

FACULTY OF NATURAL SCIENCES



A PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY EXPERT

“My life at the campus revolved around my studies and being an active member of the Student Christian movement (SCM). Bozzoli Hall holds so many memories beyond just academic work for me as that is where we congregated for services. Campus life was extremely friendly and accommodating,” says Thandeka Molakeng.

Thandeka Molakeng - Class of '99

Thandeka is one of the Analytical Chemistry class of 1999 and her name is engraved on the MUT wall of excellence because she graduated top of her class and received the prestigious Vice-Chancellor's award for being the top graduate in her faculty. “MUT prepared me theoretically and practically. This provided me with a solid foundation in the field of analytical chemistry, and exposed me to the different kinds of instruments that are typically used in industry. This made the transition from a student life less traumatic. I have worked both in analytical laboratories and in product development as the curriculum covered all areas of chemistry - organic, inorganic, physical and analytical chemistry,” she says. The opportunity to head the analytical laboratory for Phalaborwa Mining Company (now Phalaborwa Copper) as the Lab

Superintendent in 2011 was one of Thandeka's most fulfilling roles and taught her how to lead a team, make investment decisions and manage internal customers. Thandeka is currently Head of Sales: Africa for BASF, where she is responsible for sales, technical support and logistics for the performance materials division in the African continent.

As a Christian, Thandeka believes in the concept of giving. She is well aware of her responsibility to give back, which is why a year ago she signed up and is making monthly contributions to the alumni bursary fund. “The little that I give helps in shaping our society. I thank the MUT Alumni team for giving me the platform to participate in empowering current students,” says Thandeka.