

A LONG, HARD ROAD
TO STUDENT
HOUSING PHASE 1

OUR PEOPLE.
OUR BEST ASSETS.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S
TAKE

SCIENCE
BEYOND THE
LECTURE THEATRE

SPIRIT

SEPTEMBER 2018 / ISSUE NUMBER 10

INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION 4.0



Mangosuthu
University of Technology

MUT - my first choice!



STUDY TOWARDS CAREER-FOCUSED QUALIFICATIONS

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING codes and qualifications

MN-M-DCE Diploma: Chemical Engineering
 MN-M-DCV Diploma: Civil Engineering
 MN-M-DSV Diploma: Survey
 MN-M-DBU Diploma: Building
 MN-M-DEE Diploma: Electrical Engineering
 MN-M-DME Diploma: Mechanical Engineering

MINIMUM SUBJECTS REQUIRED:

English I Maths I Physical Science
 All at 50% and above
 Further departmental screening processes

FACULTY OF NATURAL SCIENCES codes and qualifications

MN-M-BE4 Bsc - Environmental Health
 MN-M-BLS Bsc - Medical Laboratory Sciences
 MN-M-DAG Diploma: Agriculture
 MN-M-DBD Diploma: Biomedical Technology
 MN-M-DAN Diploma: Analytical Chemistry
 MN-M-DIT Diploma: Information Technology
 MN-M-DCN Diploma: Nature Conservation
 MN-M-DCX Diploma: Community Extension

MINIMUM SUBJECTS REQUIRED:

English I Maths I Maths Literacy I Physical Science I Life Sciences I Agricultural Science
 Further departmental screening processes

FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES codes and qualifications

MN-M-DAT DIPLOMA: ACCOUNTING
 MN-M-DMN DIPLOMA: COST & MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING
 MN-M-DFP DIPLOMA: FINANCE & ACCOUNTING (PUBLIC)
 MN-M-DHR DIPLOMA: HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
 MN-M-DMM DIPLOMA: MARKETING
 MN-M-DOT DIPLOMA: OFFICE MANAGEMENT & TECHNOLOGY
 MN-M-DPU DIPLOMA: PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

MINIMUM SUBJECTS REQUIRED:

English I Maths I Maths Literacy I Accounting
 Minimum of 25 points and further departmental screening processes

HOW TO APPLY TO MUT

All first year applications are submitted through the Central Applications Office (CAO).
 Apply online www.cao.ac.za before 30 September.

Mid-year intake only available for the Faculty of Engineering.
 Apply online www.cao.ac.za before 31 May.

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From the desk of the Editor-in-Chief, Mbali Mkhize

Our people, our best assets.

The past few months have seen Dr Enoch Duma Malaza, our Vice-Chancellor, engaging with students, staff, alumni, government, business and the media about building the future of MUT. The essence of his message? "We need to put our people first as the major asset of the University. Our people and stakeholders should emerge as winners against the backdrop of the evolving technologies embodied in the 4th Industrial Revolution - a revolution that has the potential to bring about both serious winners and serious losers. There could be inequality in societies, resulting in the widening of the gap between the rich and the poor," he says. Is the University heeding the call to create winners?

There are numerous initiatives responding to this imperative, one of them being the first summit on Teaching & Learning, held by the Teaching & Learning Development Centre. Another is the National Science Week hosted by the Faculty of Natural Sciences, which focused on taking science to the people through this year's theme of "Deepening democracy through science". This objective also underpins the Vice-Chancellor's anchor strategy of making MUT an enabler to students and the communities they come from.

Our Marketing & Communications Department (MarComms) held its 7th Empowered Administrators Conference, themed "Embracing the 4th Industrial Revolution", in September 2018. This is the only conference in South Africa that focuses exclusively on office professionals and is organised by a University; and the only one addressing the 4th Industrial Revolution. For a University set in the middle of a township (again, the only one in South Africa), this illustrates that one's location does not define one. There are great ideas coming from MUT and even greater plans are in the pipeline.

Soon, we will be known for new initiatives, augmenting the VC's strategy of harnessing thought leadership and ensuring that MUT achieves national and international eminence. Soon, MUT will be known as a conference destination, using our coastal location as a draw card; and our people's expertise will be cited and requested both nationally and internationally. The awards received by professors Haupt and Dlamini are testimony to the fact that MUT has what it takes to make an impact both near and far.



VICE-CHANCELLOR'S TAKE

New Vice-Chancellor set on advancing MUT towards the 4th Industrial Revolution and beyond



Dr Malaza, MUT Vice-Chancellor & Principal

Inspired by the resilience of MUT, which has never lost sight of the goal of academic excellence or forgotten the dream of its founder, Dr Enoch Duma Malaza sums up his approach to the University in this message to stakeholders: "We dare not forget today that we are heirs of the pioneering spirit and vision of our founding fathers. We stand to excel in educating and empowering the disadvantaged communities they sought to serve".

Understanding the complexity of leading a township-based university, Dr Malaza's first task has been to engage various stakeholders internally, as well as business, alumni, government and the non-profit sector. At the heart of his approach is the belief that "the imperative for MUT is self-reliance, self-belief and building sustainable futures; this should drive our 2020-2025 Strategy to Shape and Own the Future".

After extensive consultations with staff, Dr Malaza formulated his strategic intent thus (excerpted from the original):

The purpose of our Strategy to Shape and Own the Future constitutes a response to the global trends shaping higher education, national policy imperatives and the challenges of this 4th Industrial Revolution.

We have to start where we are to build the future of MUT. Our primary strategic advantage lies in being a public residential university serving previously disadvantaged communities, with the hub of our academic activities within a metropole that has a vibrant, multicultural population and a dynamic, growing economy. We stand to be a leader in educating and empowering our communities and matching the needs of our region. We should be resolute in facing the challenge of being a young and previously disadvantaged university that still needs to develop the infrastructure and expertise necessary to achieve status at the level of a mature research university.

We are committing to change at a time when the growth and fusion of technologies is blurring the lines between the physical, digital and biological spheres of our lives. Change is evolving at an exponential rather than linear speed and space, disrupting almost every industry in every country. It is resulting in positive benefits of long-term gains in efficiency, productivity and an increase in safe and rewarding jobs, on the one hand, and undesirable consequences such as greater inequality in society and the displacement of workers by technology, on the other hand. This 4th Industrial Revolution has serious winners and losers. The gap between the rich and the poor is widening fast globally.

It is our duty to ameliorate the undesirable consequences of this revolution for our communities. Our staff, students and stakeholders must reap the benefits of this change by participating in it and being protected from the long-term adverse effects of exclusion. This people-centric ambition is the foundation of our strategy. We aim to shape and own a future that works for all, that puts people first and empowers them to cope with the evolving world.

To achieve this, we will offer every member of the University community the following key foundational skills and perspectives to provide a foundation for the MUT experience:

- Firstly, a transformative leadership skill so that we are guided by critical thinking, analytical and reflective evaluation, and the ability to effect positive change. We have to cultivate this perspective in the endeavours of our staff as well as in the educational experience of all our graduates through their learning and their university experiences.
- Secondly, the ability to embrace diversity: As individuals and social or cultural groups within the University, we aim to understand and value the differences among us as members of the University. This perspective will shape how we view the world, express ourselves, relate to each other, and fulfil our intellectual and moral obligations.
- Thirdly, the attributes of global citizenship: We aim to equip our university community members with the technological, communicative, social and cultural knowledge and skills, as well as the practical experience, that will enable them to lead and succeed in an ever more intensively connected global world.

Dr Malaza's short, medium and long-term goals have created a new discourse for MUT. Engagements with staff have resulted in a consensus on a new mission, a new vision for MUT, new values and foundational themes for MUT. We have a long road ahead to build a future with requisite academic capabilities. We aim to achieve a revitalised academic value for the 4th Industrial Revolution by providing knowledge and learning that:

- advances the professions, business, industry, government and our communities;
- is aligned to emerging fields of knowledge and scholarship;
- advances knowledge and understanding among our communities; and
- offers a decolonised curriculum that inspires a truly African identity.

Winds of change are blowing! The 'solutionist approach' is the buzz word; greater team work and collaborations are visible; the strengthening of governance processes is underway; and there are many more initiatives springing up.



Dr Malaza and Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, MUT Founder

MUT FOUNDER TURNS 90



Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

"Shenge holds a very dear place in my heart. I did not study at MUT but my husband did. He's a very responsible and dedicated soul. I guess being a student there added value to his principles. Siyabonga Sokalisa, Siyathokoza Mbabazane ngamathuba owawavulela indlu empisholo. Unwele olude Phungashe" - Sihle MaNdlovu Mhlongo

"Always taking the long view to create a better tomorrow. A great leader and great model of what a leader should be" - Ronald Lee Burrell

"Nanoma niyangibona nginje I am the result of this wonderful man who created jobs opportunities, ngakho ngithi umwele olude Shenge" - Thandazani Mathonsi

"I am the product of MUT and will always be grateful of Shenge for the vision he had to empower a black child" - Phindi Mjadu

"Siyabonga Shenge. I graduated twice in a row at MUT. My first graduation was in 2011 and last one was in 2012. National Diploma and BTech" - Siyabonga WoNyazi

On 27 August 2018, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi turned 90 years of age. MUT was probably among the first to recognise the birthday of this eminent man during Dr Enoch Duma Malaza's inauguration. Dr Malaza asked the choir to sing "Happy Birthday" to Prince Buthelezi and acknowledged the major role he had played in the establishment of MUT.

Prince Buthelezi has come a long way since 1974 when he started approaching his long-time friend, Sir Harry Oppenheimer, to consider funding the establishment of a technikon, as it was called at the time. "Next year, we will be celebrating 40 years as a higher education institution. This is because of the vision you had that there would be a need for technological professionals," said Dr Malaza.

The excitement and anticipation of our 40-year celebrations will be building up soon, and the University looks forward to having Prince Buthelezi celebrate yet another milestone in his remarkable journey.



Dr Malaza's family during the inauguration

Vice-Chancellor's inauguration gives family a glimpse of his world

It is not often that a Vice-Chancellor's whole family is able to visit his place of work. Yet that's what our new VC's family was able to do just prior to his inauguration when they saw not only his office but a University laboratory and a library. "Stakeholder engagement is very far-reaching. There are experiences you want to create, and this one - where we had a pre-inauguration engagement for the family - was particularly important for the University. MUT was able to show the family that both they and Dr Malaza are welcome at MUT. This experience also allows for an emotional connection between the family and the University," said Mbali Mkhize, Senior Director: Marketing & Communications. "Furthermore, we wanted them to realise that they have a role to play in elevating the MUT brand. What better way to become MUT's brand ambassadors than by physically experiencing it," she added.

Professor Alfred Msomi, acting dean in the Faculty of Natural Sciences, accompanied by Dr Michael Shapi, head of the Department of Chemistry, hosted the family at the Chemistry Laboratory and gave them a sense of what MUT is all about. Dr Lindelani Qwabe demonstrated an experiment in the Department of Analytical Chemistry, and Professor Msomi also took the family to visit the library. The family and friends of Dr Malaza were able to see how much support the University requires from corporations and individual donors.

Representing Dr Malaza's family, Themba Mvusi reminded him how they had always looked up to him as someone who believed in hard work and the importance of integrity. "Your ability to listen and your forthrightness will allow you to deal with the challenges of the sector. We will continue to pray for you. Congratulations and God bless you," he said. Themba is the brother-in-law of Dr Malaza.

Vice-Chancellor installed with great success

Saturday 25 August was a big day in the life of Dr Enoch Duma Malaza: he was installed as MUT's Vice-Chancellor in an extraordinary event. Three members of parliament (MPs) were in attendance, with the intention of spending the whole day at MUT. These distinguished guests were Dr Naledi Pandor, Minister of Higher Education & Training; Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, MUT Chancellor and Minister of International Relations & Cooperation; and Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, founder of MUT. MUT council members were led by the council chairperson, Mr Moraliane Moraliane. Universities South Africa (USAf) was well represented by a number of vice-chancellors and deputy vice-chancellors.

The robing ceremony was carried out by Chancellor Sisulu, who was excited about the choice made by MUT. This was followed by messages and gestures of support from various parties, including representatives of organised labour, the Institutional Forum, Senate, student leadership, Dr Malaza's family and the University Convocation.

A message that showed particular confidence in Dr Malaza was that of our founding father, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi. In his congratulatory message to Dr Malaza, the Prince of KwaPhindangene, said: "In Dr Malaza we have found the right kind of leader for MUT. I am not saying this because he is a fellow alumnus of Fort Hare. He is an experienced champion of higher education. I wish to thank him for bringing his formidable experience to the institution I founded 39 years ago".

In performing the felicitation address, Dr Naledi Pandor, Minister of Higher Education and Training, reminded MUT that everyone needed to collaborate fully in ensuring quality and excellence in the country's institutions. "We must own our institutions; they belong to all of us, not just the Chancellor or Vice-Chancellor! There is no university that can succeed without all stakeholders playing a full role in its attempts to forge ahead and craft a good future for the country and its citizens," said Dr Pandor. Branding the event as "the start of a new beginning for MUT", she anticipated that the leadership and commitment of the new MUT Vice-Chancellor would support her department in advancing the key objectives of quality and excellence.



MUT Chancellor, Lindiwe Sisulu, MP, installing the new VC, Dr Enoch Duma Malaza

TEACHING, LEARNING AND RESEARCH



Prof Haupt, right, accepting a certificate from President of ASOCSA, Prof Kahlilu Kajimo-Shakantu

Professor Dlamini receives a silver award from the SAMRC

The South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) acknowledged MUT's Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagements, Professor Zodwa Dlamini, with a Silver Award during its Scientific Merit Awards.

Together with Professor Eunice Seekoe, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Fort Hare, Professor Dlamini received a silver medal for "senior scientists with a focus on capacity development under challenging circumstances".

MUT's Vice-Chancellor, Dr Enoch Duma Malaza, congratulated Professor Dlamini and said, "May you achieve even more and have a sustained professional career and contribution to health research in South Africa".

SAIMC leadership impressed by MUT



Prof Naidoo (right), with SAIMC officials

The Department of Electrical Engineering's relationship with major stakeholders is becoming stronger all the time. An inaugural visit to MUT by the Society of Automation, Instrumentation, Measurement & Control (SAIMC) has already paid dividends. On 6 September 2018, Annemarie van Coller and Johan Maartens (President and Chief Operating Officer of SAIMC respectively) saw MUT's Instrumentation Research and undergraduate laboratories and praised their high standard, which Johan said would make it easy for students to relate to industry. While discussing the Instrumentation curriculum and the Process Instrumentation 1, 2 and 3 course content, he said: "I have visited many universities but I could only identify Process and Instrumentation in the curriculum at MUT".

Ralph Naidoo, assistant professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering, said that such industry-related content would empower the students to adapt to industry standards. In a presentation to students, Annemarie highlighted the importance of joining SAIMC, a voluntary association under ECSA, whose primary objective is to promote the field of Process Automation and Control Engineering.

Engineering Research Professor puts MUT on world map

Professor Theo Haupt, Research Professor in the Faculty of Engineering, said he decided to join MUT for a particular reason - the University needed to improve its research profile. Professor Haupt has been driving that mission ever since he arrived at MUT in April 2017. Under his leadership, MUT and eThekweni Municipality co-hosted the Association of Schools of Construction of Southern Africa's (ASOCSA) 12th Built Environment Conference in Durban on 6-7 August 2018. The conference, which was attended by delegates from Southern Africa and the UK, was themed "Sustainable construction, transformation and development: emerging opportunities and challenges". "We have had to bring academics and students to discuss the main issues for Southern Africa. The conference papers presented are of a world-class standard and will attract cash from the government," said Professor Haupt, who emphasised the importance of involving students in the conference.

The conference also included Lifetime Achievement Awards, in which Professor Haupt featured strongly. He was called to the podium three times, taking an award for being co-author of the best paper; an award for the most reviewed conference paper and an award for bringing the most delegates to the conference. Professor Haupt's leadership was also recognised by eThekweni Municipality, which funds the Research Chairs at MUT, DUT and UKZN. Dr Andrew Mather, Project Executive: Coastal Policy in eThekweni Municipality, said the municipality recognised the need to assist in developing scarce skills in the municipal area, as well as at the local universities that help develop the region. Dr Mather said the municipality was pleased to be part of the conference, which was MUT's initiative.

During the same event, Professor Haupt also received a Newton Advance Fellowship from the British Academy, in partnership with the London South Bank University for the next two years. This fellowship is given to distinguished scholars and researchers in South Africa and the UK. The event also saw Professor Kahlilu Kajimo-Shakantu being elected as the new president of ASOCSA. Professor Kajimo-Shakantu is from the University of the Free State and said she intended to take ASOCSA forward.

Plant trees - they can only make our lives better



Dr Kuben Naidoo, left, led the tree planting segment of the event

On 7 September 2018, the beautiful walls of Hall 7 in the Faculty of Natural Sciences were decorated with posters bearing important environmental messages. These posters focused on two in particular: the vast amount of damage that humans are inflicting upon nature, and those parts of nature that are still 'healthy' enough to save mankind.

The chief organiser of the event, Dr Devandren Nadasan of the Nature Conservation department, indicated that the main reason for hosting the event was to remind students that nature was central to human existence. He reported that this initiative promoted student involvement and gave students the opportunity to provide a long-lasting and sustainable impact by planting their legacy at MUT.

The event brought together experts on a wide range of subjects, including the environment, invasive species, urban forestry, climate change and conservation diversity. The opening address by the Head of the Department of Nature Conservation, Professor Peter Small, relayed his passion for nature and the importance of the so-called 'green giants'. Professor Small said he had planted a tree in Mbombela, Mpumalanga 35 years ago and visits it every time he is in the area. He appealed to the students to commit to a lifetime of environmental stewardship.

The keynote address was rendered by Professor Roger Coopooosamy who emphasised the importance of Arbour Day, and what could be done to alleviate the effects of human beings on the environment. Natania Botha from the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) shared the organisation's passion for the environment, including its conservation, improvement, preservation, pollution control and plant and animal diversity. There were also presentations by postgraduate students from the department. Alongside the Arbour Day celebration, an art competition was held to raise awareness of nature amongst students and the broader community. The winner was Mzolisi Zulu, a second-year student. Mzolisi created his artwork to inspire people to appreciate and realise our connectivity with the natural world. Other winners were Monica Ndlovu, Zabileon Lemena and Luyanda Cele. Monica indicated that winning a prize awoke in her a desire to be the agent of change. Luyanda said everybody needed take part in the preservation of the environment. She thought that the valuable contribution provided by trees was often overlooked.

Guest speakers included Bheka Nxele and Bongani Zungu (an MUT alumnus) from the Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department of eThekweni Municipality, as well as Zodwa Msweli, an Environmental Education Officer from eThekweni Municipality. The event ended with a tree-planting ceremony overseen by Dr Kuben Naidoo from the department.

Grant enables Professor Msomi to build capacity in science and mathematics

A passion for mathematics and science propelled Professor Alfred Msomi, acting dean in the Faculty of Natural Sciences, to continue the faculty's legacy by spearheading science outreach to marginalised communities through National Science Week. National Science Week is a countrywide celebration of science that involves various stakeholders in various science-based activities. The initiative falls under the umbrella of SAASTA which receives its funding from the national Department of Science and Technology (DST).

Professor Msomi led a multi-disciplinary team to the Ulundi district municipality in Zululand in response to the 2018 theme, "Deepening Our Democracy through Science". Said Professor Msomi: "Our purpose as MUT was to engage a variety of communities who could play a pivotal role in enhancing a passion for education and more importantly, a love for STEM subjects, which are perceived as being difficult by teachers and learners alike. The audience comprised Zululand district high school learners, teachers, subject advisors, principals and circuit managers."

"For this year we have identified three activities. The first activity involved holding workshops for school mathematics, science and chemistry educators of Ulundi district. These were held at the municipal hall (old legislature) on 30 and 31 July and covered challenging topics in the identified subjects. The second activity was a two-day career exhibition (1 and 2 August) by MUT staff in the STEM disciplines, also at the municipal hall. The third activity involved an exhibition by the Technology Station in Chemicals (TSC) where the production of various chemical products and the role of the TSC in the economic upliftment of SMMEs was clarified. On 4 August, a workshop was held to reflect on the events of the week," he added.



Prof Msomi

This initiative will go a long way towards instilling a love for science and enabling our communities to reflect on what democracy has made possible for them. As far back as 2014, Minister Naledi Pandor (Minister of Science and Technology at the time), commented, "The new democratic South Africa inherited a school and university system that was exclusive and tailored to serve a small, white elite. It had to be transformed into a school and university system that was inclusive and tailored to serve the majority of South Africans" (Mail & Guardian, 12 February 2015).

MUT congratulates the Faculty of Natural Sciences for a sustained effort in ensuring that science is not seen as a subject to be tackled only by the elite. This is Professor Msomi's forte; it is not just a National Science Week pastime, but empowerment in science and mathematics is in his genes.

STUDENT MATTERS



Dr Naledi Pandor, MP, and MUT Chancellor, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, MP, unveiling the plaque at the new residence

Opening of Student Housing Phase 1

The long wait for Student Housing Phase 1 came to an end with the official opening of the residence on 25 August 2018 by Dr Naledi Pandor, Minister of Higher Education and Training. She was assisted by fellow MP and MUT Chancellor, Lindiwe Sisulu, and the MUT founder, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi. It was an electric moment enhanced by the long-standing connection between the three leaders.

When the newly inaugurated Vice-Chancellor, Dr Malaza, welcomed guests at the opening of Student Housing Phase 1, he acknowledged the enormous contribution made by Prince Buthelezi. He said, "You should be proud of the seed you planted at MUT. Since the first R5 million donation, MUT has grown exponentially in your lifetime. Today, we are opening a multi-million-rand residence to house some 640 students, a far cry from the first 15 students we had in 1979 when the University opened. It is indeed a proud moment for you as the founder, Prince Buthelezi."

In opening the Student Housing Phase 1 project, Dr Pandor reminded the audience that:

"DHET's vested interest is to ensure that students graduate and have a good student experience while at university. It is for this reason that we have residences designed to encourage communal living, with accommodation rooms grouped together and easily accessible 'shared spaces'. These structured areas will encourage students to socialise and network, creating environments that will foster friendships and lasting relationships."

During the new residence walkabout, it was clear that it met the standards expected of a modern residence. Each floor has sufficient ablution facilities, a fully equipped kitchen and a lounge. On top of that, there are also washing machines. Today's residences are a far cry from those of yesterday where one would just hide one's head; they are a home away from home.

The University is looking forward to launching Student Housing Phase 2 in the near future.

A long, hard road to Student Housing Phase 1

From now onwards the Department of Higher Education and Training will ensure that greater support is planned for all infrastructure projects. This stems from the numerous problems encountered by universities receiving the infrastructure grant. In MUT's case, a grant approved in 2009 finally bore fruit in 2018 due to challenges faced by the University that were beyond its control.

In a detailed analysis during the launch of the Student Housing Phase 1, former acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nokwethemba Ndizi, outlined the challenges faced in completing the project:

"Minister Pandor, you have come full circle regarding this project. You approved the initial funding of Student Housing Phase 1 within the Infrastructure and Efficiency Grant on 12 March 2009. The original amount approved was R105 million, with the DHET contributing R49 million and MUT to contribute R56 million through a loan. The first challenge at that time was securing the loan. The first financial house presented conditions that were not suitable for the University, resulting in retendering for the financial service. A new loan was only finalised early in 2012 and earthworks commenced in September of the same year. The costs had by that time escalated to R156 million.

The second glitch experienced was at the stage of appointing the main contractor. Some bidders challenged the tender process, and as a result it took more than a year to finally engage a contractor. Ultimately, on 18 February 2014 Liviero Building commenced with the actual construction of the building, with the completion date set for the end of July 2015.

There were challenges during the course of that year, such as strikes by employees in the steel manufacturing and engineering sector; but the straw that broke the camel's back was the work stoppages by the local business forums that occurred in January 2015."

Work could only resume after Liviero agreed to give subcontracting work to some members of the forum. These delays resulted in the practical completion date being revised to 30 September 2015. This date was also not met, due to on-site conflicts, whether it was between Liviero and subcontractors, or general workers and the local community. Ultimately, Liviero started lodging a dispute against the University, complaining of what they referred to as sub-standard work by the subcontractors that was impacting progress negatively, and the disruptions which they regarded as no fault of their own.

The dispute extended to the beginning of 2016. When no resolution was forthcoming, Liviero abandoned the site and MUT took occupation on 11 April 2016. At this stage the building was above 80% complete. It was after this period that the debate of whether to continue with Liviero or to get a new contractor to complete the building ensued at MUT. This debate lasted for more than a year, until September 2017 to be precise. For this decision I thank the new Council of MUT for correctly playing their role and allowing Management to manage the operations.

Costs had also escalated. While the University had been able to afford to provide R22 million towards the claim by Liviero in 2016, an additional R25 million was further required for the settlement. We are grateful to the DHET for their resolution in seeing MUT through this hurdle. The DHET granted us the required R25 million and instructed that the building be completed urgently. After Council's green light, we went back to the drawing board. The site was handed over to Liviero in November 2017 and work was resuscitated.

The greatest challenge was that, due to a prolonged state of idleness, the integrity of some of the features had been compromised. There had been incidents of vandalism as well and most importantly, some of the specialised subcontractors were no longer keen on coming back to the project. At this point I thank Liviero, the MUT Infrastructure Team, Luven Naidoo and Dumisani Madela, who joined MUT only last year but gave this project their best. The Student Housing Phase 1 project is now complete."



The new 640 bed residence

Social Cohesion Workshop kickstarts seamless SRC elections

Social Cohesion Workshops are a precursor to the annual SRC elections at MUT. The Dean of Students, Thembi Kweyama, hosted a Social Cohesion Workshop on 1-2 September 2018 at MUT's Natural Sciences Campus. This workshop was intended to educate and sensitise student leaders from various political formations about embracing political diversity in order to intensify social cohesion. The event contributed to Goal 2 of the MUT Strategic Plan - "to promote a high-performing student population".

Various student formations attended the two-day workshop. These included ANCYL, DASO, EFFSC, NASMO, SADESMO, SASCO and YCL. The workshop included topics such as Maximising Your Gains (Negotiations and Diplomacy), Influencing the Nation (Beyond Student Politics), Power Dynamics (Balancing the Scale), Academic Demands and Leadership, among others. Student leaders from various formations also participated in group activities that required them to work together to address certain problems and participate in group presentations.

The facilitator of the Social Cohesion Workshop was Lindokuhle Khoza from Lindong Development. According to Thembi, "The workshop was a huge success. Such forums enable student leaders to realise that they all have a common goal and shared interests in serving and fighting for the rights of students."

The road to SRC Elections 2018

The SRC elections took place on 20 September 2018 at Seme Hall. The purpose of the activity was to enable students to exercise their right to elect leaders of their choice to represent their interests at the University.

The national IEC was the first organisation to be approached to facilitate the MUT SRC elections. This was based on the stipulation by the SRC Constitution that the Chief Electoral Officer should preferably be derived from the IEC of South Africa. Unfortunately, the provincial office of the IEC has taken a resolution not to facilitate SRC elections. In view of this, private consultants with experience in facilitating elections were approached. Lindong Development was appointed to facilitate the MUT SRC elections 2018.

Voting process

The voting process started at about 07h30 on 21 September 2018 at Seme Hall. When the gates closed at 23h30, there were no voters left in the queue, which meant that each and every voter was afforded the opportunity to cast a vote.

The voters' roll was accurate in view of the fact that students had been given a chance to correct any error two weeks prior to voting day. The alphabetical sequencing of voters also assisted in expediting the process. Minor hiccups over operational issues were identified and attended to by the Student Affairs Department. For example, extended opening hours allowed students to collect their student cards in order to vote.

While voting was underway, hundreds of students were entertained by various artists at the MUT sports ground, including DJ Masiya and other local artists. The entertainment event began at 13h00 on 20 September 2018 and was concluded at 23h00. This was to ensure that all students danced and sang together regardless of their political affiliations. This enhanced social cohesion amongst student leaders from the various political formations and students in general.

Counting process

The counting process took place at the voting venue, Seme Hall. This began at around 00h30 on 21 September and continued until 12h45 when it was finally concluded. All parties cooperated well during the process and there were few hitches. The spirit of cooperation that existed outside the counting venue was reflected in the manner in which observers related to one another.

At the final count, 6912 voters had cast their votes. The votes gave a clear indication of democracy at play. After the counting was concluded, the ballot boxes and all relevant material were moved to Protection Services for safekeeping.

SRC election results

Various student organisations participated in the elections. The winner was EFFSC, which received 3787 votes, followed by SASCO with 2163 votes, then SADESMO with 906 votes and DASO with 56 votes. Altogether 6912 students cast their votes, which represents about 57% of the 12204-strong MUT student population. The results for independent candidates were as follows:

Name	Vote Count
Cossa Gift	3374
Goniwe Simphiwe	2173
Khubisa Mxolisi	111
Ngunane Mfanafuthi	828
Nhleko Mthokozisi	1964
Simelane Mlungisi	2123
Sithole Sandile	3468

Mthokozisi Ntuli, Student Development Officer, said, "A lesson learnt is that we should continue with social cohesion activities, as they contribute to the good conduct of students during elections."

No de'javu for the EFFSC Inauguration



SRC President, Codesa Gwala

The EFF Student Command (EFFSC) surprised everyone with a request to hold its inauguration on campus, on Friday 5 October 2018 instead of going to a 'fancy' venue for this event. This was a complete departure from the way SRC inaugurations have been conducted at MUT over the past two decades. The inauguration of the 2018/2019 SRC team was done in the presence of more than 300 students (electorate) from all student organisations. "We want the over 50% students that voted to come and see and hear us committing to serving them on the promises we made during the election campaign," said, Codesa Gwala, the incoming SRC President.

There were no sleek designer suits for the new team. The eight team members from EFFSC were donned in their day-to-day clothes and academic gowns so as "to set the tone that we are an organisation that puts education first," said Codesa.

Dr Enoch Duma Malaza, Vice-Chancellor & Principal, thanked the outgoing SRC for being magnanimous and being a part of the event. By the same vein, he also thanked the incoming SRC and reminded them of the importance of governance in giving students a voice. "However, do remember to be inclusive and embrace diversity. You are charged with the duty of bringing student perspectives to the issues facing the University. Be patient and articulate your needs through a governance process." Dr Malaza also expressed his appreciation that some of the SRC members had left an indelible mark on him during the strategic plan development and review consultations. "You were critical in informing the strategy and reminded us about a decolonized curriculum as part of the strategic approach we should adopt. It is also interesting that you insisted that by 2025, MUT should be a transformed University instead of a transforming University", Dr Malaza reminded the incoming SRC.

In his inaugural address, Codesa's first protocol was to address not just executive management but also acknowledged the presence of cleaners and security. There are wide-ranging deliverables they are expecting from the University such as "Seeing to it that students participate in physical activities, have easy access to WiFi, 24/7 access to the library and clinic", amongst many. At the heart of his presentation was the need for executive management to see to the welfare of students and that no student must be financially excluded. "We will be a neutral SRC and will work as a united team. We are committed to assisting each other physically, emotionally and otherwise. The walls of education must come down because we want free and decolonized education for everyone", he said to the applause of students.

Gender-based violence given the boot at Brotherhood and Sisterhood events

The unfair treatment meted out to women has galvanised MUT to take steps towards protecting female students by empowering them with the necessary knowledge. Over a two-day period on 29 and 30 August 2018, powerful speakers descended on MUT to contribute to this noble cause. Some of these were TV soapie stars Themba Ndaba, who plays Brutus in The Queen, and Nomzamo Mbatha, an actress in Sibaya.



Nomzamo, second from left, was a big hit with the female students



Male students gained a lot from Themba, in red.

Themba told the audience at the Brotherhood event that he had never taken part in social occasions that have the potential to end badly. "For the first time in my life, I decided to accept this MUT invitation because I understand the seriousness of the issue," said Themba. He added that he wanted MUT students to be real men. This is how seriously he views the situation where women are abused by their male counterparts. Themba told over 400 MUT male students how he was scolded by his father when he was young for kicking a girl. "The headmaster of my high school called my father and told him that I had become a horse that kicked women. My dad did not whip me. He sat me down and told me how important women were. He emphasised their role in bringing life to the world and taking care of it," Themba said.

Themba learnt that no matter what a woman has done, there is nothing that can justify beating her up. "Walk away from the situation, and come back when you have cooled off," he advised. Themba said it was important for men to show women love.

Ndlenhle Jiyane, a warden at MUT, told the students that he had learnt a life lesson when he impregnated a girl in his hometown (KwaNongoma), a situation that led to a clash between the girl's family and his. He wished he had had a male role model who could have guided him. He appealed to the students to listen carefully to the various speakers and take their advice. Jiyane also emphasised the importance of love and forgiveness in a relationship. He told the students that whatever they did would have consequences, so they needed to be careful.

At the Sisterhood event, Nomzamo Mbatha, who grew up in KwaMashu northwest of Durban, told the female students about the importance of being independent. "Dependency usually opens a door to abuse," she said. Nomzamo advised the students to stand united and stop posting negative messages about each other on social media. For her, sisterhood meant that the female students should care for and be truthful to each other, not vilify each other. In its message to the female students, the Department of Student Affairs, which organised the two events, warned the female students to be aware of the signs of a toxic relationship and take the necessary steps.

The students said they benefited a great deal from both events. Buyisile Gumede (21), a second-year civil engineering student, said she learnt that it was important to inform the right people if someone was in trouble.

Meet Mr and Miss MUT

The exciting Miss and Mr MUT Beauty Pageant took place on 8 September 2018 at Seme Hall. The event was organised by ELM Vuvuzela and its purpose was to select the winners of the title for 2018. The event also provided an opportunity for students to interact with each other, promoting social cohesion.

The Seme Hall, usually used for graduations and examinations, was transformed into a smart, sophisticated venue for the Mr and Ms MUT hopefuls to walk the aisle with confidence. The stage, sound and lighting resembled the setting one sees on TV for national beauty pageants. A new stage was installed in the opposite direction to provide a unique setting for the event.

The programme directors for the event were Hope Mbhele of Igagasi FM and SK Khoza of a soapie called The Queen. They kept the audience captivated. The main artists for the pageant were Madanon and DJ Bhoonu. Several local artists, including MUT students, also performed during the event. The swimwear competition took place first, followed by casual wear and finally elegant evening wear. Thereafter, the top six contestants were announced. The final test involved a question and answer competition.

The event was described by Mthoko Ntuli, Student Development Officer at MUT, as:

“ecstatic, theatrical and out of this world.”

The contestants looked great in their attire which was chosen to suit the evening's theme of 'Moral Regeneration'.

This theme was intended to instil a sense of pride among students. Even their outfits were sponsored". The Student Affairs Department was humbled by the Vice-Chancellor's attendance.

Wendy Ndlela was crowned Miss MUT of 2018. She is an S3 Electrical Engineering student. The first princess is Banele Mkhwanazi, a first-year Marketing student and the second princess is a third-year Marketing student, Felicity Dladla.

Siphokuhle Moyane was crowned Mr MUT 2018. He is a second-year Public Management student. The first prince is Thandanani Dubazane, a first-year Marketing student and the second prince is Muntuwenkosi Mathe, a first-year Public Management student.

Student Affairs kept to the University's No-Alcohol Policy, even during the after party which started after 11pm and continued until the early hours of the next morning. DJs and artists such as Malum Kool Kat, Khuzani, DJ Bongz, DJ Sox and many others, entertained over 3500 students.

Stringent measures were taken to ensure the smooth running of both the pageant and after party event. The security control system was tightened by Sandile Security at the main gate and the perimeter fence around the campus, while the perimeter of the Seme Hall and the rugby sports ground were also monitored. The gate behind Seme Hall was opened and manned by Sandile Security in order to grant easy access to the VIPs.

Both events went well, with very few hiccups. The following morning, 9 September 2018, exhausted yet high-spirited students were transported back to their residences.



Mr and Miss MUT, Siph Moyana and Wendy Ndlela

Families keep our ambassadors' feet firmly on the ground

Over the years MUT has elected student that glow with aura as Miss and Mr MUT. The year 2018 was not an exception. Two down-to-earth students Wendy Ndlela and Siph Moyana came through the gruelling process and were crowned as ambassadors of the University. Wendy, (21) a KwaMashu lass doing S4 towards her Electrical Engineering diploma, is a graduate from MUT's immediate neighbour school, Umlazi Comprehensive Technical School, (Comtech). Wendy said she always yearned to take part in a beauty pageant, but has always been busy with her school work. She spotted the gap in 2018, prepared for the competition, and her name was called last among the three winners - second princess, first princess, and Queen! "I went to gym a lot, and changed my diet. I began eating vegetables and fruit. I watched relevant material online like the walks, and the style and set-ups where contestants were interviewed," Wendy said. Wendy advised the youth to "go for your dreams, don't let people drag you down. Some were saying I was not going to make it. But I did," said Wendy, whose father is a pastor, and mother is an engineer. Wendy has a four year old brother, Emihle, whom she adores. She added that she got good grounding from her parents and grandmother, whom she visits at KwaMhlabuyalingana, in the far north of the KwaZulu-Natal. Wendy intends to take modelling as a career, and also help other girls who have the same ideas.

Like Wendy, Siph credits his big family for the kind of person that he is. The second year Public Management soccer player is from Ndumo, Jozini, north of KwaZulu-Natal, has four brother and three sisters. He went to Ndumo High school in the area. Being chosen the winner was a natural step forward for Siph. "I have done modelling and acting for a couple of time. This is a career to me. In 2017 I was second prince. That did not stop me from trying again. I believe in four Ps - preparations prevent poor performance. I started preparing for the contest in March." Siph went to the gym everyday. He stuck to his diet regime. He said playing soccer also helped a lot.

Siph said he hoped winning the Mr MUT crown would open the entertainment doors for him. Gaining a foothold in the business will give me a chance to contribute to the development of the community. I really would like to focus on rural youth. They need education-related information, mostly. Ndumo will be my springboard," he said. Siph's love for the community stems from his love for his family, who he said "means everything to me. Especially my mother. I love her a lot. She taught me the importance of the power of prayer. His family was originally from Mtubatuba in the north of the province. His father passed away when Siph was very young. Siph said his friends, who are much older than him, played a big role in shaping his character.

EMPOWERED ADMINISTRATORS CONFERENCE

EAC Founder pours her heart out

"I could not take even a short walk to the woods to clear my head after the hectic two days of the Empowered Administrators Conference (EAC) that took place on 20-21 September 2018 at Durban's Waterfront Hotel. The annual two days of the EAC are a culmination of a year of planning, which involves numerous meetings in my department and visits to many places where we discuss the EAC. These are our recruitment drives.

I am penning this letter to pay special tribute to special people, the delegates and also my team - they are the best! This September we had more than 150 delegates and exhibitors from all over the country - from the corporate world, education, private and government sectors.

First, just a few words as to why I founded the EAC. In South Africa we have Secretaries' Day on which we all thank the secretaries for what they do for our organisations. I felt that that was not enough as office administrators need to be continually empowered with relevant information. This is the reason we focus on a new topic each year, unless delegates request repeats of certain sections.

The EAC provides opportunities to change people's lives and directly contributes to the economies of the world. We started off by taking our office administrators to Jozini Tiger Lodge in Northern KwaZulu-Natal in 2011. Then in 2012 we had a "proper" conference with international delegates, which marked the official birth of the EAC - and it became an international gathering from 2012. This bears testimony to the skill of my team that has planned and executed various strategies year after year. The EAC gets better and better, as some of the delegates have pointed out, thanks to the creativity of the team and suggestions from delegates. The first-out-of-the-trenches attitude of the core members of the organising team is directly responsible for the success of the EAC.

I am always touched by the presence of our sponsors and exhibitors. These partners, some of whom have been with us for a number of years, give a "business vibe" to the conference. Kgabo Phaka of Tsogo Sun, a loyal sponsor of the EAC, says they would not miss this event for anything! Van Schaik Bookstores have also been a constant sight at the MUT events. At times they have donated prizes, as did the Hilton Hotel and Old Mutual at the 2017 EAC. Thank you and well done, friends!

Another great source of joy for me is the quality of my colleagues' leadership, creativity and selflessness in ensuring the success of the EAC. My heart just melts! I get the feeling that my colleagues are not just working, but living the EAC philosophy of caring, being accessible, sharing, inspiring, being inspired and just being nice to others!



Delegates at the 2018 EAC

I confess that I will never know the full impact which EAC has made upon the delegates and their organisations. However, year after year, we receive testimonies from delegates telling us how the EAC has transformed them and their places of work. During one of the sessions, we recognised six "EAC family members" or EAC alumni who have attained Master's qualifications. This is a clear indication that delegates have been encouraged by the EAC to "think outside the box". Talk about empowerment!

Planning for any conference is difficult, and the EAC is no exception. Challenges we have to face every year include conceptualising a conference theme that will resonate with skills development officers, as they are the ones that approve conference attendance. This is not easy as we have to start from scratch each year, but it empowers us to carry out our research diligently, without any cutting and pasting!

There have been a number of spinoffs for MUT from the EAC. Whether it's the increase in number of delegates, diversified attendance or sponsorships, nothing beats the corporate social responsibility that the EAC has incited among delegates. Because the EAC is all about empowerment, the delegates have also learnt to empower others.

I would like to say a few words about the people that have heeded our call to contribute towards social upliftment. In 2016, I asked delegates to donate sanitary towels as we had been made aware of the dire need for these essentials. It was disconcerting to hear that young students would miss an entire week of lectures because they could not afford sanitary towels.

The delegates' response was amazing! Large boxes of sanitary towels were pushed into the venue, with the DoE's Nokulunga Nkabinde and MUT's Ronelle Govender taking the lead. The same individuals did it in 2017 with teddy bears to soothe the hearts of the abused children at Bobbi Bear Foundation. In 2018, delegates donated jerseys for the children of Umlazi Place of Safety. Giving is an opportunity to uplift another person's life. It is an investment for the future. This is what drives us in the department, and clearly, the EAC delegates as well. Please accept my grateful thanks to you all for donating and being a part of the EAC." Mballi Mkhize

Tackling the 4th Industrial Revolution

"It is our duty to ameliorate the undesirable consequences of this 4th Industrial Revolution for our communities. Our staff, students and stakeholders must reap the benefits of this change by participating in it and being protected from the long-term adverse effects of exclusion," said Dr Enoch Duma Malaza at his inauguration on 25 August 2018.

Just as Y2K was the buzzword of the late 1990s, the 4th Industrial Revolution (Web 4.0) is the new buzzword of our times. Whether we fear, embrace or reject Web 4.0 depends on the circumstances we are faced with. An unskilled worker may find his skills obsolete and redundant while a professional still has some time to embrace the changes that Web 4.0 will bring to his or her job and adapt to it.

Our logic behind focusing on the 4th Industrial Revolution during our 7th Empowered Administrators Conference was the need to strengthen office professionals with a sense of what the Web 4.0 will entail in order for them to remain relevant. In summary, we looked at what it is and

where their preparations, strengths and acumen would need to be improved.

Some Web 4.0 topics tackled:

Data curation:

Patricia Badenhourst, librarian at MUT, explained the meaning of 'curation' by highlighting it with practical examples. "Content curation will enable office professionals to provide relevant and credible data with speed," she said. She demonstrated Google Drive as one of the tools that can assist office professionals in curating their documents and making them easily accessible for information retrieval and sharing.

The wonders of Office 365:

- Online collaborations: Real time co-authoring in MS Office Suite (Excel, Word, PowerPoint). Here office administrators were equipped with time-saving skills which would enable them to save time while awaiting comments from line managers, co-managers or colleagues by working on a document in real time regardless of where they are.
- Optimising the use of office apps for group chats: A real-time Whatsapp group was created by the facilitator without even taking the phone numbers. This app is very handy, even for lecturers when they develop class contact lists.
- Turning OneNote items into Outlook calendar events: By using this app, office professionals can convert notes to tasks on their calendars and even send minutes taken in OneNote by email.
- Retrieving the right version of a document: The co-authoring feature of Office 365 has made it even easier to retrieve the right version of a document and see who made what changes, including the time and place.
- Crypto currencies: These are the currencies of the future, and this topic was a new introduction to EAC 2018. In time, some office professionals may need to conduct the business of their units using crypto currencies. It is therefore relevant for them to know what lies ahead in terms of monetary exchange.



Jessie Nolela has been attending the EAC for years

EAC veterans share words of wisdom with delegates

The 2018 Empowered Administrators Conference (EAC) will always be remembered for giving the office administrators a platform to voice their views. The conference, which kicked off on 20 September 2018 at Durban's Waterfront Hotel, saw delegates painting a gloomy picture of the level of abuse experienced in most workplaces.

A panel of EAC veterans and experts gave possible solutions to the many challenges experienced by administrators. The panel included two MUT academics, Fiona Pillay of the ICT Department and Vaneshree Moodley of the Department of Office Management. The other panelists were Marlene Govender, CEO of Market Masters; and Nolwandle Mabaso and Jessie Nolela, both from Ithala Development Finance Corporation Limited.

It was interesting to note that some delegates also provided solutions to the issues. This was a clear indication of their high degree of empowerment. Nokulunga Nkabinde, a delegate from the Department of Education, advised delegates to seek help as soon as possible. "You need to stop abuse as soon as you can. Have a one-on-one discussion with your line manager," she said. Nokulunga has been attending the EAC for three years. She said that for her the EAC is always a new dawn. Each time she returns to the office after the conference, she has a host of new ideas and skills to pass on to others.

Sandile Mahlaba, a MUT alumnus, drove the message home when he gave the delegates a lesson on the development of technology. "I am just showing you how much the world is changing. You need to be digital transformation champions. If you do not lead the digital disruption of this era, the disruption will lead you. As office administrators you need to be the ones leading the 4th Industrial Revolution transformation in your organisations," he said. This was supported by Nokuthula Luthuli, the founder and Managing Director of Bloom Marketing.

One of the reasons for the success of the EAC is the support the conference enjoys from University Management. On the night of the EAC awards, the conference organisers were thrilled to welcome the chairperson of Council, Mr Morallane Morallane; various Council members; the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Enoch Duma Malaza; and the DVC: Teaching and Learning, Professor Marcus Ramogale. Dr Malaza was attending the EAC for the first time, while Professor Ramogale has been a familiar face at the event. The VC applauded the organisers of the EAC for their contribution in preparing the office administrators for the 4th Industrial Revolution.

Dr Malaza emphasised the importance of taking proper steps to adjust to the 4th Industrial Revolution. "We know that very soon there will be self-driven cars. We hope you will be able to acquire the new skills required for this phase in human history," he said.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



The award winners

Women's leadership awards reinforce strategic partnerships

The year 2018 saw MUT presenting Women in Leadership awards to its female strategic partners for the first time. The event took place during the MUT Women's Day celebrations on 7 August 2018, and was a gathering of more than 200 women from the stakeholder groups that MUT needs in order to exist. Without their support, the University would fail to meet its value proposition. The event focused on women in the forefront of leadership, business, philanthropy and corporate social investment. The awards provided MUT a space to showcase the great work of strategic partners in positioning the MUT brand, as well as an opportunity to elevate the role of women in the different sectors of society.

Academic excellence is at the centre of MUT's existence. However, achieving excellence requires a good supply of quality students from local schools. For this reason the award for women in leadership was presented to Muntu Ntombela, the principal of Menzi High School. Muntu has spent her whole career striving for academic excellence. She has displayed strong leadership values both as deputy principal and principal of Menzi High School. Her school has received awards for six consecutive years during the Circle of Excellence awards. She achieved a 100% matric pass with 97% bachelor passes during her first year as principal, an achievement which earned her the award from MUT.

The Woman in Philanthropy award was presented to Nareshini Ranganthan, Director at the Environment Language Education Trust (ELET) to recognise her contribution in positioning MUT to donors. This has enabled the University to empower and increase the capacity of more than 35 schools in Umlazi Township. Through her various corporate social investment initiatives in the NGO sector, Nareshini has identified opportunities that resulted in MUT forming funding partnerships with more than seven corporate giants, which enabled the institution to strengthen stakeholder engagement ties with schools in the township.

MUT has a proud history of graduating more than 17 000 female students. These women are making an immense contribution to the South African economy in various spheres of business. For this reason, MUT presented a Woman in Business award to Joyleen (Joy) Mahanetsa, an MUT alumnus. Joyleen has an amazing track record and is well respected by industry stakeholders who do business with her organisation (Outsmart Outdoor Advertising), which she founded in 2006. A few weeks before receiving the award, she made a surprise visit to the Alumni Relations Office to present a donation towards building the entrepreneurial skills of a female MUT Marketing student.

In accepting the award, Joy said: "Thank you very much to my institution. It was a great pleasure meeting the MUT Vice-Chancellor and I thank you for the warm welcome. We really felt at home." She attributes her generosity to the wise words of former president, Dr Nelson Mandela, who said: "What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."

'Living a healthy lifestyle in the workplace': Our people, our assets

Employee Wellness Day was a successful event held on 12 September 2018. The employees of MUT were motivated by the Theme "Living a healthy lifestyle in the workplace", and took time to undergo medical screening by professional nurses organised by certain Medical Aid Schemes. The good attendance was an indication that employees view their lives as a priority and they share the sentiment that a healthy lifestyle leads to increased productivity, an active mind and less absenteeism due to ill health. This programme is supported by the DHET which believes that moving employee health and wellness to a strategic level within higher education will benefit both institutions and the DHET.

"The employee health and wellness programme is crucial for the sustainability of MUT, therefore it must be embraced by management as one of its strategic goals," said Lizvi Masondo, MUT's Safety, Health and Environment Officer. Different service providers occupied Bozzoli Hall and offered a wide range of free services to MUT employees.

These included the Cancer Association of South Africa, Diabetic SA, the Discovery Medical Aid Scheme, Sizwe Medical Aid Scheme, an optometrist, Virgin Active, Sanlam, Old Mutual (which provided free medical screening for those who are not on medical aid, and offered financial advice), MUT Sports Club and finally, Zest.



Staff testing during Wellness Day

VC'S ANCHOR STRATEGY GAINS TRACTION



MUT VC, Middle, presenting the guitars to Comtech Principal, right, and Xolani Hlongwa, music teacher, second from left, and music students

MUT and neighbouring school, Comtech, talk brotherly love

MUT Vice-Chancellor, Dr Enoch Duma Malaza enhanced his external stakeholder engagement when he visited Umlazi Comtech on 14 September 2018. The visit is a strategic positioning initiative of the new Vice-Chancellor to the local schools that have for the past 39 years provided MUT with quality students. Comtech is a major strategic partner to MUT as they are the main feeder school to MUT. This initial engagement between the MUT VC and Comtech leadership is in line with Dr Malaza's anchor strategy of building and embracing relations with neighbouring schools to enable MUT to create a viable education ecosystem for the community of Umlazi Township.

Comtech principal, Mr Nkosinathi Shandu, who took over as principal in 2017 was delighted about this historic visit which was a first for his school. This was confirmed by Mr Lucky Luthuli the longest serving retired principal of Comtech who also graced the Vice-Chancellor's visit to the school. "Thank you for coming here, we are like a son to MUT because what you do at MUT is what we do here at Comtech. Our genes are the same, both our focus is science; commerce; and engineering. There are many schools in Umlazi but we are a school literally in your premises. Umlazi Comtech has a very strong legacy of uniform discipline, music and academic excellence. When you talk of a partnership between our institutions you can be proud of what we are globally known for," said Mr Shandu in welcoming Dr Malaza to Comtech.

The Vice-Chancellor's visit was amongst many reasons prompted by positive feedback from friends and family who attended his inauguration where the Comtech band provided world-class performance. The VC thanked Comtech for being a viable pipeline of students to MUT, he said: "we would like to engage you when we roll out our strategy of being anchored in our communities. The partnership will allow us to create synergy with what you offer when we develop programmes. Also MUT looks forward to a meaningful relationship as we think how we engage business and community leaders of Umlazi on our strategy." A number of strategic projects are in the pipeline as the two education partners work towards formalising their relationship.

MUT's efforts result in book donations to Umlazi schools

Learners of five Umlazi Township schools are about to experience change in their young lives. This will improve their chances of becoming successful citizens, with the ability to make an impact on the lives of others. On 13 September 2018, Emthethweni, Phila, Nselele, Ntwela Primary Schools, and the host, Khalipha Primary School, received Bright Books for their learners from

Iqraa Trust and Elet. Nareshini Ranganthan, Elet's Director, said their gesture was "more than just a donation to mark World Literacy Day. The more than 200 books we are donating forms part of Project Rise which we are driving. We would like to see the donation kick-starting the culture of reading at our schools in order to improve the learners' level of English. Although the books are intended for leisure reading, they will have a positive influence on the learners' academic progress. We are aware of the challenges that the schools are facing," said Nareshini.

Echoing what Nareshini said, Dr Mahmoud Youssef Baker, the CEO of Iqraa Trust, said that reading gives the reader freedom. As a way of encouraging the learners to see the value of reading, Dr Baker suggested that the teachers aim to reward the learners with books whenever they do well. Dr Baker, an economist who studied overseas, advised the schools to have libraries. He asked teachers to donate books and make an effort to further their studies. Teachers from the five schools became excited when Dr Baker informed them about a US scholarship available at the US Embassy.

The Principal of Khalipha Senior Primary School, Thenjiwe Mbhele, said she was very grateful to MUT and the sponsors for donating books which would change the learners' lives. Sindi Cele, an English teacher at Ntwela Primary School, said she was going to take advantage of the donation by starting a book club.



Seated from left, Nomusa Shamase, Circuit Manager, Dr Baker, and Nareshini, with (standing) Umlazi Township school teachers and MUT's Zama Sishi, right

Coffee with the VC

There is always an air of excitement when a new line manager starts. It's all about what changes he or she will bring to the organisation and of course, how compatible the new person will be with the rest of the team.

Coffee with the VC was the MUT strategy review process which Dr Malaza adopted to have a conversation around MUT's Strategy 2020-2025, which dovetails with the DHET's 6-year planning cycles. The strategy review process builds upon MUT's current strategic plan which expires in 2019. According to Dr Malaza: "At the heart of the strategy development process should be a drive to distance ourselves from the past, thereby focusing on where we are as MUT, where the world is and where we want to go in the future. Our approach towards the strategy development and review process will involve a more ideological than academic approach. This means that our new vision for the University will be based on the aspirations of MUT stakeholders. Our approach will be 'bottom-up' rather than 'top-down'. We need to find consensus of opinion as we develop this strategy, therefore the process will be iterative. We will consult all our staff members, students and all other relevant internal and external stakeholder groupings."

More than 400 staff members participated in these engagements and there was real coffee on that wintry day! Student representatives from all structures also participated.

"We all need to find a reason for coming to work and a common purpose that will shape our future. As part of the MUT community, it is my philosophy that we should begin to reflect on the critical skills that each one of us should bring to the table.

ALUMNI CORNER

Conversation with the KZN Young Achiever 2018

The Alumni Relations Office had a conversation with Mxolisi Phakathi (MP), a graduate of the Department of Environmental Health. Mxolisi is a reflection of how MUT develops and empowers its graduates to be able to participate in the new world order. He was listed amongst the Mail & Guardian's 200 young, influential South Africans in June, and a month later he was named KZN's Young Achiever 2018. These accolades are given to South Africans under the age of 35 who have done exceptional work in their fields and who also make an effort to uplift society.

AR: Mxolisi, congratulations on your recent achievements! We are proud of your work and would like to inspire our young students to look up to you. Please give us a brief account of your activities.

MP: I grew up in Umlazi Township and graduated from MUT in 2009. I work for South African Airways as Acting Senior Manager: Industrial Safety, where I am responsible for ensuring that aircraft engineers and maintenance employees are working in a safe, healthy environment.

There are so many developments in my area of expertise as regulations keep changing. When things go wrong, safety, health and environmental specialists can be prosecuted. This keeps me on my toes and eager to keep abreast of any new developments. I am in the final stages of my MBA dissertation and am also a Master of Public Health (MPH). Improving my skills will enable me to make a significant contribution to business and society.

AR: What exactly did you do to get this recognition?

MP: Growing up in Umlazi Township exposed me to a number of human activities which harm the environment. This sparked my interest in environmental management. I have always participated in environmental conservation projects such as clean-up campaigns and pollution prevention. I also worked on a project which educated rural primary schools on the importance of sustaining the environment. Through the project we rewarded schools that undertook campaigns to keep their schools clean and environmentally sustainable. The nomination was based on the work that I do representing the KZN province.

AR: To whom are you dedicating this achievement and why?

MP: The achievements are dedicated to my parents, especially my late father, Bheka Phakathi, who was an employee at MUT's Transport department. Despite many financial constraints my parents upheld wonderful spiritual, emotional and social values that contributed to my becoming an assertive individual. My parents are strong advocates for education and giving back to the community. I am grateful to them for raising me to be the best in what I do. They taught me to respect others, learn by mistakes and to never stop learning new things.

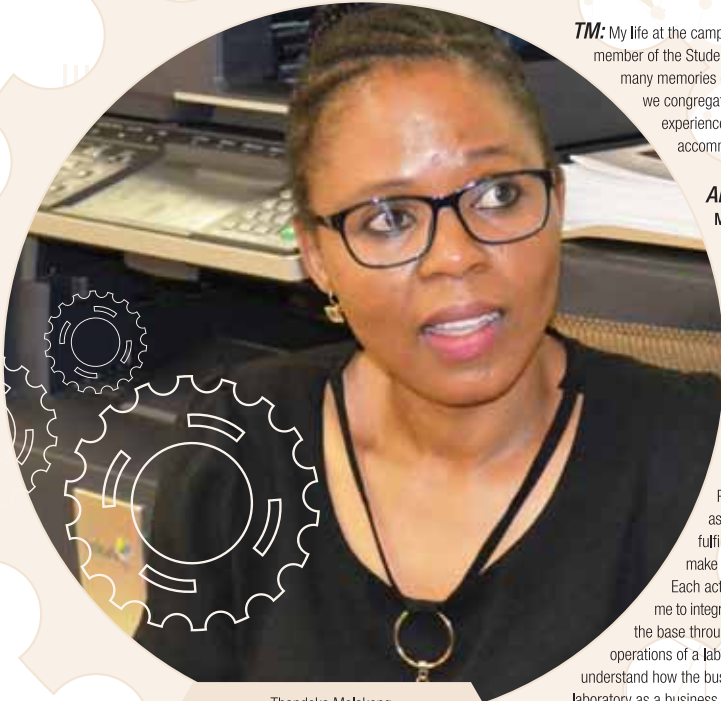


Mxolisi Phakathi

AR: You studied Environmental Health. How has this qualification and time spent at MUT contributed to your achievements?

MP: Obtaining a qualification from a reputable institution like MUT has created a platform that has enabled me to think ambitiously and to act with a great sense of resourcefulness to achieve my goals. Being a young professional living in a challenging, transitional South Africa, education is important. The experience in leadership which I acquired while at MUT from the academic staff in the Environmental Health department has contributed to where my career is at this stage. This shows that as an institution, MUT is not only teaching the principles of leadership and management, but grooming future influential leaders to take this country and the world to greater heights. I am honoured to have been part of the MUT family and the exceptional facilitators of the Environmental Health Programme.

Alumna driving the economy throughout the African continent



Thandeka Molakeng

AR: Where did you spend your time on campus?

TM: 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 other than academic work for me, as that is where we congregated for services. Campus life was a wonderful experience for me as everyone was extremely friendly and accommodating.

AR: How has your career evolved since leaving MUT?

TM: MUT prepared me theoretically and practically. This provided me with a solid foundation in the field of Analytical Chemistry. Because I knew the different instruments that are typically used in the industry, the transition from student life was less traumatic. I have worked both in analytical laboratories and in product development, as the curriculum covered all aspects of chemistry: Organic, Inorganic, Physical and Analytical. The position I gained as Head of the Analytical Laboratory for Phalaborwa Mining Company, now Phalaborwa Copper, as the Lab Superintendent in 2011 was one of the most fulfilling roles I have ever had. I had to lead a team, make investment decisions and manage internal customers. Each activity had different dynamics. The position allowed me to integrate all that I had studied. Analytical chemistry provided the base through which I could run and understand the basic operations of a laboratory. Through my postgraduate studies, I could understand how the business fitted together holistically, and position the laboratory as a business.

My current role is Head of Sales: BASF, Africa. I lead a team based in the four country clusters in South, East, West and North Africa. We are responsible for sales, technical support and logistics for the performance materials division in the African continent. I am part of the senior leadership team within the organisation, with direct disciplinary reporting to the MD role in South Africa and functionally reporting to the Senior Vice President in Germany, Europe.

AR: What drives you to give back to MUT?

TM: As a Christian I believe in the concept of giving. I am aware that I have been tremendously blessed in my career and therefore it is required of me to give back. The little contribution that I make as an MUT graduate is driven by the fact that I know I have to give back. I also understand the transformational power that education has for us as individuals. 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.

In my spare time I have started a clothing brand, I am Fashion. This venture was solely motivated by my desire to be relevant in giving as I don't want to be limited by what my salary can do. So I continue to push myself to build up a solid business from which I will be able to extend my giving.

Contributions made by alumni form the cornerstone for the success of any institution. Through various initiatives, the Alumni Relations Office reaches out to alumni to reconnect and participate in the development of MUT. During the four-city alumni roadshow in 2017, MUT reconnected with a number of alumni who had lost contact with their alma mater.

Thandeka Molakeng, Head of Sales at BASF Africa, was amongst the graduates who marvelled at an opportunity to reinvest her time, skills and finances to empower current and future students, especially females, from the deep rural communities. She shared her experiences as a typical MUT student and why she is obligated to contribute to the alumni bursary fund.

AR: What makes you a typical MUT student?

TM: I believe I fit the profile of a typical MUT student. I say this with a sense of pride as I come from humble beginnings. I was born in rural KwaMnyamana near Bulwer, to a single mom. My grandmother raised me while my mom worked as a domestic worker. My time at MUT was memorable at all levels. I entered MUT as a teenager and left as a young woman. I graduated in 1999 as the top student in my faculty with a diploma in Analytical Chemistry.

TRIBUTES



Zolile's parents, (foreground) Mr Comfort Khumalo, and Mrs Princess Khumalo during the memorial dedication

Chairperson of Council drives a healing process for the Khumalo family

"Zolile Khumalo - gone but not forgotten"

- Mr Morallane Morallane

Unveiling a fountain erected in honour of the late Zolile Khumalo, Mr Morallane Morallane, Chairperson of Council, led the University in committing to ending gender-based violence and driving healing for the Khumalo family. Here is what he had to say:

How does a university express its sympathy to the family of a loved one who passed away at one of its residences? How does it raise awareness on the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide that is gripping our country? We have been grappling with this tragedy since 2 May 2018 when we heard of the death of Zolile Khumalo. This is the worst trial any parent could endure, and it has been our worst trial as a university. This is because when students move to university residences, we are expected to provide a 'home away from home'. Unfortunately, it is at the very residences and campuses that are supposed to be home to students, that some students meet people who shatter their dreams and families.

The destiny of Zolile might have been destroyed on the eve of 1 May, but as a university we refuse to forget her life at MUT. It is our intention to let the country and the world know that what happened to Zolile is unfortunate, and we refuse to have an incident like this ever take place again at MUT or at any university.

As we open the Student Housing Phase 1, we express our gratitude to DHET for their support because we will now be able to move some of our students from the city back to the main campus.

It is thus fitting that as students move back to this beautiful campus, they see this fountain of water as a constant reminder that we care for every student who enters through the gates of MUT. Therefore, I would like to dedicate this fountain as a memorial for Zolile Khumalo. Anyone who ever passes this fountain must not only remember Zolile but must think and reflect about how they should report any signs of gender-based violence.

Finally, I would like to thank our Ministers here, the Honourable Naledi Pandor, Minister of Higher Education and Training, as well as our Chancellor, Lindwe Sisulu, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, for all their messages of support and activism in raising awareness about gender-based violence. It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the presence of Zolile Khumalo's parents. We will walk with them to allow them to have closure on this tragedy. Bo Mntungwa, sinethemba lokuthi loku okuncane kokunikhumbuzza indodakazi yenu. kuzoba isiduduzo. (To the Khumalos, we hope that this little memorial will heal you emotionally.) Siyabonga.

Fallen hero: The story of Professor Malinga

A shockwave reverberated across the University when it was announced that Professor Senzo Jerome Malinga, the former Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, had passed away after a very short illness. This was less than 18 months after leaving the Institution in April 2017.

Here are a few things we did not know about Professor Malinga:

- He was instrumental in establishing the Malinga clan's lineage and tracing it back to Malawi, Zimbabwe and across South Africa. The clan has already formed several chapters with the intention of ensuring that no one from the Malinga clan is marginalised. There is even a foundation which is already operational and has started funding some Malinga members with postgraduate studies.
- He used his networks towards the greater good of the University. Some of these include organising conferences for his female electrical engineering students with the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers, exposing them to mentorship from females in electrical engineering.
- He also used his global connections to open opportunities for MUT. Cyril Ndaba, former Deputy High Commissioner in the UK, facilitated the MoU between MUT and Leeds Metropolitan University; and later as Consular General in California, facilitated a benchmark visit for the MUT executive management.



Professor Senzo Malinga

Paying tribute to Professor Malinga, Dr Enoch Duma Malaza, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, said: "There are a few things that resonated with me when I read his accomplishments. I sincerely wish that I had met him, not because we share science and engineering but because he had a similar outlook to mine". These Dr Malaza lists as follows:

- He left a diversified faculty with people from Poland, Russia, DRC, Nigeria and Zimbabwe amongst others, working with South Africans. This resonates with my approach that we should encourage diversity, global citizenship and transformative leadership.
- He integrated the arts with science, technology and engineering (STEM). The first conference, FROM STEM TO STEAM, aimed at showing how to integrate the arts with science, technology and engineering.
- He promoted the arts in Umlazi Township. I am told that he brought the 1st Umlazi Arts Festival which was hosted here at MUT. He brought renowned artists, poets and jazz musicians who not only entertained, but showed students the skills of each trade.

“Rest in peace, Zindela!”

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.

As the saying goes,

“It takes a village to raise a child.”

Graduates and willing friends of MUT are welcome to support the alumni donate-a-bench project or the alumni bursary fund.

Bank Account: 40-7755-0173
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Account Name: Mangosuthu University of Technology
Reference: 9263/60306 Alumni Relations

Contact: alumni@mut.ac.za / zama@mut.ac.za

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.

Produced by the Department of Marketing and Communications


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