

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCIAL ACCOUNTING

Semester One 2023 News Highlights



First Year Welcome and Orientation

At the beginning of the academic year, first-year students are welcomed to UJ and the Department of Commercial Accounting. The School of Accounting director, **Prof Amanda Dempsey**, DCA HOD and lecturers shared some words of wisdom with the students. DCA alumni shared their university experiences to help guide the students on their new journey at university.



First Year Experience Coordinators



SOA Director addressing first-year students

Student Merit Function

At the beginning of the year, the department recognised students who had displayed excellent performance in their studies for the previous year. Students who completed the Programme in Commercial Accounting also received their certificates of completion. Industry guests were present to congratulate the students on their stellar performance.



First-year Top Achievers



Second-year Top Achievers



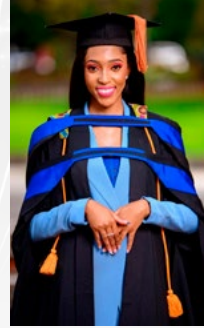
Student Merit Function Sponsors: Phumzile Phatedi – SAICA (AT) SA and Lerato Boiyane – LEXIS Nexis



PCA Top Achievers

Staff Graduations and Academic Achievements

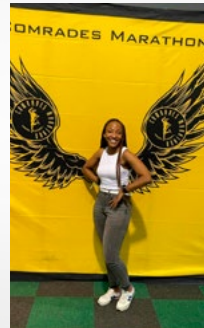
In 2023, a number of staff from the department walked the UJ graduation stage. **Samukelisiwe Hlatshwayo** was awarded an Honours qualification, while **Tumi Khariyhe**, **Naeem Ebrahim**, **Kemira Esterhuizen** and **Tasneem Gathoo** were awarded their Master's qualification and **Dr Lethiwe Nzama-Sithole**, **Dr Hussain Coovadia** and **Dr Werner Otto** were awarded a PhD qualification.



Melinda Dube is working towards her CIMA qualification and has passed the initial stages towards her CIMA board.

Sports Achievements

Beyond academic interest, some of our staff members are sport enthusiasts and take part in various sporting events. In June 2023, **Boitumelo Kuzwayo** and **Kgabo Masehela** took part in and completed the Comrades Marathon. A seasoned runner, Kgabo Masehela completed his ninth Comrades Marathon, running his personal best time, finishing under 8 hours.



Public Lecture and Book Review

On 31 May 2023 the department hosted a public lecture, a book review with **Ms Nonkululeko Gobodo**, the first South African black female chartered accountant. Ms Gobodo headed a call to emerging leaders, young leaders to take action in their various spaces and organisations and make a difference in addressing the new challenges that the country is facing. Ms Gobodo also spoke about her latest book, titled *Awakened... To my true self*, which is an autobiography that addresses themes such as racism, discrimination, mental wellness and prejudice against women, which continue to plague our society.



Industry Participation

- Department of Commercial Accounting HOD, **Mrs Lulama Boyce**, formed part of the ACCA panel engagement on the “State of the Profession” alongside other industry professionals from AGSA, National Treasury and SAIPA.
- Department of Commercial Accounting Deputy HOD (Research), **Dr Hussain Coovadia**, was a guest speaker at the ISACA South Africa Chapter’s virtual Professional Forum talking about innovation and AI in the profession.
- Dr Lethiwe Nzama-Sithole** and **Ms Boitumelo Kuzwayo** presented at a seminar, titled “An introduction to and reflection on indigenous language glossary building”, hosted by the CBE Decolonisation Committee at UJ in May 2023.



Dr Lethiwe Nzama-Sithole YLC – Ideal student chapter pillar co-lead

The Department of Commercial Accounting, through the leadership of Dr Lethiwe Nzama-Sithole, assisted the Young Leader Connect – Ideal in establishing a student organisation. Background of YLC- ideal. Young Leaders Connect (YLC) is an initiative of the International Women’s Forum South Africa (IWFSA) Leadership Development. IWFSA has a 6-pillar strategy: Members Affairs, Leadership Development, Funding and Sustainability, Advocacy, Stakeholder Management, Brand and Reputation. Leadership Development, as one of the six-pillar strategies, aims to develop and strengthen the leadership capability of women leaders. Leadership development strategy is executed through the IWFSA leadership committee, which has four pillars: Self-Development, Fellowship Programme, Young Leaders Connect and Conversation Series. The YLC is one of four pillars of the Leadership Development Committee. For 2023, the student chapter is operating under the UJ SRC. Dr Lethiwe Nzama-Sithole was appointed as a Student Chapter Pillar Co-lead. The student chapter at the University of Johannesburg is under the leadership of the following UJ students who are previous and current students in the Department of Commercial Accounting. The student chapter was launched on 21 April 2023. The keynote speaker was Zandile Makhaya, a YLC-Ideal committee leader who shared her academic and professional journey with the students.

Research Output and Publications

Our academic staff work hard on their research output, participating in conferences and publishing in journals. Some highlights from 2023 thus far are shared below:



Charlotte Mamadi and **Lethabo Kosene** were awarded a certificate for “Emerging Researcher” at the International Conference of Accounting and Business (iCAB) in June 2023.



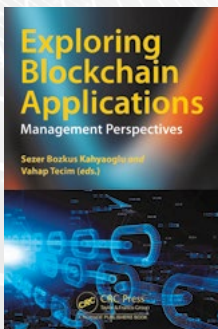
Kgabo Masehela presented at the Business and Entrepreneurial Economics 2023 Conference in Croatia. The study was titled “A qualitative review of the role of the State Accountants in addressing the mismanagement of public funds in South Africa” authored by Kgabo Masehela and Lonah Mbhalati.



In March 2023, **Werner Otto** had an article published in the *South African Journal of Economic and Management Sciences*. The article is titled “Determining the business environmental factor constructs relevant to small- and medium-sized enterprises trade credit management”.



Marise Mouton and **Lydia Pelcher** published an article in the *Acta Commercii, Independent Research Journal in the Management Sciences*. The article is titled “Capital structure and COVID-19: Lessons learned from an emerging market” and it was published in June 2023.



Visiting scholar, **Prof Sezer Bozkus Kahyaoglu**, is one of the editors of a new publication titled, “Exploring Blockchain Applications”. Prof Sezer Bozkus Kahyaoglu has also participated in a number of research projects and research activities on behalf of the University of Johannesburg. These include being a member of the Good Governance Academy, Research Forum (GGARF) Steering Committee, being a guest speaker and organising webinars to promote digitalisation and the impact on good governance implementations in various industries.



Dr Nadia Rhodes presented at Future of Education 2023 Conference hosted in Florence. The study was titled “Knowledge building in student-centred learning using distributed cognition in teams”.



Dr Ray Rhodes presented at Future of Education 2023 Conference hosted in Florence. The study was titled “Identifying the future skills requirement to better prepare accounting graduates”.



Research Output and Publications (Cont.)

Dr Nisi Thusi presented her research at various conference events listed below:

- International 7th World Conference on Qualitative Research (WCQR), Algarve, Portugal – 25-27 Jan 2023. Topic: “Quantitative dynamics of Qualitative Research: A paradox in the discourse”.
- 8th Annual SANRC FYE Conference May 2023. Topic: “A Qualitative Evidence Synthesis Study: The Challenges that Influence Students’ Journeys throughout the South African Higher Education System”.
- Smart Education 4.0 – e-Learning & Innovative Pedagogies Conference 2023. Topic: “Introducing NFT Model as a Pedagogy Using Dale’s and Bloom’s Taxonomy: A Complementary Tool for Learning Instruction”.

New Staff and Visiting Academics



We welcomed **Dr Adedeji Elijah Adeyinka**, our Postdoctoral Research Fellow from the Federal University of Technology Akure, where he was a Lecturer in the Department of Accounting.



Congratulations and welcome to **Ms Bulelwa Nombaba** in her new role as Department Secretary.

In January 2023, we bid farewell to **Ronel Rossouw**, fondly known as Skat. Ronel served UJ for over 30 years and retired in 2023. We thank her for her service, kindness and caring shown to students and staff of the department.



Visiting scholars, **Bartosz Kurek** and **Ireneusz Górowski** from Cracow University of Economics in Poland, spent a day with the academic staff at the Department of Commercial Accounting in February 2023.

UJ Student and Alumni News

Third-year student, **Gracia Kalend**, was invited to join UJenius Club in 2022 for obtaining an average of more than 75% in her studies. The UJenius Club is a Vice-Chancellor's initiative to acknowledge outstanding academic performances by undergraduate students and to offer members additional opportunities for intellectual and professional development. Gracia was recently granted the opportunity to study in New York as part of the travel and student exchange opportunities offered to members of this prestigious club.

Department of Commercial Accounting alumnus, **Gift Somakwabe**, was selected as one of the *Mail & Gaudian 2023 Top 200 Young South African in the Education* category. This initiative recognises the impact the South African Youth make and the role they play in shaping the country in building its future.



Gracia Kalend



Gift Somakwabe

Peer Mentor News

Our student peer mentors are active in various ways, in UJ at the departmental level and outside the University in other organisations.

Peer mentor **Thato Moyane** participated in the IIA (SA) Toastmasters Club, where he excelled in the table topics session.



Department of Commercial Accounting alumni, **Kamo Mda**, **Gothse Matsha** and **Amo Mashewula**, were selected as Youth Leaders Connect (YLC) Committee Executives. Two of our current students and peer mentors, **Phindile Cele** and **Sharon Moroofsi**, have also been selected as YCL Committee Executives.