student competition required participants to design a piece of furniture incorporating technology, cutting-edge innovation and sustainable design, with a cash prize of R10 000, sponsored by the Italian Cultural Institute of Pretoria and partially by the department. Grace Hikwa and Amogelang Ntuli won the student design competition for their modern, innovative baby crib design called *Culla Smart Baby*. In Italian, *Culla* translates to 'baby crib', a Zulu homonym for *'Khula'*, meaning growth. The pair are both studying Architecture, with Hikwa in the fourth year and Ntuli in the foundation phase.



Marva Griffin, renowned arts administrator and founder of SaloneSatellite; Alberto Vecchi, the Italian Ambassador to South Africa; and Dr Tariéné Gaum, HoD of Architecture and Industrial Design with staff, winners and finalists of the local Italian Design Day Competition..

# UPCOMING EVENTS


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 Department of Accounting  
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## Webinar - SARS Medical Tax Credits

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- What is medical tax credit in South Africa?
- How do I claim a medical tax credit?
- What medical expenses can be claimed from SARS?
- Do you or a family member have a disability?
- What qualifies as a disability?

LEARN MORE ON THE DEDUCTION OF THE MEDICAL TAX CREDIT.

Presenter:  
**MJ Netshandama**  
**24 May 2024 at 10:00**  
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29 May 2024



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