

2018

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!



Valerie Deelman

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 12 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 alumni;
- Be eligible to be elected to serve on the Executive of the Alumni Association, alumni chapters and Convocation

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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- <https://www.facebook.com/cputalumni/>

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Congratulations from the Acting Vice-Chancellor

Congratulations to every member of Class of 2017, and deepest thanks to the university's staff members who made your success possible.

Our gratitude is also extended to the parents, guardians, family members and donors, who have sacrificed a lot to ensure this happy day becomes a reality.

These have been turbulent times in the country's higher education sphere and CPUT has not been spared. That is why this graduation week gives me such great pleasure, it is a joy and privilege to witness so many dedicated, determined young minds celebrating at these ceremonies. We have much to be proud of, particularly every single one of you.

While many of you will be entering the job market, some of you will be continuing your studies, but all of you

now share a common bond, you have become an alumnus of CPUT for life. We welcome you into the fold and urge you to stay in touch with 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.

You, our alumni, are our finest brand ambassadors and a reflection of our many achievements over the past couple of years. We wish you every success in the future and urge you to use your skills to help take our university, our country and continent to even greater heights.

Dr Chris Nhlapo
Acting Vice-Chancellor



AIFANI TAHULELA

Public Management



Aifani Tahulela, 25, has been awarded a full scholarship by the AESOP Project to undertake PhD studies in Global Human Development at University College Dublin, Ireland.

Aifani went through a rigorous selection process and got the nod from a group of international experts from the consortium's member institutions in Europe and South Africa. Having recently completed her Masters degree at CPUT on record time, she now aims to complete her PhD degree before the age of 27. She plans to work in the waste management industry for a few years before venturing into entrepreneurship by later establishing a "Turning Trash into Cash Academy" and "Your Trash My Cash" Company across the world with a particular focus of turning waste into resources and offering skills training.

She says that her studies taught her exceptional critical thinking and to dig deep in order to find solutions to problems. "From attending classes I learnt how to solve complex problems and that excellent results require hard work."

Many of the international conferences where she presented papers provided her with opportunities to network and make strong international collaborations.

"In the first year of my Masters I managed to present at an international conference in Namibia,

This young CPUT staffer believes that the university has prepared her well to prosper in a career in academia.

that was a door to my trip to USA for another conference," she says. After presenting a paper at an international conference she and her supervisor, Prof Harry Ballard, were selected to represent South Africa in a BRICS project on circular economy.

"My most memorable moment was when I walked on the red carpet during my BTech graduation cum laude," she says. "This was something that I had dreamed about and worked so hard towards achieving it, that moment made me believe that, with hard work and dedication, dreams do come true."

Currently, Aifani works as a conference organizer, facilitator and fundraiser in the Faculty of Business and Management Sciences. She returned from a trip to South Korea recently where she successfully bade for an international conference. She is now organizing and raising funds for the 2018 Sustainable Sanitation Waste and Water Management Conference in Cape Town which will be hosted by CPUT, North West University and University of Limpopo (see <http://www.sswcc.co.za/>).

ALFREDO BARENDS

Education

This young teacher and rugby coach, who is plying his trade overseas, attributes his career success to the practical-orientation of the training offered at CPUT and credits the university for identifying and nurturing his talent for rugby.

“With regards to rugby, CPUT identified my talent and opened many doors for my rugby career with all the exposure and opportunities to play rugby as a student,” says Alfredo Barends.

Alfredo is a Physical Education teacher in Shanghai, China and his duties include coaching and teaching different sport codes to learners from kindergarten to high school. After school he is the Head Coach at Shanghai Rugby Club where he motivates rugby players to reach to their full potential.

“It is my duty to build and train strong rugby players/teams who can compete against the rest

“ It is my duty to build and train strong rugby players/teams who can compete against the rest of the country. ”

of the country. Additionally, it is my responsibility to seek for talented rugby players across China who can represent them in next rugby world cup.” He graduated with an education degree in 2010 after representing CPUT in several University Sports South Africa rugby tournaments to the point where he received Merit Awards in two consecutive years for honorary colours in student rugby.



He speaks fondly of how his lecturers groomed him for success in his career. “They have equipped me with the necessary knowledge and skills for life after university, they gave me the confidence to believe in myself and assured me of a bright future.”

Following Alfredo’s success in the one year he has been a director and head coach at Shanghai Rugby Club, he was recently selected as China’s Sevens Rugby Coach. Prior to his move to China he had been a Director of Sport at Diazville High School (2015) and was also selected for SA schools under 17 elite rugby development (2016).

He plans to invest his coaching knowledge and skills in CPUT’s rugby academy as well as completing his Level 3 rugby coaching course.

DOUW DE KOCK

Interior Design

This newly-minted graduate has made great strides in the design industry as he has started his own company after working as Head of Design at HOTT3D designs for years.

Douw de Kock, who is running his own design firm in the coastal town of Hermanus, says that he enjoys producing work that he likes and is proud of. His focus is mainly on residential design, although he enjoys all aspects offered by his BTech degree in Interior Design which he completed in 2016.

“ Hard work, determination and a little bit of confidence is a good combination to achieve success. ”

“My duties range from design consultations to full design proposals for both renovations and new builds as well as council submission drawings,” says Douw. “I often do corporate identity branding as well which challenges you to think differently on how to approach a design challenge.”

He adds that winning the Caesarstone Student Design Competition in 2016 for a project that



he entered under the guidance of his two lecturers, Colleen Cocotos and Maryke Maree was a memorable moment. “Colleen and I got to travel to Italy and attend the Salone del Mobile in Milan. Needless to say, that was an amazing experience.”

He says that CPUT laid the foundation on how to approach a design project. “Through proper thought, research and determination, they showed me how a design can develop and evolve to gain depth which will give you the desired outcome in the end,” he says.

Douw attributes his success to his lecturers and mentors during his study years and says their belief in his ability gave him confidence to produce work of high quality.

“I feel that hard work, determination and a little bit of confidence is a good combination to achieve success in your career.”

Even though he thinks being able to work full time as well as receive a university degree part-time is already a milestone in itself, he adds that another milestone was being able to make the shift to start his own company. He plans to keep producing work of high quality in a consistent manner and to grow both his business and as an individual as evidenced by the projects pictured here he is currently working on.



ELIZABETH NAUDE

Education

Even though Elizabeth no longer teaches, she still thinks with the education mind-set that she was taught at CPUT.

"I don't teach anymore but I still work in the sector and I use the concepts I learned every day," says Elizabeth Naude who works for Flower Valley Conservation Trust as the Governance Support and Registration Coordinator.

"I still recall words of wisdom lecturers shared with us and still draw on that from time to time." Flower Valley is an environment conservation organisation that also runs an Early Childhood Development (ECD) Programmes.

"We have been subcontracted by the Department of Social Development to facilitate the registration of ECDs and partial care in the Overstrand area, I visit these centres to facilitate this process and ensure adherence to the norms and standards contained in the children's act."

“ Our programme was very practical when compared with other institutions, when I started to work I felt that I was ready to teach ”

The trust also supports four ECD centres with their learning programmes and governance, and Elizabeth's job is to help support ECD managers in their role while training and coaching them.

She obtained a Bachelor of Education degree in 2005 and her Honours degree in 2011.



"Our programme was very practical when compared with other institutions, when I started to work I felt that I was ready to teach as practical teaching was such a large part of our programme."

The moment she cannot forget was during her fourth year when her class took part in the remedial programme for children from the local primary school.

"After testing the child I was assigned to, I realised that he had the same physical challenge as me; His one leg was slightly shorter than the other. This gave me a sense of connection with the child and I thoroughly enjoyed tutoring him for the next couple of months."

After a couple of years of teaching she started working for a large NPO as a programme manager despite having no experience in that role.

"I was appointed because of my qualifications and experience in teaching."

Elizabeth quickly caught up and a year later was appointed to be the project manager for a new project the organisation was starting as she had learned so much in a short period and was proud to be appointed.

LIMPHO RAMOHLOLA

Somatology

The Sorbet Salon at the CapeGate Shopping Centre has created more than 50 jobs over the last seven years and intends to employ more people in the future.

The franchise salon is owned by Limpho Ramohlola who obtained her National Diploma in Somatology in 2005.

"I'm proud of having owned a successful business for seven years, I have also mentored and employed more than six therapists who are now having a career in the beauty industry," says Limpho.

Her duties include the daily running of the salon, buying and maintaining stock, ensuring that the therapists maintain the Sorbet standards in terms of the quality of their treatments and maintaining high hygiene standards.

"I also pay salaries and attend to complaints from our clients," she says.

She remembers her years at CPUT like it was yesterday. "The beginning of an academic year used to be filled with so much hope and the campus was buzzing with exciting activities that made one wants to be on campus."

She adds that having a student salon on campus prepared her for the outside world, as well as the Business Management assignments that they used to be given.



“I’m proud of having owned a successful business for seven years, I have also mentored and employed more than six therapists.”

She says that the university gave her a competitive edge over her competitors by offering her the three-year diploma with subjects that were taught by experts in their fields.

Limpho warns that there are lots of fly-by-night colleges that offer somatology diplomas in a few months' time with subjects that do not prepare students for the real world.

"At CPUT I had lecturers who were very passionate about education and the industry. They instilled in us passion and respect for our chosen career, they believed in us and challenged us to give more of ourselves."

She plans to create more jobs and mentor more people.

LUYANDA BHATYI

Retail Business Management

This budding entrepreneur has started two successful businesses in Khayelitsha, a fast foods enterprise and an apparel printing company.

Hawaii Fast Foods serves chicken wraps, burgers, boerewors rolls and pork, while NYM Printing Solution is an apparel decorator and personalized gifts business.

The enterprise offers its customers good food and prides itself in its menu being fresh and organic with food prepared in a simple manner and Luyanda Bhatyi is very hands-on in its activities. He does everything from cleaning and cooking to taking and serving orders to customers.

The printing establishment specializes in printing T-shirts, caps, hoodies, aprons, paper bags and promotional clothing for businesses, bands, clothing lines, events, organizations and parties as well as custom design services.



He obtained his National Diploma in Retail Business Management in 2014. Luyanda says that he realized his passion for business in

2012 when he was in his first year of study. They were given a project to promote and sell food during a marketing day and the lecturer told them each group's profits will determine their marks.



"It was very difficult but exciting at the same time, because it was a group task and everyone had to do something to make sure that people buy our goods. And remember, we were selling cold products such as ice creams and suckers on a cold day and we had to work hard to persuade students to buy from us when other students were selling hotdogs and hot chips. And that was the day I realized that business is my passion and something I can make a living out of."

At the age of 24, Luyanda's printing company has printed T-shirts for the likes of Dj Tira, Dj Mizz (the Koze Kuse hit maker) and the #feesmustfall campaign, while his food enterprise has catered for a tourism project involving CPUT and disabled children. He plans to have more branches of the food enterprise around Khayelitsha with the same taste and same product line as well as running more than 50 mobile kitchens for events.

"For printing, my goal is to own a big workshop with different types of equipment that has to do with printing," he concludes.

MICHELLE MARCO

Civil Engineering



Being a female role player in the construction industry is not easy but Michelle's success shows that it can definitely be done.

Over a year ago a dream, which Michelle Marco has had since she started working in the industry, came true when she was appointed as a construction manager at Prime Projects.

Prime Projects is a construction company which builds amazing apartments for a well-known developer in Sea Point.

"The idea of being responsible or part of the top management for the construction of a development is amazing to me, having achieved this at a very young age makes me very proud of myself," says the 28-year old Civil Engineering graduate.

She is involved in the entire project which consists of attending weekly meetings, liaising with consultants such as engineers and architects on

a daily basis. She oversees onsite construction work daily, making sure the project's deadlines are met as well as planning ahead.

"I also assist the labour with any HR-related queries and wages by being in constant communication with the HR manager. Quality control is also an important part of my work as this forms part of handing over a building that meets the requirements."

She adds that her graduation from CPUT meant everything to her, because not only did she manage to achieve a big milestone in her life she also felt part of an institution that builds futures.

She attributes her industry success to the year of Work-Integrated Learning that engineering students at CPUT are required to undergo. "It really helped me to see first-hand what the industry was like and what I'd be expected to do once qualified."

In the future she would like to be part of an organisation that empowers young disabled females to strive towards their goals. Both her legs were amputated from below the knee and she walks with the aid of prosthetic legs.

"You might ask yourselves why I chose a physically draining career while I'm disabled, well to me nothing is impossible and that's how I was raised. My disability makes me strive to be better and do better in life. And I would like to share my experiences with other young women to help them."

She would like to learn as much as she can in the next five years and gain as much experience as possible from her current position so that she can start her own construction business one day.

NOBUHLE MLAMBO

Occupational Health Nursing

“It makes me feel good to know that when I go to work people are happy to see me just as much as I am happy to be there. Working in the clinic can be very satisfying and less stressful but there is a great deal of work involved and critical thinking needs to happen very fast.”

These are the words of Nobuhle Mlambo, a Professional Nurse at the MKem Pharmacy, whose passion for her job and love for people has made a valuable employee.

“The travel clinic I work for has people of diverse cultures with clients from all over the world and I have met a lot of lovely people from all over,” she says. “It is a great learning environment with various specialities on site. I’m very proud to work at the clinic and am enjoying a positive nursing experience.”

Nobuhle is a nurse who is trained in many areas such as casualty, obstetrics, public and private clinic as well as doing travel vaccines, baby immunisations, administering injections of all kinds, drawing blood, wound dressing and consulting with clients over the telephone. She completed her BTech degree in Occupational Health Nursing in 2016 at CPUT, the only tertiary institution in the Western Cape that offers Occupational Health.

She says as part of her training at CPUT they took part in practicals for hours equivalent to a normal shift of a qualified nurse. “CPUT has a different approach to patient care, training and



“ It makes me feel good to know that when I go to work people are happy to see me just as much as I am happy to be there. ”

scope of practice; our training included visits to different sites in order to obtain experience and knowledge about different aspects of health, hygiene and effects of work environment on one’s health. The education from clinical rotations is very valuable. Not only do they offer hands-on practice for nursing skills, they also offer a wide base of experiences in many different units. Most new graduates finish university with an idea of what type of nurse they want to be and where they would want to work. She adds that the world class curricula at CPUT adequately prepared her to be a competitive nurse and that the academic and psychological support they enjoyed from the institution was tremendous.

In future she plans to open her own occupational health clinic, where she would also dispense medication and distribute personal protective equipment such as safety boots, helmets and safety gloves to the companies.

QASIM ABRAHAMS

Mechanical Engineering



Qasim Abrahams, 34, Vice President for Mining in Africa and Middle East at Metso Southern Africa.

Metso is a world-leading industrial company which offers equipment and services for the sustainable processing and flow of natural resources in the mining and related industries.

Prior to joining Metso in 2017, Qasim had spent three years as Vice President at ABB where he was responsible for developing and maintaining an organizational structure that fosters efficient and effective utilization of the firm's talents and ensures performance of high quality engineering services in a timely, efficient and profitable manner with an emphasis on client satisfaction. He graduated at CPUT with a BTech degree in Mechanical Engineering. This young business executive took time off his hectic schedule to respond to our questions.

What is your most memorable moment at CPUT?

Definitely the colourful characters and personalities from all walks of life whom I met. Also playing for the CPUT rugby team was one of my highlights.

How has CPUT prepared you for your career?

The late nights, long hours and hard work associated with the degree, definitely simulated the kind of pressure and exposure the "real" world has to offer. So, this was a good experience.

How did CPUT give you a competitive urge over others in your industry?

I personally believe the competitive edge really starts with oneself, and the willingness to put in the hours and the hard work. What differentiated myself from other graduates during interviews for internship opportunities was my exposure to practical work.

Which career milestones are you most proud of?

My current role as VP Mining for Africa, Middle East for an international firm, who are market leaders in their segment. I am the youngest executive in the organization at this level, leading the 3rd largest market area in the group.

What are your short term future goals or where do you see yourself in the next five years?

I do not associate success with a title, but rather the ability to impact positive change in the organization and the people I work with. So, definitely I plan to continue in a leadership role (of whatever magnitude), and potentially taking on a position where I am able to help others develop even further and be in a position to more strategically give input and participate in a global strategy for an international firm.

Hard work begets success. If you want to succeed in anything you want to do, you have to apply yourself and be willing to make sacrifices along the way. The journey is never easy, but it is rewarding. Find your passion, find your purpose and let this be the fire that ignites you. The only thing stopping us from moving forward, is ourselves. Nothing else!

SIPHOKAZI GATYENI

Mathematical Technology

“When I was younger I did not plan to study maths up to Masters’ level but once I started I enjoyed it and did not stop,” says Siphokazi Gatyeni, a SAP ERP Analyst at the City of Cape Town in the Information Systems and Technology (IS&T) Department.

Having a Master’s degree in Maths at the age of 25, the young Siphokazi is an inspiration to her peers across the country.

Her job at the municipality deals with technical service requests for e-Services Portal, and she also supports 1st and 2nd line business whose responsibility is to resolve a broad range of IT-related faults quickly and efficiently.

After completing her National Diploma in Mathematical Technology in 2013 at CPUT, she went to Stellenbosch University to enrol for a BSc

She adds that in five years’ time she sees herself holding a PhD degree in Mathematics.

She encourages others to work hard in order to be successful in their endeavours as nothing is easy in life.

“I made it, and so can you too, if you are determined and work hard.”

“ I made it, and so can you too, if you are determined and work hard. ”

Honours degree in Mathematics. This paved the way for Siphokazi to proceed to her Masters’ degree in 2015.

“That was a great milestone and I am proud of the fact that I am a product of CPUT,” she says.

“Being at CPUT was amazing, I liked the pastoral care I got from my lecturers. That has made me who I am today and I am so grateful.”



TIMOTHY VERMEULEN

Surface Design

This young designer plans to build a strong reputation in the footwear industry and make sure that South African footwear design and manufacturing grows.

Born in Cape Town, Timothy Vermeulen took after his grandparents who also worked mostly in footwear factories. He says it is important for him to keep up with technological developments in the industry in order to stay on top of his game.

Timothy is part of the Bolton Footwear design office in Elsie's River. Essentially, his job involves working with his design team to put together a seasonal range. His daily duties to ensure that their product is successful require a considerable amount of research and development. This involves pattern cutting, prototype development, market research and a significant amount of Computer Assisted Design work using various software.

"Most days are demanding due to the heavy workload and pressure from competition but seeing a complete functional product makes it worthwhile," he says.

He says that completing his BTech degree in Surface Design was the happiest moment in his life. "Thinking back on my years at CPUT, I would like to thank my lecturers who were passionate

“ Most days are demanding due to the heavy workload and pressure from competition but seeing a complete functional product makes it worthwhile ”

about design and teaching. Every year they manage hundreds of students, preparing them for the world of work. The Surface Design lecturers are brilliant, they went beyond

teaching the curriculum and had a more holistic approach to developing a student who is able to market themselves and make a contribution in their chosen field."



He adds that CPUT's training regime puts more emphasis on practical work which ensures that students leave the university well prepared and able to handle a busy workplace.

"Our Surface Design assignments were a combination of practical work and theory, the assignments were always interesting but most of all they required creative expression, which I later learnt, was about moulding the individual and preparing them for real world competition. Design is a challenging discipline, which makes it difficult to stay relevant so I believe one needs to find a competitive edge and work at refining and mastering your craft.

VERITY CARSTENS

Environmental Health

The courage to be dedicated and passionate about helping others in her field of work she learnt while studying at CPUT helped Verity Carstens become a Senior Environmental Health Practitioner at the City of Cape Town within a relatively short period of time.

Verity graduated with a BTech degree in Environmental Health in 2006 and says her graduation day was a very proud moment in her life that she shared with her family.

The duties of an Environmental Health Practitioner are very diverse including monitoring formal food premises and investigating complaints from the community such as noise nuisances, contraventions of the tobacco legislation, unhygienic conditions, food sampling, to name a few.

They also run health promotion programmes, investigate notifiable diseases, monitor places of care such as Early Childhood Development centres, building development, water quality management.

“My short-term goal is to further advance my experience in the building development sector, and in the long term I would like to be an Environmental Health educator - I enjoy sharing knowledge.”

“Environmental Health Practitioners are primarily focused on the health and wellbeing of the



community and the environment,” she says. She adds that the learning and training she underwent during her studies at CPUT provided her with a great foundation, teaching her that hard work and knowledge are the key to success.

“My short-term goal is to further advance my experience in the building development sector, ensuring the health legislation is applied and that our communities become more accessible to all members of the public, and in the long term I would like to be an Environmental Health educator - I enjoy sharing knowledge.”

She advised others to work hard, learn from others and seize all the opportunities you are given. “Take pride in your work as ultimately this is a reflection of who you are as a person.”

Creating value from CPUT INNOVATIONS

Scientific insights and academic breakthroughs draw interest and enthusiasm from the research community. However, without a partner willing to commit in bringing the invention to the marketplace, many potential benefits of these breakthroughs are likely to end in the laboratory.

With a focus on societal and economic impact, we develop and commercialise technologies developed by Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) academics and students. The vision of CPUT Technology Transfer Office (TTO) is thus, 'to provide a technology transfer process that creates value for the people of South Africa.'

The TTO supports CPUT's researchers, staff and students, offering commercial skills and a range of specialist resources in order to maximise innovation impact. Income is shared with those involved according to the IPR Act, and profits from commercialisation are returned to the University to benefit research and education.

Our services include, inter alia:

- Intellectual property protection
- Sourcing of development funding
- Pre-commercialisation activities

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