



Julia Baah

## FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

Mrs Julia Baah, Acting Dean

The Faculty of Engineering is committed to offering high quality programmes to its students. All programmes in the faculty are subjected to rigorous accreditation processes by relevant professional bodies. Two of the professional bodies have evaluated six programmes offered by the faculty in 2017. National Diploma: Mechanical Engineering, National Diploma: Chemical Engineering and Bachelor of Engineering Technology: Chemical have been accredited by Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) until May 2021. National Diploma: Building was accredited by the South African Council for Project and Construction Management (SACPCMP) until December 2020. National Diplomas in Civil Engineering and Electrical Engineering have received accreditation until May 2018.

The measure of any educator's successes is the quality of their graduates. The Faculty of Engineering produced 823 National Diploma and 21 Bachelor of Technology graduates in 2017. Seven graduates completed their qualifications with cum laude. The story about Xoliswa Langa below is an exemplar of success MUT wants to see:

### Softly-spoken mechanical engineering student wins prestigious SAIMEChE Award

MUT graduation is a very pleasing time for parents who have invested much in their children's education. For Xoliswa Patience Langa, her graduation on 11 May 2017 will be particularly special – although her demeanour gives few clues as to her story.

With her head down most of the time, Xoliswa could hardly be associated with anything sensational. But her academic record is! "She has 16 distinctions. I saw her results," said one of Toyota SA's employees about Xoliswa, who is doing further training at Toyota's car manufacturing plant in Prospecton, Durban.

Xoliswa confirmed the 16 distinctions. "This excludes the PreTech," she said in a very soft voice. Xoliswa puts her huge success down to hard work, dedication and being focused on what she was doing.

For her hard work Xoliswa received the South African Institute of Mechanical Engineering (SAIMEChE) Meritorious Student Award. Xoliswa's overall average mark for the 2016 examination was 75%, a performance which drew the HoD's attention. Prof Ewa Zawilska said: "This award comes with a beautiful medal and a prize cheque. I am very proud of my student." This award is given to a deserving student every year.

Xoliswa said she chose mechanical engineering because it relates well to mathematics. She is comfortable with calculating things "rather than taking down notes", said the former Ganges Secondary School learner, who added that although she has many distinctions, they were not easy to achieve.



Xoliswa Patience Langa receiving a certificate from Professor Ramogale, Acting VC

### Being on the cutting edge of curriculum development

Faculty of Engineering strives to be on the cutting edge of curriculum development in ensuring PQM that is relevant to the needs of local economy. As a part of this stride the Department of Civil Engineering and Surveying embarked on the development of new programme - Advanced Diploma in Civil Engineering with specialization in ports and harbours. The department through close co-operation with eThekweni Maritime Cluster (EMC) assembled a team of experts and successfully mapped competencies of perspective graduates that industry will require using DACUM exercise.

The development of new programme was substantially enhanced by participation of international maritime experts. MUT and EMC hosted Mr Ton van Essen from the Netherlands. Mr van Essen is part of 'Programma Uitzending Managers' which is Dutch for Manager Deployment Programme and was introduced to the department by Ms Zenzile Maseko who is a Programme Manager for Training and Skills Development at EMC. Mr van Essen has over 46 years of maritime education and industry experience and provides consultancy services for ports and shipping companies around the world. He has shared his invaluable expertise with the staff in the department through the series of training sessions and has provided assistance with shaping the new curriculum.



MUT staff and their Netherlands counterparts



Thembi Kweyama

## STUDENT AFFAIRS

Thembi Kweyama, Acting Dean of Students

### SRC elections - as seamless as ever

The 2017 SRC elections were held on 15 September 2017 at MUT's Dr Pixley kaSeme Hall. Once again they were seamlessly conducted - an achievement that MUT is very proud of, considering what many other institutions experience during the election season. The trouble-free SRC campaign and election process can be attributed to leadership stability at MUT, as well as a number of social cohesion and leadership empowerment programmes put in place.

For the fourth consecutive year, SASCO won the elections with five seats, followed by SADESMO with four. The SASCO victory was further enhanced by two independent candidates, Bhekuyise Bhengu and Mlungisi Simelane, who both contested the elections under the banner of SASCO. The two candidates received a total of 4 875 votes and will be serving under the SASCO leadership which then gives SASCO a total of seven seats in the SRC. The new SRC was inaugurated on 6 October 2017.

### Sisterhood Programme reaches out to young women

In our effort to build well-grounded male and female students, Student Affairs continued with its sisterhood and brotherhood projects. The Sisterhood Programme is a programme for young women who form part of the MUT family. When students arrive at the University they feel isolated, lonely and unsure what is expected of them academically and socially. This in turn can lead to their becoming vulnerable and result in academic failure. The primary purpose of the Sisterhood Programme is to create an environment for young women in which lasting friendships will be created, their educational and cultural interests will be promoted, and a true sense of social responsibility and high quality character will be developed. In the society that we live in today, it is difficult for young girls to find their way through life. Complications may also arise from the media which objectifies women and makes them seem superficial. Every year Student Counselling finds a challenge that is rife among the female students. In 2017, the Peer Helpers came up with the theme, "Woman Fix Your Crown", which aims to empower young girls to create their own footprints.

### Brotherhood Programme creates focused, responsible young men

The Brotherhood Programme targets male students. It uses mentors who provide talks to male students, focusing on real life issues. Some of the speakers in the Brotherhood Programme included the likes of Pastor Stembiso Zondo who gave a moving speech on seasonal friends. Initially, the male students were skeptical when he alluded to the Bible but once he drove the concept home, students started listening. The concept of seasonal friends is captured in this anonymous poem:

"Some people come into your life for a SEASON,  
because your turn has come to share, grow or learn.  
They bring you an experience of peace or make you laugh.  
They may teach you something you have never done.  
They usually give you an unbelievable amount of joy.  
Believe it. It is real. But only for a season."

The messages students took away from this talk were:

- Start creating your own life and don't always follow other people. Start by leading and lead by example.
- Alcohol and drugs do not build our community but rather destroy it.
- Know and always remember your background. (Pastor Zondo further advised the male students not to try and be "hits" by chasing fame and girls).
- Entrepreneurship is important. Stop thinking of being employed and start thinking of how you will create your own employment.

The CEO of the Prince Mshiyeni Hospital, Dr Sandile Shabalala, sensitised students on the importance of Medical Male Circumcision. Dr Shabalala also covered important topics such as condom use, drugs and alcohol, sugar daddies and absent fathers.

New Start, one of South Africa's biggest HIV prevention programmes, offers a comprehensive package of HIV counselling and testing, medical male circumcision and health communications services. Its representative, Nkanyiso Langa, informed and educated male students on the matters including multiple sexual partners, shaving, circumcision, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), unwanted pregnancy and the male condom. Drama in AIDS Education (DramAidE) was able to develop a play and material for the Brotherhood event relating to sugar daddies, HIV, AIDS, STIs and pregnancy. They were able to stimulate discussion and debate, while relating important information on these key topics.

Sr Nomusa Mkhwanazi, head of the MUT Clinic, was also able to cover an important topic which is an issue for males: the issue of hygiene. She gave guidelines on various aspects of hygiene including washing hands, shaving and washing private parts, cutting nails and bathing. Israel Makoe, the South African TV personality, covered the following topics at the Brotherhood launch:

- Entrepreneurship (there is no manual for being a millionaire; people should nurture their talents)
- Criminal activity and the hardships he experienced in jail
- Relationships
- Sugar daddies
- Hardships he faced growing up
- Strong family values instilled by his grandmother
- Sexual violence (Israel has never hit a woman and never will).