



Mangosuthu
University of Technology

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SPIRIT

A MANGOSUTHU UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY NEWSLETTER

**A FIRST FOR NATURE CONSERVATION
IN SOUTH AFRICA**

**MUT STUDENTS RECEIVE NATIONAL
ACADEMIC AWARDS**

**TAKING MUT PROGRAMMES
TO EAST AFRICA**



**MUT CIVIL ENGINEERING
STUDENT SHINES ON CAMPUS**

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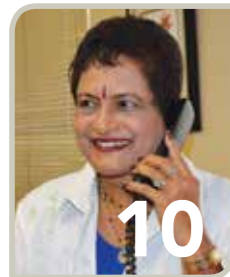
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FROM THE DESK OF THE MANAGING EDITOR, MBALI MKHIZE

REAWAKENING THE MUT BRAND

This quarter has seen great men, women and institutions pay a visit to MUT. Brand MUT has suddenly come to life as MUT servant leaders at different leadership levels have reawakened the MUT brand.

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MANAGING EDITOR: Mbali Mkhize
 EDITORS: Len Mzimela, Zama Sishi, Bheki Hlophe
 WRITERS: Mbali Mkhize, Len Mzimela, Zama Sishi, Bheki Hlophe
 IMAGES: Jade Kunene, Zama Sishi, Bheki Hlophe, Lisa Mbongwa

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Through dialogue, humility, active listening and high levels of emotional intelligence, these servant leaders are working tirelessly to put MUT on the map. They have created brand activators that are growing the MUT brand in corporations, government departments, high schools, overseas universities and parastatals at home.

For instance, there is an interesting and frequently told story of a young MUT alumnus, Yanga. He is an advocate of the MUT brand who has played a pivotal role in the stakeholder engagement activities of MUT and Arcelomital.

Another story is that of a university professor at the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in the USA, who, on reading a poster about South Africa, made contact and opened up partnership opportunities for MUT.

We are at the pinnacle of stakeholder engagement and are humbled by the choices stakeholders have presented us with: from

a veteran nature reservist who chose MUT to a high level corporate employee for remembering that 'I am who I am because of MUT' – they are reawakening and growing the MUT brand in their own small way.

Our success in retaining and attracting more stakeholders will lie in understanding stakeholder engagement and management, and public relations. We will have to master these through listening and responding appropriately in order to ensure that we have a sustainable stakeholder relations

programme.

Join us in sharing this exciting publication where we document our success stories and connections to the world. We hope it will encourage you to continue reawakening this brand and repositioning MUT as one of the powerhouses of South Africa.

Mbali Mkhize
 Senior Director of Marketing and Communications

“ From a veteran nature reservist who chose MUT to a high level corporate employee for remembering that 'I am who I am because of MUT' – they are reawakening and growing the MUT brand in their own small way. ”

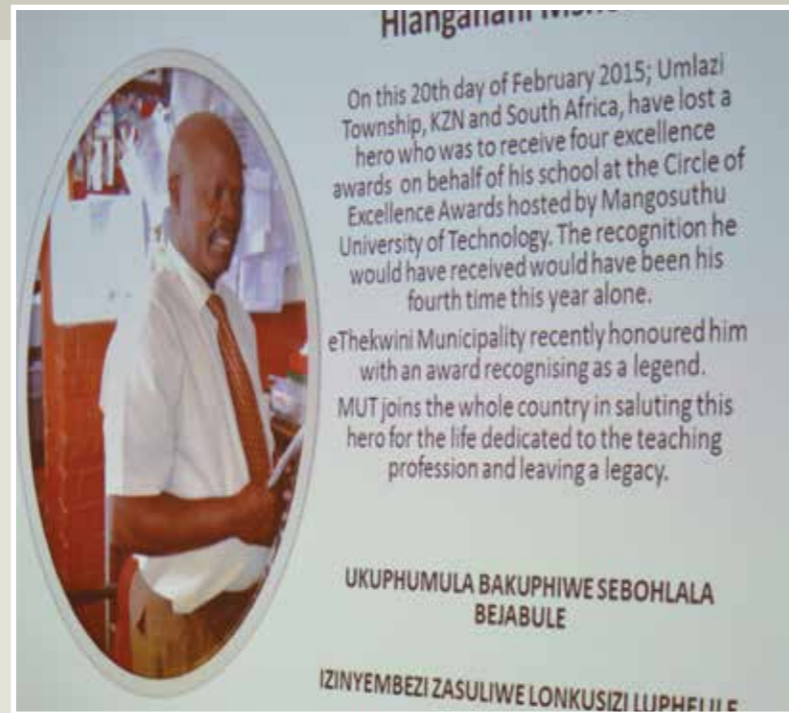


Tribute to Felix Mshololo, Former Principal of Menzi High School

(21 January 1958 - 20 February 2015)

by Professor Mashupye Ratale Kgaphola

Great men and women will be remembered by the footprints they leave behind. This issue of Spirit is dedicated to honouring and celebrating professionals who inspire us through their dedication to their work and selfless use of their energies and time for the upliftment of others.



One such great man is the late Felix Mshololo, the former principal of Menzi High School in Umlazi. He passed away the day before he was due to receive four awards for excellence on behalf of Menzi High School at MUT's Circle of Excellence Awards. The first three awards were for excellence in Mathematics, Physical Science and Accounting in the 2014 Senior Certificate examinations, while

the fourth was in recognition of Menzi High School for attaining an above 90% pass rate consistently and topping all 28 high schools in Umlazi Township. These achievements are testament to Mshololo's leadership. Indeed, the past three years have seen Menzi High dominate the Circle of Excellence Awards.

In Mshololo, we saw a transformational servant leader. One shining example of

servant leadership was his 'conceptualisation'. He elevated Menzi High School to levels of achievement corresponding to that of schools far better resourced than a township school. Over the past five years, MUT has received about 50 top students from Menzi High School. MUT benefits greatly from schools that perform well academically, and this benefit extends to the country and our economy as well.

AN AWARD IN MSHOLOLO'S NAME

As echoed by the Umlazi District Director, Mr Bheki Ntuli, at the Circle of Excellence Awards ceremony on 20 February, MUT will dedicate an award category to the late Mshololo. The award will be known as the Felix Mshololo Brand Leadership Award, and will seek to encourage the teaching fraternity to emulate the strong values of leadership that Mshololo lived by. It will recognise individuals who strive for academic excellence and will make their schools examples of such an ethos.

AN UNSUNG HERO AMONG MANY

Mshololo joins the list of unsung heroes of Umlazi township high schools such as the late Isaacs S Kubheka, former principal of Vukuzakhe High School, the retired Mr Zungu, former Head of Department at Vukuzakhe and later the principal of Kwa-Makhutha High School, Dr Mkhabela, and the former principal of Zwelibanzi High School, now with the Department of Education.

We wish Menzi High School well as they regroup and refocus, and seek to fill the gap created by the sudden death of their leader.

MUT shares the Umlazi schools' aspiration of creating a more conducive learning environment and are aware of and applaud the initiatives they have put in place to support learners – from starting the school year early, to extra lessons given during school holidays and weekends, to early starts and late finishes each day of the school week. Their efforts are worthy of praise and are bearing fruit as evidenced by the media coverage and acknowledgement by Government at the beginning of each year. Keep up the good work of educating the African child.

Hamba kahle Mshololo. You have run your race, and have left an indelible footprint that future generations must follow.

TRIBUTE TO FELIX MSHOLOLO

At the Awards Ceremony the morning after the sad news broke, Menzi High School collected awards for Top Mathematics, Top Physical Science, Top Accounting and Top Overall Performance. These photos bear testimony to the hardworking staff of Menzi High School and the great leadership of their late principal Mshololo.



Orienting New Students to MUT

The orientation programme at MUT is a two-day programme organised by the Student Affairs department to ensure that over 3 000 newly enrolled students have both a memorable time and a great introduction to life at the University.



Below: Welcome to MUT! Vuyo Mthethwa, Executive Director in the Office of the VC, meets a new student



The main aim of the programme is to help students to get to know the 'ins and outs' of the MUT campus and induct them into their 'new' life. The programme features an address by the Dean of Students, followed by the Vice-Chancellor's welcome message to the new students. Faculty deans, the Heads of Department of Financial Aid, Student Housing, the Library, TLDC and the Student Representative Council (SRC) also get opportunities to address students and distribute information brochures.

The programme includes a campus tour led by peer helpers. During the tour, students can pose questions to the helpers, who are enrolled in the same study programmes as them.

The second day is packed with loads of edutainment coordinated by the Student Health Clinic and delivered by AIDSWISE. The focus is on educating students about student life, LGBTI matters, effects of alcohol and drugs, HIV/AIDS, STIs, pregnancy, etc. Entertainment includes a live DJ, poetry session and a stage play that covers relevant topics.

The positive impact and popularity of the programme is reflected in the 98% attendance. A survey is also conducted to ascertain the meaningfulness and helpfulness of the programme.



MUT COLLABORATES WITH A UNIVERSITY IN THE USA

A group of nineteen students and faculty from USA's Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) paid a visit to MUT recently. It is one of the greatest honours bestowed upon the University and is a validation of our brand. It also resonates so well with one of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Mashuype Kgaphola's favourite quotes: "Show me your friends and I will tell you who you are".



Friends in Education: Prof. Simmons (right) gives MUT's VC, Prof. Kgaphola, FAMU's flag as a sign of friendship

MUT and FAMU have collaborated successfully since 2000. Initially funded by USAID, the grant was managed by the Tertiary Education Linkage Office (TELO) under Mbali Mkhize. She then developed a proposal to Dr Jesse Lutabingwa, now Vice-President for International Relations at the Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina, USA.

The relationship with FAMU did not end when the grant closed out. Intermittent professional support was enjoyed beyond the life of the grant.

"It is hard to find great partners," said Prof. Keith Simmons, who was one of the drivers of MUT-FAMU collaboration and was one of the staff members travelling with FAMU students. His Centre of Academic Excellence Programme also contributed to making the trip a success.

"MUT has similarly shared values with us at FAMU and when we think South Africa, we think MUT. Our association with MUT was not just us coming to say we know everything but we have so much to learn too, which is why we keep coming back. When you are in institutional partnerships, you keep going back to the partners that are enablers for the success of your institution's strategy".

Fifteen years later, FAMU is back planning a bigger collaboration that will not only focus on research and various

professional development engagements, but will include an infusion of cultural immersion and academic exposure.

Opening the formal session for the FAMU and MUT students, the group leader, Dr Yussif Dokurugu, a professor in Public Health, Pharmacy and Sociology who organised the trip, pointed out the importance of travel for young people.

"If you have not travelled at a young age, you may never know what opportunities are out there for you. My first exposure was when a professor from the US visited

my university in Ghana during my time as a student. My life changed and today I am a professor in the US; something I had never imagined". He is one of the most experienced professors on academic travel abroad and cultural immersion trips.

For MUT, the visit may be a foundation for more cultural immersion and academic exchange tours.

"We have learnt a lot!" FAMU students and their officials, and MUT leadership at MUT



MUT STUDENTS RECEIVE NATIONAL ACADEMIC AWARDS

Three students from MUT recently received national awards for outstanding academic performance, thanks to Professor Koos Landman, a veteran Professor of Surveying.



Craig Silva hands over the SAGI Award to Lizeka Dada

The South African Geomatics Institute (SAGI) Award for the best First-year student at a University of Technology in South Africa, valued at R2 000, went to Lizeka Dada, who achieved an average mark of 78% for all her S1 and S2 (first-year) subjects and 10 distinctions. The award was presented to Dada by Craig Silva, the SAGI Vice-President: Engineering, at the Mangosuthu Survey Advisory Board meeting, held recently.

The SMARTTECH Award for the best student at a University of Technology in South Africa for the subjects Surveying I and Surveying II valued at R1 000, went to Ephrate Malamule, who achieved an average mark of 88%. The award was presented to him by the Surveyor-General of Mpumalanga, Victor Constable.

The Conference of South African Surveyors (CONSAS) Award is granted to students at all South African universities that offer qualifications in surveying, mine surveying and geo-information science. The award is subject to minimum criteria and MUT-nominated Zinhle Mabaso, who completed her National Diploma in Surveying with an average of 75% for all her subjects and achieved 15 distinctions. This award was presented to her at the SAGI KZN AGM by the President of SAGI, Peter Newmarch.

“Lizeka Dada achieved an average mark of 78% for all her S1 and S2 (first-year) subjects and 10 distinctions. The award was presented to Dada by Craig Silva, the SAGI Vice-President: Engineering, at the Mangosuthu Survey Advisory Board meeting, held recently.”

SUPPORTING STUDENT LEADERS EFFECTIVELY

The Student Affairs Department, in conjunction with the Teaching and Learning Development Centre (TLDC), recently hosted a brainstorming session at MUT, focusing on academic support programmes for student leaders.



The session, attended by SRC and student leaders from various political, religious and cultural formations, was officially opened by Mthoko Ntuli, MUT's Student Development Officer. He shared that student leaders' academic performance usually drops once they assume their responsibilities.

He then pointed out the urgent need for academic support programmes to enhance their academic performance. Dr Manyane

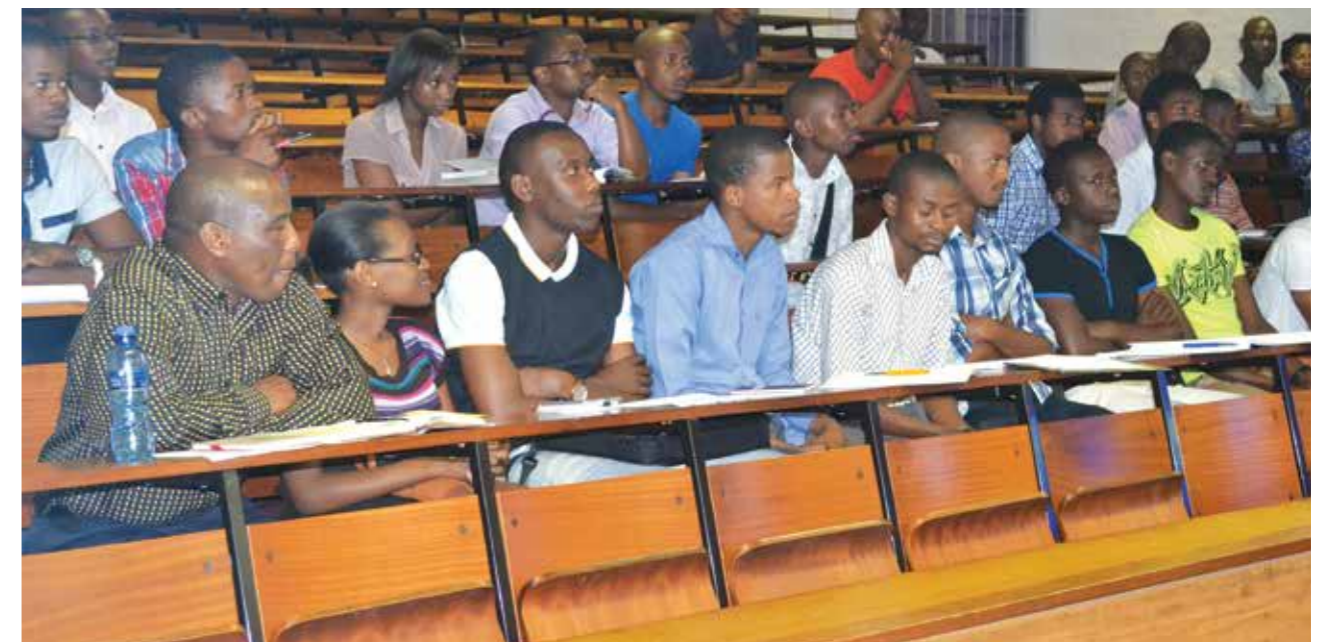
Makua's address placed emphasis on the need for leaders to remain focused on their own study goals and not to be overtaken by new responsibilities of leadership.

Representatives from the TLDC presented their current student academic support activities offered by Academic Literacy and Language Unit (ALLU) and Mathematics and Science Education Unit (MSEU). This was then followed by student leaders giving their input on possible

interventions, which was discussed during the session.

Student Affairs, TLDC, SRC and the entire student leadership agreed to work together to ensure that support programmes are provided to student leaders.

One of the suggestions included an early warning system via SMS if students failed a test, which then could be linked to relevant lecturers for subsequent support.



The VC, seated in the first row, awaits his turn while Prof. Khehla Ndlovu, DVC Resources and Planning, addresses the student leaders

ALUMNI NEWS

A Proud Homecoming for MUT Alumni

The MUT Masters, formed by a group of graduates from the Faculty of Engineering, officially launched their alumni chapter at the University recently to exchange pleasantries, special handshakes and memories, as well as to give back to their *Alma mater*.

“It is long overdue but it’s on now. This has been our dream for about four years,” said Muzi Myeza, one of the leading coordinators of this alumni chapter. “It was just three guys who informally started talking about this. It stalled for a very long time until one day we created a WhatsApp group for MUT Engineering graduates.

“We were fired up when we realised that within three days, more than forty members had joined the group and shared our vision of giving back to our University. Our initial thoughts were to form a group of graduates from the Mechanical Engineering Department, but there was interest from all departments from the Faculty of Engineering,” he said.

The inaugural meeting saw more than twenty graduates, who travelled from as far as Mpumalanga province and Gauteng, reunite and officially launch the chapter. In attendance was a mix of graduates from Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Civil Engineering and Chemical Engineering, including those from the very first cohort of graduates who completed in 1986.

The chapter aims to focus on matters of common interest such as brand building, creation of opportunities such as work integrated learning, entrepreneurship and work placement for MUT graduates. The group aims to partner with the University to review the curriculum structure in a manner that will prepare MUT’s

Engineering graduates for both the core and softer environmental work issues.

At the launch, the members pledged towards purchasing outdoor benches that will adorn the MUT Anniversary Lane

as a cool spot where students can relax in between their lectures. This will form part of the alumni ‘Liveable Spaces’ Project, an initiative aimed at providing a comfortable environment for MUT students.

SIFISO VEZI SHARES HIS FOND MEMORIES OF MUT

Sifiso, aka Dweba, born and bred in Umlazi, graduated in 1994 with a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering. He has held a number of positions in major organisations such as Toyota, Illovo Sugar and BP South Africa, to name a few. He is currently a managing member of Dweba Engineering cc, a company he co-owns with his wife, Nana Vezi. The company was founded in 2003 as a response to government’s call to young South Africans to contribute to the stability of the country’s economy.

Dweba Engineering’s core business is engineering consulting, project management and infrastructure development. It has recently grown into a group of companies, Dweba Holdings (Pty) Ltd, under which Dweba Engineering (Pty) Ltd and Dweba Projects (Pty) Ltd are subsidiaries.

Sharing his fond memories at MUT, he said: “My first day at Res (EziNdlovini) A block, I realised there were no parents’ rules to conform to. My best time was spent there, discovering who I was. One lecturer who stands out is Mr Manden because of

his command of the Zulu language and how he would catch out gossips talking in isiZulu about his rusty beard. Design and Fluid Mechanics were my favourite subjects. I am where I am because I went to MUT.

“I have supported many initiatives and Dweba Engineering has taken a lot of students through schools and universities. We currently employ MUT’s Civil Engineering graduates and support a number of social outreach programmes. I thank MUT dearly for the preparatory work they did and are still doing to shape youth to be able to stand on their own as adults.”



PHUMLANI KUBHEKA, THE BASKETBALL CAPTAIN

“My all-time favourite sport while studying towards my Mechanical Engineering Diploma at MUT was basketball. When I captained the MUT team in 1993, we were crowned the Durban Coastal Basketball Association Champions,” said Phumlani Kubheka, former Project Officer in the 1995 SRC and now the Project Director for Transnet Capital Projects. He heads the new Multi-Product Pipeline, Coastal Terminal construction. A cutting edge innovation in concept, design and implementation, the project is designed to support the transportation of fuel from Durban to Gauteng and the neighbouring regions. Completion of the project will see an increase from 40% to 70% in the total fuel supply via the coast to the inland pipeline system by 2030. At a cost of R24 billion, this project is among the most advanced in South African engineering history.

When he completed his studies in 1995, Phumlani was sponsored by Murray and Roberts Construction and later joined Eskom’s Duvha Power Station as



a Project Controller. The turning point in his career came when he joined Petro SA, working offshore where he was promoted and became the first black Offshore Installation Manager. His MUT qualification has enabled him to progress steadily in his career.

“MUT prepares you for the best in the world and I believe my success is because of the institution. There might be a misconception out there that since the institution is in the township, its students might not be up to scratch, but since I studied there I know that it’s actually the opposite.”

From left: Zama Sishi, Sfiso Mdakane, Siyabonga Meyiwa, Sthembiso Phakathi, Mlamuli Buthelezi and Cebile Mkhwanazi



MUZI, THE SOCCER STAR

Muzi Myeza, currently the Outage Execution Manager at Eskom’s Komati Power Station, is at the forefront of the establishment of the MUT Masters. Muzi graduated from MUT in 1991 with a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering. He remembers vividly his days as an avid soccer player for Meenga FC, a club he co-founded with other students from Mechanical Engineering. He attributes his success to his MUT qualification that landed him his first job as Learner Technician at Eskom Hendrina Power Station in 1992. He believes that he has grown to be a very influential person; he has coached a number of new graduates and new employees to become future leaders.

“Establishing the chapter has been an idea I have entertained for the past few years. Meeting the guys after such a long time was very humbling and the support that was given by the MUT Alumni office was much appreciated. It felt very good to be around the place where it all started in terms of my career,” he concluded.

Boosting MUT's Schools Recruitment

Sarda Pillay, a veteran in the Higher Education recruitment landscape, has hit the ground running as MUT's new Schools Liaison Officer. In less than two months, she has reached out to more than 50 high schools through cluster presentations and school visits, interacting with over 2 000 learners in the process.

Her message is clear and consistent: "MUT has accredited programmes, quality infrastructure and academics with PhDs in scarce fields such as Applied Mathematics, Electrical Engineering, Chemistry and Nature Conservation."

Learners from Isipingo, Strelitzia, Reunion, Durban Girls' Secondary, Orient Islamic, Overport Secondary, Burnwood and many more high schools, have been overwhelmed by MUT's academic offerings, tuition fees and the alcohol-free campus policy. This has sparked huge interest from learners to come and see the only and wholly township higher education campus located at Umlazi Township.

Sarda recently hosted 28 local high schools on campus so that they could

interact and engage with faculty staff and students. "The purpose of this event was also to provide an opportunity for learners to receive information about available study programmes, admission requirements and career opportunities attached to qualifications offered at MUT," said Sarda.

Sarda's plan is to host principals and guidance counsellors/LO educators on campus. She also intends to host an MUT Open Day in Pietermaritzburg in July. Outreach programmes will also be held in Inchanga, Ulundi, Stanger and Tongaat, targeting learners from these districts through cluster presentations.

"MUT is a safe campus. We are caring people and we have had a few students from Shallcross, Phoenix, Wentworth and



Merebank graduate here in record time," said Mbali Mkhize, Senior Director for Marketing and Communications at MUT.

Here are the main messages she uses to attract better performing students to MUT:

- All our diplomas and degrees are accredited and internationally recognised;
- Every 'A' symbol enables first-year students to qualify for a R5 000 fee remission, excluding Life Orientation;
- Our student fees are among the lowest in South Africa;
- The minimum registration deposit is only R1 000 for an semester programme and R2 000 for an annual programme;
- Students with Mathematics Literacy are allowed to pursue their studies in Accounting and Agriculture;
- A first-year student who obtains an 80% aggregate will get a 100% fee remission;
- A first-year student who obtains a 70%-75% aggregate will get a 75% fee remission;
- MUT prepares you in theory and practice for the working world;
- Every registered student who obtains more than a 75% aggregate qualifies for free tuition during that particular year or semester;
- The University accommodates over 50% of students at university residences.

Our endeavour to attract top schools to MUT is well on its way.



Sarda with learners from Reunion Secondary School

Taking MUT Programmes to East Africa



Learners from Memon High School in Mombasa, Kenya

Heeding the call by Professor Marcus Ramogale, DVC: Teaching and Learning, to diversify the MUT campus by recruiting students from the SADC region, the Marketing and Communications Department recently went on a marathon recruitment drive in Tanzania and Kenya. They promoted MUT study programme offerings to learners from 58 schools (27 in Tanzania and 31 in Kenya) in nine days.

The first stop was Dar es Salaam, where Zama Sishi, the Director Stakeholder Relations, met an enthusiastic group of learners from 14 schools, most of whom wanted to be engineers. The next stop was Arusha, where she interacted with learners from 13 schools. Among them were learners from the School of St Jude, accompanied by their guidance advisor, Sika Somberg, who was amazed by the similarities between MUT and their school's vision and history. St Jude caters to learners from financially disadvantaged communities, a background which is one of MUT's distinguishing features.

"We have so much in common; our great institutions are changing the lives of young people through education. Please arrange for another visit to our school," said Sika.

MUT's schools recruitment drive finally arrived in Nairobi and Mombasa. It was clear that Kenyan learners are very

articulate and truly value their education. They wanted to explore their chosen careers further: common interests were Biomedical Technology, Environmental Health, Nature Conservation, Engineering and Accounting. Learners wanted to understand the real value of an MUT graduate. The comments and questions included: "...Tell me the history of your institution. What is it that sets your university apart from others in South Africa? Please show me the curriculum structure for a Diploma in Chemical Engineering. What are the prospects of pursuing further studies after I have graduated with an MUT qualification?" These are not everyday questions one would expect from typical Grade eleven learners.

During the recruitment drive, MUT was among 21 universities from Turkey, Russia, Canada, Mauritius, India, Germany, the Netherlands and other countries. "I was so proud to realise that within that global space, we were the only institution offering qualifications in Agriculture and Nature Conservation," said Zama Sishi. "I did not realise it until Jacqueline Janicke, a young girl from Aga Khan Academy in Mombasa, said to me: 'You are the only one that has what I'm looking for. I love Nature Conservation and my second choice is Agriculture.' At that moment, I felt so proud of my wonderful University," said Zama Sishi, who received the affirmation that MUT is indeed an institution with something to offer in Africa.

“ I was so proud to realise that within that global space, we were the only institution offering qualifications in Agriculture and Nature Conservation. ” Zama Sishi

The Circle of Excellence Awards Honouring Academic Excellence

MUT recently honoured the schools that performed well in the 2014 Grade 12 results by presenting them with awards. The relationship between schools and MUT has now gone beyond that of the awards ceremony as big business has become involved in sponsorship.

One of the winning schools, Ndukwenhle High in R section of Umlazi, had their Natural Science laboratory close its doors for more than 20 years. It is now scheduled to return to active use, with state-of-the-art equipment, thanks to a sponsorship from the Women of Africa (WOA), who awarded the school a mobile Physical Science kit.

“This is the beginning of a long-term partnership with Umlazi schools and WOA, EduTrade and New Africa Educational Foundation,” said Nareshini Ranganthan, the CSI Manager at EduTrade. She said that part of the partnership was to give training, which is in line with CAPS, to all who needed it.

The Principal of Ndukwenhle High, Nkosinathi Shandu, said that he was grateful for the sponsorship. “This will go a long way to ensure a better quality of education for our learners. It will change our results in Mathematics and Physical Science. We are looking forward to a long-term partnership with all the sponsors.”

PC Training gave the following schools white boards for their good performance in Accounting: Menzi High School achieved 100%; Mziwamandla High School, 94%; and Vukuzakhe High School, 92.86%. The principal of Vukuzakhe, Doris Fulela, said the



boards would encourage the learners do even better. They will use the old boards in the crèche they are thinking of establishing.

The media corps have covered the event since its inception. This year, their coverage resulted in the advertising value equivalent (AVE) of over R618 804 in print and online broadcasts. Len Mzimela, a Director at MarComms, said: “Such attention from the media testifies to MUT’s contribution to, and place within, the higher education sector. This is positive attention, especially because the stories covered benefit the deserving schools and their learners.”

In just three years, the Circle of Excellence Awards, a brainchild of MUT’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mashupye Kgaphola, has made such a big impact that everyone in Umlazi, including big business, takes notice.



Top Umlazi High Schools attract Top Sponsorship Awards through MUT

Sponsors for the third Circle of Excellence Awards (COE), hosted recently by MUT, outdid themselves this year in order to make recipients feel special.

Physical Science Awards were sponsored by the Willowton Group, a family-owned Pietermaritzburg-based company famous for Sunfoil Oil and soaps. Menzi High School topped the category with a 98.85% pass rate, Ekwazini High School followed with 88%, and Vukuzakhe High School earned 84%. Each school received a mobile Physical Science kit worth R25 000. The kits can be used by learners from Grades 9 to 12.

Mr Abdul Razak Moosa, CEO of the Willowton Group, handed over sponsored prizes produced by EduTrade (a Westmead-based company that develops and produces education solutions and teaching aids) to the winning school principals. Packaged into the Willowton sponsorship was a full-day training programme for physical science educators from the winning schools.

Mathematics Awards were sponsored by EduTrade. Menzi High School again topped this category with 92.6% followed by Ndukwenhle High School at 60% and Vukuzakhe High School with 51.46%. EduTrade sponsored geometric kits to the value of R10 000.



Accounting Awards were sponsored by PC Training & Business College. Menzi High School achieved 100%, Mziwamandla High School followed at 94% and Vukuzakhe High School earned 92.86%.

The Most Improved School Award, sponsored by Women of Africa (WOA) Fuels & Oil, went to Ndukwenhle High School. The school received a mobile Physical Science kit worth R25 000. WOA is a pharmaceuticals, construction, logistics and energy supplier under the leadership of Advocate Priakumari Hassan.

A Special Award was handed to Ogwini

Comprehensive High School, which attained an 85% pass rate. In granting the award, MUT recognised and rewarded the great work done by Ogwini educators in successfully handling large numbers of matric learners (489) and still attaining a high pass rate. Ogwini’s sponsorship came from Laboquip, an SMME that supplies pharmaceutical and laboratory products. They are based at Springfield Park.

The Vice-Chancellor’s Award went to Mr Sabelo Mbona, an Umlazi Senior Secondary School educator whose learner received 100% in Mathematics and topped all high schools within KwaZulu-Natal.

Speaking after the awards ceremony, Mrs Zama Sishi, MUT’s Director of Stakeholder Relations, remarked that, “Corporate sponsors are critical in a project like this. We have sourced partners who share our values of pursuing academic excellence and uplifting communities. Kudos to all the sponsors and an extra kudos to the top performing schools of Umlazi.”

Science kits delivered at Menzi High School (below) and Ndukwenhle Secondary school (above)





The first cohort! MUT staff who recently graduated with US and MUT officials

The First Stellenbosch University MDP Students Graduate

A partnership that began a few years ago between the University of Stellenbosch and MUT, anchored on the need to develop management skills at MUT, recently bore fruit. Fifteen staff members graduated with certificates offered through the University of Stellenbosch's Management School – USB Executive Development Ltd.

Speaking at the Awards Ceremony, Professor Khehla Ndlovu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Resources and Planning, said he hoped the partnership would grow stronger. “We committed ourselves to providing management with skills as a way of retaining staff, which is one of our strategic objectives. The Management and Development Programme (MDP) was meant for that,” said an elated Professor Ndlovu.

Dr Diane Bell, the Director: Academic

Affairs, USB Executive Development, told the graduating class about SU's commitment to spreading management skills to the whole of Africa and what the certificate meant. She also pointed out that she was aware of the difficulty of studying while holding down a full-time job. “Congratulations on your achievements. Now you are USB alumni. Continue with your lifelong learning,” she said to the happy graduates, who were then welcomed by Dr Xolani Nocanda, the USB Alumni KwaZulu-Natal Chair.

“Congratulations on your achievements. Now you are USB alumni. Continue with your lifelong learning.”



A First for Nature Conservation in South Africa

Head of MUT's Nature Conservation Department, Peter Small, made history in South Africa this year by developing a postgraduate diploma in Nature Conservation.



HOD of Nature Conservation, Peter Small, seated with his students

The programme was formally launched by Professor Marcus Ramogale, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Teaching & Learning, in February.

Small said that they had identified the needs of the industry as a team and turned that into a programme, making the offering 'spot on'. It is at honours level and will provide students with managerial skills and prepare them for the Master's programme that Small aims to register soon. This programme will have a strategic component, taking the managerial component to a higher level.

Reflecting on the process to develop the programme, an upbeat Small said: “The content of the programme was developed over a period of five years, and the approval process took another three years to

complete. Staff of the Department of Nature Conservation developed the programme advised by the Departmental Advisory Committee representing industry.”

Skhona Ndlovu, one of the students in the cohort, said: “It is an honour to be the very first on this groundbreaking journey. We often felt that if we wanted to pursue our studies in Nature Conservation, we would have to leave KwaZulu-Natal. Now no more!” Nontobeko Sihlwayi is excited about the programme. She says it is a humbling experience. “I am proud and feel privileged to be an MUT student,” she said.

The postgraduate programme has attracted not only former MUT students who did the formative diploma at MUT, but also students from other universities. The popularity of the programme has put Small in a very tight corner. He has had to reject the application of Sibusiso Mkhwanazi, a Senior Manager at eThekweni Municipality's Parks, Recreation and Culture division because of the demand. Sibusiso was a student in the department up to BTech level.

Professor Mashupye Kgaphola, Vice-Chancellor and Principal at MUT, invited major stakeholders to join him in welcoming the first cohort of students in

this programme. The student cohort is employed by various agencies within the Nature Conservation Industry, with the predominant employer being Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife. Others hail from the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Authority, Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development and Environment Affairs, North West Provincial Government, South African National Biodiversity Institute, Peaceparks Foundation, Cape Nature, Mpumalanga Parks Board, SA National Parks, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, and two from MUT.

Vuyo Mthethwa, the Executive Director in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, told attendees that, although MUT was a small university, it was making big decisions and taking the right step in developing study programmes that are relevant to the needs of industry.

Professor Ramogale declared that Small and his team are putting pressure on all the other departments to register their post-graduation diplomas before 2019; the initial plan was that all should have such offerings by 2019 – Peter and his team are four years ahead of schedule.

BROADENING OUR PARTNERSHIPS

MUT Hosts Successful Van Dyck Visit

MUT management hosted the senior leadership of Van Dyck Carpets, one of the oldest carpet manufacturers in South Africa, in order to solidify a partnership to stimulate support for work-integrated learning opportunities and to attract sponsorship.



Both parties will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in April to formalise the partnership and the accompanying long-term mutual benefits.

The visiting delegation that met with MUT Vice-Chancellor (VC), Professor Mashupye Kgaphola, comprised members of the Van Dyck board led by their Chairman, Dr Mehran Zarrebini. The visit formed part of MUT's industry drive to raise awareness of the MUT brand as a premier higher education institution. It also played a critical role in exposing the Board to the culture and life of Umlazi Township.

The VC's office indicated that the Van Dyck Board offered collaborative initiatives that will be established through the pending MoU. The initiatives include: collaboration with students' internships; facilitation of factory tours for students at Van Dyck and their polypropylene extrusion and tyre recycling facilities in New Germany and Hammarsdale; collaboration with MUT's community-based projects; student bursaries; and the supply of flooring (hard and soft flooring) and artificial grass to MUT. There may also be synergies established with MUT's Green Technology department, with a special focus on recycling.

“The visit formed part of MUT's industry drive to raise awareness of the MUT brand as a premier higher education institution. It also played a critical role in exposing the Board to the culture and life of Umlazi Township.”

When Corporate and Academic Spheres Intertwine

Professor Marcus Ramogale, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Teaching and Learning, recently invited the Wits Commercial Enterprise (Pty) Ltd to address MUT senior managers on their business model.

“My goal for convening this meeting is to understand what the Wits Commercial Enterprise (Pty) Ltd is doing and to see what we can learn from them and how we could partner with them,” he said, as he gave the Centre an overview of what MUT has accomplished and where it is going.

Wits Commercial Enterprise (Pty) Ltd CEO, Duncan Raftesath, shared their business model for short courses, research support and technology transfer. “If MUT were to adopt the business model of the Wits Commercial Enterprise (Pty) Ltd, it would get active in helping scientists to market their inventions, encourage entrepreneurial thinking within MUT, support sustainable economic growth of the region as well as generate new jobs by founding start-up companies,” he said.

What really resonated with the deans of Teaching and Learning and the senior directors of Marcomms, was the short course development; something that MUT has already embarked on.

The collaboration is set to afford many possibilities for MUT. Prof. Ramogale is at the centre of this transformation and has a specific vision on how it will elevate MUT. The two parties will sign an MoU in due course.

“If MUT were to adopt the business model of the Wits Commercial Enterprise (Pty) Ltd, it would get active in helping scientists market their inventions, encourage entrepreneurial thinking within MUT, support sustainable economic growth of the region as well as generate new jobs by founding start-up companies.”

Wits Enterprise Centre CEO, Duncan Raftesath



From left: Mr Duncan Raftesath, Wits Commercial Enterprise (Pty) Ltd CEO, Dr Tim Hutton, Wits Commercial Enterprise (Pty) Ltd Manager and Prof. Marcus Ramogale, DVC Teaching and Learning

Reach for the Golden Dream The Alex Nabbi Journey

Alex Nabbi, a lecturer in the Department of Accounting's Faculty of Management Sciences, was awarded one of MUT's Teaching and Learning Excellence Awards along with Professor Alfred Msomi, Head of Department: Mathematics, and Professor Sandiso Ngcobo, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Communication late last year.



The Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Teaching and Learning, Professor Marcus Ramogale, nominated Nabbi for consideration by HELTASA. The selection criteria included: participation in teaching-related professional development activities; programmes or receipt of teaching-related grants; and significant roles within teaching and learning committees and processes. Nominees were required, among other prerequisites, to submit a letter of application indicating interest and future plans with regard to teaching and learning.

Nabbi was then shortlisted for the 2014 National Teaching Excellence Awards. As part of the selection process, he had to make a presentation to the panel of judges and also be interviewed by them. This resulted in Nabbi receiving a commendation letter:

"We commend you for your enthusiasm, passion and dedication for what you do and your ability to make your discipline interesting and relevant to your students. The committee commends you for your noteworthy achievements under challenging conditions. It is evident from your portfolio that your teaching and assessment methods have had a very positive impact on the students' experience."

All three candidates then responded to an announcement by HELTASA under the leadership of Professor Brenda Leibowitz, for the Teaching Advancement at Universities (TAU) Fellowships Programme. This called for nominations from all universities throughout the country. The Programme is to be funded by DHET and will be conducted between 2015 and 2016. The Fellowships Programme was offered

to experienced academics who had been acknowledged for their teaching excellence and who wished to further extend their knowledge of teaching and learning within a supportive and collegial environment.

The Programme will culminate in August next year with the presentation of short research and development reports by participants. All participants who successfully complete the Programme will receive a certificate in November next year, become TAU Fellows, and remain members of the TAU network. These academics will be expected to share their expertise with colleagues in the network and in their own teaching and learning contexts.

"Through my practice, I have incessantly thrown myself exclusively into the cauldron of educating, coaching, mentoring, socialising, providing pastoral care and counselling my students with a sense of devotion and emotional intelligence. The TAU project will afford me the opportunity to engage with a diverse community of eminent practitioners, and indeed upskill my understanding and competence for the benefit of MUT," said Nabbi.

"We commend you for your enthusiasm, passion and dedication for what you do and your ability to make your discipline interesting and relevant for your students."



Nomonde Zondi (right) with MUT's VC (left) and DVC Resources and Planning, Prof. Khehla Ndlovu (centre), inside Block 2C

MUT Civil Engineering Student Shines on Campus

Nomonde Zondi, an MUT Civil Engineering student, is already a site technician at the 640-bed student residence being built by Liviero Building at MUT's main campus – prior to her graduation.

She is responsible for Block 2 C, which she has worked on from the foundation phase and is now almost complete. Johan Nel, her site manager, said: "Nomonde has ideas and plans, and does all the hard work."

Nomonde has always wanted to build structures. This is her second project – the first one was the building of the new KwaMnyandu Shopping Mall. The building manager, Steven Luckin, offered her a job on the first day, and then recommended her to Nel when the project was about to finish. The shopping centre was built by Liviero Building.

"For Johan to trust me to build such a structure on my own is overwhelming. It's beyond words. He has so much faith in me. He respects me for who I am, and what I can do." One of Zondi's jobs is to go through the quality checklist, which the foremen have to sign.

Her long-term goal is to own a construction company in about four years' time. She said that her family is very proud of her accomplishments so far.



IT and Accounting Lead the Dean's Commendation Awards

Accounting students once again dominated the Dean's Commendation Awards, hosted at MUT at the beginning of the year.



Mondli receives a coffee table book from Mbali Mkhize, Senior Director, Marketing and Communications

The awards showcased 264 best performing students who scored a minimum average of 75% on their semester load.

The Department's Extended Curriculum Programme (ECP) has unearthed yet another gem, Mondli Mbulu, who received an average of 89%. Mondli said that he was very excited when he was told he was the best student in the Faculty of Management Sciences. The 89% average mark also makes him one of the best students University-wide. He shares this accolade with Khanyisa Mbukutshe, from ICT in the Faculty of Natural Sciences.

Mondli, who hails from Embo near Hillcrest, plans meticulously and then sticks to his plan. He reads the chapter before it is taught in class. "This makes it easy for me. I also organised a study group that I led. This puts me under pressure to always be prepared." Mondli also credits his lecturer Alex Nabbi's teaching style; he says that Nabbi makes Accounting easy to grasp.

Among these 264 students was one who succeeded despite hard times. Thulebona Mahlaba from Ngwavuma on the KwaZulu-Natal/Swaziland border, lost his father at a young age. "My Physics teacher, Bonginkosi Mbambo, paid for my high school

accommodation. I got six As in Grade 12. Nkanyiso Gumede, who works at Eskom, noticed me and brought me to MUT. I am doing S3 in Mechanical Engineering now", said Thulebona.

Despite all this, the soft-spoken and shy Thulebona made a pact with himself

– to focus on his studies, pass well, and build a home for his two siblings and himself. This was Thulebona's second Dean's Commendation award. His average was 85%. Thulebona matriculated from Ngwavuma High School.



Alex Nabbi (seated left) and Prof. Chandra Jinabhai (seated right) with their students

CONGRATULATORY LETTER



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THE SPEAKER

PO Box 15 Cape Town 8000 Republic of South Africa
Tel: 27 (21) 403 2595 FAX: 27 (21) 461 9462
speaker@parliament.gov.za
www.parliament.gov.za

1 December 2014

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

Dear Prof Kgaphola

MOTION OF CONGRATULATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely

B Mbete MP
Speaker of the National Assembly

Registration: R4 400 (incl VAT)

Please submit registration form and proof of payment to:
Mrs Zama Sishi | eMail: zama@mut.ac.za
Fax: 086 608 7382 | Tel: 031 907 7161

Attendee information

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Company Address / Postal Address: _____

Company VAT Number: _____

Business Telephone Number: _____

Mobile Number: _____

eMail: _____

Job Title: _____

Name / Name of Attendees: _____

Registration

R 4 400 (incl VAT) per delegate

Register as a group of 10 and the 11th person gets free attendance

Early bird Registration

Register and pay by 31 July and receives a R500 discount

Payment method

Please deposit your payment at:

Bank : ABSA

Branch code : 632005

Account Number : 4077550173

Reference : EAC15 and delegate name

Please submit registration form and proof of payment to:

Mrs Zama Sishi
eMail: zama@mut.ac.za
Fax: 086 608 7382
Tel: 031 907 7161

Accommodation and travel expenses is not included in the conference registration fee.
Delegates to make their own arrangements at The Gateway Hotel, www.thegatewayhotel.co.za
eMail: bangman@thegateway.co.za

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A Whole New World
in office administration

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4th International Empowered Administrators Conference

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in office administration

unleashing the potential of the office executive

3-4 September 2015
Gateway Hotel, Umhlanga
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The Empowered Administrators Conference (EAC2015)

A Whole New World in Office Administration

Now in its 4th year, the EAC continues to be South Africa's leader in office administration conferencing. The EAC continues to draw office administrators from academia, business, parastatals and government departments. The conference draws contributors from across the shores of Africa, Middle East and the US.

EAC 2015 raises the bar in office administration as it tackles themes that define the expectations from the 21st Century office professional. This year's topics are directed at both the new entrants in this career field and the very experienced administrators looking to strengthen their skills baskets and become relevant for the technologically driven and skills based world of work. These are the conference themes in 2015:

- Line managers! Who are they and what do they want? - An executive perspective
- Learning smart ways of managing multiple projects simultaneously: Multiple projects, multiple line managers. Effective project management.
- A new world of customer-centric office APPS and cost effective work practice.
- Addressing your customers' needs through social media platforms: Be the eyes and ears of your line manager; know what is being said on-line.
- Communicating with the customer/client in the 21st century.
- The Office Administrator's role in Stakeholder Relations Management. Learn the Art of Stakeholder Engagement; what to say, to whom and how.

EAC Excellence Awards 2015

The EAC Excellence Awards launched in 2014 recognise and reward the great work of Office Administrators in their various organisations. The award categories for 2015 are:

Customer-centric Award: In recognition of outstanding customer service to internal & external stakeholders

Brand Ambassador Award: In recognition of brand leadership and giving stature into the office administrators' profession.

Techno-savvy Award: In recognition of technology efficiency particularly; saving time, adaptation to innovation and problem solving.

Ubuntu Award: In recognition of embracing emotional intelligence attributes of empathy, self-awareness, self-management and self-motivation.

Organisations, line-managers or individuals can nominate administrators for an award by completing the appropriate form available at www.eaconference.co.za. The nominations are submitted to a panel of independent and experienced adjudicators who evaluate each submission. Winners of each category and runners-up will win a host of exciting prizes.

Conference Details:

Date : 3 - 4 September 2015
TIME : 8h15 - 17h15
Venue : Gateway Hotel, Umhlanga, Durban

Things To Bring Along

Kudos
CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE AT MANGOSUTHU UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

The Home of Champions
2015

A new publication, *Kudos*, is out! It celebrates the achievements of MUT staff, departments, students and alumni in their various disciplines and fields. *Kudos* is a Greek word meaning 'Praise', which we borrow to praise and honour achievements of MUT staff, graduates and students.

LIVING UP TO THE SAGE'S ADVICE: 'Failing to Plan is Planning to Fail!'

This old adage still holds true for MUT's executive management. Just as Stephen R. Covey's *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* points to a need to refuel and evaluate, MUT's executive management team believes that all levels of management require a regular evaluation of common progress and the realignment of strategies as they respond to the University's and national changing needs.

At the helm of strategic planning is Professor Khehla Ndlovu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Resources and Planning. He believes that: "Strategic planning is a tool that is useful for guiding day-to-day decisions and also for evaluating progress and changing approaches when moving forward. In order to make the most of strategic planning, MUT has given careful thought to operationalising the strategy so that it does not gather dust".

This year, MUT management held its successful three-day Iekgotla at a venue in the Drakensberg mountains.



CAMPUS LIFE



OUR PEOPLE OVERSEAS





PHYSICAL ADDRESS

511 Mangosuthu Highway,
Umlazi, KwaZulu-Natal 4031

POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 12363, Jacobs 4026

SWITCHBOARD

Tel: +27 031 907 7111

WEBSITE

www.mut.ac.za

MUT FaceBook: facebook.com/MUTUmlazi



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