

Kudos

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE AT MANGOSUTHU UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



The Home of
Champions

2015



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CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

This is the first issue of *MUT KUDOS: HOME OF CHAMPIONS*. The title of this issue arose out of a need to celebrate all the great work done by our staff, students and alumni, from the Vice-Chancellor down to, for example, the maintenance guy whose response and turn-around time is two minutes, hence the nickname, 'Two Minutes'. We have thus set out to create a publication that reaffirms what the executive management team has been proclaiming: 'great things are happening at MUT'.

It is thus against the backdrop of these praiseworthy achievements by the dedicated staff and students that we felt that MUT was ready to share its stories of success. United States First Lady, Michele Obama, says, "Success is not about how much money you make, it's about the difference you make in people's lives." All the stories of success we have featured in this edition show specific success traits, such as the people having drive, self-reliance, willpower, integrity, passion, optimism, self-confidence and selflessness.

In one of the newly released books on success, *Act Like a Success, Think Like a Success*, the author Steve Harvey speaks about how one can achieve one's dreams using the gift one already has. He reiterates that "Every one of us was born with a gift endowed by our creator – something you do the best at with very little effort. While it can be like someone else's, your gift is yours alone. No one can take it away. You are the only one who can use it – or waste it."

We are very excited about *MUT KUDOS*, which we're launching at the end of our 35-year anniversary celebrations. It's a new kind

of appreciation that we would like to instill at MUT. Equally, as we rewrite our history over the next 35 years, we are preoccupied with ensuring that every ounce of success is documented and celebrated.

Last but not least, I wish to walk in the footsteps of our executive management who show their appreciation for every success story at MUT. We can all take a leaf out of their book and say thank you when something has been done well. Thank you to all that have created the content that makes up this issue of *MUT KUDOS*. Without your hard work we would not have had this publication. Kudos to you! May MUT continue to inspire your creativity, innovation and diligence.

Some food for thought as we savour the success stories; let us relish 'success' as doing it in the service of others. Those that have gone all out to do well are doing it not for themselves but for brand MUT. *KUDOS!*

Mbali Mkhize
Senior Director of Marketing and Communications



EDITOR'S NOTE A WARM MUT WELCOME TO YOU

This publication is named *MUT KUDOS: HOME OF CHAMPIONS* because MUT produces champions, people who, in many different ways, advance and excel in ways that add value to the MUT brand.

MUT's core business is academic teaching and research. We provide training to people seeking knowledge in a variety of disciplines from Agriculture to Chemistry, and Engineering to Marketing. In a campus of more than 10 000 students, 160 academic staff and 320 support staff, we engage in very different activities each day of the week. The fruit of such activities is plain to see at our annual graduation ceremonies, as each graduate takes their turn to be capped and go on to join the MUT Convocation.

What is often missed over the course of the year are the numerous people, formations, alumni, staff and partners who, working with us, carry out honourable work for the benefit of others. This publication honours those who make the world a better place through their hard work and tenacity; those who inspire us to work harder, reach further and work smarter as we continue on in our pursuit of excellence.

We tell their stories through this medium and shout "You are our champions, *KUDOS* to you!"

Len Mzimela
Director: Marketing and Communications

THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF THE TORTOISE AND THE HARE: AN MUT STORY

Storytelling: an insight from Prof. Ramogale, DVC: Teaching and Learning

“Stories have been an essential driver of change throughout human history. For good and for ill. And now more than ever, businesses, workers, and leaders have opportunities to stand out, spread messages, and make change through storytelling.” – Shane Snow: Chief Content Officer at Contently.

MUT has achieved so much in the recent past in respect of its core functions of teaching, learning and research. The record of achievement is remarkable: new programmes have been developed, full accreditation has been awarded to programmes that have been evaluated, pass and graduation rates are on the increase, our research output is growing steadily, the level of conference presentation has increased, a culture of quality assurance and enhancement has taken root, and several academic development initiatives are being rolled out. In such a progressive and productive environment, it may be tempting to think that what is happening is the fantastic stuff born of fairy tales or the creation of sweet dreams from which we wake up eventually. However, as days and months go by, the realisation that what is happening is not fanciful but solid reality becomes immediate and indisputable. I have been asked countless times by colleagues in the higher education sector what the secret of our institutional success is. My answer, always, is “teamwork”.

Traditionally, the business and scientific worlds have relied on the exploitation of resources from the left side of the brain for expository purposes at the total exclusion of the natural assets found on the right side of the brain, such as imagination, fantasy, creativity, symbolism, feeling and so on. There is, however, new scientific recognition that our cognitive

strengths can be better harnessed if both hemispheres of the brain are used. It is for this reason that I have elected to write about teamwork in this piece using the power of storytelling. Storytelling is an effective way of explaining complex ideas in a manner that is emotionally and imaginatively engaging. The story I would like to share is about the efficacy of teamwork as opposed to the impotence of rivalry. This story is a variation of one of Aesop’s famous fables, *The Tortoise and the Hare*.

Once upon a time there was a hare who, boasting how he could run faster than anyone else, was forever teasing tortoise for his slowness. Then one day, the irate tortoise answered back: “Who do you think you are? There’s no denying you’re swift, but even you can be beaten!”

The hare squealed with laughter. “Beaten in a race? By whom? Not you, surely! I bet there’s nobody in the world that can win against me. I am very fast. Now, why don’t you try?”

Annoyed by such bragging, the tortoise accepted the challenge. They agreed on a route and started off the race. The hare shot ahead and ran briskly for some distance. Then seeing that he was far ahead of the tortoise, he decided to sit under a tree for some time and rest before continuing the race.

“Poor guy!” thought the hare. “Even if I take a nap, he will not catch up with me.”

So the hare sat under a tree and soon fell asleep. The tortoise, plodding on, overtook him and soon finished the race, emerging as the undisputed champion. When the hare woke up later, he then realised that he had lost the race.

“Slow and steady wins the race,” said the tortoise proudly.

The hare was painfully disappointed to lose such an easy race and did some soul-searching. He realised that he lost the race because he had been overconfident, careless and lax. If he had not taken things for granted, there was no way the tortoise could have beaten him. “Next time I will never make such a stupid mistake,” he said to himself. So he challenged the tortoise to another race. The tortoise agreed. This time, the hare went all out and ran without stopping from start to finish. He won by several miles.

“Fast and consistent will always beat the slow and steady,” the hare chuckled.

The tortoise did some thinking this time, and

realised that there was no way he could beat the hare in a race the way it was currently arranged. He thought for a while, and then challenged the hare to another race, but on a slightly different route. “No problem,” answered the hare. “You are still going to lose.”

They started off on a different route, and, in keeping with his commitment to be consistently fast, the hare took off and ran at top speed until he came to a broad river. The finishing line was a couple of miles on the other side of the river. The hare sat there wondering how to cross the river. In the meantime the tortoise trundled along, got into the river, swam to the opposite bank, continued walking and finished the race. The hare was greatly disappointed that his speed counted for nothing eventually, so he did some deep thinking. He then realised that even the slow tortoise had his own strong point and that if both their strengths were combined the race would end differently. So he proposed that they do the last race, but this time as a team. The tortoise agreed.

So they started off, and this time the hare carried the tortoise till the river bank. There, the tortoise took over and swam across with the hare on his back. On the opposite bank, the hare again carried the tortoise and they reached the finishing line together promptly.

“Both of us are winners!” exclaimed the tortoise and the hare. They hugged, feeling a greater sense of satisfaction and achievement than before.

Moral of the Story

The moral of this fable is that individual talent, applied alone and in a spirit of rivalry, is ultimately impotent and ineffectual. If an organisation seeks to operate at a higher level, individual competencies must be harnessed for the common good around a common vision and mission. As the saying goes, individually we are one drop but together we are an ocean. I think that a fundamental, and sometimes an intuitive, understanding of this truth is behind MUT’s successes. As we proceed, it is worth remembering, as Henry Ford put it, that “Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”

Kudos to all our staff and students for making MUT a place we can proudly be associated with.

CHARTING A RE-ENGINEERED PATHWAY

Professor Senzo Malinga's leadership pursuits in the Faculty of Engineering

KUDOS to the Faculty of Engineering. This was the first faculty when the Technikon, as it was known then, was established in 1979. Today, the Faculty has adopted a world-class approach in how it does things. Some of its accomplishments include the following:

- Against the backdrop of load shedding, the Faculty has positioned itself as an energy expert through the Industrial Energy Efficiency Training and Resource (IEETR) Centre. Instead of blaming inefficiencies on the current energy suppliers, as is the norm in the country, the IEETR Centre has established an Indaba with up-and-coming energy professionals in KZN to see how they can provide energy solutions under the guidance of MUT. This is an important milestone and is the first of its kind in the whole country.
- In 2014, the Faculty produced five PhDs out of a total of six PhDs at MUT, reflecting an 83% achievement.
- A significant number of academics from this Faculty published research papers in accredited journals, and it is this same Faculty that solely won all the research awards on offer in 2013.
- The Faculty alumni are making waves in the corporate world. Two were appointed CEOs while one was appointed to the highest chair as the President of the Association of Municipal Electricity Utilities of Southern Africa (AMEU).



Professor Malinga addresses the media during a break at the conference.



Umlazi Comtech music teacher, Xolani Hlongwa, left, accepting an Ibanez guitar from Professor Malinga for the school's participation at the conference. This guitar model was played by the legendary George Benson. The Umlazi Comtech High School Jazz Band is gaining popularity for their strong jazz repertoire.

Below: The conference delegates.



- The Faculty conceptualised and hosted a leading edge conference, From STEM to STEAM: Integrating the Creative Arts to Enhance Innovativeness in the STEM Curriculum (STEM stands for Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics, while STEAM stands for Science, Engineering, Technology, Arts and Mathematics). The STEM to STEAM Conference brought in scientists, engineers, creative artists

and industry representatives to discuss the need for the sciences to move beyond science and start incorporating the arts. The concept was hailed as innovative and received positive media attention.

- Students from two departments, namely Civil Engineering and Surveying, have entered competitions and snatched winner's trophies from their peers. These are the Egg Device and AGILE competitions.

CREATING FUTURE THOUGHT LEADERS

Championing the Office Administrators' progression: The Empowered Administrators Initiative

The University's core business is teaching and learning. Our academics are at the forefront of providing this core business activity. Academics are a group of professionals with well-established professional development initiatives and these help ensure each academic's professional progression. The case is the same with other professional groups outside of academia.

Administrators offer a support service that allows professionals and professional groupings to deliver their service effectively. Administrators are very often the first point of contact for any business' customer base and are also the last point of contact by the exiting customers or consumers of services. For these reasons they are critical in any business model as they can help enhance the business' profile and ability to attract and retain customers. What has long been missing is a forum that caters for administrators and secretarial support in the delivery of core business activities in any business.

In 2011 a small cohort of three staff from MUT started what was initially an in-house conference meant to up-skill administrators and expose them to the skills required to survive in a technologically advancing workplace. The success of this in-house professional instrument has developed it into a national conference that draws administrators and secretarial service professionals from numerous business sectors such as banking, public service, higher education and health.

The conference is now in its third year and counts amongst its achievements careered administrators who have re-oriented themselves and are developing their careers in administration. Entry-level administrators through the skills they have acquired through exposure, have been promoted to middle and senior management postings.

This is a big leap in a sector where the majority of jobs are seen as entry-level, semi-skilled offerings with limited career progression prospects. The calibre of speakers that the convening committee draw as presenters at the two-day conference is a reflection of the establishment of a professionally relevant body that sees the benefit of organised and structured career development and career-pathing.

The conference's organic growth saw the introduction of an awards element in 2014, where being techno-savvy, customer-centric and excellent at events management were formally rewarded through a formal adjudication system.

For raising the bar within the administrators sector, creating a professional networking space for administrators and restoring an appreciation of quality delivery of administrative work activities, the Convening Committee of the Empowered Administrators Conference (EAC) make us proud.

A well-deserved KUDOS to the EAC Convening Committee!

THE 2014 CONFERENCES TRACK

Conferences in the academic sector are critical for the furthering of ideas. They provide a platform for all practitioners, researchers and thought leaders to congregate, debate, defend and share their ideas on different topics. Hosting these successful conferences is a sign of our increasingly critical role in the creation of ideas space. 2014 saw MUT host a number of conferences, including SATN.

SATN (South African Technology Network) *14-16 October 2014*

MUT hosted the 7th edition of the annual South African Technology Network held at the prestigious Zimbali Resort. This conference brings together all the South African Universities of Technology (UoTs), as well as the Polytechnic of Namibia. The Minister of Higher Education & Training delivered the opening plenary and used the conference to affirm the UoTs' role in the higher education sector and the need for viable partnerships with TVET Colleges and industry in the pursuit of relevant work specific qualifications and training.

One of the focus areas was on how UoTs can use technology to enhance not only teaching and learning, but also the creation of virtual universities. MUT staff contributed more than 30% of the papers that were presented. The conference also hosted a business breakfast that drew members from the Durban Chamber of Business, business partners and major businesses in KZN. The breakfast included all the attending Vice-Chancellors in an open discussion on purposeful engagements between UoTs and business.

SINGING THE PRAISES

THE MAN BEHIND THE SUCCESS OF THE MUT CHOIR



One of the many proud moments! Ndlelenhle Jiyane with some of the trophies he has won with the choir.



The inspiring MUT Choir.

Mr Ndlelenhle Jiyane (aka Sgqoko), has been MUT's Choir Conductor for close to a decade. His passion for music saw him getting involved in the affairs of the choir during his time as a student. He subsequently got a job as a residence warden. "This job is more of a calling for me. I love working with young people and changing their lives; giving them direction for a purpose-driven life. It is when they say 'thank you' that I feel fulfilled and that I have made a difference in their lives," said Jiyane.

Last year Jiyane led the choir to the 2013 South African Tertiary Institutions Choral Society where they walked away with the Champ of Champions Award. The choir was nominated within this category at 2013's 2nd National Choral Music

Achievers Awards (NACMA), which is one of the events that supports, recognises and awards choral excellence, while celebrating and honouring South African competitive talents and artistic expression in the choral music sector.

During his tenure as the choir conductor, Jiyane has received more than 15 awards for the MUT Choir. What is most remarkable about this achievement is that MUT does not have a music department and yet competes against institutions with music departments while still bringing home top awards. "We are in the Platinum Category, where the standard is very high. Some of the songs my choir has had to sing include difficult European languages like French and Italian. I have had to teach myself the meaning through research and consulting those languages' speakers to

guide me on enunciation and diction," he said.

"There are many challenges that I have had to overcome on an annual basis, like the fact that students are not based permanently at MUT campus. Each year, I get new faces when others go for in-service training or graduate or are just overwhelmed by studies. However, my mantra has always been, 'every cloud has a silver lining.' I do my best to inspire young people to deliver trophies to MUT every year. The MUT Choir is proud that it is able to develop choristers to match the national standard," said Jiyane.

Jiyane, who hails from Nongoma, is married and has three daughters. Although he lives in Durban, Nongoma is close to his heart and this is where he finds solace during vacations. KUDOS to Jiyane!

CELEBRATING OUR

In 1979, at the birth of MUT, nobody would have guessed that this township-based University of Technology would yield over 10 000 graduates, the majority of whom are not only employed, but operate as the new breed of South African entrepreneurs.

We pride ourselves on our alumni and are especially proud of those who have not only made a great success of their professional lives, but also made a positive difference in the lives of the South African community. MUT boasts an endless list of successful alumni. They include:

- Mlamuli Buthelezi – COO, Transnet Freight Rails
- Sindisiwe Zungu – Disc Jockey in the Entertainment Industry
- Prof. Senzo Malinga – Dean of Faculty of Engineering, MUT
- TC Madikane – MD, Igoda Technologies
- Gordon Msimang – Medical Facilities Manager, Consulens
- Maxwell Nonge – MD, Platco Digital
- Sifiso Keswa – Senior Manager, Ezemvelo KZN

PROFILES OF SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI

Herbert Msagala – Climbing up the corporate ladder



From Resources Manager to General Manager and now Chief Executive Officer of Transnet Capital Projects, Herbert Msagala’s appointment is aligned with Transnet’s organisational transformation strategy, which aims to redefine this role and deliver on Transnet’s market demand strategy. Herbert’s appointment as CEO comes as no surprise to his MUT Mechanical Engineering lecturers, as they unanimously agree that he personifies fortitude and the victory of the human spirit. His impressive ascent to supremacy is the fruit of diligence, hard work and an unpretentiousness character. Herbert’s key responsibility as CEO is to manage the significant capital expansion programmes that improve efficiency across Transnet’s rails, ports and pipeline operations. As Chief Executive, Herbert Msagala helps move South Africa literally through the efficient transportation of petrol, diesel, jet fuel, rail freight and shipping cargo. He is very results driven and aims to empower communities while providing appropriate capacity to clients ahead of demand. Herbert Msagala is very proud of his alma mater. He proudly states that, “Were it not for my MUT lecturer, Professor Ewa, I would not have felt the need to aspire to greatness”.

Dr Zilungile Kwitshana – Determined to be part of the HIV/AIDS cure

Dr Kwitshana’s academic journey towards a doctoral degree started at MUT in

1987, when she completed her National Diploma in Medical Technology. Living in South Africa, a country ravaged by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, compelled her to become part of the solution that would defeat this debilitating disease. Now armed with a PhD in Immunology, Dr Kwitshana is currently a principal investigator for a research project that examines the intersection between immunity, nutrition and co-infections with HIV.

Dr Kwitshana has been featured on national media platforms on numerous occasions for her exceptional medical achievements and the remarkable role she played in the national task team on Schistosomiasis and Soil Transmitted Helminths, comprising the National Department of Health’s Communicable Diseases Directorate and UKZN researchers. Dr Kwitshana was, for 14 years, part of the South African Medical Research Council, where she was a principal investigator on several projects.



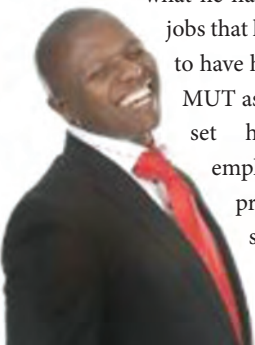
ALUMNI SUCCESSES

She has published a book from her PhD dissertation, seven peer-reviewed journal articles, 13 abstracts and one health article. She has presented 14 oral and poster research papers at international and national conferences. Dr Kwitshana's determination to conquer HIV/AIDS has many of her colleagues convinced that she holds the key to the future cure.

Sibonelo Mbatha – I settled for less just to gain the best

From a petrol attendant to a petrol station owner, Sibonelo Mbatha's journey to success has always been propelled by his belief that one has to "embrace what you are blessed with and make the best of it." Raised at Eziqoleni, Sibonelo's humble acceptance of hardship led him to accepting a job as a petrol attendant, a job that paid R800 per month despite the fact that he had graduated from MUT with a National Diploma in Cost and Management Accounting in 2006.

"Most graduates are not unemployed because of limited jobs, but because they are closed-minded and refuse to accept jobs that are not relevant to their qualifications." Sibonelo pointed out that a low wage was better than no wage at all. Sibonelo always found a link between what he had studied at MUT and the jobs that he undertook. He is grateful to have had the privilege to study at MUT as his intellectual disposition set him apart from other employees. Sibonelo is now the proud owner of two petrol stations in KwaMashu and Orange Farm, as well as a driving school. He is an entrepreneur on the rise.



Mpho Gangashe – IT specialist meets gospel musician



Mpho Gangashe's television appearance on the popular music competition *Idols*, gave him the platform to develop as a musician. This happened after Mpho had graduated with a National Diploma in Information Technology. He holds precious memories of his time at MUT and proclaims that he will treasure these memories forever.

Mpho is especially grateful to Mrs Fiona Pillay, his IT lecturer, for preparing him exceptionally well for the IT industry. Mpho's fascination with computers was always accompanied by his undying connection to gospel music. During his three-year MUT journey, Mpho was part of the Student Christian Organisation and led choruses during worship. He currently works as a Software Technical Test Analyst and has recorded a music album called *Testimony*, which has sold more than 12 000 copies.

Sibusiso Makhanya – "I used to fetch water from a river. Today I supply water to an entire region."

The Village of Umbumbulu holds dear memories for Sibusiso Makhanya, who

grew up fetching water from a nearby river. Growing up with five brothers and one younger sister forced Sibusiso to grasp the skills of cooking, cleaning and ironing which were stereotypically "girls' chores." This led to him being scorned by his childhood friends.

Today, Sibusiso is the CEO of Mhlathuze Water and is the strategic brains behind the water supply for the Richards Bay area and beyond. Sibusiso's father had hoped that Sibusiso would become a doctor. However Sibusiso ended up at MUT, studying a National Diploma in Civil Engineering followed by a National Higher Diploma in Civil Engineering at DUT. His academic journey has led him to a Master's in Business Administration from MANCOSA.

Sibusiso has acquired 21 years of work experience in Civil Engineering consulting firms. He has worked for eThekweni Metro and the Uthungulu District Municipality, as well as for parastatals Umgeni Water and Umhlathuze Water. Sibusiso has been nominated by the National Minister of Water Affairs to serve as a Board member of Umhlathuze Water. He also serves as an Executive Member of the Zululand Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ZCCI), and is currently an Executive Committee member of the Progressive Professional Forum.



OUR STUDENTS, OUR PRIDE



Seated, Alex Nabbi, a lecturer in the Department of Accounting, and Professor Chandra Jinabhai, the Head of the Department, with their students at the Dean's Commendation Awards ceremony.

Dean's Commendation Awards

At the recent Dean's Commendation Awards, the following students came top of their faculties:

- Jean-Claude Nyidu Makanisi – Faculty of Engineering
- Nyameka Flatela – Faculty of Management Sciences
- Nompilo Penelope Ndlovu – Faculty of Natural Sciences

Academic excellence is a result of hard work and commitment, and these are well deserved kudos.

Thobile wins at the National Indigenous Games Festival



This is how I did it! Thobile showing how the game is played.

September, Heritage Month, in 2014 was extra special as MUT student, Thobile Nkabinde, brought a piece of local

heritage to life through her participation in the National Indigenous Games Festival, held in Pretoria.

A second-year Agricultural Science (Animal Production) student, Thobile was part of a six-person team that won the overall award in the festival's Incuva Category. As part of her winnings, Thobile was awarded a gold medal and a cash prize of R5000.

Incuva is played on two boards, each with 24 holes. It is played by teams of six people – three male players and three female players, with two players of the same gender playing at a time. Each player has 43 marbles, with two marbles being deposited in each hole, and the last hole containing just one marble. It is played on a round-robin basis, with the team that accumulates the most points winning.

"The main aim of the game is to take your opponents' marbles without losing yours," explains Thobile, whose team managed to hold off the advances of the Limpopo Incuva team which, by Thobile's own admission, was very good.

Thobile, who hails from Umlazi, previously played the indigenous game Umlabalaba up to provincial level, but was instantly drawn to Incuva once she'd been introduced to it. It's clear she has a natural affinity for the game that involves a good deal of skill and plenty of strategic thinking. We congratulate her on her win!

Student poet Kwazi's star shines brighter than ever

Kwazi Dlangisa might appear to be just like any other student, but he's also a poet, and not just any poet; he recently won the Regional Poetry Competition and is fast



Well done! Kwazi, right, being congratulated by the Director of Student Counselling, Charles Persence.

making a name for himself on the local poetry circuit.

This peer helper at the MUT Student Counselling Unit is in his third year of Accounting Studies, and wins over the hearts and minds of his audience every time he performs. In September 2014, Kwazi participated in a poetry competition sponsored by the radio station, Igagasi 99.5 FM. He had to perform one of his poems, record it and then upload the recording to the Igagasi website where listeners then voted for their favourite poem. By day two, he was in the lead in the category 'Best Original Material by a Male', and after a week of voting, walked away with first prize.

Kwazi, who hails from Umzimkhulu in the south of Durban, started out as a hip-hop artist in 2009. In 2012 he began writing poems. "I write and perform the same poems. I believe the message is given to me by God and my ancestors," says the young writer who is inspired by nature and visions. Kwazi's stature as a poet is growing; he was recently interviewed on Ukhozi FM's Sicikozza Ngosiba show, and was one of the artists who performed at the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Howard College Art Festival, which ran from 13 to 18 October 2014.

THE QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

THROUGH THE EYES OF THE PROCESS LEADER, DR MERKESTEIN



MUT senior staff and guests at the first QEP Seminar held at the Protea Hotel in Karridene.

It is 3 June 2014, 8:30 in the morning and the location is Karridene Hotel. Colleagues are arriving in small groups, or individually, for the first Quality Enhancement Project workshop (QEP). After the formal welcome, Prof. Ramogale introduces the workshop, and I give an outline on the why and how of the QEP. The one hundred or so colleagues listen attentively. The first questions are asked, the task teams get formed, the discussions start and the noise level increases... and I know that “we’re off” – MUT is engaging with the QEP process; they have responded to the challenge and own it. I relax and thank the Quality Management Directorate (QMD) staff for their input in organising the workshop. There are many more to follow...

We end the workshop at the time agreed. During the chaos of people having tea, leaving and gathering their belongings, some colleagues come up to me. “This was so interesting,” they say. “So good to talk to others outside our department, also outside academic departments,” and “Usually we, lecturers, do not get invited to these things so thank you. Our task team will work on the tasks, we have our first meeting tomorrow...”

It is now 5 December 2014. QMD had its retreat a few days ago and the consensus was that 2014 was one very busy year that was choc-a-bloc with events and deadlines, and that it was a good and productive year. I could not agree more. During this first year at MUT and at the

helm of QMD I have been made welcome by the MUT community and have been given trust and respect. I have seen how this self-transforming institution, this community, involves itself with the upliftment of young people so they can play a meaningful role in society and in the economy. I have seen how MUT is rooted in Umlazi and gives additional meaning to its existence by giving assistance where needed. These are big and complex challenges. I am grateful to be part of this community.

Kudos to you, MUT community!

Aria Merkestein

Director: Quality Management Directorate

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

The year 2014 saw some of our staff members accomplish a host of accolades that affirms their hard work and expertise in various activities. Some of these notable accomplishments are covered in this section.



Dr Chrispin Mulangu, Prof. Senzo Malinga and Dr Babatunde Bakare.



Professor Malinga

PROFESSOR SENZO JEROME MALINGA, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, and the 2013 Most Productive Researcher Awardee, has added a number of feathers to his cap:

- He became the Measurement and Verification Professional International (CMVPI);
- He wrote an academic book entitled *Rain Attenuation Modeling for Southern Africa*. The book is about millimetric signal attenuation due to absorption and scattering by rain using both regional estimates of rain rate and different total cross section models with different rain DSD for various rain types in the frequency range of 10 to 100 GHz;
- He became a Certified Energy Auditor (CEA); and
- He also earned a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Electronic Engineering

from the University of KwaZulu-Natal in 2014.

PROFESSOR SANDISO NGCOBO authored a chapter entitled 'Dual Language Instruction: Its Impact on Attitudes Towards the Role of African Languages in Education', in *Multilingual Universities in South Africa*, a book that has been described by its editors as "excellent, and empirically rich".

THOBILE POSWA published a third spiritually enriching book entitled *Lead the Way by Breaking Barriers*. The book aims to add value to people's lives by outlining the very essence of life; by providing insight into breaking the barriers that prevent people from fully enjoying their lives; and by helping people reach their full potential. Poswa is the Head of the Department of Environmental Health at MUT.

On 15 November 2014, **DAVE PONS** of the Department of Agriculture won the Innovation Entrepreneur of the Year Award. The awards event was run by the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Dave was among the 20 contestants who



A very innovative Dave Pons, left, accepting a gift from Dr Anette Mienie, the Director of the Research Directorate at the Research Awards Ceremony.

were shortlisted for the final entries. They were given six weeks of training, which culminated in the presentation of business plans. Dave's business plan was based on how he was going to make his 'Ceiling in a Can' innovation economically viable. This is a research project that Dave has been engaged in with MUT's Research Directorate. Dave sees this latest development as gaining good traction for MUT.

ALEX NABBI has been in the education sector since 1971. He has achieved many milestones in his teaching career, but the latest is certainly the best. This lecturer in the Department of Accounting has been recognised as one of the recipients for the 2014 Annual National Excellence in Teaching and Learning Award. It



Our most productive researchers! Back row, from left: Professor Sandiso Ngcobo of the Faculty of Management Sciences; Professor Pius Owolawi of the Faculty of Engineering; Professor Roger Coopoosamy of the Faculty of Natural Sciences; Dr Severino Machingambi of the Administration Division; and Professor Theophilus Davies, the Research Professor in the Faculty of Natural Sciences. Seated, from left: Gona Govender, Dean of the Faculty of Management Sciences; Dr Anette Mienie, the Director of the Research Directorate; Professor Nokwethemba Ndlazi, Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences; and Professor Marcus Ramogale, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor – Teaching and Learning.

makes MUT proud to have a notable and committed academic to reach this milestone. In the face of challenges confronting classroom practice, Alex's invitational spirit has kept him exuberant, privileged and devoted to the profession. Immersed with his subject knowledge, emotional intelligence, resourcefulness and a student-centred focus, his students are empowered to dissipate barriers to success.

Most Productive Researchers

At the 2014 Research Awards the following were awarded Most Productive Researcher Awards:

- Dr Pius Owolawi – Faculty of Engineering
- Professor Sandiso Ngcobo – Faculty of Management Sciences
- Professor Roger Coopoosamy – Faculty of Natural Sciences
- Dr Severino Machingambi – Administration

Celebrating our drivers

Prof. Khehla Ndlovu, DVC Resources and Planning, usually talks of MUT as a jigsaw puzzle. Some of the pieces in the MUT puzzle are the drivers and the maintenance divisions. They have been driving and repairing MUT vehicles



Keeping us on the move are our drivers, Conrad Cele in the car, and Londi Dlamini (right).

and machinery for 35 years! The drivers have been collectively driving MUT for 90 years. It is very common to find **KHUMBULANI MDLULI** already on his driving roster very early in the morning. 'Khumbu', or 'KD', as his colleagues call him, is also spotted very late on the same day, still hard at work. Sometimes he is spotted with **LONDI DLAMINI**, who is also a familiar sight in the morning and late afternoon shifts.

Over the weekend MUT drivers are at work washing the fleet. Anyone returning a dirty car runs the risk of incurring the wrath of **BHABHA MKHIZE**, the longest serving driver in the team.

Most of the drivers started off as groundsman. **CONRAD CELE** from KwaDweshula in Port Shepstone is one of those. He has been a driver for almost

10 years; Bhekumuzi Shandu, now a Transport Manager, has been a driver for 12 years. The MUT drivers are proud of the service they offer to the MUT community and visitors.



Two Minutes

KENNETH SIKHUMBUZO METHULE,

fondly known at MUT as 'Two Minutes', spent his formative years in the streets of Durban as a helpless young man. He survived adversity and made a success of his life. The nickname 'Two Minutes' goes as far back as primary school, when his teachers would send him to the shops and time him to get back in two minutes. Born in Umlazi's, C Section in 1972 and a father of three, Kenneth, a committed marathon runner, now wears a green Comrades Marathon number. The green number is only worn by runners who have completed 10 or more races.

Becoming an athlete has given 'Two Minutes' a chance to give love to like-minded people. He says his biggest achievement was back in 1993 when he was the recipient of provincial colours for his success in athletics. That was coupled with the accreditation of being the captain of 1994 Athletics. Today he is employed as a supervisor by Superclean, a cleaning subcontractor at MUT. The position brings the best out of him. "I like to be listened to. My job forces me to give instructions and I appreciate it when my instructions are carried through properly," he says.

MUT IN PICTURES

There were a host of our victories worth celebrating in 2014.



Double winners! The happy Liviero team after being declared winners. MUT's 640-student residence building project won the Liviero Building Safety Award in terms of Act 85 of 1993 as assessed by the Masters Builders South Africa (MBSA) in partnership with National Occupational Safety Association (NOSA).



The 2014 SRC elections went off without problems. Here students are casting their votes, using booths used in South Africa's first ever democratic elections in 1994.



100 not out! Five members of the Accounting Department – Kevin Ramsarghey, Thabi Makanya, Peter Taylor, Chandra Jinabhai and Mlungisi Mhlongo, have a combined hundred years' experience at MUT.



MUT has a growing sport legacy! Londiwe Zondi attended a Karate championship in Japan. Now she has a black belt, and she is a sensei.



Mapule Sikhosana, right, was one of the award winners at the 2014 Empowered Administrators Conference (EAC).



Another award winner at the EAC was Nokuthula Bavu, left, receiving the award from Ithala Bank representative Sya Dube.



Zola Ludidi also won an award at the conference.



Judge Jerome Ngwenya, MUT Council Chairperson, robing MUT's first female Chancellor, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, MP. The installation drew guests from all sectors of South African society.



Queen and King! Last year Philile Shozi was crowned Miss MUT, and Siphosethu Thwala became Mr MUT.



Miss and Mr MUT, with SRC President, Philani Hlatshwayo, First Princess, Zinzi Booi, and First Prince, Craig Davey.

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

MUT's success is a product of the hard work of our committed staff. Each year-end we celebrate the milestones of staff who have been with us for long periods of time. The end of 2014 saw us celebrate long service awards for the following staff:



Angel Shelembe, 15 years.



Jabulani Khumalo, 20 years.



Andrew Kubone, 20 years.



Mike Naidoo, 20 years.



Dingaana Magcaba, 25 years.



Mlungisi Mhlongo, 25 years.



Agnes Mkhwanazi, 25 years.



Allen Hlophe, 30 years.



Zakhele Maphumulo, 30 years.



Duduzile Shezi, 25 years.



Julia Baah, 15 years.



Dr Kuben Naidoo, 15 years.



Linda Nzama, 20 years.



Bonginkosi Sishi, 20 years.

RESEARCH AWARDS 2014: **SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS**



Boniso Ngwenya was recently awarded a patent for his energy-generating turbine.



Dave Pons was awarded the Innovation Entrepreneurial Award of the Year for his ceiling-in-a-can at Durban Chamber of Commerce's Entrepreneurial Competition.



Dr Severino Machingambi received an award for being the most productive researcher in the Administration division.

MUT OLYMPICS 2014



Medal winners at our inaugural MUT Olympics.

QMD SEMINARS



Achieving quality is crucial for our academic programme offerings. The Quality Enhancement Project is a process that draws in all our stakeholders in a process that debates and consolidates our ideas into a whole that contributes to our improved product and services offerings.



Hard at work! Staff members during the QEP Seminar sessions.



Ithala Development Finance Corporation Limited CEO, Yvonne Zwane, and MUT's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mashupye Kgaphola, signing a memorandum of understanding in October 2014.



MUT continues to excel in the annual Egg Protection Device Competition.



MUT's ICT Department was appointed a CISCO Training Centre. The department won three trophies at the Safari Conference in 2014 in Sandton, Johannesburg. The biggest of these awards was the Best Performing University Award. Seen here are Professor Marcus Ramogale, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor – Teaching and Learning, holding the trophy, with, from left, Professor Nokwethemba Ndlazi, the Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences; Nonhle Masango, a student; Zinhle Thabede, a lecturer; Mpho Mazibuko, another student; and Errol Mtshali, a lecturer.

CONGRATULATORY LETTER



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THE SPEAKER

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1 December 2014

Professor M R Kgaphola
Vice Chancellor: Mangosuthu University of Technology
511 Mangosuthu Highway
Umlazi
KwaZulu-Natal 4031

Dear Prof Kgaphola

MOTION OF CONGRATULATIONS

On 30 October 2014, the National Assembly agreed to a motion noting that the Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT) in Umlazi, KwaZulu-Natal, celebrates its 35th birthday this year.

The Assembly further noted that the birth of Mangosuthu Technikon in 1979 was not an easy birth, for at the time, the apartheid regime had enforced the doctrine that the masses should be denied education, especially technical or scientific education.

The Assembly recognised that Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi vigorously pursued funding to establish this university, in line with his strong belief in education for liberation.

The Assembly further recognised and thanked Mr Harry Oppenheimer who funded and supported the Mangosuthu University of Technology initiative which started off with just 15 all male students, 35 years ago, but now has over 10 000 students.

The Assembly acknowledged the immense work being done at the Mangosuthu University of Technology as a leader in the field of tertiary technical training.

The Assembly congratulates the university, management and staff for the many achievements of the university, including, but not limited to, the many female scientists it produces.

A copy of the Minutes of Proceedings of the National Assembly dated 30 October 2014, containing the full text of the motion, is attached.

Yours sincerely

B Mbete MP
Speaker of the National Assembly

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