

2017

GRADMAG

CPUT ALUMNI MAGAZINE



creating futures



Cape Peninsula
University of Technology

Stay in touch with your Alma Mater via the Alumni Office

Congratulations and welcome to CPUT's alumni family!

This graduation ceremony is a culmination of years of dedication and hard work. You're now a member of an exclusive 'club', the CPUT Alumni Association – consisting of thousands of talented individuals who have earned their certificates, diplomas and degrees from CPUT.

This GradMag features 10 such alumni – we hope their stories will inspire you. The primary objective of the Alumni Office is to keep you in touch with each other and with your alma mater, Cape Peninsula University of Technology. We will communicate with you electronically via the quarterly alumni newsletter, the Alumni Connect – copies available on our website <https://www.cput.ac.za/alumni/alumni-news>

By ensuring we have your email address, you'll also

- Be invited to career-enhancing gatherings, networking events and socials;
- Be able to participate in workshops and activities to address alumni; University and society needs;
- Be invited as motivational/guest speakers – to current students and at graduation ceremonies;
- Be able to access on-campus resources and be eligible for some exclusive discounts;
- Be eligible to be elected to serve on the Executive of the Alumni Association, alumni chapters and Convocation



Valerie Deelman

Visit our Alumni page at www.cput.ac.za to update your details and join our Facebook group. You can also visit our office in the Administration building on Cape Town campus, or email us with news of your career success.

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features

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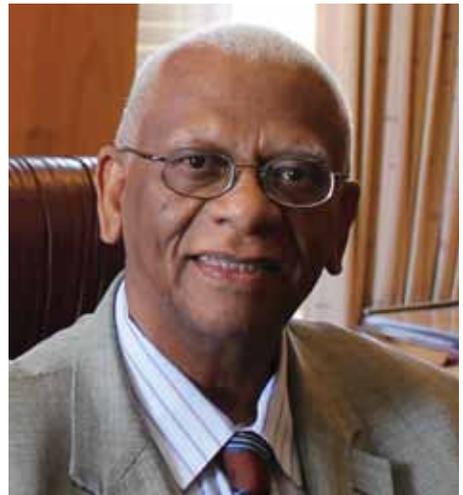
Congratulations from the Acting Vice-Chancellor

It is my pleasure to congratulate the graduating class of 2016.

The Autumn Graduation is one of the highlights of our academic year as it provides the university community with an opportunity to celebrate your achievements. You have made a success of your time at CPUT and we are so proud of you.

As you take to the stage today, one journey will come to an end, and tomorrow, a new journey awaits you as you take up your place in this world as a functioning member of society. I want to encourage each of you to make the most of your qualification. Use it not only to parachute yourself to greater heights, but also for the development and growth of all spheres of our country and continent.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to the University staff, parents, guardians, family members, spouses, friends and donors who have contributed to your success. This has truly been a collaborative effort and their contribution is celebrated as well.



Lastly, always remember that the University is your alma mater. Through our Alumni Office, you can take advantage of networking and career-enhancing opportunities and enjoy the camaraderie of social events by becoming an active member of our Alumni Association. We wish you every success in the future.

Dr John Volmink

Culinary crusader



ABIGAIL MBALO Dental Technologist

Despite a phenomenal stint on Masterchef SA former CPUT student and lecturer Abigail Mballo still has her ambitions set on a career servicing the poor.

Abigail spent years working as a lecturer at CPUT's Dental Technology Department after studying the subject at the institution a few years previously.

“ The dream is to open a Dental Technology Lab in the township to make things like dentures more affordable for people. ”

In 2014 she took a leave of absence from the institution to compete in MasterChef SA and ultimately came seventh in the competition. She later resigned her position at CPUT and these days she is frantically getting her first restaurant 4Roomed Ekasi Culture off the ground.

AT YOUR SERVICE: Abigail's restaurant is getting rave reviews



DREAM COME TRUE: Abigail's first restaurant 4Roomed Ekasi Culture

The Khayelitsha based restaurant follows Abigail's first venture, a food truck, and is already getting rave reviews for the unique and healthy take on fine-dining township food.

"I am here seven days a week while we get it up and running and I am very hands-on with everything including cooking the food to meeting and greeting the customers," says Mbalo.

"It was important to me that the restaurant be based here in Khayelitsha because I want tourists who visit the area to see a different side to township life. Not everyone is poor and destitute, I wanted to encourage a good perspective as well."

Abigail now employs a minimum of three staff members with more being roped in as the restaurant gets busier over weekends.

Once the restaurant is established Abigail says she looks forward to getting back to her first love, Dental Technology, and again she wants to plough her trade in the township where she feels it is most needed.

"The dream is to open a Dental Technology Lab in the township to make things like dentures more affordable for people. I also want to rent space to newly qualified technicians so that they can work in a professional setting where their skills are needed," she says.

Class act

KURT MINNAAR
Maths teacher

Alumnus Kurt Minnaar's unconventional method of teaching maths is not only reaping rewards in the classroom but has also made him a media darling.



Picture: Lindsey Appolis

CLASS ACT: Kurt Minnaar's unconventional teaching methods has been the focus of much media attention

The Kraaifontein teacher uses his background as an accomplished hip hop dancer, who has represented South Africa internationally, to teach pupils maths concepts, including multiplication tables, through music and dance.

"When I was at school I wasn't very good at maths. You get different types of learners and they learn in different ways. If you focus on only one method you will cater for only one type of learner. I'm not replacing the traditional, I'm just giving the learners alternatives."

His out of the box approach has caught the attention of national and international media. In November last year he became a social media sensation after Heart FM host Aden Thomas watched a video of Kurt in action in

the classroom and featured him on his radio show. Interview requests have since flooded in and Kurt has been featured in several magazines and newspapers and on TV shows including Hectic nine-9 and eNCA's Real South African heroes.

Kurt recently resigned from Eben Donges High School in Kraaifontein, where he had taught for nine years, and is now taking his approach to a wider audience of schools. He founded the start-up, Dreamer Education, which features a number of music videos and tracks, focusing on multiplication tables, on its website. Workshops and training for teachers are also presented.

Kurt, who graduated from CPUT in 2009, has also been working on a one-man show about the education system, which will be directed by TV presenter and comedian, Soli Philander as well as a project with the Youngblood Gallery, which will involve a month of "Math meeting Art" in October. He is also continuing with this studies.

"I am currently doing my Honours in School management at CPUT Mowbray campus. "

He has a few words of motivation for graduates: "Be the difference. If you see that something is wrong, fix it. If the leadership isn't doing what it's supposed to do, step in. Own the problem."



DAWN EHRENREICH

Horticulturist

A garden planted in Mitchells Plain by CPUT alumnus Dawn Ehrenreich has grown into a self-sustaining project that has brought hope to many in the community.

Ehrenreich, who graduated with a National Diploma in Horticulture in 2007, firmly believes that if one follows your passion, success will follow.

The garden, planted in 2012 at a church in Portlands, Mitchells Plain, was initially started to support the church's soup kitchen and has since expanded to an adjacent piece of land.

Soon Ehrenreich started getting young people from the area involved in the garden and assisted them to study at the Elsenburg Agricultural Training Institute.

Some were also taught welding skills. "All of this was done in a bit to empower them and make them more employable." She also partnered with a drug recovery centre, which was not only therapeutic to the participants, but also resulted in the centre developing its own self-sustaining garden.

Dawn describes herself as "passionate about being a good steward of the earth and its people who aims to assist in solving societal problems".



DEDICATED: Dawn Ehrenreich helps her community through her garden project

After graduating she worked in nature conservation and later joined the City of Cape Town's WasteWise project as a community facilitator. Her interest in climate change resulted in her receiving training from former US vice-president, Al Gore's Climate Reality Leadership Corps Training programme, which aimed to equip communicators with the knowledge to educate communities on the costs of carbon pollution and what can be done to solve the climate crisis.

Ehrenreich says her most message to the class of 2016 would be to "follow your passion".

"Working in the corporate world didn't work for me. When I started following my passion I felt so much more fulfilled, despite not always having the finance. If you are driven by passion, you will become so much more successful."

MARELIZE DU TOIT

Food Technologist



SKILLED: Marelize Du Toit is a senior project manager in the molecular biology industry

Alumnus Marelize du Toit is a firm believer that one has to take responsibility for your own development.

While she studied Food Technology at CPUT, her career path took her in a different direction and she now works in project management in the molecular biology industry.

“Just because you are trained in a certain discipline does not mean you should be limited to doing that for the rest of your life. Be open to new opportunities that come across your path - you never know where you might end up.”

She credits the breadth of subjects that were covered during her studies at CPUT for providing her with a “great base” to build on.

“Our syllabus included Production, Process Engineering, Quality Assurance, and Product Development, all of which I have been able to apply in my career.”

Marelize now works for Roche Sequencing Solutions, a division of Roche Diagnostics.

“My position is Senior Project Manager, and it is my responsibility to manage our new product development projects. In this position I work with cross-functional teams to develop and commercialise new products for the sequencing market.”

She says the recurring theme of her career would be continuously learning new skills.

“I joined a biotechnology company with limited molecular biology experience, and worked alongside scientists with MSc and PhD degrees - I learned so much from my colleagues! I have also been very fortunate

“ Just because you are trained in a certain discipline does not mean you should be limited to doing that for the rest of your life. ”

to move cross-functionally several times, which is a fantastic way to learn - I hope to continue this throughout my career.”



MOTIVATION

BRENTON SWARTZ Mouth Artist

Brenton Swartz was only 15 when a shooting accident in Atlantis left him paralysed from the neck down.

But instead of giving up on his dreams the teenager pursued his passion for art. Today, 22 years later he is a successful mouth artist who uses his skill with a paintbrush to inspire others.

“My mother passed away two months before the shooting. I saw it as my responsibility to look after my brother and sister. My main thought was to stay strong for my family. I couldn’t lose hope.”

Brenton had always enjoyed drawing and technical drawing was his favourite subject at school. In 2001 he decided to try mouth painting and his very first painting took him three months to complete.

“It was like learning to write all over again. Now it takes me two or three days to complete a painting.”

Brenton enrolled at CPUT in 2003 and graduated with a National Diploma in Architectural Technology in 2006.

“I found it difficult to find a job that was wheelchair-friendly and ended up doing



INSPIRATION: Mouth artist Brenton Swartz uses this talent to inspire others

engineering drafting. Later I started doing drawings under the supervision of an architect and I still do some work from home.”

Brenton is a student of the Foot and Mouth Painters Association and receives a monthly bursary to enable him to practise his craft. The works of art produced are used for calendars, postcards and other items and sold overseas.

Last year the Western Cape Department of Social Development asked Brenton and a fellow artist to participate in a Disability Awareness month campaign where they displayed their talents to inspire severely disabled children. They also give regular talks at schools, which he sees as “an opportunity to give back”.

“I have always believed that if you really want to, you can but it takes hard work and sacrifice.”

Directing his dream

DARYNE JOSHUA

Film Director

From the Cannes Film Festival to getting Oscar buzz, CPUT alumnus and former part-time lecturer Daryne Joshua has hit an exciting phase in his career.

Last year his feature film directorial debut movie, *Noem My Skollie*, was selected as the South African entrant to the 89th Oscar awards and Daryne is now regarded as one of the “most knowledgeable, informed and creative young directors” currently working in the competitive film industry.

Produced by his company Gambit Films, *Noem My Skollie* tells the story of four youngsters who form a gang and how the art of storytelling assists one of them behind bars from being forced into the Numbers gang.

But while *Noem My Skollie* was an instant hit with local audiences these days Daryne is more focused on his latest feature length project- a movie based on the experiences of Cape Flats mom, Ellen Pakkies, who murdered her drug addicted son.



FLIP THE SRCIPT: Daryne studied Multimedia at CPUT but now makes movies.



Shooting on the movie wrapped last month and South African audiences are no doubt eagerly anticipating its release date.

Over a decade ago Daryne's rise to success began when he was part of CPUT's very first three-year course in Multimedia.

"One of the subjects there was video production and it was there for the first time that I touched a video camera. That's when the bug really bit me and my

lecturers encouraged me to go into film making," he says.

An additional year studying directing at AFDA (The South African School of Motion Picture Medium and Live Performance) in Cape Town also helped Daryne pursue his passion for movie making.

Gambit films has employed in the region of 100 people and also produces the KykNet soapie Suidooster which is set in the Western Cape.



ON SET: Daryne on the Noem My Skollie set

Water warrior

MURENDENI MAFUMO

Scientist

At the ripe old age of 31 this CPUT Chemistry alumnus is changing the world one precious water drop at a time.

Murendeni Mafumo's company, Kusini Water, specialises in creating mobile solar powered water purification systems which innovatively filters impurities using macadamia nut shells.

Macadamia nuts are a high value crop farmed mostly in the Limpopo region and the shells are usually discarded by farmers during processing. Thanks to Murendeni's invention rain or groundwater can be filtered through a macadamia shell membrane and result in perfectly safe drinking water with no bad smell or taste.

The device caught the attention of big business and in 2016 he won the Engen Pitch and Polish event which is described as the X-Factor competition of entrepreneurs, walking away with R60 000 on the night. As a scientist Murendeni says tackling the business world has been a challenging experience.

"It hasn't been easy, the people doing this kind of work already are usually engineers and I am a scientist but I think that what sets us apart is the research and development that goes into our devices. Also because we are a small company we can afford to be flexible and cheaper," he says.



LEARN FROM OTHERS: Murendeni Mafumo says graduates should get work experience

Kusini Water is currently building a unit in the Vhembe district of Limpopo where access to clean water is problematic but Murendeni also has his sights set on the current water stresses experienced by the Western Cape.

"We are also building a unit for seawater desalination," he says.

And while he may seem like he is living the dream to graduates who hope to mimic his success one day Murendeni warns that youngsters should put in the hard work first.

"It is important to get work experience, I worked for the City of Cape Town for four years then the City of Johannesburg. You need to go out there and learn from others," he says.



DR MERCY MANYUCHI

Chemical Engineer

While still in primary school Dr Mercy Manyuchi used to pretend that she was creating an Aids vaccine.

Now the CPUT alumnus, who graduated with a DTech in Chemical Engineering in 2016, is raking in the awards for her outstanding research. Among the awards she has won are The Zimbabwean Presidential Award for the Outstanding Female Researcher 2017, The Japanese International Award for Young Agricultural Scientists 2016, The Total Start Upper Award 2016 and The Tony Elumelu Entrepreneurs Award 2016.

Her current research is focused on value addition of waste to energy as well as biomaterials.



TALENTED: Dr Mercy Manyuchi has won several awards for her research

“I treat waste as a resource to bio products.”

In 2016 she was one of a select few scientists who received the Green Talents Fellowship.

“The Green Talents Fellowship is a German-based fellowship whereby young people from around the world are identified and get a chance to visit Germany as well as create research contacts in Germany. Every year only 25 scientists are selected worldwide. My research focus is based on alternative energy for mainly rural communities and I have specifically focused on biogas and bio coal.”

Mercy is currently employed in the Chemical and Process Systems Engineering Department at the Harare Institute of Technology. She says the highlight of her career has been the impact that her work as a researcher can have on society.

“I am driven by conducting applied research and knowing my products such as bio coal and biogas can positively impact people’s lives.”

She says the skills she acquired during her DTech studies at CPUT has stood her in good stead.

“During my DTech studies, I learnt to do my research independently as well as time management, tools that I find critical in my research career. My special thanks go to Prof Daniel Ikhu-Omoregbe and Dr. Oyekola who mentored me during my DTech research work.”

Her message to aspiring young researchers is to “believe in your potential”.

VICKI BUYS

Marketing

While growing up Vicki Buys thought she would follow a “traditional” career like nursing or teaching.

But her life took her on a very different path and the CPUT marketing alumnus has been climbing the ladder of success. In August last year she was appointed as the deputy managing director of Ogilvy & Mather in Cape Town.

“I’ve really had huge fun working in advertising. I’ve worked on some of the smallest as well as the biggest and best brands, at some of the best agencies in the country and with the most talented people. One highlight was being part of the team at Lowe Bull that won a Loerie Grand Prix for a Cape Times print campaign in 2007. Another was landing a very rare Gold Loerie for Effective Creativity this year for Volkswagen Uber up! That campaign also won a 2016 Apex. I am excited about the future – I’d love to run an agency one day,” Vicki says.

Her studies at CPUT gave her a good head start in her career.

“Looking at my peers who came from other tertiary institutions, I felt that having studied at CPUT, I had a better balance of theoretical and practical knowledge than some of the other grads.”

Vicki says she owes her success to hard work.

“Don’t be afraid to learn something new



HARDWORKING: Vicki Buys is the Deputy Managing Director of Ogilvy & Mather in Cape Town

“ Looking at my peers who came from other tertiary institutions, I felt that having studied at CPUT, I had a better balance of theoretical and practical knowledge. ”

every day. Always be ready to roll up your sleeves and get involved – no matter how “senior” you are. Speak your mind. Work very very very hard.”

Her message to the class of 2016 is to seize every opportunity.

“Some will be awesome and some won’t be, but every opportunity can teach you something. Don’t worry too much about what your friends or other graduates are up to. Define your own patch and stick to it.”



YOLISA NQODI

Teacher

CPUT alumnus Yolisa Nqodi grew up in a home where getting an education was not a requirement but a sacrament.

As a child growing up in the Cegcuana location in Nqamakwe in the Eastern Cape her mother inspired her to follow a career in teaching. This motivation paid off and in 1995 Yolisa graduated from CPUT with a National Diploma in Commercial Education. She started her teaching career at ID Mkize High School in Gugulethu, where she taught Accounting, Economics and Business Studies. When the school expanded its curriculum by introducing a Commerce stream, they needed a Commerce teacher and Yolisa stepped up to the plate. For a while she was the school's only Commerce teacher. As a result ID Mkize was selected to become a Business School in 2006.

"There is so much I enjoy about being a teacher. One of the most enjoyable things is the satisfaction you get when you see your learners improve: knowing that you are giving them an education; you are empowering them. Learners are fun, cute and full of surprises," she says.

Today Yolisa is employed as a curriculum advisor for Accounting (Further Education and Training) and Economic Management Sciences (EMS) in the Metro South Education District of the Western Cape Education Department.

Yolisa is a passionate runner who plans to tackle the New York Marathon this year. Last year she participated in the Two Oceans and the Comrades Marathon. She has these words of advice for the class of 2016: "Teaching is a vocation, not a job. As a teacher, you have to be a mother, a father, a counsellor, a friend, a mentor and a guide to the world. The majority of learners do not have anybody to teach them right from wrong."



PASSIONATE: Yolisa Nqodi

The CPGS will guide you every step of the way

Whether you are enrolled for our full-time or part-time Master and Doctoral qualifications.

We are based on the Bellville and Cape Town campuses and aim to be a one-stop shop for prospective and current postgraduate students. The CPGS directs all postgraduate study at CPUT. We support postgraduate students with research assistance, including planning a research project, survey design, questionnaire design, statistical consultation and editing of theses and dissertations.

The CPGS manages various postgraduate bursaries in which instance we partner very closely with the National Research Foundation (NRF) and other bodies.

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Creating values from CPUT INNOVATIONS

The CPUT TTO is the University unit responsible for the commercialization of innovations arising out of University research. We assist in maturing these innovations with ultimate aim of transferring this technology out of the university via licensing or assignment.

We work with university researchers and students from across the CPUT ecosystem. Our experienced team can guide the translation of academic research or early-stage ideas through

the commercialisation process. We assist with obtaining grant funding, intellectual property protection, and forming new businesses or licensing to industry.

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