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saam vorentoe

Invitation to special guest lecture: Dr Tjaart van der Walt

Join us as we celebrate the awarding of an Honorary Doctorate in Engineering to Dr Tjaart van der Walt by attending his special guest lecture:

The DNA Required to Build High-Growth, Game-Changing Businesses: A Brief History of Tyme

Tuesday, 5 May 2026 | 17:00

General Engineering Building, A1001

Reception to follow

Kindly RSVP | Limited seating available



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Dr Tjaart van der Walt co-founded TymeGroup in 2012. He led the sale of it to the Commonwealth Bank of Australia in 2015 with his co-founder, and later its return to South Africa in 2018 with African Rainbow Capital. South Africa's first fully digital retail bank, TymeBank, launched in South Africa in 2019 under his co-leadership, using an innovative distribution model that brought banking services to millions of previously unbanked South Africans. TymeBank was followed by GoTyme Bank in the Philippines, launched in 2022.

An alumnus of SU, Van der Walt continues to support the University's development. As a student, he served as chairman of the Student Representative Council (1990) and received the Chancellor's Medal (1992), SU's highest honour awarded to a final-year or postgraduate student for academic excellence and contributions to campus life.

Van der Walt holds a doctorate in chemical engineering from SU (1992), and obtained a BCom Accounting degree from UNISA (2001). His research focused on the development of new artificial intelligence algorithms. As a postgraduate student, he published widely on the subject of AI in leading subject journals in the early 90s. More recently, he helped launch the TymeCube programme – a partnership between TymeGroup and SU that offers mentorship and research opportunities to top postgraduate students in engineering, actuarial and data science.

A thought leader in the ethical application of technology for societal benefit, Van der Walt contributes to national capacity development by supporting and investing in high-impact entrepreneurs and mentoring emerging leaders in the technology sector. He also serves as a board member of Endeavor South Africa.



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