

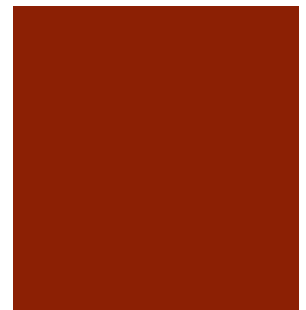
SPIRIT

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Mangosuthu
University of Technology

35
Celebrating 35 years as a new era university



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The core purpose of MUT is to contribute to the advancement of vocation-based education and training that will enhance the country's skills and competitiveness for the development of humanity.

Celebrating 35 years as a new era university

CONTENTS



EDITORIAL

Celebrating 35 years of academic excellence



MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Celebrating and building on the legacy of the past 35 years by deepening our engagement with students



MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Trailblazing towards responsive academic offerings



INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PRE-EMINENCE FOR MUT



35 YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Turning 35: another milestone for MUT
Happy 35th birthday, MUT!
Things to do before you clock 35 years



FAR-REACHING SUCCESS FOR MUT'S INAUGURAL GOLF DAY

Broadening our touch as we turn 35



NEW APPOINTMENTS

Vuyo Mthethwa
Mondli Makhathini
Meshack Dlamini
Len Mzimela



STUDENT MATTERS

Lindo helps shed a positive light on MUT students
New student res on track and looking good!
Giving final-year students the hard facts about industry
Electrical engineering students' confidence high after industry visit
Empowering Environmental Health students to see the bigger world of environmental health



PROFESSOR SANDISO NGCOBO FURTHERS HIS KNOWLEDGE THROUGH CONTINUED LEARNING



ALUMNI AFFAIRS

Making waves in industry: perspectives on alumni progress



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DOES MUT PROUD



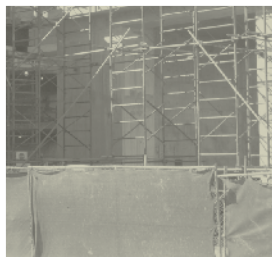
BIDDING FAREWELL TO ONE OF OUR BEST LECTURERS

In his own words: Cyril Rutters



35 **SPIRIT**

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF SERVICE



EDITORIAL

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



Mbali Mkhize, Senior Director of Marketing and Communications

Inadvertently, the theme of this issue of *Spirit* is empowerment. Although it is fitting that as we celebrate our 35 year anniversary, we also intentionally look at how we are empowering our constituencies.

In the last quarter we actively focused on empowering others, both inward and outward. The Office of the Vice-Chancellor, together with the Department of Student Affairs, initiated an empowerment project for students. This project highlights the world of work and gives students a glimpse of life ahead, while at the same time whetting their appetites to do great things by introducing them to real symbols of success. It was the opportunity of a lifetime for our final-year students to meet industry captains and hear the personal experiences of MUT's own motivational speakers – whose inspirational talents were previously unknown to the entire university community – during the highly successful 'power hours'.

The Department of Marketing and Communications (MarComms), in its own empowerment strategy, and as part of the university's broader 35-year celebrations, invited the final-year marketing students to spend some time in the department observing and participating in marketing-related activities. This provided the students with real life experience of the critical role innovation and creativity play in the workplace.

We are delighted to report that it was our young MarComms members, Lisa Mbongwa and Tabisile Booi, who steered the students and helped guide their creativity. As the students

relaxed into their 'roles', so they increasingly engaged the creative process. For MarComms it was a great opportunity to empower the students and help them understand key workplace qualities, such as punctuality, commitment, respect for others' opinions and tolerance. And then there were the Enactus students – ever willing to assist and make sacrifices for the project to succeed. These students learnt something new about marketing and communications as they were from diverse departments.

MarComms also conducted an outreach programme with office professionals from the eThekweni Municipality (read the full story – Broadening our touch as we turn 35 – on page 16). Congratulations must go to two graduates of the MUT Empowered Administrators Conference (EAC), Stella Shezi and Sindi Hlongwane, who excelled with their presentations during the eThekweni Municipality office professional's refresher programme.

To give more depth to our empowerment theme – and in the spirit of our 35 year celebrations – we asked Dr Pius Owolawi, Head of Department of Electrical Engineering, who himself is turning 35 this year, to share with us his 35 must-do's before you turn 35. Read his words of wisdom in 35 Things to do before you clock 35 years on page 14.

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE- CHANCELLOR

CELEBRATING AND BUILDING ON THE LEGACY OF THE PAST 35 YEARS BY DEEPENING OUR ENGAGEMENT WITH STUDENTS

It was a conversation I caught from one of our alumnus, Gordon Msimang, class of 1979, which bounced me back to the reality of joblessness facing graduates throughout the country. Gordon said, "Back in the '80 s, if you had a qualification, you could choose where you wanted to work, and I chose Phillips, which later took me for further training in the Netherlands."

As a university we continue to grapple with how we can improve the employment prospects of our graduates through the institutional interventions led by our Department of Cooperative Education and Technology Station in Chemicals. In the course of events, we have also started wondering if our students have actually envisioned their own future, which would answer in part whether our interventions are targeted at the right questions. We have asked ourselves basic questions, like whether our students have ever met a CEO, MD or even a senior manager of a huge organisation; if they really know what the world of work is like; or if anybody has ever engaged them on their innate potential and abilities, and challenged them to give their best and create a leading edge within themselves?

In asking this series of questions, my office effectively started a process that has led to the conceptualisation of what is now evolving into a dedicated final-year students'

empowerment project. The initial goal for the project is very humble and basic, namely to bring the discourse of the world of work and post-university life to our final-year students. As part of this project we convened a mass meeting of all final-year students in March 2014; we were both surprised and overwhelmed by the response of the students. Subsequently, we convened targeted sessions in June 2014 for students according to their faculties. Once again, our students responded with enthusiasm. On the face of it, we seem to have unearthed questions to which our students are eager to find the answers.

Our final-year empowerment project is in the first instance a strategic initiative; after all, it addresses the fundamental needs of our most valued stakeholders. Further, by directing our energies towards improving the employability of our graduates, the project thus becomes a fitting tribute to the vision that led to the creation of MUT 35 years ago. It is thus a welcome coincidence that we found the inspiration for this project in the same year that we celebrate our 35 years as an institution.

But for our graduates to find an appropriate place in the marketplace they must take charge of their own future now, and actively gain insights about the world of work and what CEOs and captains of industry expect from new recruits.



Professor Mashupye Kgaphola, MUT Vice-Chancellor

“Back in the '80 s, if you had a qualification, you could choose where you wanted to work, and I chose Phillips, which later took me for further training in the Netherlands.” – Gordon Msimang

We want our final-year students to be outstanding students who go on to become anchors of excellence for both MUT and the country as a whole.

As part of a memorable '35 year' skills set for our final-year students, we brought to campus among others, Sicelo Xulu, MD of Joburg City Power, himself an MUT alumnus. We wanted students to see in Sicelo parts of themselves. We also brought other achievers to engage with our students and give them first-hand experience of the privilege of being in the company of these business heavyweights.

The current leadership of MUT is firmly focused on creating a culture of success among our students. We are committed to seeing this cadre of final-year students succeed and to doing what we can to contribute to fighting the scourge of graduate unemployment in the country. Through this engagement, we have introduced our own student 'power hour', using in-house expertise to provide in-depth motivational speeches on success. The next leg of this project will see us hosting self-made entrepreneurs who previously graduated from MUT. We expect these alumni to share with our students how they developed their business ideas and why they have been so successful. In this way we are saying to our students, prepare yourself for the business world. There should be no reason for them not to have a living wage after graduation.

We have been further encouraged by the participation of 36 companies in our third MUT Careers Fair, held on campus on 29 and 30 May 2014. We have learnt with pleasure that some of these companies have since committed to interviewing a number of our students for possible employment.

We are also blessed to have staff members who are willing to go the extra mile by participating in the empowerment project.

We are also blessed to have staff members who are willing to go the extra mile by participating in the empowerment project. Special thanks to our staff Dr Manyane Makua, Dr Pius Owolawi, Des Mack, Peter Small and Bonginkosi Zwane for their hidden talents as motivational speakers during the power hour sessions. Your efforts in making an MUT graduate employable and marketable have not gone unnoticed, and we are confident your giving will not be in vain.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY VICE- CHANCELLOR: ACADEMIC

TRAILBLAZING TOWARDS RESPONSIVE ACADEMIC OFFERINGS

The years 2013 and 2014 have been very significant for the teaching and learning portfolio at MUT. The institution continues to make strides on various important fronts and is improving at a very fast pace. We are pleased to say the institution has turned a corner. This is acknowledged by students, staff and many external stakeholders, including the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET).

The university senate has resolved that, in accordance with the MUT Strategy 2020, all academic departments should develop postgraduate programmes that are in line with the new Higher Education Qualifications Sub-framework (HEQSF). Shortly after this decision was taken, academic departments started work on new programmes. Significant progress has been made in this regard: our Advanced Diploma in Human Resources has been cleared by DHET for inclusion in our programme and qualification mix (PQM) while our Advanced Diploma in Marketing and BSc in Environmental Health have been accredited by the Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC). The BSc in Environmental Health is MUT's first professional degree that complies with the new HEQSF. Our Department of Environmental Health is a trailblazer in this respect, and our sincere congratulations go to Thobile Poswa, the HOD, and his team.

Our Department of Nature Conservation has gone beyond the HEQC accreditation stage by having its Advanced Diploma in Nature Conservation and its Postgraduate Diploma in Nature Conservation registered by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). The Postgraduate Diploma in Nature Conservation is MUT's first postgraduate qualification that will create a vital pipeline of students for which the Department of Nature Conservation can introduce a Master's degree in future. If everything goes according to plan, the Advanced Diploma in Nature Conservation and the Postgraduate Diploma in Nature Conservation will be

offered from 2015. We extend a hearty congratulations to the Department of Nature Conservation under the able leadership of Peter Small on this historic achievement that will no doubt serve as a door-opener for many more postgraduate programmes at MUT.

The university has recorded splendid achievements in the accreditation of its programmes. In 2013, the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) offered full accreditation to the following programmes in the Faculty of Engineering: Diploma in Chemical Engineering; Bachelor of Technology in Chemical Engineering; Diploma in Civil Engineering and Diploma in Mechanical Engineering.

Similarly, the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) awarded full accreditation to our Diploma in Environmental Health. In May and June 2014 two programmes, our Diploma in Electrical Engineering and our Diploma in Surveying, were recommended for full accreditation by the ECSA and South African Council for Professional and Technical Surveyors (PLATO) evaluation teams respectively. We were still waiting for official confirmation from these professional bodies at the time of going to press.

MUT's accreditation successes are indicative of the internal strengthening that has occurred within the institution as well the culture of excellence and quality assurance that is taking root within the university. We are very pleased with these positive outcomes.

MUT's accreditation successes are indicative of the internal strengthening that has occurred within the institution as well the culture of excellence and quality assurance that is taking root within the university. We are very pleased with these positive outcomes.



Professor Marcus Ramogale, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic

“The world is moving so fast these days that the man who says it can’t be done is generally interrupted by someone doing it.” – Elbert Hubbard



Quality Enhancement Project and 2014 SATN Conference

Between 2004 and 2011, the first period of quality assurance, South Africa’s public higher education institutions (HEIs) underwent institutional audits, with the reports that followed identifying institutions’ strengths and making recommendations for improvement. Institutions then engaged with the audit panels’ recommendations through the development and implementation of improvement plans.

The Council on Higher Education (CHE) observed that the first cycle of institutional audits contributed significantly to the creation of a quality culture in individual institutions, and also raised the level of accountability in South Africa’s higher education system. For the second cycle, the CHE plans to shift attention from institutional audits to quality enhancement in the core function of teaching and learning with a view to improving student success. Student success has become an urgent priority for South Africa because, firstly, the country needs highly skilled

graduates and secondly, more than 80% of students enrolled in its HEIs are undergraduates whose academic success hinges strongly on quality teaching and learning.

As 2014 marks the commencement of the CHE’s Quality Enhancement Project (QEP), universities of technology (UoTs) thought it appropriate to use the 2014 South African Technology Network (SATN) Conference to reflect on and share best practice in respect of quality enhancement initiatives in teaching and learning since the establishment of the UoTs in 2003. The theme of the conference, which will be hosted by MUT from 14–16 October 2014, is Enhancing teaching, learning and assessment initiatives in universities of technology: looking back and going forward. It is truly gratifying to observe that many MUT staff members have sent abstracts to the SATN office for presentation at the conference.

MUT’s recent academic successes have been many and noteworthy. To sustain this record of achievement, we must not slacken in our efforts but keep on applying ourselves with diligence and enthusiasm. I know that the demands made on our staff are many and unending, but if we are to bequeath anything of value to future generations and thereby be a blessing to them, we must avoid laxity at all cost. As Theodore Roosevelt put it, “Never throughout history has a man who lived a life of ease left a name worth remembering”.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PRE-EMINENCE FOR MUT

In the year that MUT celebrates 35 years as a new-era university, it also proudly celebrates the international eminence its researchers are carving in the research arena. MUT's research output contributed 30% during an international workshop held in the Czech Republic towards the end of May.

"Over the past two years, our researchers have joined a global research consortium of mining researchers from universities and national geological surveys from around the world. For more than 20 years, the consortium has engaged mining companies throughout sub-Saharan Africa on ways to conduct business in the areas of mining, agriculture and public health that would ensure economic prosperity for our nations while at the same time ensuring minimal environmental impact," says Professor Theophilus Davies, MUT Research Professor in the Faculty of Natural Sciences.

From 25–29 May 2014, Professor Davies led a delegation of 12 MUT researchers to Prague, Czech Republic, where MUT co-hosted a workshop with UNESCO, the International Union of Geological Sciences, the Czech Geological Survey and two Prague universities. The workshop was titled Addressing environmental and health impacts of active and abandoned mines in sub-Saharan Africa, and saw the MUT researchers delivering various research papers.

Around 60 delegates representing eight African nations, namely Cameroon, Kenya, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Zambia and South Africa, joined delegates from Belgium, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Germany, the UK, Italy, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA in attending the workshop. The proceedings also incorporated a full day's field visit to nuclear waste processing sites at the Stráž uranium deposit, depicting best practice approaches in remediation and insitu leaching.

An elated Professor Nokwethemba Ndlazi, Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and part of the MUT delegation, reflects on the proceedings:

"MUT's researchers, Thobile Poswa, Professor Davies, Moeti Kware and Dr Michael Shapi, all from the Faculty of Natural Sciences, dominated the second session, presenting papers ranging from consideration of ethical concerns in mine waste disposal and remediation effects to pathways, mobility and bioavailability characteristics of potentially



harmful elements (PHE) released from mining and ore processing operations, including quality assurance testing in PHE analyses. They also dominated the third session, where Professor Davies and Dr Georgina Arthur, senior lecturer in the Department of Nature Conservation, looked at the mobility and dispersion of PHEs from active and abandoned mine sites to agricultural lands and eventually into the food chain, and the health implications thereof. This was followed by a consideration of the socioeconomic problems resulting from general non-adherence to mining legislations, presented by Professor Davies and Mammusa Lekoa, a lecturer in the Department of Environmental Health.

The fourth session saw Professor Davies and Archie Buthelezi, a lecturer in the Department of Environmental Health, delivering papers centred around the modelling of contaminants, including the carbon emissions and dust transferred from mine waste to critical ecosystem

components, while a paper by Professor Davies and Mrs Bongzi Mkhize looked at the socioeconomic implications and community perceptions of poor mining practices and resulting land degradation.”

Professor Davies, who is modest about the MUT research team’s contribution, says the workshop achieved its original objectives. “It was highly interactive and the debates were lively. The need for further collaborative and interdisciplinary studies on the relationships between mining and environmental health in the region was clearly brought out,” he says. “The intensity of research on improvement in mitigation and rehabilitation strategies by large mining concerns augurs well for the environmental health of miners and the surrounding mining communities.”

35 YEAR CELEBRATIONS

TURNING 35: ANOTHER MILESTONE FOR MUT

On the wintry morning of 5 June 2014, MUT launched its 35 year anniversary celebration. After months of planning, the Department of Marketing and Communications' PR plan was put to the test. And it achieved its goal; the event was memorable, eventful, appropriately impactful and out of this world!

Naturally, 35 was the magic number, and the entire plan was built around 35 as a defining theme. After much debate, the fountain area was chosen as the ideal venue for the launch. "This site previously marked the opening of the university, so it made sense to reconvene on the same spot, but this time with a spectacle befitting the 21st Century celebration," says Mbali Mkhize, MUT Senior Director of Marketing and Communications.

Council members, staff, students and visitors came together for a ceremony that the Head of the Department of Accounting, Professor Chandra Jinabhai, described as 'a warm family gathering'. The event marked a wonderful beginning to what promises to be a very special year in the history of MUT.

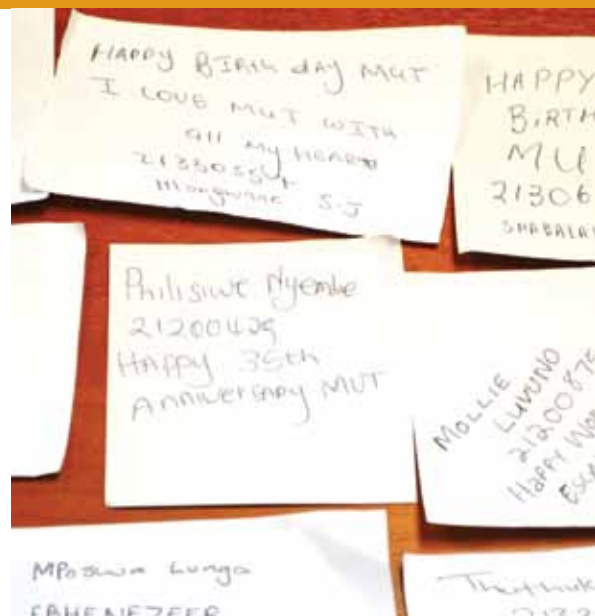
Happy 35th birthday, MUT!

A number of fun activities were undertaken on campus to mark the 35-year celebrations.

To launch the festivities, MarComms designed an online competition featuring a 'guess who?' game using archived staff images and offering great prizes for those who could correctly identify the personalities featured. The game garnered a lot of support from staff. The teasers doubled as a strategic MUT History 101 lesson for staff and students, some of whom were not even born 35 years ago.

The birth of Mangoheimer

Offline, two mascots named Mango and Heimer (aka Mangoheimer) were created to represent our founding fathers, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi and Sir Harry Oppenheimer. The mascots traversed the campus handing out goodies to those who knew a thing or two about the institution. "We wanted to educate the MUT community while paying tribute to our history in a fun and entertaining way. Mangoheimer are now celebrities who boast followers both on campus and online," explains Department of Marketing and



Communications Office Manager, Lisa Mbongwa.

On the day of the launch itself, several different activities which had never before been hosted on campus were held. These included performances by living statues – mimes who pose as statues – and a fun photo booth, which was well received by all. Everyone has a knack for dressing up, was evident in the colourful costumes of the day!

The arrival of our 'founding fathers'

The capstone event was the arrival of the guests of honour; the living statues mimes of Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi and Sir Harry Oppenheimer. While the launch event was aimed at staff and students, a formal event for the university's founders will be held on 3 October 2014. "We expect our founders to join us then and bring their guests of honour to campus to witness the developments that transpired after the original seed funding that established MUT," says Mbali Mkhize.

Looking forward

Professor Khehla Ndlovu, MUT Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Resources and Planning, used the occasion to look ahead to the university's most pressing needs. He believes MUT's infrastructure needs exceed a billion rand, according to the campus master plan that executive management commissioned in 2010. "Although the government, through

our shareholder entity, the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), has given us more than R500 million to date, we are nowhere near the realisation of our infrastructure needs. For this reason we still need to engage with our friends and see what dreams they may still have for this great university in Umlazi, which is being turned around by the current leadership," said Professor Ndlovu.

Manifestations of the number 35

Among the many creative ways that 35 was celebrated were:

1. The release of 35 doves by MUT executive management and council members to represent peace, new beginnings and love for one another as we build a 'new' MUT.
2. A giant 35 human formation by students.
3. An oversized 35 numeral cake featuring a congratulatory message for MUT.
4. A plaque honouring all the men and women who have contributed to MUT's success.
5. The participation of MUT contemporaries in the celebratory programme.

Overall, the 35 year celebration launch appealed to all the different constituencies, and was a fun day for both staff and students. Executive management, council members and staff enjoyed the official ceremony that paid tribute to the founders and staff who have worked tirelessly to make MUT what it is today.



1. Glad to be part of MUT history! Students during the launch of the celebrations on 5 June 2014: A giant 35 human formation by students.
2. The longest serving lecturer, Professor Koos Landman.
3. All my children! The VC serving cake to students during the launch of the celebrations.
4. Our founding fathers 'were there', with management and members of Council.

35 THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU CLOCK 35 YEARS



DR PIUS OWOLAWI, MUT HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

My '35 things to do before you clock 35 years' is grouped into five sections with seven points in each section. Using spiritual numerology, I observed that the number five symbolises God's grace, goodness and favour toward humans, and seven is the number of completeness and perfection, both physical and spiritual. By using the mathematical operator of multiplication, this added up to 35, which I interpreted as the completeness and perfection of God's grace, favour and goodness on Mangosuthu University of Technology.

Seven secrets of seven global billionaires

This section showcases some of these billionaires' hidden secrets, and encourages MUT to adopt these formulas for success going forward.

Innovation and invention: Several authors agree that the name that comes to mind when discussing innovation and invention is Bill Gates who, from humble beginnings, today earned a net worth of \$78.5 billion. He is noted for saying, "I failed some subjects in exams, but my friend passed all. Now he is an engineer at Microsoft and I am the owner of Microsoft," and "Success is a lousy teacher. It seduces smart people into thinking they cannot lose." It is time for MUT to realise that failure is not a final point when trying to do it better.

Investment: The secret that made Mexican business magnate, Carlos Slim Helu, the success he is today is sound investments. As MUT clocks 35, the investment on things that bring values to the higher education sector must be religiously valued and practiced. It is time to create our own opinion and live by it. As Carlos Slim Helu argues, "When you live for others' opinions, you are dead".

Share risk by buying shares: Warren Buffet made his first investment at 11 years' old. He bought three shares in Cities Service Preferred at \$38 per share. The stock quickly dropped to \$27, but Buffett held on tenaciously until it reached \$40. He sold his shares for a small profit, but regretted the decision when Cities Service Preferred shot up to nearly \$200 a share. He later cited this experience as "an early lesson in patience in investing". As a lesson for MUT, we must buy

'shares' in order to share our risks by buying knowledge, ideas, resources, personnel, partnerships, collaboration and organisational models and strategies from sister universities, both locally and abroad. We must break away from habits that impede our growth as a university.

Convert knowledge to money: Amancio Ortega, born to a poor father and a mother who was a housemaid in Spain, was able to convert people's ideas and knowledge into money, which earned him the position of the fourth richest person in the world. He once said, "We have to be enthusiastic and exacting in order to convert ideas and projects into reality". As a new-era university, MUT must be able to convert our knowledge base findings as a source of benefit to humanity and for monetary gain.

Rebrand existing ideas: As rightly stated by the fifth richest man in the world, Swedish businessman Ingvar Kamprad, "The feeling of having finished something is an effective sleeping pill. A person who retires feeling that he has done his bit will quickly wither away. A company that feels it has reached its goal will quickly stagnate and lose its vitality". As MUT celebrates 35 years, we must not stay with yesterday's glory, but use yesterday's drive to overcome the challenges of today and the future.

Diversification: The key lesson from American businessman and billionaire, Charles Koch, can be found in his take on vision: "Vision for us is not a one-time statement of goals and aspirations, but a dynamic concept, always evolving, based on continual examination of how we create value for our customers and for society". As MUT, we must venture into several units within our mandate as a university.

Partnership: David Koch, Charles' brother and a billionaire in his own right, confirmed that the power of partnership improved his wealth. As we look forward to what the future holds for MUT, the strength of partnership with giants that are in the same business as us is one of the keys to our future success.



Dr Pius Owolawi, MUT Head of Department: Electrical Engineering

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." – Psalm 90:12

"We are not born with equal talents; no one is born without something to distinguish him or her among his or her peers. Find out who you are. You are special!" – Dr Pius Owolawi

Eight commandments of 35-year-olds

The word commandment is traced to the Bible as a rule set in order to get something done. As the Ten Commandments were applied to the people of Israel in the Bible, so should the eight commandments be the key to our endless success as a university:

1. Thou shall serve your organisation with your strength and love
2. Thou shall apply the law of now: get the job done now. Procrastination is the killer of the present and bankruptcy of the future
3. Thou shall not say no to work no matter how difficult it is; your promotion is hidden in it
4. Thou shall not breakdown but breakthrough
5. Thou shall not welcome sympathy but rather embrace challenges and competition
6. Thou shall not live on yesterday's success but get ready for a new day's trophy
7. Thou shall forgive your yesterday's failure
8. Keep trying until you are successful

Sins successful 35-year-olds commit

These are the 'sins' 35-year-olds commit in order to guarantee themselves a life of success:

1. They do as they preach
2. They are self-disciplined
3. They are purposeful and responsible for whatever happens to them
4. They serve other people, they find cheaper ways of getting things done with a sense of good quality
5. They are committed to excellence and keep on until they win

Seven addictions of highly effective 35-years-olds

They are:

1. Proactive: your life doesn't just happen, whether you know it or not, it is designed by you
2. Beginning with an end in mind: all things are created twice
3. Putting first things first: it is alright to say no when necessary and then focus on your highest priorities
4. Thinking win-win: the parameter to measure your self-worth is not based on comparison or competition with others, rather it is based on you fulfilling your purpose for existence
5. Seeking first to understand, then to be understood; then talking less and listening more
6. Synergising: two heads are better than one. Everyone is born with a unique potential; use it for the best of the organisation
7. Sharpening the saw: this means preserving and enhancing the greatest asset you have. Develop balance programmes for self-renewal in the four areas of your life: physical, social/emotional, mental and spiritual

Seven spiritual values of 35-year-olds

Here are the seven spiritual values of 35-year-olds:

1. They give up pleasure to buy time
2. They pay the price to buy priceless results
3. They die to fulfil their set goals
4. They sow the seed of forgiveness to yield the fruit of productivity
5. They never give up on daily fellowship with their mentee until they see them matured
6. They stay awake at night to bring new dawn to reality
7. They never joke about prayer or quality time with their creator

..... Broadening our touch as we turn 35

Ahead of the Empowered Administrators Conference (EAC: www.eaconference.co.za) that will be held from 11–12 September 2014 in Durban, the MarComms team has partnered with the eThekweni Municipality to support an empowerment project for its office professionals, focused on office administration.

Gideon Vundla, eThekweni Municipality Deputy Head of Human Resources, says the move is a first for the city. "This is the first time we are collaborating with a higher education institution for (the benefit of) our office professionals. The office professionals set the tone for the positive perception of our brand, therefore they must be well-grounded in this skill," he notes.

The relationship between MarComms and the city dates back to 2012 at the inaugural EAC, when MarComms approached Gideon's office to send delegates to the conference. Since then, the city has demonstrated its continued support for the event.

The MUT-eThekweni empowerment project focuses on a range of topics aimed at empowering office professionals. To illustrate these, MUT staffers hosted a successful mini-conference for the city professionals on 6 June 2014, covering subjects such as emotional intelligence, communication skills, minute taking, customer centricity and telephone etiquette.

Lisa Mbongwa, Department of Marketing and Communications Office Manager, gave a lecture on why

customer centricity has become so important for businesses. "The advent of social media has made the world so small. It is in this cosmic world that emotions are vented out by angry customers. Within minutes, a brand can be destroyed on social media platforms," she told delegates. Lisa then took the group through a Twitter page, illustrating the negative impact of a lack of customer centricity within an organisation.

For Zama Sishi, Functions Coordinator, and Jade Kunene, Alumni Stakeholder Relations Officer, written and oral words are still integral to communicating brand values. Whatever is said on and offline requires professionalism at all times. Selecting the right communication method has never been more crucial in this age of social media and fast-paced technologies, the two demonstrated through vivid examples.

Stella Shezi, Senior Committee Officer, Secretariat, and Sindi Hlongwane, Senior Secretary, Legal Services, noted that confidentiality and decorum remained major attributes for today's professionals. "As a minute taker, a core strength required for this position is maintaining confidentiality at all costs. My role has made me appreciate the effort that executive management is undertaking in making this a better university for us and generations to come," Stella said.

"Office professionals need to understand the vital attributes of emotional intelligence, such as self-awareness and self-management," said Mbali Mkhize, MUT Senior Director of Marketing and Communications. "To be entrusted with all office resources implies that the modern day office professional should start thinking about how they impart efficiency in their offices."

Far-reaching success for MUT's inaugural golf day

For the first time in its 35-year history, MUT hosted a fundraising golf day this past May. The day formed part of the 35-year celebration events, and aimed to raise funds for the university. Fortuitously, it was able to raise much-needed funds for the KwaThintwa School for the Deaf in Inchanga at the same time.

The event was the brainchild of Professor Khehla Ndlovu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Resources and Planning, who, as an ardent golfer, felt the university was missing out on opportunities that used this sport to bring together industry stakeholders and big business.

The day saw 120 players participating, drawn from various companies such as DBU Services, Focus, Fedics, Transnet engineering, Transnet TNPA, Mondi, Marsh Africa, Engen, Toyota, DPI Ichweba (Richards Bay), The Pro Shop, Rheem, Seanda Health Care, Ibhongo, Orecon, Absa, Grindrod and Exclusive Kitchens, as well as other universities and government departments.

It was the benevolence of DBU Services, MUT's outsourced cleaning services company, that made the event so much more meaningful and memorable. Not only did it pay the R4 500 registration fee to participate in the golf challenge, but also donated a massive R20 000 to the day's fundraising efforts.

Explains Marc Young, DBU Sales and Marketing Manager: "We sponsored a par 3 hole and challenged all the golfers to land on the green in one shot. We offered to put R250 into a kitty for every golfer that successfully achieved this. Once all the golfers had played, we would then double what was in the kitty and donate this to KwaThintwa School for the Deaf. As 10 golfers landed on the green and we had accumulated R2 500 in the kitty, we doubled this and donated R5 000 to KwaThintwa School."

Marc honoured his word and three weeks later took the MUT team, Mrs Niki Zungu, Senior Director Operations, Mr Mike Maree, Manager, Maintenance and Mbali Mkhize with him to deliver the cheque to KwaThintwa School for the Deaf. Spending time with the Grade Rs really touched the hearts of the MUT team.



Ready for action! MUT staff about to take to the greens

The children come from across KwaZulu-Natal, from as far afield as Newcastle, Jozini and Port Shepstone, and are all full-time boarders.

The boarding fees are R4 400 per month and the school fees R40 per month. "Our monthly bill for the 320 learners from Grade R through to Grade 12 is more than R170 000. Despite this challenge, we are still one of the top schools for the deaf. Over the past five consecutive years, my learners have had a 100% pass rate. These are learners that come here not knowing anything about communicating, be it using sign language or lip reading. I am proud to say that some of our learners are also in tertiary education institutions across the country. This donation will greatly assist us," says KwaThintwa School Principal, Dr Mavis Naidoo.

The MUT team raised a sizeable amount during the golf day, and has asked the university's executive management

to donate R5 000 to support KwaThintwa's philanthropy efforts, and to encourage the efforts of ordinary South African business such as DBU Services in helping those in need. The support by the Operations Department management team was invaluable as they are the ones that deal with the service providers; most of whom are the ones that participated and brought their other stakeholders to attend.

Professor Ndlovu is delighted with the results of the inaugural golf day. "We succeeded in bringing top businesses to MUT and in telling them our story," he says. "Most importantly, we have incorporated the idea of corporate giving to drive our golf day challenge, which will now become an annual event. The money raised will be a springboard for a golf academy for both staff and students. Subsequently, MUT will have its own golfing team, which is wonderful news!"



NEW APPOINTMENTS

NEW EXECUTIVE AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT APPOINTMENTS

Vuyo Lindelwe Mthethwa, Executive Director

MUT is proud to announce Vuyo Lindelwe Mthethwa has been appointed Executive Director in the Office of the Vice Chancellor; Mondli Makhathini, Director: Risk and Compliance, also in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor Meshack Zwelibanzi Dlamini, Senior Director: Human Resources and Development; and Len Mzimela, Director: Marketing and Communications.

Having been involved in the corporate environment for more than 20 years, Vuyo aims to bring a new perspective to MUT operations. She previously worked for big names such as Tastic, Nampak Polyfoil, Gilbey's and Tongaat Hullet, and wants to draw on these experiences in forging closer ties with industry for the benefit of students.

"We need to create a link between the supply of knowledge and the relevance of this knowledge to both corporate SA and small enterprises, which are the future of business in this country. We have to make an effort to empower our graduates to stand for themselves. Opportunities in corporate industry are limited, and as such students should be more than just knowledge assimilators. Universities need to close the gap between what happens at higher learning institutions and the world of work. I have sat on the other side of the [interview] table. I have also taught at a university. I know where the gaps are. I fully support the Vice-Chancellor's view that students have to be empowered. We have to bring in more guest lecturers to offer different perspectives," she explains.

Vuyo started Human Capital Development Consultants (Hucad) in 1999 after having worked as an HR executive.

Her business focused on HR advisory services, including strategy development, organisational restructuring, change management, skills development and workplace relations management.

During this period she spent three years as a senior commissioner with the Commission for Conciliation Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA), focusing on arbitrations and con-arbitration hearings consultations. She has also lectured part-time at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and currently serves on the university council's HR sub-committee as well as a member of the boards of Highbury School and St Anne's College. She is a trustee of the Sibusisiwe and Thomas More education trusts.

Vuyo is an industrial psychologist, and holds degrees in Industrial and Labour Studies, having progressed from a Bachelor of Social Science to Honours before achieving a Master of Social Science degree. She is currently registered for her PhD in Management with the University of Johannesburg. Vuyo is married and has three children.

Mondli Makhathini, Director: Risk and Compliance



Prior to his appointment, Mondli worked as an Audit Manager at the Auditor General of South Africa, where his main tasks involved leading the audit team, performing risk assessments and expressing audit opinions on the financial affairs of various government departments and public entities.

He previously worked at Sekela Consulting as an Internal Audit Manager, where he gained valuable experience in public entity risk profiling and compliance with the relevant industry laws and regulations, such as treasury regulations and the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA). He is a member of the Institute of Internal Auditors and is a registered Government Auditor.

Mondli holds a B.Com Honours Accounting (CTA) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting through the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and a National Diploma in Cost and Management Accounting from MUT. He served his articles at Gobodo Incorporated.

Meshack Zwelibanzi Dlamini, Senior Director: Human Resources and Development

Meshack has prioritised helping MUT management achieve its strategic objectives. He has worked in the human resources arena for almost 30 years, and has experience in both the corporate world and the higher education sector.

Previous employers include Telkom SA (2007–2012) where he held several positions, the most recent being Group Executive: Employee Relations. Here Meshack's responsibilities included group employee relations strategy conceptualisation and development; business transformation facilitation; managing the interface with organised labour; acting as chief negotiator with trade unions; providing strategic guidance and leadership to the occupational health and safety, and employee wellness functions; and providing strategic leadership to the transformation and employment equity function. At one point, more than 50 employees reported to Meshack.

Prior to this he was Executive Manager: Corporate Services and HR at Johannesburg Water, and HR Service Delivery Leader at BP Africa Business Unit. He also held the position of Director of the Department of Human Resources Management at what was then Technikon Northern Gauteng, and two years later the same position at what was ML Sultan Technikon.

Meshack obtained his first degree, a Bachelor of Administration, in 1987 from what was then the University of the North, majoring in Industrial Psychology and Public Administration. Following that he attained a Bachelor of



Commerce in Strategic Supply Management from the University of South Africa (UNISA), an Honours B. Admin in Industrial Psychology (UNISA) and a Master's in Business Leadership (UNISA).

Len Mzimela, Director: Marketing and Communications

Len has more than 16 years of higher education communications experience. During this time he has worked for various institutions, including RAU (now the University of Johannesburg), the Public Administration Leadership and Management Academy (PALAMA) and the University of KwaZulu-Natal in capacities ranging from Academic Advisor and Schools Liaison Officer to Operations Manager, Corporate Communications Director and University Relations and Marketing Director.

During his time in communications and marketing, he has been responsible for conceptualising, communicating and delivering communication programmes and marketing initiatives critical to establishing and fostering key stakeholder relations.

Defining his approach to work, Len says universities and academies are complex systems that require customised communication approaches. "Any practitioner in this work space has to recognise our key role in friend-raising for our brands and how that multiplies into all other institutional benefits," he explains.

In joining MUT, Len says he sees a fantastic opportunity to be part of a team working with a relatively young brand that has accomplished family-altering achievements for its alumni. He says he cherishes the privilege to work for a challenger brand, and to work to secure brand awareness and brand recognition beyond our borders.

His work-love is integrated marketing communications. "I love communicating about higher education to audiences that very often feel overwhelmed by the numerous options and possibilities offered at universities and academies in the 21st century. The multiplicity of options can render helpless those unfamiliar with the basic tricks of decoding this matrix," he says.

Len draws his work satisfaction from helping parents 'debug' what often sounds like code-speak by teenagers who get excited by career areas they haven't researched that well. He says he loves engaging parents on the mapping strategies required to deliver successful career planning with their teenage children.



He says he chose MUT because it is younger than the other kids on the block, is less complex, highly specialised in its offerings and offers critical scarce skills education to the youth. "Who doesn't want to be party to building such a brand that has so much room to grow?" he asks.

"I love communicating about higher education to audiences that very often feel overwhelmed by the numerous options and possibilities offered at universities and academies in the 21st century. The multiplicity of options can render helpless those unfamiliar with the basic tricks of decoding this matrix."

Len loves coffee shops and world travels. "I'm a 'pampered old soul' and part of my sustenance is derived from chocolate truffles," he laughs.

STUDENT MATTERS

NEW STUDENT RES ON TRACK AND LOOKING GOOD!

It was music to Professor Khehla Ndlovu's ears when Johan Nel, site manager of the massive 640-bed new student residence project, boldly proclaimed, "We are on schedule!"

Professor Ndlovu, MUT Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Resources and Planning, was taking Niki Zungu, MUT Senior Director: Operations, Thami Mchunu, MUT Dean of Students and Mike Maree, MUT Works Manager, on a site visit to check progress at the construction site. Builders had already completed the foundations and had started building the actual rooms. Mike pointed out the different areas, including what will be the common room.

Professor Ndlovu was impressed with how careful the builders were. Johan explained to the management team that the concrete being used every day was tested by the builders, Liviero, and two other agencies to ensure it was up to standard.

The new residence is just one of a number of construction projects MUT is pursuing. Others in the pipeline include a new student centre, engineering laboratory and a 1000-bed student residence. The projects are expected to be completed in the next five years.



Changing the MUT landscape! Professor Ndlovu, Niki Zungu, Thami Mchunu and Mike Maree at the site.

Sicelo Xulu

Giving final-year students the hard facts about industry

At a glance, Sicelo Xulu looks like an MUT student himself. He is young, full of vitality and posh. He is the MD of Joburg City Power and a proud MUT alumnus. You can tell just by looking at him that he is a high-powered captain of industry. Sicelo is a former electrical engineering student, who used to play basketball from 2am–4am in Bozzoli Hall after him and his friends had burnt the midnight oil studying. He recently addressed MUT final-year students as part of the university's world of work empowerment project.

"I am a proud MUT alumnus. In my lifetime, I would never have imagined that a boy from Eshowe would one day be an industry captain," he told the students. "To succeed, it is imperative that you leverage the ground this institution gives you. Take your qualification as a base but remember you still need to engage with industry. Familiarise yourselves with the industry you are getting into so you may understand its challenges, and ask yourself what you can bring to that sector."



Sicelo reminded students that competition was very tight, and that each one of them needed to think about how to make themselves stand out so that industry would see them and nobody else. "As you prepare to get ahead with your careers, understand the challenges the country is facing such as population growth and female child-headed households," he advised.

Electrical engineering students' confidence high after industry visit

"Synergies have been reached between MUT and different companies as an ongoing marriage in different dimensions, like the in-service training of our students"—James Rwafa

For James Rwafa, the period after graduation will be less stressful, for he will know that at the very least his students will be able to

compete well when he unleashes them on the world of work. This term, James took his S2 and S3 students to Mondi Paper, Tiger Brands, Engen and Umfolozi Sugar Mill in the north of KwaZulu-Natal. These visits were informed by James' own personal experience.



James Rwafa

as useful information related to the practical aspects of the educational course that cannot be experienced in lectures.

Industrial visits are considered one of the most tactical methods of teaching. They provide students with an opportunity to learn through interaction, working methods and employment practices. James believes his students learnt a tremendous amount from the four industry visits undertaken.

Amanda Radebe (22), an S3 student from Mtubatuba in northern KwaZulu-Natal, came back a different person. "At Mondi we witnessed the actual processes we were taught in class. We saw how the programme logic controller (PLC) drives the whole process. It is the brain of the whole operation. This took our learning beyond our imagination. This will make it easier for us to make a connection between theory and the practical part of our course," she says.

Thandeka Zikhali (22), an S2 student, is convinced everyone will now find it easier to comprehend what is taught in lectures.

James is aware that understanding the technical part alone is not enough. He was also interested in exposing students to the human resources aspect of the visits. "Students learnt the importance of being punctual, organised, the work schedule and the general mannerism of the world of work," he says.

Beyond what the students observed, James has crafted a good relationship with Umfolozi Sugar Mill. The mill donated instrumentation material worth around R1 million to the Department of Electrical Engineering, which the students will use in mini projects. Aside from additional equipment the mill is prepared to give the university, it already hosts three MUT students and is willing to take on more for Work Integrated Learning.

James is an electronic/instrumentation engineer with 20 years' industrial experience. He has worked in petrochemical, steel and chemical plants for companies as diverse as Group 5, Weighing Instruments Services, ZISCOSTEEL, Zimchem Refiners and IBM computers.

Coming from this background, he has learnt the ways in which the best engineers are moulded, which enhances the chances of his students being employed in the industry. He wants students to see for themselves how the processes he teaches in class work in real life. He says in the teaching and training of engineering specialists worldwide, it is standard practice for trainees to visit industrial companies. This provides them with insights into the internal working environment of these companies as well

Environmental Health students empowered to see the bigger industry picture

Thobile Poswa, Head of Department: Environmental Health, is spearheading a new approach towards students' understanding of the profession. He has brokered a deal with the eThekweni Municipality whereby on an annual basis, his final-year students

will attend a five-day multidisciplinary programme covering a range of waste management topics. The students will also go on field trips with municipal officials, visiting water treatment plants and learn landfill waste disposal programmes.



Thobile Poswa, right, with Professor Nokwethemba Ndlazi, the Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, and Professor Marcus Ramogale, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor – Academic

"This programme is great because it not only provides life skills to the students, but at the end of it, they're issued with certificates that further their empowerment. Students begin to see a bigger picture of environmental health, as they see its intersection with other departments such as health, water and sanitation," says Thobile, who acknowledges the outstanding work of two key roleplayers in the project, departmental Education Officers Nomusa Buthelezi and Sibusisiwe Thusi.

Programmes like this effectively further the Vice-Chancellor's vision of empowering students through helping them better understand the world of work.

Professor Sandiso Ngcobo furthers his knowledge through continued learning

Professor Sandiso Ngcobo, MUT Associate Professor in the Department of Communications is a typical academic: always busy and always learning something new. A lot of this learning comes through the local and international conferences he attends.

The fourth annual Asian Conference on Language Learning in Japan, organised by the International Academic Forum in April 2014, ranks as Professor Ngcobo's best conference of the year so far. "Even though within the conference venue we were able to converse and present in English, I was amazed by the respect, preservation and pride of the local people towards their own language," he says. Professor Ngcobo met researchers from across the globe at the conference, and anticipates future collaborations with these researchers that will go a long way to putting MUT on the world map.

Professor Ngcobo is also involved in the Management College of Southern Africa (MANCOSA) where he assists students in presenting their information in an academically acceptable manner while also gaining an understanding of issues involved. He says this opportunity has widened his knowledge and areas of research interest, because the students he works with are doing various projects from diverse disciplines. This ranges from banking, health and the airline industry to entrepreneurship,



Professor Sandiso Ngcobo

SMMEs and municipalities. Professor Ngcobo says such a wide involvement is made possible by the fact that the principles of research are the same across all disciplines. To date Professor Ngcobo has successfully promoted three MBA students at MANCOSA, with another four at various levels of completion.

In addition, Professor Ngcobo supervises the Journalism BTech students at Durban University of Technology (DUT). He regards his involvement with these institutions as an opportunity to grow professionally. "The experience gained from such research-related activities is also beneficial to many of my colleagues in the Faculty of Management Sciences and others across the university community. A case in point is where I recently assisted members of my faculty towards making abstract submissions to the organisers of the SA Technology Network (SATN) conference to be hosted by MUT on 14 to 16 October 2014. I consulted with as many as 12 colleagues," he explains.

For Professor Ngcobo, the very short break from classes is a great opportunity for him to work on the various research papers he submits to either conferences or prospective publishers. He has been invited to submit another chapter contribution in a third book, which is likely to come out in 2015. Other conferences in the pipeline for Professor Ngcobo this year and early 2015 are the international English Academy of Southern Africa (EASA) conference, hosted by the University of KwaZulu-Natal from 25–27 September 2014; the South African Technology Networks (SATN) conference, and the eThekweni University Research Symposium (EURS), hosted by MUT from 27–28 November 2014.

"My involvement in such conferences is professionally beneficial, as it contributes positively to my research and my teaching capacity development. In terms of research, I get exposure to what other colleagues from across the globe are doing. This provides me with ideas on research areas I can pursue and how I can improve my teaching," he adds.

As a result, Professor Ngcobo is never without research and teaching ideas for contribution in conferences, publications and towards the improvement of teaching and learning. With all this to his credit, it's not hard to see why Professor Ngcobo received the Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Award earlier this year.

ALUMNI AFFAIRS

MAKING WAVES IN INDUSTRY: PERSPECTIVES ON ALUMNI PROGRESS

Jade Kunene, newStakeholder Relations Officer (Alumni) has hit the ground running and is drawing the interest of our alumni back to MUT. Here, she shares a few stories on our up and coming as well as celebrity alumni.

From marketing graduate to eTV newsreader

Approximately 15.2 million viewers have seen the face of this young MUT graduate. Mawande Kheswa is one of eTV's isiZulu newsreaders. His job includes research, translation and script writing. Through dedication and hard work, he entered the glamorous world of television after graduating with a Diploma in Marketing from MUT.

Before enrolling at MUT, Mawande was a normal scholar. During his MUT journey he improved both personal and academically. He received the Deans Commendation Award for outstanding academic performance. "MUT taught me responsibility, discipline and self-control," says Mawande, who was also grateful for the culture of unity among MUT students and lecturers that propelled him to succeed.

Sibusiso Mabaso, Mawande's statistics lecturer, encouraged him to pursue excellence and assisted him when needed help. Mawande strives to be resourceful, creative and innovative

in everything he does. Apart from playing sports at MUT, he groomed students who loved music and produced songs for them. He also provided musical entertainment during MUT events. He finds his current job extremely challenging, but aims to climb up the television industry ladder as well as study further.



*Mawande (left) and MUT Vice-Chancellor,
Professor Kgapohola*

For the love of the sea

When he first ventured into a crowded MUT campus, Ayanda felt lost, confused and overwhelmed. He was trying to register for a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering. Little did he know that was the start of a prosperous career in marine engineering and what would turn out to be an amazing sea adventure.

Ayanda has always been passionate about surfing, and long held a deep fascination for ships. This love for the sea later steered him towards maritime studies at DUT. He is exceptional on his surfboard, and describes surfing as exhilarating and surreal. At first his friends frowned at the idea of a 'township boy who loved surfing', but Ayanda's taste in hobbies remained. Aside from surfing, he also enjoys Capoeira, a martial arts dance, and parkour, a sport that involves jumping from buildings and vaulting over walls.

As a marine engineer, Ayanda pilots the tugboat that directs ships into the harbour. He also maintains the ship engines, carefully notes the temperature and pressure in his log book and monitors the fuel, oil and sewerage levels. Ayanda's mentor is his lecturer, Stanley Wallace, who was incredibly meticulous and

practical in his teaching methodologies and equipped Ayanda with solid industry skills.

While many graduates in the country struggle to secure jobs, Ayanda has just shot from in-service trainee to being an employee, without any break. Ayanda now spends his working hours surrounded by the sea that he loves so passionately.

*Ayanda Mthembu (Chesterville, Durban)
2013 Mechanical Engineering graduate and Transnet National
Ports Marine Engineering Officer.*



MUT has three DJs 'in the house'

While still at school at Stanger High, DJ C'ndo never dreamt she would one day become a renowned DJ. She dared not tell her parents about her secret career but the cat was let out the bag when they discovered her picture and story in the media. Since then, DJ C'ndo has made history as the first female to win the best dance album category for *Finest Lady of House* at the 2011 Metro FM Awards. She gained her skills as a DJ at Durban's *Finest DJ Academy* and soon played at a gig at her alma mater, MUT. C'ndo joined Durban's *Finest* in 2005, and in 2008 her first album sold more than 25 000 copies. She loves travelling and fashion, and recently launched her own handbag and accessory line called *Euphoria*.

DJ Masiya's roots may be in Dududu, but his entertainment career and fast-paced city life keep him away from home. With a religious family background, DJ Masiya upholds the values taught to him by his priest father. These include distancing himself from drugs. DJ Masiya has shared the stage with both national and international DJs, and his career continues to grow. If there is one thing he remembers about MUT, it's 'squatting', where students illegally share rooms at residences. He says those times were tough, although they taught him respect and tolerance for others as well as the reality of the world outside of home. During a trip to Gabon in West Africa, as part of the eThekweni, Know your City campaign. DJ Masiya boasted about Durban's music culture and had the opportunity to network with international DJs.

Both DJs C'ndo and Masiya have travelled the world, and visited places they never envisioned as students. C'ndo's recent globetrotting trip took her to London where she found herself performing in *Strafford*, *Coventry* and *Leeds*. "It was fun shopping. It was only after my return to SA that I realised how low the rand is to the pound!" she mused. She has also been to *Houston, Texas, US*.

Nqobizitha Buthelezi developed his DJ *Ishesh* brand and gained his DJ experience while playing gigs in *Mnambithi (Ladysmith)* township as well as at MUT. Many did not believe that a so-called township boy could create the best soulful house track and win a trip to the United States and France. When DJ *Ishesh* played at the *Djoon Club* in Paris, France, he could hardly believe the reality of that situation himself, nor how far he'd made it.

The competition was tough, with more than 20 talented DJs. But the judges, *TBO Touch (Metro FM)* *Spikiri (musician)* and *Viny Da Vinci (DJ)* unanimously agreed that DJ *Ishesh's* talent was by far the best. DJ *Ishesh* is now working with international DJ and producer *Osunlade* from the US and aims to continue to develop his DJ career while furthering his studies.



Siyabonga Dlamini Aka DJ Masiya (Dududu) Public Management graduate (left) and Sindisiwe Zungu AKA DJ C'ndo (Mandeni), 2003 Environmental Health graduate



Nqobizitha Buthelezi Aka DJ Ishesh (Mnambithi) 2012 Surveying graduate

Memories to treasure

Yanga Matinise recalls his student journey as if it were yesterday. The smells, tastes, emotions, thoughts and almost every single factor of the MUT experience remains well engrained in his heart. Initially he was uncertain about MUT, based on preconceptions created by damaging stories about the university. Nonetheless, he knew the university had its own story to tell when he set foot through the main gate in 2009.

"MUT is not like any other institution in the country, its culture makes it stand out," says Yanga of the uniquely rich and hospitable aura at the university. He also appreciated the diverse personality traits of the student population, especially the peculiar characters who illuminated his journey with humour. Yanga smiles as he describes the extraordinarily huge vetkoeks (amagwinya) that he enjoyed with friends behind the container shops. He made many new friends and established relationships with staff members who made MUT his home away from home.

On the day of graduation, Yanga says he was excited yet

Department of Environmental Health does MUT proud

MUT's Department of Environmental Health is now 28 years' old. 1986 saw its first intake of first-year students, along with a group of second- and third-year students who had migrated from Edendale College in Pietermaritzburg. Among that initial group of first-year students was a young Tobius Thobile Poswa, who has come full circle and is now the head of this department.

The department has grown positively over the years and continues to offer accredited programmes as a contribution to nation building. Although, it has experienced tough times too; it nearly lost its Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) accreditation status in 2009, but with the commitment of its staff members and unity of purpose, these challenges have been changed to achievements. Through strong leadership and teamwork, the department is today considered one of South Africa's leading accredited environmental health programmes.

This is not only a special year for MUT, but for the department as well. Among the accolades it has received this year is the accreditation of its curriculum by the Council for Higher Education (CHE) to offer a BSc in Environmental Health professional degree. This qualification is the first degree within the MUT programme qualification mix (PQM). It is a qualification that widens the scope of environmental health, and improves portability and articulation due to its structure and curriculum content. The students with this qualification will be better equipped to carry out research and handle the intricacies of public health.

As part of contributing to improved research initiatives, four staff members were part of a delegation that presented at

anxious; it was a moment of rejoicing and pride that he will cherish forever. He laughs as he remembers how, as a young boy, his ambition was to become a soldier in an action movie. However, his love for engineering grew out of his fascination for machinery, and today he loves his job at the world's biggest steel producer.



Yanga Matinise (Tsolo, Eastern Cape)
2014 Mechanical Engineering graduate and Arcelormittal
Mechanical Technician

the UNESCO/ International Union of Geological Sciences International Geological Correlation Programme's (IGCP) Projects 594 and 606 closing workshop, held in Prague, Czech Republic, in May. This international workshop was co-hosted by MUT and the Czech Republic Geological Survey. The theme was Addressing environmental and health impacts of active and abandoned mines in sub-Saharan Africa, in line with the core business of the environmental health programme.

Four members of the department presented papers at the workshop: Mammusa Lekoa (*Health and socioeconomic impact of illegal gold miners and local communities: case of Ndjengo river in Kambele region in Cameroon*); Archie Buthelezi (*The environmental and health impacts of carbon emissions from active and abandoned coal mines in South Africa: a review of secondary data*); Moeti Kgwane (*Post-remediation effects of asbestos: a case studying Penge Mine, Limpopo, South Africa*) and Thobile Poswa (*Environmental health hazards and ethical concerns of mine dumps in South Africa*). Well done to everybody involved!



Thobile Poswa presenting a paper at the Prague conference.

..... Bidding farewell to one of our best lecturers

Dean of the MUT Faculty of Engineering, Professor Senzo Malinga CEM, CMVPI, was emotional when he spoke about the imminent retirement of Cyril Rutters, a lecturer in the Department of Electrical Engineering, at the annual retirees meeting, held in June.

Cyril is a control system engineer and a registered professional engineer with the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA). He has been with MUT since 1994, and offers specialised and very rare skills that are much needed by the university. "I wish we could persuade you to stay a bit longer. We need your skills, and will battle to find someone with similar skills," said Professor Malinga.

Cyril's retirement comes at a time when members of the faculty are upgrading their qualifications. Professor Malinga just obtained a PhD from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and has recently qualified as a certified measurement and verification professional international (CMVPI), while Shan Dwarika, Industrial Energy Efficiency Training & Resource (IEETR) Centre Manager, has become a certified energy manager (CEM).

In his own words: Cyril Rutters

"You make a living by what you get – but a life by what you give." – Winston Churchill

"Members of society require a life. Lecturing gives one an opportunity to play a major part in helping many people do this in a relatively short time. It is rewarding to see things happen to young people who have grown from matriculants to young adults, with a promising future, in three to four years.

One of the highlights I had the privilege of being a part of was the success story of Wiseman. I had noticed something special in him when I went to give a lecture in control systems and found him and two other students cleaning up the mess caused by rioting students earlier that morning in the lecture venue. I spoke to him and asked him why he was doing this, and he told me he had lost his parents at a young age and had been raised by his uncle. He had vowed to repay his good uncle by doing well in life. I then invited him to be the chairman of our newly formed student chapter for the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers (SAIEE) at the MUT campus. Wiseman did a sterling job, even organising industrial visits for the student members. He went on to graduate *cum laude* and was employed by Telkom. Two years later he was given the prestigious South African Engineer of the Year Award. An MUT colleague and I were tasked by SAIEE to present Wiseman with his award at his place of work in northern KwaZulu-Natal. When I became chairman of the SAIEE KZN committee in 2004, I asked him to give the chairman's invitation lecture so as to inspire other young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to become achievers.



Retirees and MUT management

2003 Environmental Health graduate Professor Malinga said he hoped Cyril would come back to MUT in one way or another, possibly as a mentor to others in the department. Cyril is one of nine staff members who are to retire at the end this year and early next year.



I will miss MUT! Cyril Rutters, left, shaking hands with Professor Senzo Malinga CEM, CMVPI, while Bheki Shezi, the Director of the Department of Human Resources and Development looks on

Another highlight for me during my time at MUT was the support I received from MUT staff and students when I was hijacked in 2003. I had been shot six times in my legs and left in a remote area. Lying on my back looking up at the stars in the cold night sky, unable to walk and bleeding from my wounds, I prayed to Jesus and within minutes was miraculously found by local residents and taken to hospital. My entire final year class of students came to visit me in my ward – six at a time! They had organised a bus and brought me some wonderful gifts. It was a humbling experience. Many staff also paid me a visit and left a lasting impression by their concern and care. This gesture amazed my wife and son. Life is great when you can share it with great people!

I also fondly recall Christian fellowship meetings during lunchtimes. We shared testimonies, scripture readings and

exhortations together with praise and worship. Some lasting friendships developed and many blessings were experienced.

Before coming to MUT, I was a senior engineer with Telkom and assisted the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) with the historic 1994 elections. My part was to co-ordinate all telecommunications for the region, stretching from Bulwer to Umkomaas, Port Edward and Matatiele. Shortly after the leaving the IEC, I joined Mangosuthu Technikon as a lecturer in the Electrical Engineering Department, responsible for three subjects.

As lecturers we are often not aware of how much we influence the lives of those who attend our classes, until they give us feedback. My students have commended me for creating a friendly atmosphere in the classroom, and said that they enjoyed the courses I gave, even though I was very strict with them. I always operated from the adage, be firm but fair!

My own family has also benefitted from my working at MUT. As dependants they were able to study further, my wife graduating with a Bachelor of Education degree from UNISA

and my son obtaining a Diploma in Video Technology from DUT. I thank MUT for making it possible for me to further my own education and that of my family.

My future plans centre around a greater involvement in God's work, overseas travel and continuing professional development by way of mentoring younger lecturers and maintaining ties with the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) and the SAIEE. I will also be assisting matriculants with extra lessons in maths and science.

It is very difficult to leave an institution that has been an integral part of your life for almost 20 years. I say a big thank you to the staff and students of MUT for the life-enriching experiences that I have shared with you during my years of working here; I hope I have been able to make an equally positive contribution to your lives. I will greatly miss the many opportunities for this type of interaction with the many people I know and meet at MUT."

Cyril Rutters, (Pr. Eng.), FSAIEE

The EAC re-engineered and reloaded

MUT's Empowered Administrators Conference (EAC) has become synonymous with success. Firstly, the EAC never intended to become an international conference; it set out to be a small but informative regional conference yet today draws some international participants. Secondly, nobody envisioned it receiving peer recognition by a professional industry body, yet Marketing, Advancement and Communication in Education (MACE) did just that last year when it awarded MUT's Department of Marketing and Communications the highest honour in the Integrated Campaigns and Projects category of the 2013 MACE Excellence Awards – and that in just its second year!

"We started out with a vision to help South Africa's frontline staff become more customer centric, techno savvy and aware of emotional intelligence, and contribute towards building institutional branding. Our vision resonated with the needs of the private and public sectors, as well as SMMEs and NGOs. Soon, we received sponsorships and positive responses to exhibit at our conference," says Mbali Mkhize, Senior Marketing and Communications Director and EAC Founder and Convenor.

The hard-working EAC team has pulled out all the stops to ensure this positive momentum is maintained as the event enters its third year in 2014. "Last year we improved on the initial event, for instance our evaluation forms were more targeted. We are proud to say we have once again responded

to the needs of delegates and enhanced the conference. One of the requests from delegates last year was now that they have accomplished the skills offered by EAC, how do they prove their capabilities? The result is the launch of the inaugural EAC awards," add Zama Sishi and Lisa Mbongwa, who are both involved in the planning of EAC .

These awards will measure the office professionals' readiness to serve in the 21st century. There will be four entry categories – secretaries, office executives, administrative officers and personal assistants – with four awards being presented in each category, namely Brand Ambassador Award, Techno Savvy Award, Customer Centric Award and the Ubuntu Award. "Mastering these skills ensures a seat in a top position in office support," says Mbali.

The EAC team has worked hard to develop new conference themes, such as PR management, the role of appreciative enquiry in office administration, new technology skills, and eventing and travel management.

The 2014 EAC takes place on 11 and 12 September 2014 at the Maharani Hotel in Durban. "Registration has been going very well, and we receive daily enquiries about the conference. I think the awards are long overdue in this industry, and we are happy to continue with leadership innovation in office administration," concludes Zama.



Mango and Heimer (Mascots)

Mission

Our mission is to provide advanced, technology-based programmes and services that are career – and business-oriented in the broad fields of engineering, natural and management sciences for the upliftment of talented but mainly disadvantaged individuals. By so doing, the University shows its commitment to social redress. It contributes to creating an equitable and prosperous Southern Africa in which individuals have the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Vision

The vision of Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT) is to be a pre-eminent higher education institution of technology that fosters socio-economic advancement through the scholarships of teaching and learning, applied research, technology development and transfer and community engagement.

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