

ALUMNI GEMS



Our living legacy



ISSUE 13

MUT Alumna becomes the first female Executive Manager of Biodiversity Conservation



Nomcebo Kunene, Executive Manager of Biodiversity Conservation at Mpumalanga Tourism & Parks Agency

If there is something we know about MUT graduates, it is that they are breaking gender stereotypes in the careers they embark on. Nomcebo Kunene's journey was guided by unwavering support from her parents and siblings who encouraged her every step of the way. In the quiet streets of Tjakastad, she was the first girl to defy conventions and play soccer during a time when it was a man's sport.

Kunene defied gender stereotypes throughout her tenure at MUT where she obtained her Diploma and B-Tech in Nature Conservation.

She etched her name in history as MUT's first female SRC President. Expanding on this milestone, she further distinguished herself by becoming the first black woman to undergo in-service training at Agulhas National Park (SANParks). Her journey led her to proudly assume the role of the second black female Section Ranger at Shingwedzi in the Kruger National Park.

Apart from playing a major role in ensuring tourism standards, Kunene is entrusted to lead one of the entity's core mandates, which is biodiversity conservation. Kunene sends her appreciation to the CEO of Mpumalanga Tourism & Parks Agency, Mduduzi Hekzin Vilakazi, for his unwavering belief in her capabilities and for providing mentorship.

Kunene has always dedicated herself to hard work, which has seen her in the process of becoming. As she steps into her new role, we extend our best wishes to her; we have full confidence in her ability to excel, paving the way for those who will follow in her footsteps.

Upcoming events

1. Engineering Workshop- 12 July 2024: Seme Hall
2. SCO Alumni Reunion – 28-30 June 2024: OLT (MUT)
3. AFD- 25 October 2024: Oyster Box Hotel Umhlanga

Ways to get involved:

Networking events

Alumni Mentorships

Guest Speaking

Career development

workshops/Masterclasses

Social gatherings (e.g., Reunions, virtual happy hours)

Be our next Featured

Alumni!

Share your life updates with us at: alumni@mut.ac.za / 031 907 7510

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 MUT Alumni

ALUMNI IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Former MUT

Convocation Treasurer graduates with a Masters Degree

Halala to the CEO of Dlamindlovu Consulting Engineers and Project Managers, Sinothi Ndlovu! Despite having an established brand, he pursued further studies driven by a passion to enhance his expertise and contribute to addressing SME challenges in South Africa through scientific research.

Graduating with a Master of the Built Environment in Construction Management is no small feat, and a testament to his dedication, hard work, and expertise in this field.

His knowledge and skills will undoubtedly make a significant impact on the construction industry, and we are excited to see the great contributions he will make in the future. Best wishes to him as he embark on this new chapter in his career. May his journey be filled with continued success and fulfilment!



Sinothi Ndlovu, Businessman and MUT Alumnus



Thabile Mkhize, IT&N Technician and Celebrity Make-up Artist

MUT Alumni's dual passion - from Computer fixes to flawless face beats

Thabile Mkhize's love for using her hands to put things into order and seeing them become functional runs through her veins. She maintains hardware and software by conducting regular maintenance updates and resolving several computer issues. In her spare time, she gives incredible face beats to her clients. Mkhize accords MUT her biggest appreciation for giving her more than a qualification and a job as an IT lab Technician; she also thanks the clients who love her work.

From a young age, Mkhize enjoyed using the make-up she stole from her aunt's drawers to make up her face as she grew, although her elders would chastise her for doing so.

She indicated that her self-taught Makeup and Nail artistry also comes from bad experiences with some of the nail technicians from whom she wanted to learn. Mkhize says her ex-husband used to pay for her nail appointments, which she learned by watching. She knew that it was something she could do. She then used to practice techniques on her family members. "Looking back, I wish that parents were more accepting of their children's passions...

this may aid situations where dreams are delayed," she said.

Mkhize's journey into her passion took off in 2008 during her wedding day. Initially, her goal was to assist her mother in cutting costs for the big day. With confidence in her growing skills, she took charge of her bridesmaids' manicures, pedicures, and make-up throughout the week and on the wedding day.

Her skills gained attention from her church community, leading to referrals for weddings. Renowned make-up artist Samke Shelembe recognized her talent and introduced her to celebrities, providing the motivation and confidence to pursue her passion wholeheartedly.

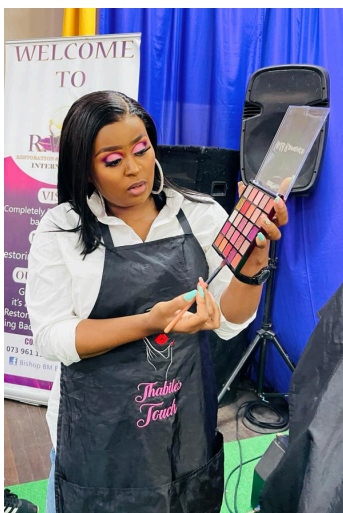
"Her journey to success has been guided by her faith in God who has been her strength, support from Musa Mthombeni and his family, her family, and the incredible supporters she's encountered along the way."

Mkhize's talent led to bookings at prestigious events like Metro FM and the Crown Gospel Awards, affirming that her passion was paying off. Inspired by the power of dreams, she aspired to do Musa Mseleku's wife's make-up on the popular show "Uthando ne Sthembu." Taking the initiative, she reached out to MaNgwabe Mseleku on Facebook, but unfortunately, her message went unnoticed as most celebrities don't regularly check their messages.

Mkhize couldn't believe her luck when she spotted MaNgwabe during a weekend shopping trip to the Pavilion Mall. Overcoming her nerves, she mustered the courage to introduce herself to MaNgwabe Mseleku, even without make-up on her face. To her pleasant surprise, MaNgwabe shared her contact number. Filled with excitement, Mkhize rushed back to her car, forgetting entirely that she had originally come to the mall for shopping. "I got home and sent her pictures of my work, even though she did not respond instantly, I was elated to receive MaNgwabe's call after a while, telling me that her family had agreed to give me a chance at an event at the Durban ICC," she said.

Mkhize has made significant appearances in popular TV shows like "Uthando Nesthembu," "Igumbe LamaKhosikazi," "The Real Housewives of Durban," and "Ezemishado." She also hosted masterclasses to teach Make-Up Artistry, although she had to pause them due to her busy schedule, which includes her day job at MUT.

Her journey to success has been guided by her faith in God who has been her strength, support from Musa Mthombeni and his family, her family, and the incredible supporters she's encountered along the way. Mkhize emphasizes that her achievements didn't come easily; she had to learn to take herself seriously before others followed suit.



Mkhize in action at one of her Master Classes



Mkhize, on set with reality TV Star, Musa Mseleku



Alumni spreads the light to 2024 graduates

In a heartwarming display of support and encouragement, esteemed MUT alumni recently took a break from their busy schedules to impart invaluable wisdom to the graduating class of 2024.

These distinguished alumni boast impressive careers, spanning overseeing multimillion-dollar projects to holding prestigious positions as Managing Directors of their firms. Their achievements serve as signals of inspiration for the next generation of graduates, showcasing the limitless possibilities that await them in the professional world.



Nana Mzimla

“As you embark on new adventures, remember to believe in yourself, relentlessly pursue your passions, and never stop learning”.

**CEO of ISU
Engineering Pty Ltd**

Brian Mchunu

“You have been shaped by MUT. It is now in your hands to continue to ‘Shape and own the Future’, then return, and illuminate the path for those who follow”.

**Managing Director at
East Coast Asphalt**



Sinenhlanhla Chamane

“The world is yours to conquer, so go out there and make your mark! be the light at the workplace and to the world, best of luck with your future endeavours”.

**CEO and Founder of M&C
Consulting Engineers (Pty) LTD**

Brian Ngubo

“You have reached an important milestone; as you step into the beginning of your career journey, remember that it will be filled with a myriad of opportunities, so choose wisely”.

**Director of Project Development at Senzo
Esihle Development (Pty) LTD**

