

#IAMANEDUCATIONCHAMPION

April 2026

Issue #34



Gambling Addiction on Campus is a Health Crisis

A Day in the Life of an Ecologist

DIY SKINCARE USING
HOMEMADE FACIAL

WE DROVE A SUZUKI
FRONX FOR A DAY

#IAmAnEducationChampion Magazine

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OUT AND ABOUT



The Printing SA KZN Chamber Career Day, hosted by Morgancoat on March 26, 2026, offered a front-row seat to the future of the printing and packaging industry. This collaborative event, organized by Rising Stars Career Expo, welcomed eager learners from Dr J.L. Dube High School to explore the vast career landscape within this technical field.

A Morning of Insight and Innovation
The day kicked off with a warm welcome from Andrew Wassink, who provided an overview of the industry and the day's goals. Students were introduced to the mission of Printing SA, which focuses on training, consulting, and campaigning for the visual communication sector.

Marc Black then took the stage as the day's special speaker. He delivered an engaging talk on the diverse opportunities within the label and shrink sleeve industry. Black demystified the complex technologies required to produce these essential materials, sparking interest in the technical precision behind everyday products.

Behind the Scenes: The Plant Tour
The highlight of the event was an extensive 60-minute plant tour of the Morgancoat facility. Under the guidance of industry experts, students moved from the boardroom to the factory floor to witness the manufacturing process firsthand.

Real-World Technology: Learners observed the latest machinery used in the production of label materials.

Expert Guidance: Staff demonstrated how raw materials are transformed, providing a practical look at the engineering and production roles available in the sector.



Charting the Next Steps
The morning concluded with a reflection session led by Jermaine Naicker and Andrew Wassink. This interactive Q&A allowed students to ask specific questions about entry-level roles and the skills required to succeed in the printing and packaging world.

Before departing for a well-earned lunch, learners were encouraged to take the "next steps" in their career planning.



THE URBAN DRIVE

*Your Ultimate Career Kickstart on
Wheels*

*Featuring
Suzuki Fronx*

2026 April

CAR REVIEW: SUZUKI FRONX

In the world of career growth and entrepreneurship, the quick decisions, spontaneous networking plans, and non-stop energy of modern life demand a vehicle that can keep up. Enter the Suzuki Fronx—a crossover that doesn't just get you to the office; it powers your journey from student to CEO.

With its sleek coupe-like silhouette and muscular stance, the Fronx is a statement of intent. But beyond the striking LED headlights and 16" alloy wheels lies a vehicle engineered for the pragmatic professional.

1. Fuel Efficiency

In a volatile economy, the Fronx's 1.5l engine is a game-changer for daily urban commuters. While competitors often struggle to balance weight and power, Suzuki's HEARTECT platform keeps the Fronx light and agile.

Delivering an impressive 5.5l/100km, it significantly undercuts many rivals in the B-segment crossover market.



For the young professional or student navigating traffic from Durban to Umlazi, this efficiency translates to more budget for business growth and less time at the fuel pump.

Words by Thulisa Mangcotywa



2. A Premium Upgrade for First-Time Buyers
Stepping into the Fronx feels less like an entry-level purchase and more like a premium upgrade.



2. A Premium Upgrade for First-Time Buyers

Stepping into the Fronx feels less like an entry-level purchase and more like a career milestone. The interior is a masterclass in modern comfort: Sophisticated Cabin: The dual-tone dashboard with forged metal finishes provides a high-end tactile experience.

Tech-Forward: The 9-inch infotainment display (in the GLX model) acts as your mobile command center, featuring seamless Apple CarPlay® and Android Auto® connectivity to keep your calendar and navigation in check.

Convenience: Fast-charging USB ports in both the front and rear ensure that neither you nor your colleagues ever run out of power during a busy workday.

3. Safety First for Small Families

Suzuki has prioritized engineering that protects what matters most. The Fronx is equipped with six airbags (GLX) and the Electronic Stability Programme (ESP®), which helps maintain control on slippery roads or during sharp maneuvers. For young families, the inclusion of Hill-Hold Control is a lifesaver, preventing the car from rolling back on inclines—perfect for those hilly suburban commutes.

4. Compact Outside, Spacious Inside

Don't let the compact dimensions fool you. The Fronx manages a brilliant architectural feat:

- Legroom: It comfortably seats five adults, offering surprising rear legroom that can accommodate the "high school carpool" or a group of business partners.
- Cargo: The 304-litre boot (expanding to over 1,000 litres with seats down) is designed with a low opening height, making it effortless to load event gear, marketing materials, or weekend luggage.

-
- 5. The Verdict The most consistent feedback after a test drive? Refinement and Ease. Customers are repeatedly surprised by how "planted" and quiet the car feels at cruising speeds. The steering is light for city parking but tightens up confidently on the highway, making it a smooth operator in every sense of the word.

Gambling Addiction on Campus is a Health Crisis

The lure of the quick win has transformed lecture halls into digital casinos. While tertiary education is designed to be a ladder for upward mobility, many students are finding themselves trapped in a cycle of high-stakes desperation. As online betting platforms proliferate, the line between financial planning and a lucky break has blurred for the nation's youth.

Gambling has increasingly become a form of economic self-medication for students on the margins of prosperity.

Archbishop Thabo Makgoba recently observed that this trend is a "desperate search for luck in a society that offers no opportunity." For a student body grappling with a stagnant economy, the promise of a digital windfall often outweighs the slow burn of academic rigor. This shift suggests that for many, the jackpot has replaced the degree as the perceived ticket out of poverty.

The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) has sounded the alarm on the systemic misuse of student allowances.

They note that funds intended for tuition, books, and basic sustenance are being diverted into betting accounts at an institutional scale. This phenomenon does not merely threaten individual bank balances; it erodes the very foundation of the state's investment in future human capital. When a meal allowance becomes a wager, the student's primary focus shifts from the classroom to the scoreboard.

South African gambling organizations report that nearly one in three active gamblers now struggle with a loss of control. The South African Responsible Gambling Foundation (SARGF) highlights that referrals for treatment among those aged 18 to 35 have more than doubled in the last year alone. This demographic, primarily composed of students and young job-seekers, is being targeted by aggressive digital marketing that equates betting with lifestyle and success.

A coordinated national intervention is required to decouple the dream of success from the addiction of the bet. It is time to treat this surge not as a lapse in student judgment, but as a public health crisis that threatens the viability of our workforce.



GLOW FROM YOUR PANTRY: THE RISE OF KITCHEN-CURATED SKINCARE SUIDE



DIY FACIAL *FROM YOUR PANTRY*

Natural ingredients are redefining the boundaries of the modern beauty industry. While high-end boutiques offer sleek packaging and complex chemical formulations, a quiet revolution is happening within the domestic kitchen.

Aspiring fashionistas and wellness enthusiasts are increasingly looking toward raw, organic materials to achieve a runway-ready complexion. This shift represents a broader movement toward transparency and sustainability in personal care. By bypassing synthetic preservatives, individuals are reclaiming control.

HONEY

It serves as the golden foundation for a multitude of restorative facial treatments. This natural humectant draws moisture from the air directly into the skin, ensuring a hydrated glow that mimics professional hydration therapies. Beyond its moisturizing capabilities, raw honey contains enzymes that gently exfoliate dead cells without the irritation often caused by mechanical scrubs. For students balancing a hectic academic life with a commitment to self-care, a simple ten-minute honey mask offers a rapid antiseptic

boost to combat environmental pollutants. It is the ultimate multitasker for the busy Straight-A student.

OATS

Provides the essential calming texture required for sensitive skin profiles. Often overlooked as a mere breakfast staple, finely ground oats act as a powerful anti-inflammatory agent that soothes redness and irritation. When combined with a splash of rose water or plain yoghurt, they form a paste that balances the skin's natural pH levels while drawing out deep-seated impurities. This DIY approach allows for a customized grit level, ensuring that the exfoliation process remains gentle enough for daily maintenance.



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GOOGLE AND DHET LAUNCH 10,000 AI SCHOLARSHIPS



By Neo Morokane
Photographs supplied



The future of work in South Africa just got a massive software update. In a landmark move for youth employability, the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) has officially teamed up with Google South Africa to bridge the country's digital divide.

The partnership, solidified through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on March 30, 2026, promises to equip 10,000 students with high-demand certifications in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital technology. More Than Just a Certificate

For high school learners planning their next move and varsity students looking to future-proof their degrees, this deal is a game-changer. The initiative isn't just about learning to use a

computer; it's about mastering the tools that are currently reshaping the global economy.

The Power Pack of the Deal
10,000 Google Career Certificate Scholarships covering fields like Data Analytics, Cybersecurity, IT Support, and UX Design. A train-the-trainer model to ensure your lecturers and teachers are as tech-savvy as the industry requires. Using ChromeOS Flex to breathe new life into old campus computers, making sure tech is accessible even in remote and township areas.

"Digital and AI skills are vital for navigating the modern world," says Dr. Mimmy Gondwe, Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training. "It is essential that our students are prepared for the job market... including self-employment and entrepreneurship."





CELEBRITIES WHO JOINED THE NEW ACADEMIC ELITE

Education is the ultimate accessory for the modern South African icon. While the red carpets of Johannesburg and Cape Town are usually reserved for high fashion, the Autumn 2026 graduation season has traded sequins for scholars' gowns. This year, Mzansi's favourite faces are proving that a spotlight is most effective when it shines on a well-earned degree. From legendary screen queens to rising stars, the narrative of the uneducated artist is being rewritten by a generation that values intellectual capital as much as social media clout.

By Lwazi Feni



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Dr Leleti Khumalo has added a prestigious new title to her legendary career. The world-renowned actress, known for her era-defining role in *Sarafina!*, received a Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) from Rhodes University this March. Her transition from an international screen star to a recognized legal academic figure highlights a deep commitment to social justice and the protection of the arts. "I have always believed that our stories carry the weight of our laws," Khumalo remarked while draped in her crimson robes.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN REMAINS A BREEDING GROUND FOR THE COUNTRY'S MOST INFLUENTIAL THINKERS.

During the April ceremonies, performing artist Dr Rehane Abrahams successfully defended and performed her PhD, showcasing how creative expression can meet the highest levels of academic rigor. This unique blend of performance and doctoral research sets a new benchmark for how South African artists can influence global discourse through education. Her journey proves that the stage and the study hall are no longer mutually exclusive.

Academic success serves as the strongest foundation for any long-term career in the public eye. Whether it is a veteran like Dr Khumalo receiving an honorary doctorate or a PhD graduate like Abrahams, the message is clear: knowledge is the only trend that never goes out of style. As the Class of 2026 steps into the winter, they carry more than just fame; they carry the credentials to lead.

“Creativity is our currency.
We need to constantly
reinvent and push the
boundaries to stay relevant.”





By Pearl Nzama

Could Your Luxury Handbag Be Costing You a Promotion?

High-end fashion in the workplace has become a double-edged sword for the modern professional. While a quilted Chanel flap bag once signaled "I've made it," it now frequently triggers a subconscious bias among upper management known as pocket-watching. In boardrooms across the country, the visual of a junior associate carrying an accessory that costs three months of their salary creates a jarring disconnect. This aesthetic friction often leads supervisors to question a candidate's genuine need for a raise or their commitment to long-term financial growth within the firm.

Managers often harbor a hidden relatability bias that favours those who mirror their own spending habits. When an entry-level employee arrives draped in more logos than the CEO, it can inadvertently suggest that they are overcompensated or working merely for recreation. Career coaches warn that if a boss perceives you as financially comfortable due to your wardrobe, they may subconsciously prioritize salary increases for peers who appear to need the stability more. This isn't just about envy; it's about the optics of professional hunger. It is difficult to look hungry for success when you look like you've already won.

Quiet Luxury movement has emerged as the strategic middle ground for those navigating high-stakes office politics. Savvy professionals are pivoting toward high-quality, unbranded pieces that signal sophistication without screaming a price tag. This if you know, you know approach allows style enthusiasts to indulge in craftsmanship while maintaining a neutral profile during performance reviews. By removing the distraction of a recognizable logo, you force your supervisors to focus entirely on your output rather than your outfit. Subtle elegance always beats loud labels.

Strategic dressing is ultimately about controlling the narrative of your own ambition. Your wardrobe should serve as a supportive backdrop to your achievements, never the lead story that overshadows your hard work. Before you reach for that monogrammed tote on a big presentation day, consider if the accessory reinforces your professional authority or complicates it. The goal is to look like you belong in the room, not like you own the building before you've earned the keys. Dress to be remembered for your mind, not your mall receipts.

Must-Have Kitchen Utensils



As academic schedules tighten, the demand for tools that bridge the gap between aesthetic appeal and rapid functionality has never been higher. Today's student identifies as a culinary minimalist who refuses to sacrifice the quality of a home-cooked meal for the speed of a snack. These essential utensils ensure that even the busiest scholar can whip up a gourmet-standard bite without the clutter of traditional appliances. Investing in the right gear is the first step toward a balanced lifestyle.

Must-Have Savoury Essentials

Speedy meals depend entirely on a few high-performance items that handle the heavy lifting of daily prep. A Multi-Function 8-in-1 Chopper (R299) is the definitive game-changer, allowing students to dice vegetables, prep stir-fry ingredients in mere seconds. For students relying on protein-rich snacks, Stainless Steel Tongs (R199) and a Non-Stick Slotted Turner (R99) offer the precision needed for searing or flipping without damaging expensive cookware. Even a basic 3-Piece Knife Set (R109) provides the sharp edge needed for clean, professional cuts that look as good as they taste.

The Sweet Science of Quick Desserts

Baking in a student residence is redefined by

compact, high-precision tools that satisfy a late-night sweet tooth. Precision is the secret ingredient for foolproof desserts, making a Digital Kitchen Scale (R249) a non-negotiable addition to any countertop for measuring flour and sugar accurately. A Silicone Whisk (R59) and a Flexible Spatula (R79) are the perfect duo for folding chocolate into mug cakes or whipping up a quick mousse. For students who prefer cold treats, a High-Speed Hand Blender (R349) transforms frozen fruit into instant sorbet with effortless elegance.

While budget-friendly options like Bamboo Spoons (R39) are excellent for the wallet, layering in durable pieces ensures the kitchen remains a place of inspiration rather than frustration. By selecting tools that are easy to clean and even easier to store, students can maintain a stylish living space while mastering the art of the quick fix.

Student Price Check 2026

8-in-1 Chopper: R299.00

Digital Scale: R249.00

3-Piece Knife Set: R109.00

Silicone Whisk: R59.00



Made With Love

QUICK DISH PREPARED BY CHEF SINENHLAHLA SIMELANE

Italian cuisine has developed through centuries of social and political changes, with roots stretching to antiquity. Significant changes occurred with the discovery of the New World and the introduction of potatoes, tomatoes, bell peppers and maize, now central to the cuisine but not introduced in quantity until the 18th century.

Italian cuisine is noted for its regional diversity, abundance of difference in taste, and is one of the most popular in the world, with influences abroad. Italian cuisine is characterized by its simplicity, with many dishes having only four to eight ingredients.

Italian cooks rely chiefly on the quality of the ingredients rather than on elaborate preparation. Ingredients and dishes vary by region. Many dishes that were once regional, however, have proliferated with variations throughout the country.

Cheese and wine are a major part of the cuisine, with many variations and Denominazione di origine controllata (DOC) (regulated appellation) laws. Coffee.

The Story Behind the Famous Pepperoni Pizza

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"INTERESTINGLY PIZZA DID NOT ACTUALLY GET ITS START IN ITALY"

This pepperoni is a pizza that was created in 1899 which Queen Margherita was visiting Naples to get away from a cholera epidemic that was ravaging northern Italy.

Usually this pizza is made with basil, mozzarella cheese and tomatoes in imitation of the colors of the Italian flag.



CAREER SPOTLIGHT: ECOLOGIST



Ecologists serve as the ultimate detectives of the natural world, deciphering the complex web of life to protect our planet's future. These scientists do not just look at animals or plants in isolation; they study the intricate relationships between living organisms and their environments. Whether they are trekking through the Kruger National Park to track rhino populations or analyzing water samples in the Okavango Delta, their work is the frontline defense against climate change and habitat loss.



Rooted in Science

Success in this field begins with a deliberate selection of STEM subjects during your FET phase (Grades 10–12). To qualify for a Bachelor of Science (BSc) at most South African universities, you must prioritize Mathematics and Physical Sciences over their literacy counterparts. Life Sciences (Biology) is equally vital, as it provides the fundamental understanding of organic systems you will later master. Some institutions also value Geography, as it introduces concepts of spatial analysis and environmental management that are daily tools for a working ecologist.

Degrees and Specializations

University pathways in South Africa are diverse, offering world-class training in diverse biomes. Most aspiring ecologists start with a three-year BSc in Biological Sciences, Ecology, or Environmental Science. Specialized programmes, such as the BSc in Conservation Ecology at Stellenbosch University or Aquatic Ecology at the University of Mpumalanga, allow students to hone their focus early on. As Fannie Masina, a noted South African researcher in aquatic ecology, emphasizes: "Our freshwater ecosystems are under immense pressure; understanding the impact of human activity is essential to protecting our most vital resources."



What to Expect

A career in ecology offers a dynamic split between high-tech lab analysis and rugged outdoor exploration. You might find yourself using satellite imagery to map deforestation one day and wading through wetlands to count bird species the next. Entry-level roles often include Field Technicians or Conservation Officers, but a Master's degree is typically the "gold standard" for those wanting to lead independent research or work as senior consultants.

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