

Emeriti Prof Breakfast March 2019

Dear Former Colleagues,

Welcome back to CPUT! Thank you for accepting this breakfast invitation. I realise that for most of you, your retirement years may be busier than your working ones so we really do appreciate you finding the time for your former employer.

In July CPUT celebrated its Long Service awards and no fewer than 247 staff members received certificates of long service, it amounted to a collective 4360 years of service! You more than likely also received one of these awards during your career. The reason for me mentioning this is that you have helped build a strong, sustainable university which employees continue to choose to dedicate their life's work to.

Similarly, CPUT remains an institution of choice for the majority of school leavers and our ever popular Open Day attracted in the region of 18 000 prospective students and guardians in May.

As popular as the institution may be, it needs something more. You... As you reminisced with former colleagues this morning you may have pondered on the so called 'glory' days of the institution. We need your institutional memory to continue to build and grow the university into all that it can be.

Whether you are old Cape Technikon, Peninsula Technikon or CPUT- your contribution is valued. I have a small example of how your collective strength could make a difference. Last year an under privileged graduate had her entire graduation cost completely paid for by a small group of alumni known as the Class of the 70s. I mention it because it is a small example of the impact a simple message on a whatsapp group can have. Quickly funds were raised and the group changed a graduate's life forever. Aviwe had little hope of attending her graduation but they made it possible. Imagine what kind of changes we can elicit with your collective support coupled with institutional muscle.

You have networks we can leverage and more than that, you have time you can contribute to strengthening the CPUT Convocation, which is the largest university constituency. We want you to have a say in university matters and have a seat at the decision making table of the university. Because ask yourself this question, if you do not take the seat... who will? I'll tell you who will, and who has been trying to get a seat at that table since the crisis that hit the entire Higher Education sector a few years ago. Opportunistic individuals who do not have the university's best interests at heart but instead want to use the considerable clout of Convocation to sway the university's agenda towards selfish aims. Please consider stepping up on September 7.



We have much to be proud of here at CPUT, and your attendance here today is evidence of your continued fondness for the university. Because I can never miss an opportunity to brag- allow me to do so now.

- In December we launched South Africa's most powerful nano-satellite and with it went the country's future space ambitions. It was built on Bellville campus by a young team called the Space Cadets.
- One of our top researchers Prof Tandi Matsha won the Data Research Award in the NSTF South32 Award ceremony for excellence in science, engineering, technology and innovation in SA. This for her work into Cardiometabolic Health. To put it into perspective Prof Matsha has won the equivalent of the Oscar for her work (it is also worth noting that a large portion of her research took place in the Belhar area and greatly assisted the local community there).
- And finally a senior lecturer in our Dept of Biomedical Sciences, Dr Kathleen Grant, is the lead author of a promising study affecting women with early stage breast cancer which eliminates the need for chemotherapy.

So in conclusion- there is important, exciting developments on the go at CPUT, you are more than likely integral parts of many of these research projects. Please stay connected to us, we still need you and we look forward to engaging with you and taking CPUT forward towards its Vision 2030 ambitions.

Thank You

