



16 August 2019

Dear Staff and Students

WATCH: Vice-Chancellor Video Message (<https://youtu.be/PQJBAI-P1cE>)

Our University continues to surge ahead with the quest to produce competent, well-informed graduates who can work and flourish anywhere in the world. I am pleased to share with you that **fourteen of our students will be jetting off to China** as part of a 2019/2020 Chinese Government Scholarship. Yesterday, the Chinese Embassy in South Africa hosted a send-off reception for our students in Pretoria. Additionally, seven of these students have been admitted by a university other than the three options they had indicated on their applications for this study programme. I wish all our students the best in their endeavours as they embark on this important journey!

I am happy to announce that three of our academics scooped awards at the **South African Women in Science Awards (SAWiSA)** in Port Elizabeth last night. Dr Banothile Makhubela won an award in the category: *Distinguished Young Women Scientists – Natural (Physical & Life) & Engineering Sciences*. The second runner-up was awarded to Prof Neo Morojele in the category: *Distinguished Women Scientists – Human & Social Sciences*. Ms Zinhle Mncube, a lecturer in the Department of Philosophy, won the DST-Albertina Sisulu Doctoral Fellowship. Congratulations to all of you – thank you for flying the UJ flag high!

This week the University began the election process for members to serve on the Executive Committee of the **UJ Convocation**. The online voting system commenced on Tuesday, 13 and closes on Friday, 30 August 2019. As you would be aware, Convocation is an important statutory structure of the University and its members are key stakeholders and ambassadors of UJ. The election of the

Executive Committee of Convocation to represent this huge body of stakeholders is therefore of significant importance.

The call for participation in the election follows the finalisation of the nomination process, the completion of the auditing process for the University Convocation members list and the testing of the secure online voting system. As per the Constitution of the UJ Convocation, the Executive Committee of the Convocation includes five members elected by Convocation, including the President and Deputy President. The results will be communicated and published online during the first week of September 2019.

As is common cause, the reduction of unemployment remains high on the agenda in our country. With the latest statistics indicating that South Africa has recorded the highest unemployment rate since 2008 – at 29%, it is important that we seek innovative ways to prepare our students for the world of work. From Monday, 19 to Wednesday 21 August 2019, our Centre for Psychological Services and Career Development (PsyCaD) will be hosting a **General Career Fair** for all our students at the Auckland Park Kingsway Campus. At the Career Fair, numerous companies from various sectors will make presentations on work and bursary opportunities available for our students. The Centre will also provide talks and exhibitions on a wide range of topics that guide students on innovative ways to seek jobs, update CVs, interview skills, and other important aspects that are key to launching a successful professional career.

Our Library and Information Centre has partnered with TEDx to organise high-octane, community driven TED Talks to showcase the most fascinating thinkers and leaders. This platform will bring together experts from various sectors for an exciting day of presentations and discussions that will inspire new ideas and opportunities across all disciplines. The first **UJ TEDx Talk** will take place on Thursday, 22 August 2019, from 9H00 until 14H00 in the Chinua Achebe Auditorium, under the theme, “Reimagining our present and redefining the future”.

Fellow colleagues, the Johannesburg Business School (JBS) extends an invitation to the **Women Entrepreneurship and Leadership for Africa (WELA) programme** that is scheduled for 10 November 2019. This is a 5-module practical programme that examines the issues, challenges and opportunities women face in creating, managing and leading companies in Africa. The programme is specially designed for women entrepreneurs and is focused on enabling them to identify business opportunities as well as maintain viable and sustainable enterprises. One of the modules will be delivered in China. For more information, email JBS at ExecEd@jbs.ac.za or visit www.jbs.ac.za.

Joburg music-loving audiences are in for a treat this August with UJ Arts & Culture’s second iteration of the **UJ Weekend of Jazz** taking place at the Arts Centre on the

Auckland Park Kingsway Campus from 23 to 25 August. This is an exciting initiative and is set to offer something for all UJ Arts & Culture audiences – UJ staff, students and alumni, and of course, the Joburg public. For more information, please visit arts.uj.ac.za/.

With my very best wishes,

Professor Tshilidzi Marwala
Vice-Chancellor and Principal
University of Johannesburg