

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

**Mangosuthu University
of Technology at 40**

**A Land Surveyor
from Yesteryear**

A Selfless Entrepreneur

**The Advertising
Executive**



**Mangosuthu
University of Technology**

CELEBRATING

40

YEARS

AN INVITATION TO ATTEND



Technikon Mangosuthu

UMLAZI — KWAZULU — TELEPHONE: 9071855

The Council, Rector and Staff of
Technikon Mangosuthu

cordially invite you and your partner
to our first

DIPLOMA/CERTIFICATE CEREMONY

to be held on

WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1985

commencing at 11h00

at the

TECHNIKON MANGOSUTHU HALL

Umlazi — KwaZulu, Natal

Speaker:

Mr Michael O'Dowd Chairman of Anglo American
and De Beers Chairmans Fund

Please be seated between 10h30 — 10h45

Visitors are **not** required to wear Academic dress.

R.S.V.P. on the enclosed reply card before the 26 September 1985

CELEBRATING



YEARS

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YEARS

CELEBRATING

40

YEARS

It is no coincidence that Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT) is celebrating its 40 years in existence at the same time as we remember another 40th milestone in our country's history - the day in June 1979 when like-minded South Africans stood up against the injustice of apartheid in education.

Mangosuthu University of Technology at 40



Since 1979, MUT has given over 40 00 young men and women the means to 'be the change they want to see in the world', as our first democratic president, Nelson Mandela, once put it. The Alumni Relations office at MUT aims to draw them into a vibrant, worldwide, lifelong community of alumni that not only strives to achieve in their personal space but acts as ambassadors for the institution, helping to sustain it for generations to come.

For the first time in its history, MUT is welcoming its graduates back to campus for a weekend reunion. From 14 to 16 June, CEOs of giant corporates, entrepreneurs and respected citizens will spend the weekend together at our student residence, just like old times. If life begins at 40, we have much to look forward as we connect with each other and celebrate our MUT story - past, present and future.

Through this publication we kickstart the celebration of MUT's 40th birthday by sharing the stories of just some of the influential people that have come through the institution's ranks. We also pay deep respect to the honourable man, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, whose vision of an institution providing technical skills to black youth in KwaZulu-Natal has transformed the economic standing of thousands of South Africans and Africans who have in one way or another benefited from their association with MUT.

Enjoy and be inspired. The next chapter awaits us....

Dr Enoch Duma Malaza
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

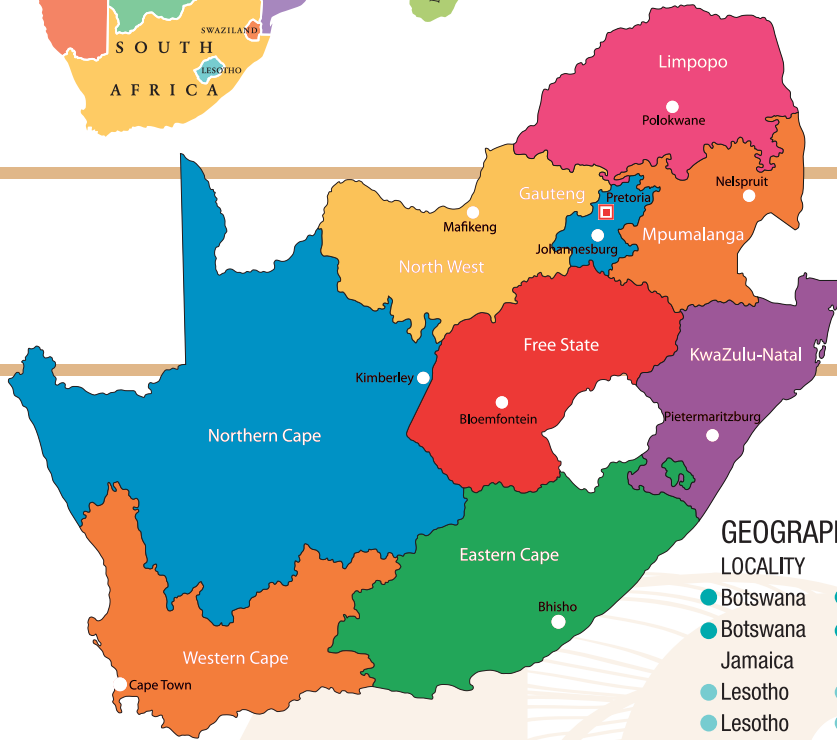


CELEBRATING

40 YEARS

Alumni statistics 1985 to 2018

MUT ALUMNI IN NUMBERS



TOTAL NUMBER OF GRADUATES 34 531

GENDER REPRESENTATION

GENDER	CONTACT COUNT
Female	17769
Male	16748
N/A	14

GOEGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION

LOCALITY	CONTACT COUNT
South Africa	34214
Swaziland	255
N/A	15
Lesotho	14
Reunion	14
Namibia	8
Botswana	7
Mozambique	2
Jamaica	1
Zimbabwe	1

SOUTH AFRICA PER PROVINCE

LOCALITY - SOUTH AFRICA	ALUMNI COUNT
KwaZulu-Natal	29302
(South Africa)	1735
Eastern Cape	1306
Gauteng	554
Mpumalanga	483
Limpopo	397
Free State	232
North West	139
Western Cape	50
Northern Cape	16

GEOGRAPHIC GENDER REPRESENTATION

LOCALITY	LOCALITY 2	GENDER	COUNT
Botswana	Botswana	Female	1
Botswana	Botswana	Male	6
Jamaica	Jamaica	Female	1
Lesotho	Lesotho	Female	4
Lesotho	Lesotho	Male	10
Mozambique	Mozambique	Male	2
N/A	N/A	Female	6
N/A	N/A	Male	2
N/A	N/A	N/A	7
Namibia	Namibia	Female	1
Namibia	Namibia	Male	7
Reunion	Reunion	Female	5
Reunion	Reunion	Male	9
South Africa	South Africa	Female	860
South Africa	South Africa	Male	871
South Africa	South Africa	N/A	4
South Africa	South Africa - Eastern Cape	Female	716
South Africa	South Africa - Eastern Cape	Male	590
South Africa	South Africa - Free State	Female	82
South Africa	South Africa - Free State	Male	150
South Africa	South Africa - Gauteng	Female	274
South Africa	South Africa - Gauteng	Male	279
South Africa	South Africa - Gauteng	N/A	1
South Africa	South Africa - KwaZulu-Natal	Female	15376
South Africa	South Africa - KwaZulu-Natal	Male	13926
South Africa	South Africa - Limpopo	Female	116
South Africa	South Africa - Limpopo	Male	281
South Africa	South Africa - Mpumalanga	Female	175
South Africa	South Africa - Mpumalanga	Male	308
South Africa	South Africa - North West	Female	47
South Africa	South Africa - North West	Male	92
South Africa	South Africa - Northern Cape	Female	8
South Africa	South Africa - Northern Cape	Male	8
South Africa	South Africa - Western Cape	Female	26
South Africa	South Africa - Western Cape	Male	22
South Africa	South Africa - Western Cape	N/A	2
Swaziland	Swaziland	Female	71
Swaziland	Swaziland	Male	184
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	Male	1

CELEBRATING



YEARS

It was a spectacle when MUT hosted its first graduation ceremony on 16 October 1985 with only 114 students receiving certificates and diplomas. Forty years later MUT has graduated 37 400 graduates including those that received Postgraduate Diplomas and Master's Degrees.

SOME OF THE FACES OF MUT SUCCESS

Our graduates are our link to the past and our key to the future. We love sharing story by story and journey by journey to showcase the impact of our alumni.

YEARS



AN ACADEMIC OF NOTE

Charles was born and bred in Durban, KZN and matriculated from Vukuzakhe High School, one of the oldest schools in Umlazi Township. Being raised by a single parent after his father's passing, he was forced to terminate his studies and look for employment. He found employment with Unilever SA (Pty) Ltd in Maydon Wharf who gave him an opportunity to pursue studies in Chemical Engineering at MUT, which was known as Mangosuthu Technikon at the time.

Phiwe Charles Jiyane - Class of '83

During Charles' stay at MUT he was actively involved in sports and was elected to the SRC as the chairperson of the Entertainment Committee. In this position, he served for two terms under the presidency of Sifiso Glenford Nzimande, the current General Manager Operations & Projects at Transnet, and later Themba Richard Mthembu, the former MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development in KZN.

Charles vividly remembers hosting the first-ever Fashion Show that was to be a 'curtain raiser' for the Miss and Mr Mangosuthu Technikon pageant in 1984. "The show was sponsored by giants in the retail industry at the time - the likes of Sales House, Bee Gee and Casanova Durban - and the event was a huge success. Every Friday we would hire a film projector and movies from video shops around Durban as part of the student entertainment programme. Bozzoli Hall would be transformed into a movie theatre, to the delight of around 200 students."

Charles graduated with the National Diploma in Chemical Engineering from MUT in 1985. He has since completed further studies and is a member of the South African Institute of Chemical Engineers (SAIChE) in RSA and the Institute of Chemical Engineers (IChemE) in UK. His career in the chemical engineering sector dates back to the 80s, spanning both the private sector and higher education. His academic career at MUT started in 1994, first as a contract lecturer and in 1996 as a full-time lecturer in the Department of Chemical Engineering. At MUT he has led and chaired sub-committees within the Faculty of Engineering. As part of his development, in 1999 Charles started participating in collaborative research with the Pollution Research Group (PRG). Between the years 2000 and 2003, he was seconded to the Technology Stations Programme (TSP), an initiative of the South African government through the Department of Science and Technology. In his position

as a Technology Advisor, he was responsible for setting up the Technology Station in Chemicals (TSC), a business unit at MUT, with the purpose of establishing strong links between the university, the chemical industry (SMMEs) and the South African government. During this period, he facilitated the transfer of technology to small businesses in the KZN region and beyond, offering training and technical support whenever needed. He successfully completed a number of projects for SMMEs involved in the manufacturing of products ranging from soaps, detergents and disinfectants to beauty and health care products.

At the beginning of 2003, when the Technology Station was fully functional, Charles went back to teaching. He developed the Physics curriculum, which is part of the bridging programme intended to eliminate the gap and prepare learners to transit seamlessly to university education. Presently, Charles lectures Physics and Chemical Process Design III, administers Chemical Engineering Practicals IV and supervises undergraduate (B.Tech) students in their final-year research projects.

Charles' research interests in Green Technologies and Renewable Energy saw him develop biodiesel processes that exploit second generation feed stock (animal fat, e.g., lard). Amongst his other investigative work, mostly aimed at finding alternative fuels to replace petroleum-based diesel, is his use of an indigenous crop of African origin, *Croton gratissimus*, sourced from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), as feed stock in biodiesel production. This work was reported in his dissertation titled "Optimisation of Biodiesel Production from *Croton gratissimus* Oil" and resulted in the publication of an article titled "Optimisation of *Croton gratissimus* Oil Extraction by n-Hexane and Ethyl Acetate Using Response Surface Methodology" in the Journal of Oleo Science.



A LAND SURVEYOR FROM YESTERYEAR

Thamsanqa was among the first group of students to register during the early days of MUT. He trained as a Survey Technician at MUT from 1986 to 1988 while working as a chief industrial technician for the department of Local and Traditional Affairs.

Thamsanqa Phakathi - Class of '85

He is one of a few that hold those memories of MUT when it still had just under 100 students and Umlazi Township was not yet an economic hub with the shopping malls, health facilities, schools and other infrastructure that it boasts today.

Thamsanqa is a member of the South African Geomatics Council, is a qualified engineering surveyor and a professional land surveyor

who has dedicated 35 years to the surveying profession. He currently works for the KZN Department of Rural Development and Land Reform as the Deputy Surveyor-General. Thamsanqa is dedicated to land management, administration and the preservation of up-to-date land information. His contribution and experience benefit a range of people where he facilitates service delivery, especially previously disadvantaged communities.

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING



A WORLD-CLASS ENGINEER

Dr Mazibuko appreciates the strong foundation he received at MUT between 1988 and 1990 when he studied for a Diploma in Electrical Engineering. Had he not been given relevant industry training at MUT, he would not have achieved the many accolades he has earned. Dr Mazibuko is currently Group Executive: Safety, Security & Forensics at Telkom, and is tasked with the huge responsibility of establishing a world-class forensic and fraud investigation capability in the organisation.

Pat Mazibuko - Class of '88

Prior to this position, Pat was Project Director for the construction of Eskom's R161 billion Kusile Power Station, the largest mega-project in Africa. Once completed, the power station will be the fourth-largest coal-fired power station in the world.

Throughout his career, Dr Mazibuko has taken young engineering graduates along with him. He has mentored and coached several junior management trainees, engineers and technicians - some

of whom are fellow MUT graduates. Dr Mazibuko's work requires him to keep up with international trends and to implement best practice, which is why he has been to the UK, Germany, France, Italy and other countries for benchmarking purposes and to hone his skills as a world-class professional. It is indeed an honour to see esteemed executives such as Dr Mazibuko making time to reconnect with and reinvest in their alma mater.



THE SPIRITUAL ACADEMIC

Njabulo completed matric in 1989 at Mlokothwa High School, KwaNongoma and graduated from MUT with a National Diploma in Chemical Engineering, a National Higher Diploma in Chemical Engineering and a B.Tech in Chemical Engineering in 1995, 1996 and 1998 respectively.

Njabulo Zulu - Class of '90

In 1995, Njabulo received a Silver Medal from the South African Institute of Chemical Engineers (SAIChE) for being the best National Higher Diploma student at Mangosuthu Technikon during the second semester examinations of 1994. He is currently a member of SAIChE as well as the Institute of Chemical Engineers (ICHEM).

His career started in 1992 as an in-service trainee at Tongaat-Hulett Sugar and has grown in strides up to 1998 when he joined MUT as a contract lecturer in the chemical engineering department. A year later he secured permanent appointment at MUT, and was promoted to Senior Lecturer in January 2013. Njabulo currently works as head of department in the Chemical Engineering Department.

“Since joining MUT as an employee, I have been involved with the spiritual upliftment of students and I have also offered pastoral duties to the MUT community. For a number of years, I have been working as a co-pastor of the Potter's House Ministries to serve the communities of KwaMakhutha, Umbumbulu and the surrounding areas. This involves the restoration of people who have been abused, heart-broken and rejected,” says Njabulo. Clearly MUT students have been blessed not only to have a lecturer but a man of God who also cares about their spiritual wellbeing. Considering the increase in social ills, especially in higher education, Njabulo is one of the greatest assets to MUT's past and current students.



ENTREPRENEUR AND CHAIRPERSON OF CONSTRUCTION SETA

Part of the Mechanical Engineering class of 1990, Ray remembers vividly how interesting the programme was. It was considered one of the most challenging qualifications, and his classmates were often referred to as the “Arabs” because there was no time for games - all their time was dedicated to studying and submitting projects and assignments.

Raymond (Ray) Cele - Class of '90

It was this value system that catapulted him to become an avid businessman. Ray is the current chairperson of the Construction SETA, a position he has held since 2014.

What was to be a five-year term has since been extended until 2020 because of the transformation he has brought to the SETA. He believes that his transparent leadership style, a sound turnaround strategy and empowerment of black-owned businesses are part of the legacy that he has built for the organisation.

“In my few years in office, as Construction SETA we have introduced skills development in rural areas and built 13 skills centres, five of which are located in rural parts of KZN such as Dundee, Ingwavuma and others. These centres we built from scratch in partnership with local TVET colleges and municipalities. We have provided funding for training programmes in these centres and have also funded 300 TVET college students on a study programme in China,” explains Ray.

Ray's varied career has thrown him a lot of knocks and bumps but his resilience and entrepreneurship acumen have enabled him to rise above them and propel other entrepreneurs (some of whom are fellow MUT graduates) to do the same. In the early stages of his entrepreneurship journey he had to downscale to a point where he sold his house and car; however, he never allowed setbacks to take over his life. Instead he reached out and created new

friendships and networks that saw him get back into the game. His big break came in 2002 when he secured his first big contract with Portnet to build struggle carriers in partnership with a company in Finland - a contract worth R240 million.

From there on, things started to change for Ray. In addition to his knowledge of mechanical engineering, he had gained some knowledge of construction through his previous work which enabled him to start his own company, Sika Engineering, named after his late father. Sika was the first company to be contracted by the Department of Education to fast-track delivery of classrooms in KwaZulu-Natal. They later moved to other provinces where they continued to do the same to eradicate teaching under trees in rural schools.

Ray is not just a businessman, he is also an avid traveller who is now taking private pilot training lessons. A philanthropist who in 2016 funded the MUT alumni dinner which launched a bursary fund for MUT engineering students, Ray is passionate about giving back to the community of Umlazi's K-section where he grew up. Together with his wife Nokuthula Cele, they have set up a foundation called KM Family Trust and each year the foundation provides food, clothing, uniform, and school fees for more than 200 families. He has also empowered many businesses owned by fellow MUT graduates through mentorship, funding and creating networks.

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING



PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER AND MD OF DWEBA ENGINEERING

Fondly known by his peers as Dweba, Sifiso is passionate about collaboration. This has resulted in the founding of the MUT Masters, an alumni chapter for engineering graduates across all disciplines of engineering.

Sifiso Vezi - Class of '90

This has created a platform for many MUT graduates to reconnect and support one another. After completing his mechanical engineering diploma at MUT in 1993, Sifiso completed postgraduate studies with other institutions; however, his passion for MUT is what he believes enabled him ultimately to reach his dream of establishing his own business.

Sifiso's engineering career started back in 1994 when he was named the Best Trainee Ever in a presentation on the Futuristic Full Electrical Vehicle Project and was featured in the company newsletter. He went on to work for companies such as Illovo Sugar and BP South Africa, but always had the idea of establishing his own business. This he achieved in 2005 when he founded Dweba Engineering in partnership with his wife, Nana Vezi. The business has since diversified and grown to deliver turn-key solutions which include engineering procurement and construction management, as well as engineering consulting and construction. In the process, he has employed a number of MUT graduates. For instance, in 2014/2015 his staff complement consisted of 25 MUT graduates who worked for the company as technicians, site agents and in other roles. Dweba has since mentored many young engineers whom he has helped to become registered professional engineers.

While he was at the peak of his career, he suffered a major blow which he blames on too much focus on the business and too little on his health. He has had to battle severe depression which he has managed to contain, and he is now working on increasing public awareness of depression and its risks. "The passing of Dr Mayosi, a respected cardiologist, brought me to tears because I understood exactly what he had been going through. After my illness I decided to refocus and do things differently. I speak on early signs of depression and dealing with the vulnerability because everyone can be a victim of depression," says Sifiso. "I teach a lot to my staff and warn against the danger of chasing money to the detriment of one's health, which I think is what led to my illness. My episode has taught me a lot about myself and has increased my desire to educate others," he concludes.

The trying times in Sifiso's life have helped him gain more balance and focus on his family. He is very lucky that his first son Njabulo has a B.Tech in Civil Engineering, while his second born Anele has a B.Tech in Architecture. He believes it is time for him and his wife Nana to scale down and allow their sons to scale up and take over the business. Sifiso and Nana have been married for 19 years and are blessed with their two sons and a 10-year-old daughter, Nina.



GUARANTEED QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Born and bred in Kuruman, Northern Cape Province, Lorato was one of those students who defied the odds and studied civil engineering at MUT in 1992 when the industry was still highly dominated by white males. Overcoming disadvantages of the past is one of the founding principles of MUT, an institution established to specifically provide opportunities to train black engineers and technicians.

Lorato Kegakilwe-Piki - Class of '92

Lorato's management career started in 2000 when she worked as Deputy Chief Engineer for the department of Transport, Roads and Public Works where she managed and enforced quality control on road construction contracts.

She is a professional engineer registered with the Engineering Council of South Africa and currently works for the eThekweni municipality as deputy head of development engineering where she manages an annual budget of approximately R500 million for client departments (such as Human Settlements, Parks Recreation

and Cemeteries, and Economic Development). Her engineering career spans over 25 years and multiple infrastructure development projects with an emphasis on quality. "Civil Engineering is very broad. I plan to explore and get experience in each of the civil engineering fields. However, for long-term purposes, I would like to pursue a Master's degree in Construction Law or Construction Adjudication because I'd love to assist emerging contractors in South Africa to understand the forms of contracts that are used in the construction industry," she says.



THE EXPERT ENGINEER

TC is the Managing Director and founding partner of Igoda Projects, an electrical engineering consulting company operating throughout South Africa. His areas of interest and expertise are in power engineering, energy management and project management. He has served on a number of boards as Non-Executive Director, as well as serving on various Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) committees since 2005, dealing with professional registration and university accreditations. He is a living example of how graduates can use their qualifications and skills to make a living.

Thembinkosi (TC) Madikane - Class of '95

After graduating with his electrical engineering diploma at MUT in 1998, TC struggled to find a job and was unemployed for over six months. He did not rely on finding employment but was his hometown's go-to electrician and made a living repairing home electronics such as fridges, stoves and irons. He says this is how his entrepreneurial passion was ignited.

TC joined the SA Institute of Electrical Engineers (SAIEE) in 1994 and became Chairperson of the University of Natal's SAIEE Student Chapter in 1996. He served on the SAIEE KZN branch from 1998

and became a SAIEE Council member in 2007. He became a Fellow of SAIEE in 2010 and is also a Fellow of the South African Academy of Engineering. He has also served as Chairperson of ECSA's Registration Committee for Professional Engineers.

TC's passion for engineering has seen him mentor a number of young engineering students as well as providing employment for many engineering graduates through his company, Igoda Projects. He has received recognition for his work, including an award in 2006 as SAIEE's engineer of the year.



PROVIDING HASSLE-FREE DRINKING WATER

Our former SRC treasurer and chemical engineering graduate, Felix Kunene, has taken full advantage of his MUT qualification and the skills and expertise learned during his tenure in the SRC. He is now a very successful entrepreneur who runs a water purification and water solutions company called Waterman Swaziland, located at Swaziland's upmarket The Gables shopping complex.

Thabiso Felix Kunene - Class of '99

Established in 2010, Waterman Swaziland has a bottling division which provides the premium "Water Plus" brand of water; a technical division which specialises in water treatment and waste water treatment (including providing solutions for recycling and reusing water); and a retail shop with in-house water purification equipment, allowing the public to access on-the-spot water solutions and quality bottled water.

Walking into the shop, Felix's success is quite visible through a display of more than six awards in recognition of his outstanding work. The collection of awards includes Entrepreneur of the Year awards; a Most Innovative Business award; a Best SME award, and a number of excellence awards.

"We have broken a lot of barriers. We were the first water company in Swaziland, 100% black owned, in the most expensive shopping centre in Swaziland. We have created more than 25 job opportunities since our inception, bearing in mind that Swaziland is a small economy and has a population of less than a million. My qualification has directed my professional path in a huge and meaningful way. While at MUT I started Scrabble as a sporting code, I was a member of AIESEC and finally I was SRC Treasurer. This taught me leadership, accountability and teamwork," says the pioneering entrepreneur.



A SELFLESS ENTREPRENEUR

It all started with just R1000 registration deposit from his grandmother's pension grant. Today Nkululeko Mthembu is an established professional quantity surveyor who has worked on mega projects in South Africa.

Nkululeko Mthembu - Class of '05

At the tender age of 21 he was already involved in a R200 million international project. Nkululeko was part of a team that did the cost management for the cargo terminal at King Shaka International Airport, a project that involved monitoring of exchange rates and foreign currencies.

Nkululeko graduated with a diploma in Quantity Surveying at MUT and has furthered his studies with two other institutions, obtaining a B.Tech and a B.Sc in Quantity Surveying. In May 2018, when MUT was faced with the tragic death of the first-year Quantity Surveying student Zolile Khumalo, Nkululeko selflessly donated refreshments for the over 150 learners who attended the funeral. He has a very strong sense of giving and believes that those who have should not forget those who do not have. **“Where I come from we do not have much, but I did not realise how poor we were because I come from a strong community background and I believe in giving without expecting anything in return. I believe in**

sharing whatever I have and helping those that can't afford things. To take my mind off my demanding work, I prepare food parcels and donate to those who need support,” said Nkululeko. He has a long list of beneficiaries including primary school learners, churches, needy communities and homeless people. Recently he donated toiletries for 150 MUT students who did not have NSFAS funding.

Nkululeko graduated cum laude with a Diploma in Construction Management & Quantity Surveying at MUT in 2007. At the age of 31, he felt he had reached his limits as an employee. After observing that there were not many black African owned quantity surveying firms in KZN, he founded Azadi Consulting, a quantity surveying, cost engineering and project management firm based in Durban. He provides employment to a number of MUT students and is very active in alumni projects.



THE QUANTITY SURVEYOR

Visiting Swaziland, one can see that the country is hard at work towards achieving its vision 2022 of becoming a first-world country. At the centre of all the major developments taking place are our MUT alumni, one of whom is Merica Vilakati (Civil Engineering class of 2005) who is at the forefront of several major projects under his employer Inyatsi Construction.

Merica Vilakati - Class of '05

The humble gentleman, who holds dear memories of his three years at MUT, is Site Agent for a major sewer line construction project. His responsibilities include managing site finances and personnel, while making sure that the project team delivers on time. He has worked on many projects including managing the construction of platforms for the International Convention Centre, a R134 million project. His other recent major projects include the King Mswati III International airport which was officially opened in March 2014. He says, "I am very fortunate to have studied at MUT. There is something different about the MUT Civil Engineering qualification. You constantly relate back and realise that the qualification is so relevant; we see all the things we were taught in class bearing fruits on a daily basis."

Merica believes that exposure to diverse cultures at MUT made him grow and understand other people, and he wishes he could have stayed longer. The relations built at MUT have provided him with a strong network of mentors. The greatest joy for Merica is that his position in the company allows him to empower young civil engineering students from local colleges through mentoring and placements. Some have secured permanent employment after a year or two under his supervision. To unwind, Merica hooks up with other Swaziland-based MUT alumni on weekends and they challenge one another in the soccer field. This is attested to by a glittering trophy and medals displayed in his office.



THE HONOURABLE MP

Mthokozisi Nxumalo (class of 2008) may only be 30 years of age but he is more than ready to serve on South Africa's sixth democratic parliament. Born in KwaNongoma in the far north of KwaZulu-Natal, he was the fifth child in a family of 11, and was inspired from an early age to engage with and debate issues.

Mthokozisi Nxumalo MP - Class of '08

The honourable MP graduated from MUT with the National Diploma in Construction Management and Quantity Surveying, and is currently pursuing further studies in the field of construction. He is amongst the members of the South African National Assembly sworn in on 22 May 2019. He is deployed by the Inkatha Freedom Party under the leadership of Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi MP.

“Other than politics I am very fond of the construction industry and remain grateful to MUT for giving me a head start in my construction career as well as my political career. I am the former chairperson of SADESMO, a student organisation wing of the IFP, as well as former SRC Treasurer in the 2011-2012 student leadership at MUT. I think this was the best and

most challenging time at MUT. I was affiliated with the Association for Tertiary Zion Students (ATEZS) and I believe that it was prayers and guidance that kept me going strong,” says Mthokozisi.

Mthokozisi has been fully engaged in politics and served in youth structures in his home village kwaNongoma, including being a speaker of the youth council for Nongoma Local Municipality. He has worked for SiyaZama GVK in Gauteng and Limpopo at various construction sites and Xstrata Lion Phase 2 mine as a Junior Quantity Surveyor. He has also lectured at Mthashana TVET College's Nongoma campus, teaching construction studies. Before taking his seat in the National Parliament, Mthokozisi was employed by Nongoma district office for Public Works as Structural Works Inspector, which is a position he held until 31 May 2019.



THE ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE

Joyleen is the founder and leader of Outsmart Outdoor Advertising, a marketing company specialising in unconventional and innovative outdoor advertising and media solutions.

Joyleen Mahanetsa - Class of '92

She graduated with a marketing diploma from MUT in 1994 and founded Outsmart in 2006. Joyleen has developed a proven track record and is well respected by industry stakeholders who do business with her. She is an advocate for women empowerment and believes that women are highly capable of creating opportunities for themselves. In 2018 she presented a cheque to the MUT Vice-

Chancellor, Dr Enoch Duma Malaza, to support and develop entrepreneurial skills for a female marketing student. Those who know her well call her a 'super woman'. Her outstanding work was recognised during the MUT Women's Day celebrations in 2018 where she received a Women in Business award.



REWARD SPECIALIST AND PHILANTHROPIST

Born in the small village of Emadundube in Umbumbulu, KwaZulu-Natal, Kwenzi is a persuasive, conceptual and forward-looking thinker who is a professional Reward Specialist and has worked in the human resources field in various academic institutions.

Kwenzekile Claudia Khuzwayo - Class of '92

Her career started at MUT almost 22 years ago where she rose through the ranks of HR Generalist, Manager and ultimately Reward Specialist. She also has many accolades to her name, from winning the Best Contributing Employee of the Year award in 2005 at MUT, to receiving an award from Wits University for being the best student in the Sculpturing Future Leaders Development Programme.

Being the fourth child out of nine children, life was not easy for Kwenzi, but her HR diploma from MUT was the key to unlocking her future development. As a student at MUT she created strong networks, investing her time in sports and student development programmes which allowed her to mature both mentally and spiritually. She is a mom to one daughter, Sanelisiwe, and is a guardian to two children of her late siblings.

Kwenzi is an entrepreneur and a philanthropist who is passionate about community development, especially amongst youth from

disadvantaged backgrounds. She was inspired by the Zenzele Project, a fundraising initiative to help needy MUT students through financial contributions by MUT staff. When she left MUT to further her career, she established her own bursary project and has since identified a number of needy students whom she takes in to give them a place to stay while mentoring them and funding their tertiary studies. "When I see my mentees graduate and grow into good citizens who are contributing to the economy of South Africa, I regard that as a milestone for both myself and them because many of them come from impoverished families and have never imagined that they can be university graduates," says Kwenzi.

Kwenzi is the founder and director of Ubemuhle Consulting. She also serves on the boards of various organisations and NPOs, which she says allows her to participate strategically in planning and ensuring corporate governance within those organisations.



THE ENTREPRENEUR AND BEAUTY QUEEN

In 1995, while doing her first year for the Diploma in Marketing at MUT, Ntandokazi was crowned Miss MUT and had to become a role model to fellow female students. It was an experience that carried her through her career, starting with her first job in 1997 with South African Airways at the old Durban airport.

Ntandokazi Kheswa - Class of '94

Ntandokazi was born and raised in Umlazi's K-section and completed her primary and high school education in the township. She had always dreamed of working for herself one day, but her journey was so delayed that any other person would have given up. But not this street-smart township girl! She remembers that every time she drove past a petrol station, she would dream of one day running her own service station. In 2001 she finally picked up the courage to pursue her dream by writing a proposal to buy a franchise and own an Engen garage. It took six long years of consultations before she opened doors (or shall we say pumps) at Hippo Park Engen, a brand new service station located in Nandi Drive near eThekweni Hospital, in February 2017. She remembers as if it were yesterday the many thoughts that went through her mind, wondering what would happen if she got no customers. Her very first client was a motorcyclist and from that moment, motorbikes became her symbol of good things to happen.

“My advice to current MUT students who have a dream of making a difference is that they must be prepared to work hard, respect money and be hands-on. Being hands on gives moral support to staff and contributes to positive teamwork.”



MICROSOFT'S KZN PUBLIC SECTOR HEAD

Born and raised in Umlazi Township's F section, Sandile completed his matric at Ogwini Comprehensive High School and enrolled for the diploma in Cost and Management Accounting in 1994. Little did he know that MUT was to be a giant platform, propelling him to explore and realise his leadership and entrepreneurial dream at a young age.

Sandile Mahlaba - Class of '94

Because of his inquisitive nature and love for exploring technology, Sandile would spend hours with the MUT IT team in the server room and he was the first student to own an MUT email address. This opened his eyes to the potential of technology to connect with like-minded youth all over the world, and he went on to establish the MUT branch of AIESEC - a global network of youth innovators that focuses on developing leadership and entrepreneurship skills. Being part of the organisation required him to attend international conferences which involved travelling and creating international linkages.

“Those were my best years at MUT. All the travelling required conceptualising and implementing projects on campus and with the community of Umlazi Township. I was a real pioneer and I think I am still one today. One of the major projects I spearheaded was a seven-day international conference attended by over 350 students from universities in South Africa, the UK, the US, Sri Lanka, Canada, India, South Korea and China, who showcased a number of entrepreneurship projects. This initiative and others which I was involved in elevated the profile of MUT as an institution capable of competing on a global stage,” says Sandile.

Despite all the demands of being a student and an advocate for youth leadership development, Sandile was also the treasurer of the Student Representative Council (SRC) - an experience which he believes taught him financial accountability and allowed him to build relationships with international funding agencies such as USAID. As a member of the SRC, he was among a student delegation that visited Howard University in the US to benchmark their student

leadership strategy. This was in line with his SRC's belief in creating more opportunities and asking less from the University.

A big moment for Sandile was when he joined Microsoft South Africa in 2011. There he was responsible for public sector technology transformation, focusing on delivering technology to provincial and national government departments, including Home Affairs and the 'smart' health, cities and policing projects. He moved to KwaZulu-Natal in 2018 to head up the KZN Microsoft public sector, which entails re-building the business and bringing the Microsoft flair into the province. In this role, Sandile is responsible for developing a Microsoft ecosystem in KwaZulu-Natal, spanning from SMME development to CSI and education. “We are pushing a lot of digital transformation for the province, considering that the fourth industrial revolution is moving faster than we can adopt it. Our task involves taking digital transformation projects to the citizens to enhance service delivery using technology,” he says.

Sandile has worked briefly for the MUT Community Development Centre conceptualising community development projects, and has also worked for AIESEC full time as its Vice-President and as Africa President. His relationship with AIESEC, which started at MUT, has enabled him to give a lot of international exposure to the youth through exchange programmes and student development programmes. The bond with AIESEC is particularly special to Sandile because it was through it that he met his wife Tebogo Semmelink-M. It is no surprise that their children (age 13, 10 and 3) are also IT wizards who have established their own coding company named Zetabyte.



THE INNOVATIVE ENTREPRENEUR

Amidst his very busy schedule, Thabang is a regular visitor to MUT, his alma mater. A member of the Marketing Class of 1994, Thabang is the CEO of SAMAC Engineering, a mechanical engineering solutions company that focuses on technological research and development, along with component fabrication.

Thabang Mofokeng - Class of '94

One might wonder how someone with vast experience and professional training in marketing and business management (he holds strategic positions such as Chair of the SME Forum and business advisor and mentor for the Umsobomvu Youth Fund) ended up in engineering. Thabang says it was his desire to be a “solutionist” that resulted in the founding of SAMAC. “Because of my background, it was important for me to team up with experts across various engineering streams. This has resulted in a powerhouse team that are the brains behind the SAMAC Engineering Solutions brand. This team of innovators are working tirelessly to spread their wings beyond South African borders through participation in international conferences and exhibitions. We

were recently selected by SEDA KZN to be one of the few companies that attended the Manufacturing Best Practices summit in India,” he explains.

This very mature and softly spoken businessman lights up every time he is on campus. He has told the Alumni Relations Office that his happiest moments at MUT were the 'boogie hoogies' as they used to be called. These are the student opening or closing parties, as well as the 'happy hours' for those who remember them. He enjoyed the chaos and the mischief when the other universities visited MUT for soccer tournaments at the sports field or at Bozzoli Hall for basketball. He says he still has very fond memories of the tours to other institutions, especially outside Durban.



THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

"I am currently an acting Chief Executive Officer at the Moses Kotane Institute, but my normal role is that of Chief Financial Officer at the same institute. These roles require vision, dedication, discipline, integrity, honesty and hours of serious thinking and implementation. You must be able to see the bigger picture to craft the direction of the company while problem solving daily," says Thandeka of her current professional role.

Thandeka Ellenson - Class of '95

After matriculating, Thandeka went to MUT and studied the National Diploma in Human Resources, which she completed in 1995. MUT opened her eyes to the world of possibilities both in her career and life in general. "I got an opportunity to mingle with different students from different backgrounds: the good, the bad, the ugly and the best. My biggest two lessons as a student at MUT were that you are the consequence of your choices, and that you cannot be what you cannot visualise," she reflects.

Since leaving MUT, Thandeka has studied in different areas, including accounting, governance and operations. She has also

worked in various portfolios including research, marketing, accounting, finance, projects, compliance, governance, human resources, operations and more. She sees herself as an all-rounder and does not confine herself to one specialisation. "I believe that is how you run a business after all," she adds.

Her advice to MUT's current students is simply: "Use your talents and passion to start a business. Create your own economy. Have economic freedom in your lifetime. Apartheid did not affect you so you have no excuse."



AN ACCOUNTANT AND A FARMER

A qualified accountant, Mfundo Bhengu (Class of 1999) knew from a very young age that a Diploma in Cost and Management accounting was the right choice for him. He also knew that MUT was the ideal institution to give him the relevant and precise training that would help him find his dream job.

Mfundo Bhengu - Class of '99

More than fifteen years later, he vividly remembers the battle he and his other classmates had to fight to challenge the perception that cost and management accounting was the most difficult qualification. Mfundo and a group of classmates organised an imbizo to ensure that other students and corporate partners developed a liking for the qualification. Through that imbizo, they managed to pull together giants in the field of accounting who came to campus to support their initiative which ultimately opened a number of doors for MUT accounting students.

As Senior Finance Manager: Performance Management Capital, Mfundo is responsible for managing financial affairs for Anglo Invest, a portfolio of more than R9 billion a year. "I'm responsible for financial management, financial modelling, financial reporting

and implementation of internal control systems and measures. What is interesting is that 98% of my job is what I learned at MUT; all my other qualifications are just an addition to the very firm foundation I got from my cost and management accounting diploma," he says.

Growing up in the rural village of Umzinyathi, Mfundo always had a passion for farming and is forging ahead to fulfil his passion. He owns a farm located in the Free State with a market value of R67 million. As if that were not too much work and responsibility for one man, he also finds time to pursue further studies and believes that as a businessman he needs to understand all the aspects of the business, not just the financial side.



THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SPECIALIST

Being raised by a single parent and growing up under the care of his grandmother in the village of Macekeni reserve in Ngwelezane is one of the many experiences that Innocent holds dear, and which he believes kept him focused when he studied for his Human Resource diploma at MUT.

Innocent Nzima - Class of '99

Like many other MUT graduates, he holds memories that he says not even time can erase. "Many of my fellow students became close friends, and we spent time together, not only in the classrooms but also outside. We got to know the corridor of the Resource Centre and the lecture halls classes and the Main Building, and these places started to feel like our own even in our first year in 1999. There were many unforgettable personalities among our lecturers, but one that stands out was Mr Mfundi Ngubane, the legendary lecturer of Industrial Relations and HOD at that time. All my experiences at MUT have contributed to my personality and work ethic," reflects Innocent.

He adds that he will always cherish the times he spent at the sports field. "I came in as a freshman and I got to play in the university

soccer team. We were at our most competitive level, winning the league several times and then making it to the SASSU games in Pretoria Technikon and the University of Western Cape."

Innocent confirms that his HR qualification gave him intensive knowledge that enables him to participate effectively in the boardroom at Scribante Africa Mining, where he has been an HR manager since 2009. Before joining Scribante Africa Mining, he worked for the Department of Labour as a labour inspector.

Innocent attributes most of his success to his late great-grandmother, uMaMlothwa, who taught him a lot about life and would go with him to church from an early age.



PRIVATE BANKER AND MAN OF GOD

With just 16 years of experience in the banking industry, it is quite an extraordinary achievement that Sandile is now a Regional Manager for ABSA Private Banking. It is a role that comes with the huge responsibility of leading a team of private bankers in optimising clients' economic value and delivering exceptional service.

Sandile Masengemu - Class of '00

Armed with an accounting diploma from MUT which he obtained in 2002, Sandile has scooped a number of awards including that of being the community builder of the year in 2012. He is also a certified coach and has coached a number of managers.

Outside of his life as a respected executive in the banking sector, Sandile is a God-fearing man. At his tender age he is a pastor at

the Voice of Victory Church in Durban and also serves as CFO for the Voice of Victory Church in Ladysmith, with over 1200 members.

He is a motivational speaker who enjoys his time out with family and loves helping and giving back to the community.



IN THE NEWS

Known by her listeners as Shandapha, Thandeka is an HR graduate who has made a name for herself in both print and broadcast media. Hers is the voice heard by thousands of Imbokodo FM listeners where she is a newscaster.

Thandeka Makhoba - Class of '05

She is also a writer, having started writing stories in 2015 just for the love of writing. At the time she was not attached to any newsroom but was just following her passion in the hope that one day she would find an opportunity to do the work she had always aspired to do. **“Writing was my strength from an early age. I have always had a love for languages, which makes it easy for me to write for both Zulu and English publications,”** she reflects.

In April 2015 Thandeka was introduced to the editor of Inkazimulo newspaper by Bongani Gina after having read some of her stories to him. Her work caused an impression and she received an offer

to be trained in their basic writing style. She now writes for Inkazimulo newspaper, Umzinyathi newspaper, has reported for Divine Touch gospel radio station, and researches and reads news on Imbokodo FM.

Thandeka is a typical 21st century graduate who has used her competency and strong character traits to venture onto untested terrain. She harnesses her passion, determination and imagination to improve her competency levels and prospects of success. In September 2017 she launched her youth empowerment project called Siyaxhiwa Carpenter's Union, an organisation focusing on restoring basic life values and improving quality of life for the youth.



ON YOUR TV SCREENS EVERY MORNING

A young man from Harding in southern KwaZulu-Natal is making a name for himself on our TV screens delivering the early morning news. Mawande's on-screen career started in December 2013 when he worked as an isiZulu news reader on e.TV's breakfast show, e.TV Sunrise.

Mawande Kheswa - Class of '11

He spent five years in production and on-screen presenting before joining eNCA as a news reporter in 2019. What he enjoys most about his current job is interacting with people, sharing information and asking tough questions.

Mawande appreciates his firm upbringing by his single mother, Sibongile Kheswa, who passed away in 2006. Although he was born in Gamalakhe, he spent most of his young years in Durban, matriculating from one of the high schools in Umlazi Township. He was among the best students at MUT when he completed his Marketing diploma and received the Dean's Commendation award for excellent results.

He started his career as a Marketing Officer in different organisations, which taught him the important skills of dealing with customers, strategy planning and implementation. "I am a cinematographer and photographer and use this skill to document my own stories to share with the world. I have shot my own films, documentaries and other projects. I also ran an entertainment company during my time at MUT where I provided entertainment to various companies including the institution. I have a keen interest in addressing youth issues and providing guidance in a way that is unique to me," says Mawande. He is among the many MUT graduates who are pursuing their dream jobs and have great plans to grow within the industry.



RIDING THE AIRWAVES

DJ Sam, as he is known to his radio listeners, is a young man to watch out for. Recently graduating with his Public Management diploma, he is already taking the radio industry by storm. Sam hosts a weekend music show at East Coast Radio between 6 and 9pm.

Samkelo Cele - Class of '13

He credits his steady success to the adverse difficulty he grew up under. Raised by his single mother in an informal settlement, he is adamant that they are a family that is progressively moving out of poverty. "I could not go to university immediately after matric because of financial challenges at home. I joined Inanda FM, a community radio station. This move was to voice my opinion on the life and struggles of people who reside in tin houses. I identified a knowledge gap, especially in understanding the community and how the country is governed, which motivated me to later register for a public management diploma at MUT. In my second year at MUT I resumed my radio career at Durban Youth Radio (DYR) as a volunteer. During the day I was a famous DJ and in the evening

I was a dedicated student paying attention in lectures. By the time I completed my studies I had an advantage because of the experience I had gained as a volunteer in a radio station. Now I work for a big radio station with a bigger audience," said Sam.

Most people would worry about the contradiction between studying Public Management and broadcasting, but for Sam it makes sense. His long-term career goal and strategy is to become a spokesperson in the public sector. Outside his formal work, Sam is an ambassador at the Lord Scott Foundation, where he is involved in charity work that the foundation does.



A CERTIFIED ETHICS OFFICER AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER

Dr Poswa (MUT Class of 1988: National Diploma Public Health) is a leader and environmental health practitioner with multidisciplinary experience acquired from serving various roles in his profession.

Dr Tobius Thobile Poswa - Class of '88

He has served as an environmental health professional, a project and training facilitator, a trainer of trainers for the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and community-based projects, a project manager and a spiritual mentor. His PhD focused on Bioethics and Health Law.

Dr Poswa has a combined professional and academic experience of 35 years in the field of environmental health. He has been the head of the Department of Environmental Health at MUT since 2009. His mission is to strengthen science and deepen research in environmental health practice - a mission which is already bearing fruits for MUT. Dr Poswa was at the helm of developing the B.Sc in Environment Health, a four-year professional degree that is now offered by MUT. The degree was accredited by the Council for Higher Education (CHE) and granted permission to be offered by Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) in 2015.

Dr Poswa adds: "We take this achievement very seriously as we are the only University of Technology in South Africa that has been granted accreditation to offer this programme. The B.Sc in Environmental Health programme is research-based, and we are excited to have established international partnerships with institutions such as the George Washington University to enable us to benchmark how they balance the theory and practical elements of the programme while managing research projects."

Dr Poswa is a Certified Ethics Officer recognised by The Ethics Institute following completion of the Ethics Officer Certification training accredited by the University of Stellenbosch Business School. In addition, he holds a Certificate of Competence on Doctoral Supervision from the University of Stellenbosch, Centre for Research on Evaluation and Technology.



A POLITICAL ACTIVIST AND A WOMAN OF GOD

Thami was admitted to study a National Diploma in Public Health (now Environmental Health) at MUT and graduated in 1991. She achieved the honour of receiving a Pfizer award for being the student with the highest marks in Public Health.

Thami Matshego - Class of '88

An active student, she was elected as Woman Organiser for the South African National Student Organisation (SANSCO) which later merged with NUSAS to become the South African Student Organisation (SASCO). Thami was also the first woman to be elected as the Secretary of the Student Representative Council (SRC) and also chaired the Cultural Committee of University Students. As a former trade unionist, a political activist and a workplace leader, Thami has mentored and coached a number of young professionals, some of whom now hold senior positions in their organisations and in government.

Thami grew up and schooled in the township of Montshiwa in Mahikeng, North West Province. Her career began in 1992 as a Veterinary Public Health Officer for the former Agricultural Corporation of Bophuthatswana. She moved up the ranks to become a Senior Environmental Health Officer and then acting Chief Environmental Officer. More recently she has worked as Director for Community Services in the Department of Sanitation and Disaster Management, as a Director for the Bojanala Platinum District Municipality (where she established the Department of Health and Environmental Services, which she later headed) and as Chief Director for Environmental Services with the North West Provincial Government.

Moving to Gauteng Province, she was then appointed as an Executive Manager: Community Services in the Rand West City Local Municipality. She is currently employed by the Mogale City Local Municipality as an Executive Manager responsible for Integrated Environmental Management Services. Presently Thami is registered for a PhD degree with a special interest in the field of climate change.

As a woman of faith in action, Thami has served in various community-based organisations and faith-based organisations. "I serve as a chairperson in the Women's Department in my church, I am actively involved in the mentoring of youth, and I also assist with the development of sound administrative processes and systems in the church," Thami adds.

Thami has served as a member of the MUT Council as a Convocation representative. During her tenure she was deputy chairperson of the Institutional Forum. Currently she is a board member of the Cradle of Humankind Local Tourism Association and also volunteers in the Cradle of Humankind Ambassador Programme. Thami is married to Dr Caleb Matshego and they are blessed with three children.



ENTREPRENEUR AND CHAIRPERSON OF MOSES KOTANE INSTITUTE

As the old saying goes, “the path to success is never a straight line”. This is especially so for MUT alumnus, entrepreneur and chairman of the Moses Kotane Institute, Dr Sakhile Ngcobo. “When my father died, he said, 'Sakhile, I want you to be the first child in the family to have a degree.' I was literally following on his death wish,” says Dr Ngcobo.

Dr Sakhile Ngcobo - Class of '98

When enrolled for his National Diploma in Agriculture at MUT in 1995, he used to commute by train from KwaMashu to Umlazi to attend lectures. To reduce his travelling time during exams, he would look for a place closer to campus to rent during that period, and the only place he could afford was in the informal settlements near campus.

“Although those years were tough, I was very lucky to be assisted by very good lecturers, especially Dr Malizo Buyeye. I think he is now the head of department. He literally became my mentor,” remembers Dr Ngcobo.

Dr Buyeye saw potential in the young student and offered him valuable insights. He told him that he had the potential to succeed in his studies and that the issue of improving his English could be solved by making friends with other students who were not Zulu speakers, which would force Dr Ngcobo to converse in English. Dr Ngcobo graduated in 1998 and went on to study further, specialising in Agricultural Finance and Strategy. He then conducted research on catchment management. He found that the farmers along the uMgeni catchment were not farming responsibly, and used to plant trees close to the river. His research looked at the amount of water the trees were consuming and what it meant for the environment.

Mondi picked up on his research when it was published and invited Dr Ngcobo to talk about the two issues raised in it, namely water

usage and the company's relationship with the community. Mondi, which was owned by Anglo American at the time, took Dr Ngcobo on board and within two years he was made Executive Head of Corporate Social Responsibility for the company's South Africa operations.

It was during his time at Mondi that Dr Ngcobo developed a Socio-Economic Toolbox for Anglo American, which was rolled out globally. He was then recruited to De Beers as an Executive Head of Corporate Affairs.

Dr Ngcobo is the Chair of the Gambling Board in KwaZulu-Natal, Chair of Moses Kotane Institute, and Chair of Audit and Risk at the Industrial Development Zone in Richards Bay. His experience includes Head of External and Corporate Affairs for De Beers, Chairman of SASA Gold, Board member of Anglo American Zimele Fund and former Head of Corporate Social Responsibility at Mondi SA. Dr Ngcobo has been an advisor to the minister of Agriculture and has been involved in the formulation of the Forestry Charter, the Mining Charter and now the Maritime Charter.

“My passion for working hard and excelling at everything I do came from Mangosuthu University of Technology,” acknowledges Dr Ngcobo.



THE FARMER EXTRAORDINAIRE

Silindile Zondi graduated from MUT with a Diploma in Agriculture: Plant Production in 2002. She knew from the onset that she was going to be a businesswoman, and agricultural farming was her main interest.

Silindile Zondi - Class of '99

She owns a 17-hectare establishment located in Port Shepstone called BBS Farm. "I was inspired by my grandmother at a very young age. She used to take me to the fields at KwaHlongwa, Umzumbe, when I was very young. She would also send me to Emfundeni, a communal agricultural plot in the area, to buy fruit and vegetables which were not available in her fields," remembers Silindile. BBS Farm delivers tons of macadamia nuts from about 3000 trees, as well as two types of tomatoes, to KZN supermarkets and provides work and income to 16 workers, mostly women. Silindile knew that turning a dream into a reality was going to need dedication and hard work. Soon after graduating in 2002, she upskilled herself in business management, co-operative management and leadership. Besides her wealth of knowledge acquired through formal training, Silindile gets advice from a number of professionals in the industry.

Her professional approach has seen Silindile and her business partners working with Hygrotech, which supplies them with seeds, and FilmFlex, which supplies them with chemicals, manure, seeds and advice. The 16 workers at BBS are also kept busy in the process of producing tomatoes as well as spinach, cabbage, beetroot, brinjal, cucumber, carrot, cooking herb and lettuce seedlings. "There is a possibility we might add another farm. We enjoy the effort required in order to make money," she said, adding that the hardships they have endured have made them even stronger.



A PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY EXPERT

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

Thandeka Molakeng - Class of '99

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

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

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



A PROFICIENT AND VERSATILE NATURE CONSERVATIONIST

Graduating with a diploma, B.Tech, postgraduate diploma and a Master's degree in Nature conservation at MUT has equipped Siphon to pursue a career in a number of aspects of Nature Conservation.

Siphon Goge - Class of '00

Siphon has worked as a senior marine inspector responsible for marine conservation offshore and inshore, inspecting fishing vessels to curb poaching of marine resources. In 2010 he worked for Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife as a district conservation manager responsible for the management of marine and terrestrial reserves. Siphon now works for the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs and Tourism, where he heads the compliance and enforcement directorate. He calls himself a proficient nature conservationist who is tasked with the responsibility of managing compliance, monitoring inspection of various facilities on the conditions of environmental authorisation, conducting joint law enforcement operations, investigating environmental crime, and compiling compliance notices and criminal case dockets.

Siphon is a qualified Environmental Management Inspector, Grade 2 with a national designation. Apart from these achievements, he also holds a number of certificates in Environmental Compliance and Enforcement. He has a passion for medicinal plant research and drug development and is currently studying towards a doctorate in Environmental Management.



BEST STUDENT - BEST LECTURER

Sthembile grew up in Madadeni, Newcastle where she started her primary education and matriculated at Bethamoya High School. Having obtained both her B.Tech and Master's degrees in Nature Conservation (the latter cum laude), Sthembile is destined for excellence.

Sthembile Nkosi - Class of '12

As an undergraduate student, she received four Dean's Commendation awards and she has presented her research in Singapore. She is also the Founder and Chairperson of the Congress on Ecosystems Rehabilitation and Restoration.

Although Sthembile's career started in administration, she now works as a lecturer for MUT's Department of Nature Conservation. In April 2019 she received the MUT Vice-Chancellor's Award for being the Best Emerging Teacher 2019. Sthembile is on her way to the top and wants to build a strong reputation for herself in her

profession. She founded the MUT Community Engagement Project: Ecosystems Rehabilitation and Restoration, a multi-disciplinary project which deals with the rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems, especially in townships and informal settlements neighbouring MUT. "I also founded the Congress on Ecosystems Rehabilitation and Restoration in 2018. It is a rare research and scientific platform, where even undergraduate students are able to undertake research under the mentorship of experienced researchers. This Congress is the first of its kind in the higher education system," says Sthembile.



FIRST BLACK SENIOR SECTION RANGER

Graduating with a Master of Nature Conservation degree from MUT in 2017, Pheladi was among the very first cohort of students to register for a Master's programme at MUT.

Pheladi Petunia Chuene - Class of '13

Pheladi was born and grew up in Lebowakgomo, Limpopo where she completed matric at Harry Oppenheimer Agricultural High School in 2005. Her career started off in 2009 when she did experiential training at Kruger National Park. She has also worked for the Mokopane Breeding Conservation Centre, and for the Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs & Tourism in Limpopo where she was a field ranger and senior field ranger. She currently works for Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park as their first black senior section ranger.

Pheladi loves her job and sees herself making a great impact in environmental conservation. "I am working on gaining more knowledge of environmental legislation so that I can implement and promote compliance with it, and thereby sustain the quality of the environment. Everyone has the right to live in an environment that is not harmful to their health and wellbeing," says Pheladi.



A PASSIONATE NATURE CONSERVATIONIST IN THE MAKING

Torsten is a dedicated nature conservationist with a keen interest in rehabilitating and restoring previously damaged ecosystems.

Torsten Shepherd - Class of '16

He believes that with the proper conservation of natural areas, the future could be bountiful. "I am very thankful to have been supervised by Prof Roger Cooposamy for both my postgraduate diploma and my Master's studies. I thank my MUT lecturers for the many opportunities that studying at MUT has allowed me," says Torsten. Prof Cooposamy says that Torsten is an enthusiastic and dedicated

student who displays professionalism and works hard towards his studies, resulting in consistently good results. Torsten's community initiatives have allowed him to teach and spread the message of conservation and sustainable use to communities across KZN. In his presentations he always recommends MUT as a first-choice educational institution.



A MASTER IN THE FIELD OF NATURE CONSERVATION

Growing up in the tourist area of St Lucia made a great impact on Feziwe's decision to become a nature conservationist.

Feziwe Ndebele - Class of '15

Although her journey hasn't been easy, she has been willing and always eager to find something new to learn every day, which is why she has continued with her studies up to Master's level. Feziwe is currently a field ranger for Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and

is working towards a 'big vision' of owning her own organisation, employing youth and also teaching them about nature conservation and the importance of using natural resources in a sustainable way.



FORMER DEAN OF THE MUT'S FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

Prof Malinga, a member of the Electrical Engineering Class of 1988, is known to thousands of MUT alumni, especially alumni of the Faculty of Engineering where his career at MUT started as an Industrial Technician back in 1995.

Prof Senzo Malinga - Class of '88

14 January 1962 - 9 September 2018

Some alumni were his students when he lectured in MUT's Department of Electrical Engineering during the years 1996 to 2001, after which he became the head of department until 2004. Most will however remember Prof Malinga as Dean of the Engineering Faculty, announcing their names when they walked the stage during graduation ceremonies between 2004 and 2017. Prof Malinga's research interests include optimisation of energy capture in renewable energy systems, with the primary emphasis on wind energy control systems and mitigation of propagation impairments in radio and satellite communication systems. He has been at the forefront of programme accreditation, and has championed innovative projects such as:

- Training of MUT students as energy auditors under the Building Energy Auditor Training (BEAT) Programme;
- Launching the NUZ arts festival;
- Setting up the inaugural MUT STEM to STEAM Conference;
- Championing the Greening MUT project; and
- Being appointed to ECSA's recommendation panel.

In 2017 Prof Malinga retired from MUT to pursue other personal interests. In his farewell speech he said, "Having been a dean for 13 years, I feel it is time to move on, and for the faculty to get a new head to take it forward. I tried my best to create a gender balance with the student intake in this faculty but it has not been easy. My passion will always be greening MUT and I hope in my new life I will be able to help MUT produce five PhDs and 12 Master's graduates in three years". Prof Malinga was called to the heavens on 9 September 2018. He is survived by his wife, Mrs Shlophe Malinga and three children: Zakhele (29), Lungile (34) and Zanethemba (26).



**FORMER MUT COUNCIL
MEMBER & PRESIDENT
OF CONVOCATION**

**Mr Themba Henry Mabaso is fondly known by
many at MUT as 'Bra H'.**

Themba Henry Mabaso - Class of '90

27 April 1950 - November 2018

Mr Mabaso's connection to MUT dates back to 1992 when he obtained a diploma in Marketing. 'Bra H' actively participated in the Student Representative Council (SRC), and later as Member of the MUT Council and President of the MUT Convocation.

According to his classmates a party was never a party without Bra H. He passed on in November 2018 and will be greatly missed by many who had the privilege to share a classroom or a boardroom with him at MUT.

CELEBRATING

40 YEARS

“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.

ALUMNI GIVING

Bank Account: 40-7755-0173
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YEARS



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