

Alumni Roadshow

In the week of 13-17 November 2017, the Alumni Relations Office undertook a roadshow across four cities in three provinces: Richard's Bay, Witbank, Nelspruit and Johannesburg. During this roadshow, the Marcomms team was accompanied by executive management (Professor Marcus Ramogale, the then acting Vice-Chancellor; Mr Gona Govender, the then Acting Vice-Chancellor: Teaching & Learning); Professor Chandra Jinabhai, Convocation executive; and Mr Morilane Morilane, Chairperson of MUT Council, who joined the Johannesburg leg.

The motive of the roadshow was to reach out, touch and see the alumni, and to remind them that they belong to the MUT family. The campaign objectives were to:

- **Reconnect:** Find out what your former University mates are doing and continue where you left off.
- **Rediscover:** How else could you refuel your energy for a better cause?
- **Revitalise:** What is your purpose as an MUT alumnus?
- **Reinvest:** Your time and money in helping disenfranchised MUT students.

Over 300 alumni in high-level positions gathered in various cities to meet their alma mater in 'person'. The show was stolen by Professor Koos Landman of the Department of Civil Engineering, who was continually referred to by various students as having "changed my life". The Deputy Surveyor-General in Nelspruit, Ms Mnyandu, spoke endlessly about how Professor Landman had changed her life.

The first MUT alumni giving project grows in leaps and bounds

Cultivating a culture of giving among MUT alumni is the main mission of MUT's Alumni Relations Office. Every contribution, regardless of size or value, is bound to make a positive difference for the future of MUT and its students. As part of a Liveable Spaces project, alumni have spearheaded the donate-a-bench project which focuses on donating eco-friendly outdoor benches. The project started as a contribution to provide MUT students with a space to 'chill' between lectures, and the benches have been a welcome addition to the infrastructure of the University.

One graduate, Bheki Dlamini from Swaziland, said that the project will not only provide space for relaxation, but will also eliminate the risk of students falling from stairs and pillars. Bheki spent over two weeks in hospital during his time at MUT when he fell off a pillar where he had been sitting, and seriously injured himself.

The first two benches were donated by the MUT Masters - a group of graduates from the Faculty of Engineering - in March 2016. The project has now grown tremendously, with 16 more benches being installed on 21 November 2017 at the main campus and the Faculty of Natural Sciences campus. The students, who generally gather under the trees, were ecstatic over this generous donation and could not wait to sit down in comfort. The new benches are strategically positioned in the most popular WiFi hotspots and around the fountain, the most popular rendezvous for MUT students, dating back to 1979.

Selected Corporate Social Responsibility Projects

Mandela Day donation

On 18 July 2017, MUT donated a box of toiletries and sanitary products to its neighbour, the Umlazi Place of Safety. This establishment houses 17 girls and eight toddlers. The Corporate Support Administrator, Daniel Krishna, said the gesture was "very appropriate, very handy! We are grateful".

EAC donation to Bobbi Bear

Bobbi Bear was identified by Marcomms as a worthy beneficiary of the Empowered Administrators Conference's (EAC) Corporate Social Investment (CSI) component. Eureka Olivier, Director at Bobbi Bear, could not contain her appreciation when Gona Govender, acting DVC: Teaching & Learning, accompanied the Marcomms team to hand over more than 300 teddy bears donated during EAC conference. Bobbi Bear is an emergency home that offers a safe house to child victims of rape, abuse and violence. The centre has qualified staff volunteers who provide counselling services, medication and support to the victims through the court processes. Although they are an emergency home, they provide a safe place for victims - a process that takes anything from a week to three years.



Mr Gona Govender, Acting DVC: Teaching and Learning at the Bobbi Bear during the submission of the donation

Corporate Social Responsibility

How MUT looked after its students after the KZN storms in October

During the floods in Umlazi in October 2017, many students residing on campus, the neighbouring informal settlements and Ubombo residence had their possessions damaged. Marcomms intervened by submitting aid relief proposals to 20 organisations which resulted in the following:

- The Red Cross provided support of food parcels worth R105 000 to 300 students who were affected;
- The Red Cross also provided blankets and additional food parcels;
- Transnet provided 300 blankets worth R50 000;
- SAB provided food parcels for 50 students;
- Gift of the Givers supported 100 students with food parcels worth about R35 000;
- Gift of the Givers also donated computers worth R250 000 and re-established an electrical engineering computer laboratory. This was officially opened by the Acting Vice-Chancellor and Dr Imtiaz Sooliman, CEO & Founder: Gift of the Givers in November 2017. The intervention by Marcomms went a long way in enabling students to cope through food support and blankets. Those that had lost computers, were able to use the new computers donated by Gift of the Givers. This also enabled students to prepare for examinations without being stressed about basic necessities that were damaged during the storms.



Dr Imtiaz Sooliman, Gift of the Givers, right, was there when the computers were installed



Sikhumbuzo Biyela, KZN Provincial Manager of the South African Red Cross Society, giving a blanket to an MUT student

Schools liaison activities



Vukani and Slindokuhle with their Menzi High School principal and deputy principal

Top Umlazi students choose MUT

MUT's good stakeholder relations management strategy has resulted in Menzi High School, the best school in Umlazi Township, sending two of its best students to MUT. Vukani Mdletshe (18) and Slindokuhle Khumalo (19) are among other learners from Menzi High School. The two young men have registered for Civil Engineering, one of the highly rated qualifications in the Faculty of Engineering. Vukani got 86% in Mathematics, the highest in all his subjects. Vukani said he wanted to do Civil Engineering because he had always wanted to create things. "I am a technical guy," he said. He added that obtaining good marks and getting registered at MUT gave him relief. Slindokuhle said he had always wanted to build structures. This is a clear indication of trust in the University's academic offerings.

Marcomms delivers science kits to Umlazi schools

The principals of Shumayela, Velabahlake, Umlazi Senior Secondary, Vukuzakhe and Kumkhlopho high schools said they expected their Grade 12 results to improve a lot in 2017, thanks to the grade 10 to 12 science kits they received from the Willowton Group in support of MUT's Circle of Excellence Awards. A Marcomms team accompanied Farouk Moosa, Executive Director of Willowton Group and Ahmed Motala, CEO of New Africa Education Foundation on Monday, 5 June to officially hand over the donation. The donated science kits are fully equipped with experiments and other resources in line with the South African schools curriculum. "It is not enough to congratulate the schools for the good results in matric. As a responsible institution, we need to contribute to improving the results. Our contribution in sourcing sponsorship of education resources for our surrounding schools will result in MUT enrolling the best students, especially in the areas of maths and science," said Zama Sishi, Director of Stakeholder Relations at Marcomms.



Velabahlake High received the Science kit sponsored by Willowton Group