

# Edubrief | Volume 2 | 2024



30 Years of Democracy in **South Africa**

# Table of Contents

1. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDHOOD EDUCATION	PAGE
• Exciting Return of the Achterbergh First-Year Excursion Post-COVID-19	4
• Service-Learning Event in Collaboration with the UJ Cricket Team	5
• UNESCO DG Commends Funda UJabule and Invites It to Join UNESCO's Network of Associated Schools	6
• University of Cincinnati Student Teachers Explore FUJS Makerspace	7
• Surprise Class Visit by the Dean and DVC on Soweto Campus	8
2. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION	
• UJ Staff Invited to Speak at Akademia's Symposium	9
3. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PSYCHOLOGY'S CENTRE FOR NEURODIVERSITY	
• Releasing individual capacities through systematic work	10
• Parent Financial Support Talk 2024	10
• World Menstruation Day	11
• Launch of Men's Forums Empowers Communities	12
4. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & CURRICULUM STUDIES	
• St Benedict's Boys' School Invite DVP Kerry Kennedy to their Embrace Symposium	13
5. MISCELLANEOUS	
• Events hosted within the Faculty in the Second Quarter of 2024	14
• Notable Staff Achievements	17
• Faculty of Education Celebrates Top Achievers of 2023	18
• In Memoriam: Honouring Zeenith Louise	19
• Call for Submissions	19



**011 559 3251**  
Auckland Park Kingsway  
Campus

**011 559 5562**  
Soweto Campus

## FACULTY OF EDUCATION CONTACT DETAILS:



[www.uj.ac.za/edu](http://www.uj.ac.za/edu)



[eduqueries@uj.ac.za](mailto:eduqueries@uj.ac.za)



[@UJEducation](https://www.facebook.com/UJEducation)



[@EduFacultyUJ](https://twitter.com/EduFacultyUJ)



# FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

## Exciting Return of the Achterbergh First-Year Excursion Post-COVID-19

**Authors: Dr Ndabezitha, Ms Bennett, Ms Bremner and Mr Libusha**

We were thrilled to announce the much-anticipated return of the Achterbergh First-Year Excursion after an interruption from 2021 to 2023 due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. This marked the twelfth year of this cherished tradition and the tenth time we visited the beautiful Achterbergh campsite.

Leading this year's adventure were our esteemed faculty members: Dr. Ndabezitha, Ms. Bennett, Ms. Bremner, and Mr. Libusha. Their dedication and expertise were instrumental in making this excursion a memorable and enriching experience for our first-year students.



*Above: Students taking part in camp activities*

### Embracing University Life and Professional Growth

Transitioning to university life came with its set of challenges, particularly in managing study schedules and adapting to new responsibilities. The Achterbergh camp served as an ideal setting for first-year students to connect with staff members and peers, all while participating in activities designed to nurture their growth into future educators.

### Engaging Activities and Community Building

The camp's programme was packed with engaging sessions that delved into academic subjects, supplemented by interactive activities like games, simulations, dance, music, and film screenings. These activities were not only fun but were also structured to enhance learning and foster a sense of community among students. Social interactions and collaborative efforts were emphasised, recognising the vital role they play in shaping a fulfilling university experience.

### Theme of the Year: Planting the Seeds of Impactful Teaching

This year's camp theme, "Planting the Seeds of Impactful Teaching," highlighted the significant role our students



will play as future teachers in schools, communities, and society at large. We firmly believed that excellent primary school teachers are among the best investments we can make in South Africa's future.

Every activity in the camp schedule was thoughtfully designed to contribute to this vision, preparing our students to thrive in the dynamic and ever-changing world of 21st-century education.



*Above: Staff and students taking part in camp activities*

We were incredibly proud to resume this tradition and excited to witness the positive impact it had on our first-year students. The Achterbergh First-Year Excursion continued to be a cornerstone in fostering a supportive and vibrant community within the Faculty of Education at UJ.

## Service-Learning Event in Collaboration with the UJ Cricket Team

**Authors: Dr Ndabezitha and Miss Tshabalala | Photographer: Mvelo from Endless Photography**

At the UJ Soweto campus, the Department of Childhood Education (DCE) has established a dynamic partnership with Funda UJabule Primary School, creating a unique learning environment for aspiring educators. This primary school, nestled within the campus, doubles as a teaching school for students working towards their Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) degrees.



Every year, as part of community engagement, first-year B.Ed. students dive into hands-on experiences by organizing activities for the young learners at Funda UJabule. This year, the project took on an exciting twist: a sports day extravaganza for the energetic Grade R and Grade 1 learners.





Divided into teams, the first-year students faced the creative challenge of crafting sports equipment like wickets, cones, balls, and bats from recyclable materials. These handmade tools became the centrepiece of a day filled with lively games of throwing, catching, and batting, bringing smiles and bursts of laughter to the schoolyard.

The event was further enriched by the involvement of UJ's cricket team, who not only joined in the fun but also extended their community spirit by donating sports equipment and clothing for future service-learning events. This collaboration turned a simple sports day into a memorable experience, showcasing the powerful blend of education, community service, and teamwork.

Looking ahead, anticipation is already building for the next round of service-learning projects in 2025, promising more opportunities for students to make a tangible impact while honing their teaching skills.

## UNESCO Director-General Commends Funda UJabule and Invites It to Join UNESCO's Network of Associated Schools

UNESCO's Director-General, Audrey Azoulay, has recently praised Funda UJabule for its innovative teaching model and the use of indigenous languages to promote inclusivity. During her visit to the Soweto-based school in April, Azoulay highlighted the significance of teaching in indigenous languages and invited Funda UJabule to join UNESCO's network of associated schools.

Azoulay's visit forms part of strengthening ties between UNESCO and the local education sector. The visit started with a warm welcome from the school choir. During the DG's address she said "we are very interested in this unique model", expressing admiration for the school's approach. She emphasized UNESCO's commitment to multilingual education, recognising the challenges but also the importance of such efforts.

The visit followed South Africa's participation in the 41st UNESCO General Conference in France, where former Minister of Basic Education, Angie Motshekga, invited Azoulay to the country. Accompanying Azoulay were UJ Chancellor Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, former UJ Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Ihron Rensburg, and Johannesburg's Central District Director for Education, Tshepo Seate.

This visit showcased South Africa's capabilities in education, culture, and science, aligning with UNESCO's mandate. Azoulay toured the state-of-the-art school and observed how mother tongue education is taking place in a Grade 1 class at the school.

Professor Sarah Gravett, the acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and Innovation at UJ, and also one of the key founders of Funda UJabule, expressed joy at the school's recognition. She credited support from UJ's leadership in close partnership with the DBE for the school's success.

The principal, Ms Sabina Lukhuleni expressed gratitude, saying, "It's such an honour that a person from UNESCO would leave everything to come to our school and want to learn about how we do things here."



*Above: Ms Audrey Azoulay looking through the Funda UJabule biography photo book that she was gifted*





*Delegates visiting the Makerspace at Funda UJabule*



Watch this video on UJ's YouTube channel: [CLICK HERE](#)

## University of Cincinnati Student Teachers Explore FUJS Makerspace

**Author: Mr Kenneth Baloyi**

On 20 May 2024, student teachers from the University of Cincinnati visited the Makerspace at Funda UJabule as part of an exchange programme. The visit was a collaborative effort between the Department of Childhood Education (DCE) at UJ and our international partners.

Honours, 4th-year, and 3rd-year students from DCE guided the visiting students through the makerspace, illustrating its tools and resources while explaining its practical applications. Mr. Baloyi, along with DCE students, demonstrated how coding and robotics concepts are integrated into teaching across the Foundation and Intermediate Phases. This exchange of ideas introduced both familiar and novel concepts to the visiting students, who reflected on adapting similar methods in their teaching practices.

The interaction didn't end at technical demonstrations. Both groups of student teachers engaged in discussions about classroom challenges, such as maintaining student engagement during lessons. This dialogue facilitated the exchange of teaching strategies, including UJ's innovative "Making as a Pedagogy" programme, which encourages integrating educational robots into various subjects beyond STEM.



*Above: Group photo of students from both DCE and the University of Cincinnati*





*Prof. Sarita Ramsaroop with some of the students from the University of Cincinnati.*

The Cincinnati students highlighted a disparity in their curriculum, where coding and robotics education is primarily limited to STEM subjects. They expressed how this restricts both teachers and students, emphasizing the need for broader integration across disciplines. This perspective resonated with UJ's DCE students, prompting them to reconsider traditional teaching boundaries.

Moreover, the visit sparked a broader conversation about educational philosophies. Cincinnati students, some of whom specialise in music education, shared insights into how early exposure to diverse subjects empowers students to choose their educational paths. This exchange challenged our students to rethink their teaching approaches and embrace a more interdisciplinary curriculum.

The visit concluded with mutual admiration: the Cincinnati students were impressed by FUJS Makerspace and inspired by UJ's innovative teaching methods, while our students gained new perspectives on curriculum flexibility and interdisciplinary education.

## Surprise Class Visit by the Dean and DVC on Soweto Campus



Imagine your surprise when you receive an unexpected class visit from the Dean and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC) of the university. This is exactly what happened when Prof. Nadine Petersen and Prof. Sarah Gravett visited a class on the Soweto Campus, where School-based Student Teachers (SBST) from St Peters were receiving their practical Coding and Robotics training with Mr. Linford Molaodi.

The visit provided an opportunity for the Dean and the DVC to witness firsthand the innovative and hands-on training that the student teachers were receiving. The Coding and Robotics programme, led by Mr. Molaodi, aims to equip future educators with the skills and knowledge needed to integrate these essential technologies into the classroom.

Prof. Petersen highlighted the importance of such training programmes in preparing teachers for the future of education. "Integrating coding and robotics into the curriculum is not just about teaching technology; it's about fostering problem-solving skills, creativity, and critical thinking," she said.

# FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

## UJ Staff Invited to Speak at Akademia's Symposium

**Authors: Prof G. Lautenbach and Prof C. van der Westhuizen**

One of the benefits of having a vibrant and growing community of inquiry with a foundation in the Online MED ICTs in Education Programme at UJ, is that we have a steady flow of emerging thought leaders who graduate and go out into their individual learning ecosystems and make huge contributions to those environments. The resultant collaboration and exchange of ideas is huge.

A graduate of the abovementioned MED programme at UJ, Ms Marnelda De Beer, now part of the Department of Professional Studies within the Faculty of Education at Akademia, a Private Higher Education Institution in Centurion, reached out to the Learning Technologies Unit (LTU) in the Department of Science and Technology Education earlier this year and requested their presence as guest speakers at Akademia's symposium. Prof Lautenbach and Prof Van Der Westhuizen from the LTU responded to this invitation and represented UJ at this prestigious event which addressed the developing landscape of distance education in the digital age. With UJ making up two of the four invited speaker slots we had a wonderful opportunity to share innovative ideas on teaching and learning in the digital age with colleagues in Higher Education, strengthen old acquaintances, and make new contacts with like-minded colleagues in the field.

Prof Lautenbach spoke about authentic assessments for the advancement of 21st-century skills, and Prof Van Der Westhuizen covered active, learner-centered, online and blended learning environments to advance self-directed learning. The panel discussion that concluded the event brought out some lively debate, in which both Professors Lautenbach and Van Der Westhuizen highlighted key aspects of their talks.



*Prof G. Lautenbach with Ms Marnelda de Beer*



*Prof Lautenbach and Prof Van Der Westhuizen in action behind the podium*



# FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PSYCHOLOGY'S CENTRE FOR NEURODIVERSITY

## Releasing individual capacities through systematic work

Authors: Ms Athena Clayton and Rev Deon van der Merwe



*Zola Primary Senior Primary School Facilitator:  
Dr Jean Fourie and M1 Students*



*Lakeview Full-service Primary school (UJ official CE site)  
Facilitators: Dr Khosi (Nancy) Mabaso and M2 students*

## 'Conscientizing' Future Education Psychologists on Existing Tools and Sources of Data for Assessments

The Department of Educational Psychology at UJ aims to train future educational psychologists who are responsive to the diverse needs of the community. The objective is always to learn from Western theoretical theories and practices but being conscious of applying it differently to meet the cultural and social dynamics inherent in South Africa. Thus using principles of community psychology and systemic factors that shape a child's development that is unique to the South African context.

The department has implemented several systemic interventions in the past quarter, working with children, their families, and the broader community. The policies and documents are what underpins the inclusive education system, and students are trained to integrate information from the Social Needs Assessment (SNA) forms in their evaluations. This insight helps guide interview processes and suggest resources for parents and educators. The value of collaborative relationships between psychologists, parents, and educators is underscored. These principles were enacted in two projects this quarter. M1 M.Ed. Psych students were guided through the SIAS process, while M2 M.Ed. Psych students undertook a psychoeducation assessment project at Lakeview Full Service Primary School. The objective hereof was to conscientize our future educational psychologists of their important role as 'advocates' for systemic change by engaging with multiple stakeholders.



### PURPOSE OF THESE ENGAGEMENTS:

To meet support staff, conduct parent intakes identified by the SBST as at-risk, peruse schoolbooks and SNA documents. Plan for Ed-Psych assessment of this cohort of at-risk learners.

## Parent Financial Support Talk [2024]

Facilitated by Rev. Deon van der Merwe and in collaboration with SASSA and some financial advisors, the Parent Financial Support Talk 2024 aimed to enhance parents' financial IQ, impart success principles, and encourage goal setting to expand their financial means. Schools play a vital role in community education by creating such impactful spaces. This initiative is a significant resource in community development strategies.



As the Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu wisely said: ***Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.***

## World Menstruation Day

**Facilitators: Dr Lucia Munongi, Dr Daphney Mawila, Dr Khosi (Nancy) Mabaso, Ms Athena Clayton**

Systemic approaches entail working with the children directly and often engaging in discussions regarding difficult or uncomfortable topics in a meaningful, developmentally appropriate manner. This is particularly important when working with vulnerable children as they arguably have less access to education and resources, thus placing them at greater psychosocial risk than children from traditional family settings. Such a topic is menstruation, which is often still considered a taboo topic surrounded by stigma.

As a result of poor knowledge and access to appropriate resources, menstruation often results in girl children being unable to attend school. Members of the Department of Educational Psychology presented a series of talks for the girl children at Carl Sithole as part of an initiative for World Menstruation Day, where various topics regarding menstruation were unpacked. The talks provided essential knowledge about their changing bodies, menstrual hygiene practices, and emotional support needed to manage the effects of hormonal change during the adolescent years. This educative programme sought to normalise menstruation while reducing stigma associated with periods. The goal was to equip the girls with the confidence and understanding to manage their periods effectively and create a supportive environment between them and their caregivers. Sanitary pads were also distributed.



*Some of the facilitators, Dr Khosi (Nancy) Mabaso, Dr Daphney Mawila, Dr Lucia Munongi with guests.*

***"It is time to effect a revolution in female manners - time to restore to them their lost dignity - and make them, as a part of the human species, labour by reforming themselves to reform the world."*** Mary Wollstonecraft, A Vindication of the Rights of Woman



## Launch of Men's Forums Empowers Communities

**Facilitator: Prof M Sefotho**

Community assets are unique and crucial for building a future. Recognising the capacities of marginalised individuals, especially those who are too old, young, or poor, is essential. The Centre for Neurodiversity@UJ and the Gauteng Department of Education have partnered to train parents of children with autism, alongside SASSA, SARS, and an Occupational Therapist from GDE. This collaboration also launched the Fathers of Children with Neurodiversity Forum (FCN) at Randburg Clinic School and the Funda Ujabule Men's Forum in Soweto, underscoring the importance of recognising and leveraging the unique assets of each community.



***Men's Forum at Funda Ujabule, 18 May 2024***

***Facilitator: Rev Deon van der Merwe in collaboration with the Transformation Committee***

## FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & CURRICULUM STUDIES

### St Benedict's Boys' School Invite DVP Kerry Kennedy to their Embrace Symposium

St Benedict's is a Catholic School for Boys in Bedfordview. Strongly committed to transformation in South Africa its school population reflects the diversity in society. It holds an Embrace symposium each year "aimed at creating a space where we engage with like-minded experts and individuals in exploring our role in the promotion of social justice and social cohesion in our schools". Having come across the ECS website describing the Department's Social Justice and Human Rights Project, DVP Kennedy was invited to speak at the 2024 Embrace Symposium.

The audience for Embrace 2024 was coordinators with responsibility for outreach and charity, St Benedict's parents and a number of students. In addition, although the event was created and coordinated by St Benedict's, there were several representatives from ISASA present, and representatives of other schools linked to ISASA.

Prof Kennedy, drawing on Professor Nel Noddings' care ethics, spoke about the ways caring can become a natural part of day to day living. We can 'care for' those with whom we can develop a personal relationship and we can 'care about' those who are at a distance, but in need of support and can benefit from outreach. In this sense, caring is a form of charity that focuses on giving oneself rather than donations for a particular cause or time for volunteering.



*Former public protector, Prof Thuli Madonsela also spoke at the symposium. Here Prof Kerry Kennedy and his host at UJ, Prof David Robinson is pictured with her.*

There was a question and answer session following the talk. This included some very insightful questions from students who were very interested in ways to create a 'caring' environment on the school campus, especially in exercising student 'voice'. Others were interested in the kind of outreach that would be encouraged from a 'caring' school. There were ongoing discussions even after the Q&A session and Prof Kennedy's PowerPoint was made available to all participants.

St Benedict's Embrace Day was organized by two St Benedict's teachers, Geraldine Pillay-Viret and David Edwards, a UJ alumnus who holds a master's degree in Educational Leadership. This kind of community link is important to nurture. The day's talk showed how academic work can be made relevant to the concerns of schools and their communities and how interaction can be productive in achieving a better understanding of our role as educators.

The St Benedict's link to the gallery of the event is [HERE](#).



## Events hosted within the Faculty in the Second Quarter of 2024

During the months April, May, and June the Faculty of Education hosted and participated in several events.

### APRIL

Date	Event	Host
4-5 April	Workshop: People's Education and Social Justice: Latin American perspectives & African connections. Presenter: Prof Danilo Streck (Universidade de Caxias do Sul)	CERT
4 April	Public Lecture: Preparing Preservice Teachers for Teaching Controversial Issues through Contained Risk-taking: Cross-National Research and Development. Presenter: Prof Judy Pace (University of San Francisco)	DECS
17 April	Public Lecture: Care for mother earth and social justice: an argument for global citizenship education. Presenter: Prof Danilo Streck (Universidade de Caxias do Sul)	CERT
22 April	GINTL Africa Online Seminar   Earth Day: Sustainability in Higher Education. Featuring: Prof Kathija Yassim (DELM)	Haaga-Helia School of Vocational Teacher Education
24 April	Webinar: The Status of Pedagogy in STEM Education in South Africa and Zambia. Featuring: Prof Umesh Ramnarain (SciTechEd/CALTSTEAM)	ASSAf
25 April	Seminar: DAIA Project   Educational Ecosystems for Current and Future Competencies. University of Helsinki and other Finnish associates visit UJ.	Faculty of Education

### MAY

Date	Event	Host
2 May	Public Lecture: Addressing the gender & disability intersectionality: Implications to womanhood. Presenter: Prof Tsitsi Chataika (University of Zimbabwe)	AMCHES
2 May	Public Lecture: 30 Years of Education Policy & Practice – Looking Back & Looking Forward. Presenter: Mr John Samuel. Respondents: Prof Salim Vally (CAWE) & Prof June Bam-Hutchison (CERT)	DTE/ DIPEM/ ADS
3 May	Seminar: What are pedagogic causal mechanisms and how do they work in vocational education? Presenter: Prof Wayne Hugo	DECS
7 May	Webinar: Pan African Ubuntu/Utucentric feminist engagement for equality & humanity. Presenter: Prof Wangūi wa Goro (King's College London)	CERT
7 May	Teacher Conversation: The type of school leadership & management that is enabling for good teaching & professional growth in collaboration with UNESCO, DHET, & JET. Facilitator: Prof Sarah Gravett	Faculty of Education
9 May	Webinar: Surviving Society: What queer lives tell us about the importance of friendship. Presenter: Jamil F. Khan (artist in residence at UJ)	DCE
9 May	Book discussion: Counselling for African contexts: Transformative approaches. Presenter: Prof Elias Mpofu. Facilitator: Prof. Maximus Sefotho	EdPsych/ CN@ UJ
13 May	Book Launch: Building a Better Normal: Visions of Schools of Education in a Post-Pandemic World. Featuring: Prof Nadine Petersen	Emerald Publishing

13/15/20/22 May	Workshop Series: Open Research or Open Science. Presenter: Dr Mojtaba Soltanlou (University of Surrey)	SARChI, Prof Elbie Henning
14 May	Transformation Dialogue: Reimagining the academy through the decolonial lens: Beyond 30 years of democracy. Facilitator: Dr Sadi Seyama	Transformation Committee
14 May	Seminar: Water Boundaries: Financialised Expropriation, Trans-local Solidarity & Water Justice. Dr Adrian Murray (Research Fellow at CERT)	CERT
15 May	Public Lecture: Higher Education and South Africa's Journey through 30 years of Democracy. Presenter: Prof Ahmed Bawa	DTE/ DIPEM/ ADS
18 May	Men's Forum: Men's Role in Family Spirituality & the Formation of the African Patriarch. Presenter: Prof Maximus Sefotho	Funda UJabule
20 May	Workshop: Writing for Publication for Postgraduate Students. Presenter: Prof Kerry Kennedy (DVP at UJ)	DECS
21 May	Webinar: Repositioning African Women's History in the University Curriculum: Gain & Gaps. Presenter: Dr Babere Kerata Chacha (Laikipia University, Kenya)	CERT
22 May	Public Lecture: Early Numeracy Learning, Learning Difficulties & Intervention. Presenter: Prof Pirjo Aunio (University of Helsinki)	SARChI, Prof Elbie Henning
28 May	Education Conversations in collaboration with the Kagiso Trust: Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century. Featuring: Prof Kathija Yassim (DELM)	Kagiso Trust

## JUNE

Date	Event	Host
4-5 June	AMCHES Conference: Negotiating Changes in the Process of Transition from School to Higher Education in Africa	AMCHES
11 June	Seminar: Changing Trends in the Size & Shape of PG Programmes in SA's HE System, 2005-2020 in collaboration with CHE. Presenter: Mr Ahmed Essop. Discussants: Prof Stephanie Burton & Prof Ahmed Bawa	SARChI, Prof Shireen Motala/ CHE
12 June	Public Lecture: Building a Public Academic Profile: Unpacking the Elements. Presenter: Prof Timothy Teo (DVP at UJ)	SciTechEd/ CALTSTEAM
13 June	Transformation Dialogue   YOUTH DAY: "We're Propelled into Future-Fitness. We're Left Behind".	Transformation Committee
19 June	Public Lecture: Mental health policy in 30 years of democracy: challenges & opportunities for change. Presenter: Prof Crick Lund (King's College London)	SARChI/ UNESCO UniTwin Chair, Prof Jace Pillay
20 June	Workshop: Systematic Literature Review. Presenter: Dr Udem Samuel Jacob (University of Ibadan/Senior PDRF at UJ)	SARChI/ UNESCO UniTwin Chair, Prof Jace Pillay

## ACRONYM LIST:

**CERT:** Centre for Education Rights and Transformation**DECS:** Department of Education and Curriculum Studies**ASSAf:** Academy of Science of South Africa**AMCHES:** Ali Mazrui Centre for Higher Education Studies**DTE:** Divisions for Teaching Excellence**DIPEM:** Institutional Planning, Evaluation & Monitoring**ADS:** Academic Development and Support**DCE:** Department of Childhood Education**EdPsych:** Department of Educational Psychology**CN@UJ:** Centre for Neurodiversity @ UJ**SciTechEd:** Department of Science and Technology Education**CALTSTEAM:** Centre for Advanced Learning Technologies in Science Technology Engineering Arts and Mathematics





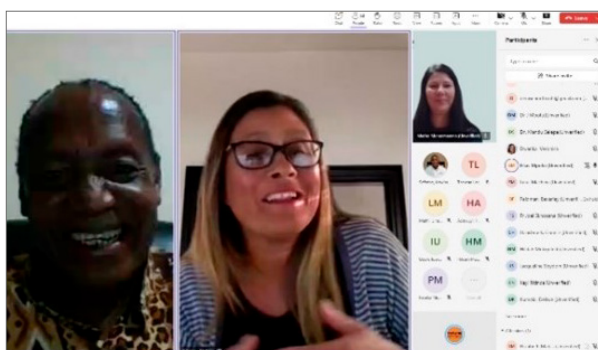
*Prof Danilo Streck and his wife pictured here with Dr Dasoo, Prof June Bam-Hutchinson and Prof Salim Vally.*



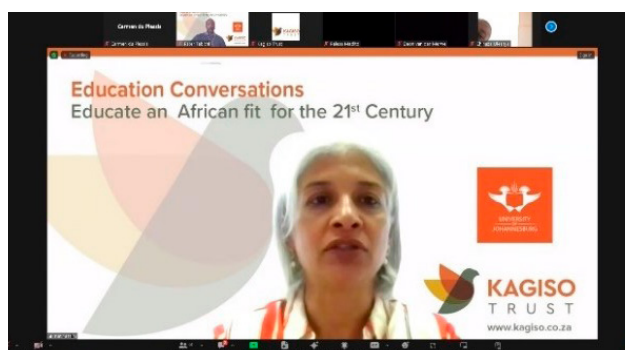
*Prof Judy Pace with staff members from the Department of Education and Curriculum Studies.*



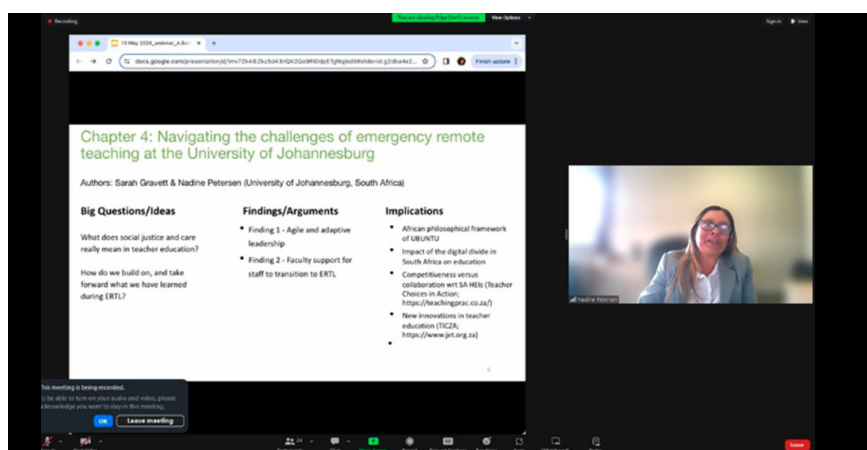
*Prof Nadine Petersen and Prof Umesh Ramnarain with delegates from Finland visiting UJ as part of the DAIA Project's seminar on Ecosystems for Current & Future Competencies.*



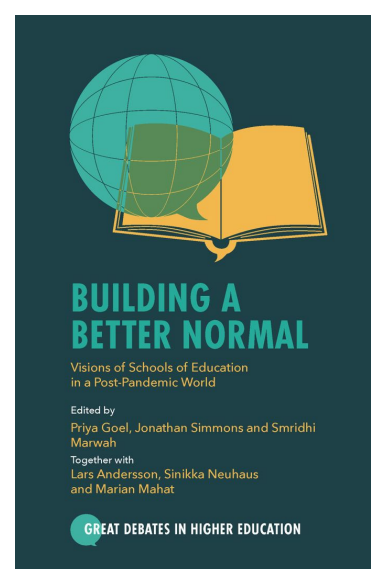
*Prof Nadine Petersen congratulating Prof Elias Mpofu on the publication of his new book "Counselling for African contexts: Transformative approaches".*



*Prof Kathija Yassim opening the 2nd edition of the Education Conversations, hosted in collaboration with the Kagiso Trust.*



*Prof Nadine Petersen speaking at the launch of the book "Building a Better Normal: Visions of Schools of Education in a Post-Pandemic World" in which she contributed a chapter along with Profs Batchelor and Gravett titled "Navigating the challenges of emergency remote teaching at the University of Johannesburg."*



See more: [CLICK HERE](#)

## Notable Staff Achievements

Recipient	Achievement	Geographic Status
Prof Shafika Isaacs	Professor of Practice in the Faculty of Education, Shafika Isaacs delivered a keynote address at the AI Summit hosted by the University of Santo Tomas for the higher education sector in Asia. Prof. Isaacs' address was themed: Advancing AI Capability in Education – critically & with caution.	International
Prof Phillip Hallinger	Distinguished Visiting Professor, Phillip Hallinger, received the Top 1% Researcher 2024 Award at Mahidol University, Thailand.	International
Prof Shireen Motala	Holder of the SARCHI Chair in Teaching and Learning (PSET), Prof. Shireen Motala, was on an international fellowship in Australia. During her visit, she was a keynote speaker at a plenary roundtable at the Quality in Postgraduate Research Conference (17-19 April 2024) at the University of Adelaide.	International
Prof Jace Pillay	Prof Jace Pillay was recently awarded the UNESCO UniTwin Chair on Mental Health and Psychological Support for Teachers and Learners.	International
Prof Sam Ramaila	Prof Sam Ramaila was invited to serve on the Task Team for the Co-Creation of the Southern Africa Physics Network (SAPhysNet).	International
Prof Anthony Onwuegbuzie (A2) Prof Kerry Kennedy (B1) Prof Caroline Fitzpatrick (C2) Prof Piet Ankiewicz (C2) Prof Mlamuli Hlatshwayo (C2) Prof Morgan Ndlovu (C2) Prof Erica Spangenberg (C2) Dr Logan Govender (C2) Prof Joseph Divala (C3) Dr Chiedu Eseadi (Y2)	The following staff members received their most recent NRF-rating.	National
Prof Anthony Onwuegbuzie Prof Joseph Krajcik Prof Philip Hallinger Prof Timothy Teo	The 3rd edition of Research.com's ranking has recognised several researchers affiliated with UJ's Faculty of Education. Prof Anthony J. Onwuegbuzie, Prof Joseph Krajcik, Prof Philip Hallinger, and Prof Timothy Teo are rated among the best in Social Sciences and Humanities.	International



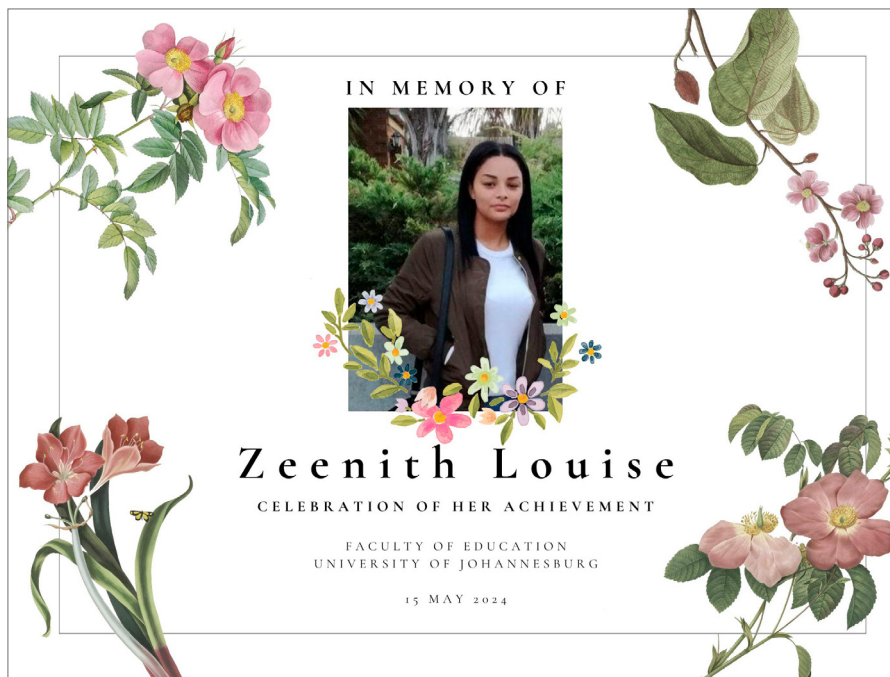
# Faculty of Education Celebrates Top Achievers of 2023

On 6 June 2024, the Faculty of Education hosted a special recognition function to honour the top students for the 2023 academic year. The event celebrated the exceptional dedication and hard work of these outstanding individuals. This ceremony underscores the Faculty's commitment to academic excellence and the success of its students.

**Congratulations to all the top achievers for their remarkable accomplishments.**

- Best Masters student (Research Dissertation): Mr. Tumelo Vincent Mekgwe
- Best Masters student (Coursework): Mr. Adam Daniel Reynolds
- Best Honours student: Ms. Alex Mbanze (STEM Education)
- Best Postgraduate Diploma student: Dr. Selma Schiller (Research Supervision)
- Best Advanced Diploma student: Mr. Sheriff Senzo Shabane (TVET Electrical Engineering)
- Best PGCE student: Ms. Sibongile Ndwalaza (Visual Arts and Arts & Culture)
- Best B.Ed. student (Senior Phase and FET): Ms. Nadine Omar (not in picture)
- Best B.Ed. student (Intermediate Phase): Mr. Mohammed Osamah Dhodhat
- Best B.Ed. student (Foundation Phase): Mrs. Tarryn Merle Farred





## In Memoriam: Honouring Zeenith Louise

A recent graduation ceremony was a poignant moment as we honoured the memory of a UJ graduate from the Faculty of Education, Zeenith Louise. With deep reverence, we awarded her a posthumous BEd degree. To her family, loved ones, and friends, we extend our heartfelt congratulations and condolences.



**Do you have exciting news or updates from your domain that you would like to feature in the next issue of EduBrief?**

Please share your stories and accomplishments to be highlighted in the next publication. Whether it's a new research breakthrough, student achievements, collaborative projects, or upcoming events, we want to hear from you!

Submit a brief write-up detailing the news or update, include relevant pictures or visuals to accompany your submission. Email your submission and pictures to [edumarketing@uj.ac.za](mailto:edumarketing@uj.ac.za).

**Don't miss this opportunity to showcase your achievements in EduBrief!**