
From the Alumni Relations Office: 2023-2024

Convocation Annual General Meeting 6 April 2024

The 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) marks the inaugural AGM under the new governance of the Alumni Relations Office (ARO), which in September 2023 transitioned to the new Institutional Advancement (IA) department.

With this transition, there have been adjustments to the purpose, vision, role, strategic goals, and the envisioned future of Alumni Relations. We invite you to participate in this pivotal moment as we embrace these changes and strive towards a redefined and enhanced alumni engagement experience.

The primary focus of this report is on the role of alumni, by far the largest constituency within the Convocation; to address alumni structures, and to alert all to the important contributions alumni can make towards the MUT community, thereby promoting the interests of MUT.

We are now focussing on several strategic goals and new initiatives aimed at boosting relations and engaging alumni, and touch on new projects that are on the radar of the Alumni Relations Office for 2024.

The Alumni Relations Office consistently ensures that alumni remain active in the affairs of the institution, and that communication with alumni is not and should not be a one-way process. During the past year, alternative means were created to ensure that efficient contact was maintained with alumni. This measure indicated improvement overall, as the number of registrations on the Update-your-details link keeps increasing.

MUT alumni work in every field imaginable around the world, quietly or publicly changing the world. One of the duties of the Alumni Relations Office is to take advantage of the high-profile alumni of the University, to share news of alumni achievements, and to create platforms upon which the office can help position MUT alumni as thought- and change-leaders in local, African, and global societies. In so doing, we together help MUT advance at least two of its strategic goals: To sustain and improve MUT's financial sustainability, and To increase the popularity of MUT brand, through engagement with alumni, donors and partners as resources.

The Alumni Relations team, with Maida Baloyi and Sihle Mabaso, is led by Dr Connie Israel: Executive Director of Institutional Advancement, and actively supported by other IA staff members. It is a small but dedicated team which is focused on several goals, including strengthening existing projects and launching new initiatives aimed at further enhancing relations with alumni. In the strategic plan of the MUT Alumni Relations Office (ARO) in 2023, several goals were set.



ARO GOALS

1. One of our goals is to maintain, improve and maximise ways to connect with MUT alumni locally and internationally. In addition to the 11 980 confirmed email addresses and 27 936 cell numbers available for communicating with alumni, the Alumni Relations Office uses other tools for connecting and reaching out to graduates:

- Social media: Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram
- Alumni Gems quarterly newsletter
- Pre-alumni leaflet
- The alumni website, and
- Devman, a software tool and database

ARO also uses these contemporary platforms to profile alumni and the success of the institution.

2. Another goal of the Alumni Relations Office is to use available platforms for alumni engagement and to promote alumni mentorships through online and face-to-face engagements.

- Alumni Mock interviews by international and local alumni were hosted online to assist unemployed graduates in navigating the world of work after graduation.
- We hosted a guest lecture for the Faculty of Natural Science final year students, and invited our stakeholders: the **Department of Labour**, which registered MUT students on their database for unemployed graduates; SD Creatives, which provided two IT students Work Integrated Learning opportunities at their company, and Senior alumni, who taught students job skills to assist them as they enter the world of work.

These strategic goals of the Alumni Relations Office support the University's strategic goals and those set out in the institutional Advancement Strategic Plan 2023-2025.

3. A third goal for ARO is to mobilise alumni as resources and experts to contribute to the growth of the institution, through the R100m & Change Campaign (see our website).

Like most academic institutions, MUT faces financial challenges given increasing costs and decreasing support from the government. Institutional Advancement seeks to increase the number of donations and gifts to MUT. 10 projects over 10 years will play a crucial role in attaining financial sustainability.

The R100m & Change project is a transformative initiative dedicated to advancing MUTs students and alumni experiences. With a bold commitment to reach a target of R100m in 10 years, we are embarking, with your support, on a journey to add to the revolution of education, research, and innovation at our institution. This project stands as a testament to ARO's dedication to empowering students, nurturing talent, and driving positive change in our communities. Through 10 strategic projects that will take 10 years to achieve, we aim to elevate MUT to new heights, fostering a dynamic learning environment that will shape the leaders of tomorrow and contribute to the betterment of society. Together with our alumni, friends of the university, and partners, we embark on this extraordinary endeavour, confident that our collective efforts will leave a lasting mark on the future of education and MUT.

The R100m & Change Projects are:

1. 10 Alumni Chapters
2. 100 alumni mentors
3. 100 scholarships for female engineering students
4. Fund 10 Masters Students
5. 10 Doctoral Students
6. 10 graduates employed or serving abroad
7. 10 graduates employed in the JSE top 100 Companies
8. 10 alumni entrepreneurs employing MUT graduates
9. 10 years to transform the student experience
10. 10 years to establish the alumni hub

Finally, for 2024, we envisage the following key events:

- One Alumni Chapter Launch
- Launching a series of alumni Masterclasses (The Ultimate Beauty Masterclass, Workplace and Business Leadership)
- Hosting the Annual Fundraising Dinner
- Co-Hosting the Alumni SCO Reunion
- A Skills Workshop for unemployed graduates

Join us in this exciting endeavour to give back and make a lasting impact. Create your living legacy at MUT!

SONDELA! Your time is NOW!

Please see more information on how to support on <https://www.mut.ac.za/alumni/> or contact the Alumni Relations office for partnerships.

Alumni Relations office contact details: alumni@mut.ac.za/0319077510/**Facebook** MUT Alumni/**LinkedIn** MUT Alumni/**Twitter** MUTAlumni

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ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICER

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