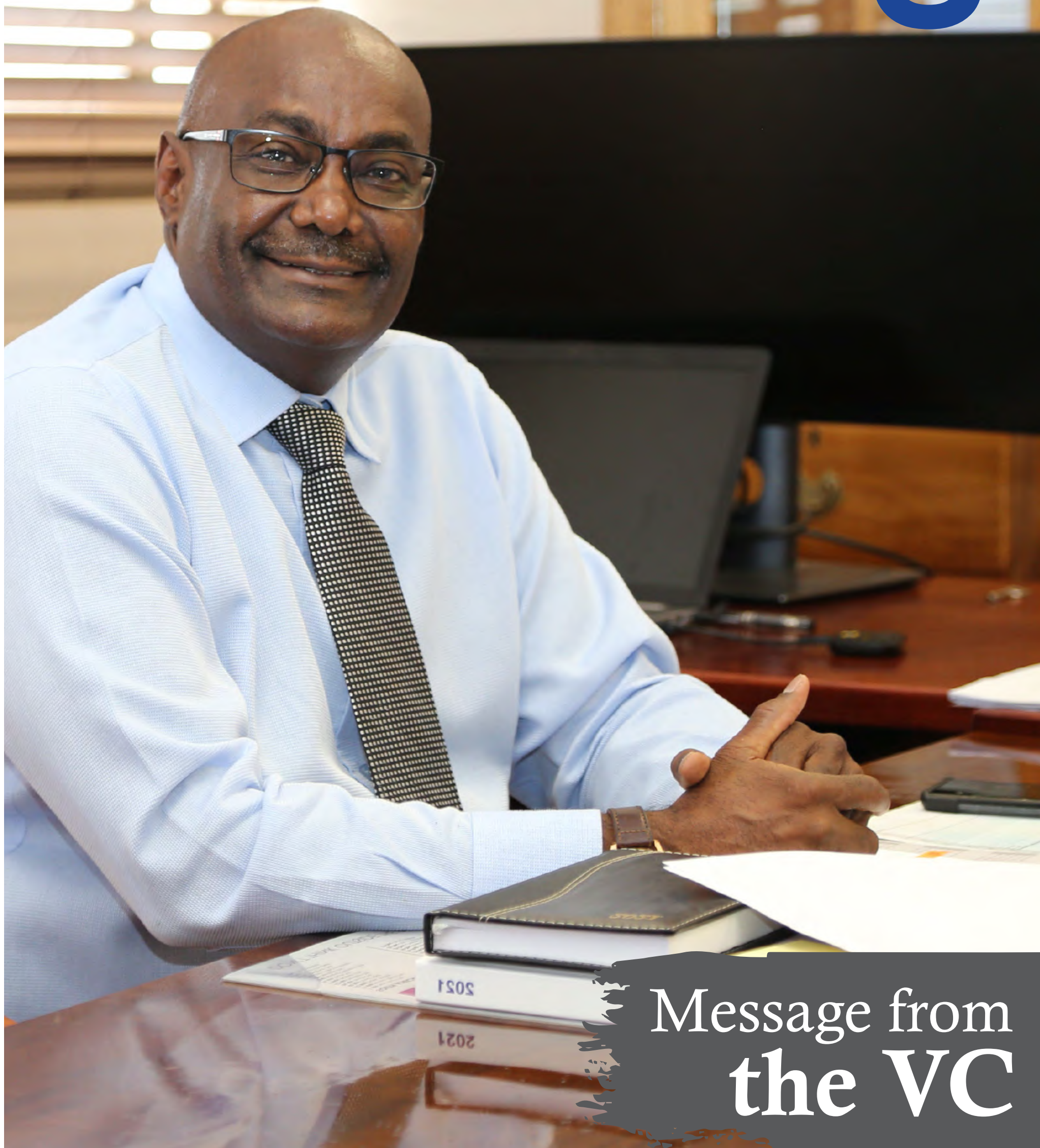




Student Newspaper • Volume 2 / 1st Edition | April 2021

Dintshang



Message from
the VC



SEFAKO MAKGATHO
HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

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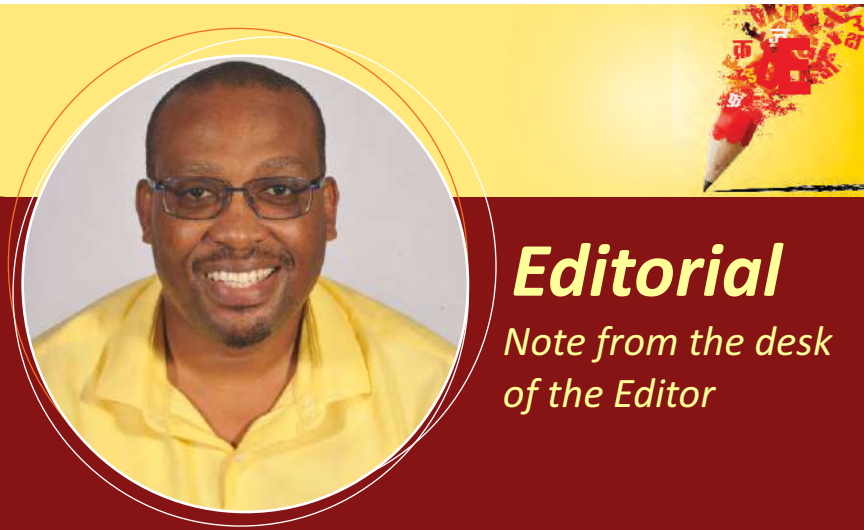
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Editorial

Note from the desk of the Editor

Greetings to all the students of SMU. We present this edition of Dintshang under unprecedented circumstances due to the Covid-19 pandemic. You will recall that the last time we circulated Dintshang was before the pandemic struck and the subsequent placement of the entire country on a lockdown. The pandemic is still firmly with us and we once more appeal to everyone to observe measures introduced by the University to manage Covid-19 including the usage of the SMU Covid-19 Application.

This publication is meant to stimulate conversations with students and amongst themselves, that is the reason we emphasize that students should be the ones telling their own stories. However, due to the enforcement of the lockdown and Covid-19 regulations, a decision had to be taken at the time to put the production of this newspaper in abeyance until the situation returned to acceptable levels of normalcy. I am pleased to say that Dintshang is back again and the process to restore it has begun in earnest. The next steps would be to allow students beyond this point to start working on their own stories and telling them the best way they know how. The team that puts together the publication is ready to bring you the latest, relevant and empowering news using this medium.

It is important to underscore once again that the objective of this newspaper is to inform, educate and entertain SMU students. Furthermore, it is a platform that is used to tell the story of students of SMU, allow them to interact with one another, promote social cohesion and give them a platform to showcase their talents in a variety of areas including focusing on the academic side of things.

There are major developments in the University and great plans to ensure SMU takes its rightful place as a leading health sciences university. The Vice - Chancellor Prof Peter Mbatlana has introduced a number of measures that are geared towards building a successful SMU and has engaged widely on his plans for the university. These engagements will continue through the Inaugural University Dialogue that is expected to be held from 20 -21 April this year. The Vice - Chancellor elaborates more on this matter in his contribution on page 3 of this newspaper. We also want to thank him for making a contribution to Dintshang.

You can expect to read about the state of readiness in so far as the academic project is concerned through the contribution made by the DVC: Teaching, Learning and Community Engagement in this edition. We also have the pleasure to introduce to you, the recently elected Student Representative Council (SRC) and how you can reach them. The SRC President General spoke to Dintshang about a number of issues relating to their responsibilities since they came into office. Furthermore, read about newly appointed personnel tasked with the responsibility of ensuring that they serve SMU students well in the field of sports and at 4B residence. We also have students who recently won awards.

In this edition, we similarly introduce you to “Ndaba” – a dynamic, reliable force and news bearer for SMU. Ndaba will occasionally be in your space to bring you fresh and exciting news and developments in the University including on social media. We appeal to you to embrace him. Check Ndaba on page 7 and what he has to say.

Lastly, I take this opportunity to thank the entire team including the students for bringing back this vibrant publication to life.

For story ideas, contributions and any comment relating to Dintshang, please contact the Editor or any team members whose details appear below.

Dintshang is back and enjoy the read.

Phaladi Seakgwe - Editor



Best 1st Year Student 2020	- Sefoka LLG
Best 1st year student in Principle of Physiotherapy 2020	- Lehaha KS Van der Linde C
Best 2nd Year Student 2020	- Moller AF
Best 2nd year student in Principles of Physiotherapy 2020	- Moller AF
Best 3rd Year Student 2020	- Mamabolo MB
Best 3rd year student in Principles of Physiotherapy 2020	- Sokhela AT
Best 3rd Year in Applied Physiotherapy 2020	- Makgolo TI
Outstanding Performance 2020	- Moller AF





Message from the VC

It gives me great pleasure to engage with you students through this platform named Dintshang - our official student newspaper. This is another way of certifying that there is continuous interaction and engagement with you and amongst yourselves. You will note that this is a platform created specifically for you and I hope you will utilize it to enhance social cohesion amongst yourselves as well as tell your own stories through it. What makes Dintshang special is that a large chunk of the content is provided and gathered by students.

The new academic year has begun and I hope that you are all ready to work hard and do your best. We are still operating under strict Covid-19 conditions and as a university we have a responsibility to offer you the best quality education under these circumstances. We will constantly assess the situation and respond accordingly to your needs and ensure that the 2021 academic year is completed. Therefore, you are reminded to fully observe the Covid-19 protocols that are in place and to use the SMU Covid-19 App for monitoring purposes. Let's work together to curb the spread of Covid-19 and save lives.

We are at a very critical and exciting time in the life of SMU as we embark on a journey to turn the University around. We are introducing new ways and measures to do things differently so that this great institution can occupy its rightful place and be counted amongst the best in the world. All the steps we are taking are meant to ensure that we create a vibrant and favorable environment for our students and staff.

As management of the University, we are fully aware about the challenges faced by our students and will do everything possible and necessary to make sure that your journey with SMU is not stormy. The recent protests that erupted in some institutions of higher learning as well as historical occurrences should spur all of us to work in unison to make the lives of our students better. We are working with other Vice-Chancellors and the Department of Higher Education and Training to find solutions to challenges confronting all of us.

At SMU, we want to create a suitable and conducive environment for all our students and staff.

As such, we will soon embark on a two-day University Inaugural Dialogue from 20 to 21 April this year. We want to use this opportunity to answer the critical question "How should a successful SMU look like"? I am inviting all of you to be part of this important and essential dialogue which will culminate in an institutional compact.

Amongst the key areas that the dialogue will engage with include: where we come from; a look at the SMU culture and values; what does the future hold; how should the SMU community work together. I can assure you that all stakeholders including students will be allowed to express themselves during the two-day session and we would be expected to then build consensus on how we are all going to be part of the project to build a successful SMU, guided by our new Strategic Plan 2021-2025 which was approved by Council.

The strategic plan 2021-2025 is a roadmap that will guide us towards achieving the goal of being a leading regional University as measured by teaching and learning excellence, vibrant impactful research and innovation, post graduate training and excellence in core support activities including ICT, infrastructure and maintenance. I therefore call for better collaboration, teamwork and a greater sense of duty by all including our students in order for us to achieve the desired new status.

On behalf of the management of SMU, I wish you all the best for this academic year.

SMU: Home of Academic Excellence!

Vice-Chancellor Prof Peter Mbatia

An update from the DVC Teaching, Learning and Community Engagement Prof Eunice Seekoe



The Golden Key Society

I'm pleased to inform the community that SMU has now been enrolled as a Chapter of the Golden Key Society. This program demonstrates SMU's commitment to recognizing and awarding student excellence. The community can look forward to a launch event in the coming weeks where details around the program will be shared. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students who drove the initiative to get SMU enrolled as a Chapter.

Online Teaching and Learning

The institution has made significant strides in the past year with regards to online teaching and learning. We can proudly state that all our courses have an online presence and all students and staff have access to the learning management system Blackboard. I encourage both staff and students to use the platform to its full capability and ensure that we embrace the 'new normal' of teaching and learning.

Student Mentorship

The student mentorship program will once again be available to all first year students. I encourage our first year students to request a mentor from their program coordinators or alternatively the Student Support Unit in CUTL. A mentor is able to provide you with valuable insight and support as a student who is transitioning into university life. The Mentorship program will also be rolled out into the residences to promote our living spaces to also become learning spaces. I encourage all students in the residences who feel they require support (academic and social) to request a Mentor. The appointment of Mentors for both these programs will be finalized in the next few days.

Tutoring and Support for Academically Vulnerable Students

All students are encouraged to approach CUTL if they require academic support. CUTL will make available Student Advisers and/or Tutors to assist and support you academically. CUTL will be working closely with the SRC to ensure that all readmitted and other academically vulnerable students are committed to their individual support programs and also make full use of the services provided by CUTL.

Inter professional Education and Collaborative Practice

The IPECP week was held from the 23rd-26th March. Approximately 350 students and 35 facilitators participated in a blended learning programme. Students attended both large and small group online sessions daily. We were encouraged by the number of new facilitators in the program, this bodes well for the future of the program. I once again thank the IPECP committee who worked together and really demonstrated the value of team work. I am also hopeful that with the initiatives we have planned to grow the program at SMU, that Schools who were not involved in the program this year will be involved in the future.

Laptops for First-time Entering Students

The institution is finalizing the procurement of laptops for the first year entering students. It is expected that we will be able to roll out the laptop provision in the coming days. I encourage students who do not currently have a laptop to make use of the computer laboratory facilities as well as their mobile phones in the interim.

Exclusions

I am pleased to inform the community that the Joint Council and Senate Academic Exclusion Appeals Committee (JCSAEAC) at its last sitting moved to readmit all students who were registered for the 2020 academic year and faced exclusion for the 2021 academic year. This is a once off ruling in response to the unprecedented issues that faced our students in the 2020 Academic year. All these students are encouraged to consult with CUTL for further academic support.

Students who repeat a module

A proposal was submitted to ECS to allow students repeating a single module (semester/year) to progress to the next year. This proposal was accepted with specific riders for each School. The implementation and modality of the rule change will be communicated to the community in the coming days. I encourage students to fully apply themselves when they find themselves in this situation and to ensure that they reach out to their departments and CUTL for support.

I look forward to working with the university community in the 2021 Academic year. It will once again result in us facing many challenges, but I am certain that if the university community works together towards a shared vision we will once again be able to succeed. All the best to you and your families and above all be safe.

I would like to welcome all our first time entrance students to SMU. Congratulations on your achievements in your Matric year, more especially considering the circumstances under which you had to complete your studies. The lessons of resilience, fortitude and determination that you have experienced in the past year will carry you well through your life. I would also like to thank you for choosing SMU as your home for the next few years as you embark on your tertiary education and towards becoming a professional. You are in great hands at SMU and we will work very hard to support and drive your journey to excellence.

As we start the 2021 Academic year it is important for me to share with the community some of the projects, programs and initiatives that we can look forward to and report on.

It has been a few months since the SRC came into office

Dintshang caught up with the SRC President Thato Masekoa to look at current issues at the university and how the team is doing in terms of helping students.

1. Phaladi Seakgwe: You recently took the vaccine at the DGMAH vaccination side hosted by the University, what is your experience about it?

Thato Masekoa: The vaccine was fine, I never experienced any side effects or any other funny feeling. The only thing I could not ignore was when the needle entered my body. But overall the whole process was smooth, perhaps because I am still young and ngisa gijima (still fit and healthy).

2. PS: What is your overall impression about the state of readiness of the University as the new academic year starts?

TM: I must say the state of readiness in our view is a bit slow in most schools, perhaps because they are still finalizing issues of last year in certain cases or due to the Covid-19 pandemic disruptions. The SRC finds itself having to continuously engage management to say for instance, when you say you are ready for the first year students, how far are we with registrations. The issue of responding late to first year students also is a serious problem. We believe that the University took time to respond to them resulting in confusion at some point. This had a high impact and that's why we found ourselves questioning the state of readiness. Nevertheless, the SRC is working hard to address the issues.

3. PS: Some universities recently embarked on protest action due to among other things NSFAS related issues and other challenges facing students, what has been the experience of SMU students?

TM: We understand and can relate to the plight of the students and the issues raised across the board. However, I must say on our part, we decided not to be part of the protests and marches as we still had our own issues here that we needed to attend to and resolve. For instance, students are still finishing up the 2020 academic year. We also said once we are done with our issues, we can look at the next step to be taken. We also emphasised to the university that with regards to the NSFAS issues, management must do something to intervene to help affected students.

4. PS: Generally, how do you think the Covid-19 pandemic affected SMU students?

TM: I must say that Covid-19 affected students as it placed brakes on some of the extra - curricular activities that would ordinarily ease the pressure off the minds of students. Due to strict regulations, we cannot for instance have bashes. Students cannot just work and not have any form of entertainment. As they say "all work and no play makes John a dull boy", so we find ourselves in a difficult situation. As a result, some students may be stressed because things are not normal.

We however still emphasise that all students should continue to observe the Covid-19 protocols and measures adopted by the university both on campus and residences. We need to play our part to fight Covid-19.

We are just encouraged by the fact that we are now vaccinating and hopefully the strict restrictions will be lowered at some point.

5. PS: Are you happy with the work being done by the SRC since coming into office?

TM: I must mention that as the SRC President General, I am very happy with the work that the SRC is doing so far. We are working as a collective and there is a lot of transparency in dealing with issues. The positive part is that you have members of the SRC who are willing to work and not just focus on politics. Members have demonstrated that they are there to serve.

The greatest highlights so far include successfully dealing with the issue of exemptions, we managed to secure it for students. We also scored victories on the issue of the waiver on

exclusions for students who registered for the 2020/21 academic year.

We also dealt with the issue of accommodation for the first years. I have never seen it before, where students are brought in as first years and already they have accommodation ready for them. It's a major achievement for us.

6. PS: What would you consider to be major highlights since you came into office?

TM: My message to the students is that the SRC is more than ready to do what is best and necessary to serve them. A lot is still to come and we can guarantee that there would be fundamental change. We are aware that there may be some resistance but change is inevitable. We should all embrace change and do things differently. We want to look back at the end of our term and say, yes, this leadership brought about change and worked better for the benefit of students.

By the way we are looking forward to the planned University Inaugural Dialogue that will take place from 20-21 April 2021. We will participate meaningfully as a key component of the University community.



2020/21

Student Representative Council (SRC)

Thato Masekoa

President

079 129 5948 / 073 460 3987

Thabiso Maphokga

Deputy President

076 867 0617 / 073 462 4512

Thulane Ramasehla

Secretary

060 850 6851 / 073 462 5598

Nqobizwe Zulu

Deputy Secretary

071 801 9096 / 073 460 4583

Mmabatho Kganane

Treasurer

065 992 9335 / 073 462 2659

Mario Malaka

Projects & Campaigns Officer

073 121 7831 / 073 460 4767

Gabisile Ngwenya

Culture & Religion Officer

073 460 4169 / 068 568 7788

Clement Chongwe

Sport & Recreation Officer

073 460 7691 / 073 460 7691

Katlego Malebana

Residence Officer

063 796 8619 / 073 460 9394

Sibusiso Khumalo

Chairperson - School of Medicine

065 906 0521 / 073 460 1806

Chris Ndobe

Chairperson - School of Health

Care Sciences

076 851 5152 / 073 462 5610

Phuluso Semata

Chairperson - School of Oral

Health Sciences

060 330 0711 / 073 460 8290

Jabulani Nukeri

Chairperson - School of Pharmacy

073 545 3183 / 073 460 2958

Thato Phasha

Chairperson - School of Science &

Technology

076 592 9060 / 073 460 2958

Vhugala Mabirimisa

Postgraduates Chairperson

076 658 0141 / 073 462 3849

Introducing SMU Golden Key Chapter



What is Golden Key?

Golden Key International Honour Society is the world's largest academic honour society for undergraduate students and graduates. It has strong relationships with over 400 universities around the world.



Thulane Ramasehla
GoldenKey SMU Chapter: President



Tshiamo Sechogo
Vice President



Jabulani Nkosi
Secretary



Thendo Tshingowe
Treasurer



Courtney Cooper
Membership
Recruitment Officer



Tebogo Mojapelo
Public Relations Officer

What is Golden Key's mission?

Its mission is to be the society that distinguishes rewards and inspires its members to reach their full potential. Its pillars are entrenched in leadership, academic achievement and community services. The SMU Golden Key chapter aims to become the role model chapter for other chapters that already exist in South Africa through the transformation of the performance standards and students morale. Society needs to unlock the potential of its members, while simultaneously bridging the gap between the different socio-economic backgrounds.

What are Golden Key's general objectives at SMU?

- To promote its vision and mission.
- To create a platform that is inclusive and non-political.
- To be a catalyst for change in terms of academics.
- To create health professionals who are leaders in their fields of expertise.
- To promote financial management skills, invest skills and entrepreneurship.
- To increase academic performance and achievements.
- To shine a light on academic excellent performers.
- To create a competitive academic environment.

What are the Golden Key's values?

Unity, collaboration, discipline, innovation, diversity, excellence and engagement.

When was the Golden Key SMU chapter established?

The Golden Key SMU chapter was established in 2020 and our current president Thulane Ramasehla introduced it to SMU because he felt a great need to see our institution broaden its horizons academically.

Which criteria were applied to select the current executive committee?

The current executive committee was chosen based on academic merit, specifically a 65% average and above.

Who are Golden Key's SMU Chapter Executive Committee members?

Thulane Ramasehla - President
Tshiamo Sechogo - Vice President
Jabulani Nkosi - Secretary
Tebogo Mojapelo - Public Relations Officer
Courtney Cooper - Membership Recruitment Officer
Thendo Tshingowe - Treasurer

What are the benefits of joining the Golden Key's SMU Chapter?

- Stop at nothing to display your achievements.
- Connect you with the high performers and influencers around the world.
- Give you worldwide travel opportunities to set you apart.
- Connect you with local members and help you get involved with volunteering, networking and more.
- Set you apart as someone deeply committed to leadership and service.

What are the key projects that SMU Golden Key has earmarked for its members?

- Visit local schools and motivate learners.
- Fundraising.
- Organise recreational activities.
- Organise social events for students to distress.
- Develop action podcasts for mental health.
- Organise student debates.
- Host open community outreach volunteering events.
- Create a partnership with key role players in community service.
- Organise workshops and seminars on different types of leadership skills.

Are you eligible to join the SMU Golden Key Chapter?

1. Go to www.goldenkey.org.
2. Click on do I qualify?
3. Fill in all the required details.

NB: We will get back to you at the soonest.

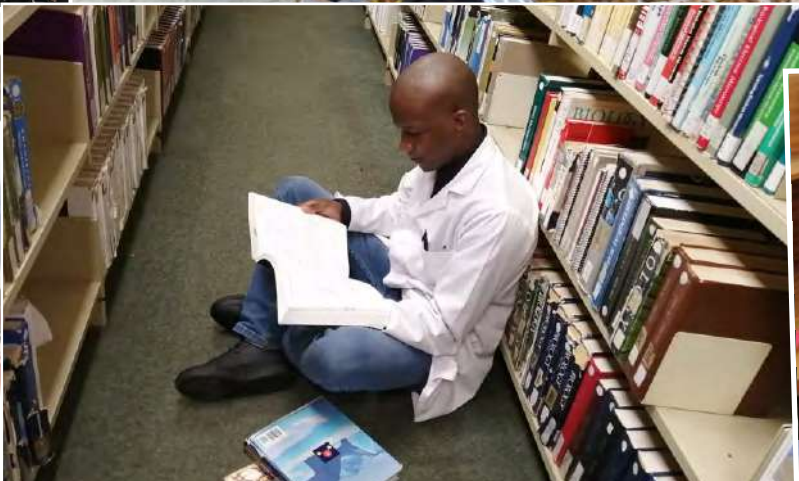
Remember members qualify when they are top 15% of their class.

SMU students representing all the Schools of the University recently took part in a photoshoot to showcase the activities and equipment used in the different professions as part of the new Website project.

We take this opportunity to thank all of them for being available and agreeing to be the faces and voices of the various SMU platforms such as website, social media, newsletters etc. A word of gratitude also goes to the Deans and Marketing Champions for being part of this exciting project.

Watch the space!

Are you ready for the new SMU website?



SEFAKO MAKGATHO
HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

SMU: Home of Academic

Excellence.

www.smu.ac.za





Meet Busisiwe Sijora – The Sports Officer

By Tumelo Moila

The name Busisiwe Sijora is synonymous with impeccable sports administration, as she embodies excellence in her line of duty. Recently, Sijora joined the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU) as the Sports Officer responsible for several sports codes, amongst them are aerobics, football, cricket, karate, pool, swimming, table tennis, and tennis. She envisions contributing to the holistic development of students through participation in sport and active living. “My vision entails producing leaders through sport mentoring leadership programmes and being active in University Sport South Africa (USSA) panels. There will be leadership opportunities for students and championing good governance and fairness within the university sport structure, both internally and externally. I will encourage mass participation in sport (staff and students). I will promote and introduce opportunities for student involvement in community-based sports. I will develop marketing and communication strategies aimed at profiling SMU Sport internally and externally,” said Sijora.

She is relying on her previous working experience to provide quality services to the students. She has been in the student-athlete environment as a student and as an administrator, so it helps her to understand things from both sides. Her career ambitions entail both short and long-term goals that will be beneficial for both herself and SMU. “My short term goal - I am looking to grow my knowledge and establish my career, bring positive change to SMU while I also grow as a female Sports Administrator and gain knowledge through different aspects of the sports environment while enhancing my skills. I also want to see myself serving at different levels of university sports panels such as USSA, Confederation of University and Colleges Sports Associations (CUCSA) and Federation International du Sport Universitaire (FISU). Long term goal - to have my Foundation and Girls Sports Academy for the underprivileged girls who have the potential to become great Sports Personalities, Sports Administrators, Social Media Officers and Performance Analysts in the future,” she alluded.

She is a seasoned volunteer spanning ten years of service and dreamt of becoming a Sports Administrator. “I knew that my Sports Administration job was not going to be handed to me and I had to start somewhere. For me to get to where I am today, I knew that I had to create networks, learn more about what goes on behind the scenes, and because it is a male dominant industry, I had to work extra hard to show that I am capable. My hunger for knowledge, being constantly motivated to learn, and to make a difference also pushed me to volunteer,” explains the 29-year-old who was born and bred in Khayelitsha, Western Cape.

Her work experience involves:

- Social Media Officer – Qina Holdings.
- Secretary – USSA (Gauteng Football).
- Student Assistant – Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) Sport & Recreation Department.
- National Executive Committee – USSA.
- Varsity Sport Intern – TUT Home Games (Football).
- Varsity Shield Activations Manager – TUT Home Games.
- Media Relations Officer – Team SA World Student Games (Taipei).
- Team Manager- TUT Women's Football.
- Team Manager- TUT Women's Rugby.
- Team Manager – Blue Bulls Girls under 16 & 18.
- Team Manager – Blue Bulls Women's Senior Team.
- Team Manager – Mamelodi Sundowns Women's Team.
- Team Manager – Mamelodi Sundowns Under 18

Her work experience yielded several achievements

- 2017 - Best Student Administrator of the Year
- 2017 - Administrator of the Year
- 2017 - Team of the Year (TUT Women's Rugby)
- 2016 - Volunteer of the Year Finalist – Gsport Awards
- 2013 - Team Manager of the Tournament

Her closing remarks are summarised in her motto.
“No matter how slow a snail is, eventually it will reach its destination,” closes Sijora.



Pharmacy Student Attains Leadership Award Competition

SMU Pharmacy student (now MSc candidate), Nqobile Makhaza recently won the **Pharmers Student Leadership Award competition**. Pharmers is a newly established Pharmacy consulting agency that provides numerous pharmacy-related consulting services for both the public and students. It seeks to inspire student leadership amongst Pharmacy students in South Africa. *Dintshang Student Newspaper (DSN)* had a one on one conversation with Nqobile to give insight on her triumph.

What was the criteria to enter the competition?

The competition is for Pharmacy students who are involved in leadership roles. I have played a number of leadership roles during my undergraduate years. My best one being a student mentor under the Centre for University Teaching and Learning (CUTL). This made me eligible to enter the competition.

What do you think convinced the judges to declare you as a winner?

Through the documentation that I submitted as part of the application process, the judges noticed my dedication and hard work I have put in to serve the SMU community. I am grateful for everyone who dedicated their time to draft reference letters for me; they really played an immense role in this achievement.

How did you qualify to become the Pharmers brand ambassador?

The first requirement was that I should be a pharmacy student, and then my social media interactions were very important.

As an ambassador, what are your responsibilities?

My responsibilities as a Brand Ambassador (BA) for Pharmers include advocating for the brand everywhere I go, ensuring that I use my social media platforms to raise awareness about the brand and the services it provides, especially since it is an innovation for the practice of Pharmacy. I also get to advocate for the pharmacy profession in general through my role as a BA.

What is your message to our readers?

Everything is moving towards the digital space, and pharmacy related services are following suit. If you need advice on your medication therapy, or if you are a student who needs help with their Curriculum Vitae (CV), all these needs are a click away with PHARMERS. For more information, I would encourage the SMU community to visit our social media pages and learn about our useful services, specially tailored for them. Secondly, I appeal to anyone who is reading this to kindly follow us on our social media pages (Facebook: pharmers, Instagram: @pharmers.co.za) and subscribe to our YouTube channel (pharmers). After this, they should just mention @NqobileMakhaza and @pharmers in the comments section so I can interact with them.



Meet Mohale Machete – The Newly Appointed Residence Officer

By Tumelo Moila

The multi-skilled, self-motivated, and results-orientated, Mohale Machete has recently joined the workforce of Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU), as the 4B Residence Officer. Machete subscribes to the SMU Student Residence's vision of providing quality residence services and promotion of living/learning communities that stimulate, enhance and extend the total learning experience. He believes students should be engaged in different activities as accommodation of students is not just a mere provision of bed, it is about establishing living, learning and social communities to promote academic excellence. "I will encourage the maximum participation of students in residence life activities to promote academic excellence for the benefit of both the students and University. Creating a safe, comfortable and well-maintained living environment for students will enable them to get higher grades" he said.

Armed with previous working experience as a Residence Warden at his Alma Mater, the University of Venda (UNIVEN), Machete is already executing his key performance areas as a seasoned professional. "Indeed experience is the best teacher. My previous working experience enables me to make sure that I render quality services in the residence. It also assists me to make sure that students are informed about the rules and regulations of the residences and they are also trained in all aspects of health and safety measures. My experience also taught me to be kind and accommodative to students, this makes me provide good service in the residence because being a Residence Officer is like being a parent to the students".

He is confident that SMU is the right place for his career growth and will give him the best professional workplace environment, as he collaborates with experienced professionals to develop students programs in the residences. "My desire for working with students made me look for a new challenge. I believe that grabbing this opportunity to work at SMU will motivate me to work hard, sharpen my skills and adhere to the University motto: 'Knowledge for Quality Health Services' for the benefit of our country, South Africa," indicates Machete.

Machete is a critical thinker and a good problem solver, yearning to attain his PhD qualification by the age of 30 years. Already, he has degrees in BA Development Studies, Honours in Gender Studies, and Master in Rural Development (all from UNIVEN). Apart from his studies, Machete has participated in student development activities, including Amplifying Community Voices Student Association, Enactus Entrepreneurial Action, Peer Education Programme, amongst others. His creativity impelled him to create a monitoring instrument that monitored the residences at UNIVEN, and also mortuary services at the Office of the Premier in Limpopo Province. "I will request a meeting with my colleagues at SMU to discuss the monitoring instrument to make it to be adopted. The instrument plays a vital role in ensuring that residences are comfortable and well maintained for living and learning. It keeps the records of the maintenance programs completed in the residences. It also focuses on monitoring COVID-19 regulations in the residences, and check if the residents are complying with the regulations set by the government to curb the spread of COVID-19," concludes Machete.



1. *The SMU SRC held a successful Covid-19 Vaccine Awareness session on 13 February 2021 on campus and virtually.* The session brought together panellists from diverse backgrounds to deal with the topical issue of vaccination.

The panellists included Professor Ayo-Yusuf who is SMU DVC for research, Postgraduate Studies and Innovation, Dr Mathruba who is the campus doctor and Dr Famoroti from the virology department.

A number of students participated in the activity.

2. *On 18 February 2021, the university held a webinar to discuss the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on mental health.*

Under the theme: mental health and Covid-19, Professor Lesiba Baloyi and Dr Taiwo Akindipe shared their insights on the topic.

The event was facilitated by SMU students Marvel Hlungwani and Talent Biyela.

3. *Over a thousand first year students joined the SMU Orientation Week online recently. The event took place for four days commencing on 08 March until the 11th.* Over 1270 people watched the orientation video, 1132 downloaded the 2021 orientation booklet and over 1700 read the welcome letter.

Videos for the online orientation as well as the orientation booklet are available on the website and can still be downloaded and read.

The logos of the organizing institutions: "higher education & training" (South African government), "ucdp" (University Council of Developmental Psychology), "EDHE" (Entrepreneurship Development Hub in Europe), and "UNIVERSITIES SOUTH AFRICA".

EDHE Entrepreneurship Intervarsity 2021

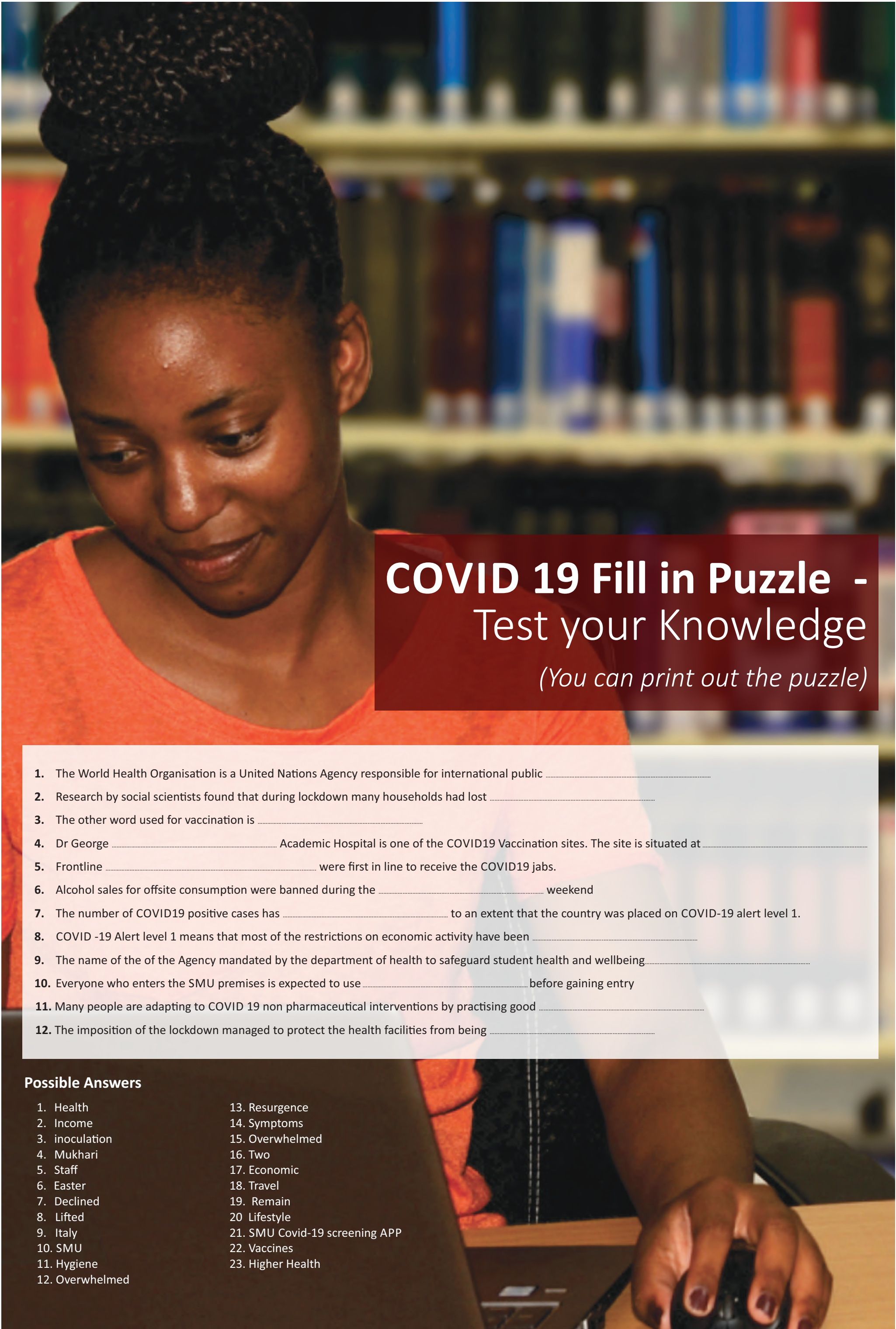
Entries open on 24 March & close on 30 April 2021

The **EDHE entrepreneurship intervarsity** is to identify the top student entrepreneurs at the South African public universities, recognise and showcase their businesses, and invite investment into this cohort of student businesses

#EDHEIntervarsity2021

The logos of the sponsors: "Allan Gray Orbis Foundation", "SAB Foundation", "FNB", and "EJO Johannesburg".

A collage of four images showing students at the event. Top left: A man in a suit speaking into a microphone. Top right: A woman in a patterned dress holding a trophy. Bottom left: A man in a suit holding a trophy. Bottom right: A woman in a patterned dress holding a trophy.



COVID 19 Fill in Puzzle - Test your Knowledge

(You can print out the puzzle)

- 1. The World Health Organisation is a United Nations Agency responsible for international public
- 2. Research by social scientists found that during lockdown many households had lost
- 3. The other word used for vaccination is
- 4. Dr George Academic Hospital is one of the COVID19 Vaccination sites. The site is situated at
- 5. Frontline were first in line to receive the COVID19 jabs.
- 6. Alcohol sales for offsite consumption were banned during the weekend
- 7. The number of COVID19 positive cases has to an extent that the country was placed on COVID-19 alert level 1.
- 8. COVID -19 Alert level 1 means that most of the restrictions on economic activity have been
- 9. The name of the of the Agency mandated by the department of health to safeguard student health and wellbeing.....
- 10. Everyone who enters the SMU premises is expected to use before gaining entry
- 11. Many people are adapting to COVID 19 non pharmaceutical interventions by practising good
- 12. The imposition of the lockdown managed to protect the health facilities from being

Possible Answers

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Health | 13. Resurgence |
| 2. Income | 14. Symptoms |
| 3. inoculation | 15. Overwhelmed |
| 4. Mukhari | 16. Two |
| 5. Staff | 17. Economic |
| 6. Easter | 18. Travel |
| 7. Declined | 19. Remain |
| 8. Lifted | 20. Lifestyle |
| 9. Italy | 21. SMU Covid-19 screening APP |
| 10. SMU | 22. Vaccines |
| 11. Hygiene | 23. Higher Health |
| 12. Overwhelmed | |