

## Vice-Chancellor Speech: Granger Bay 30<sup>th</sup> Celebration on 2 Dec 2019

Dear Colleagues, Students, former students and friends

What a special day it is that we can gather, in this spectacular setting on this beautiful day, and reflect on the milestone of the Cape Town Hotel School's 30<sup>th</sup> celebration. In an increasingly competitive higher education landscape this takes some doing. The recipe for a 30 year success story contains some key ingredients like dedicated staff, excellent industry ties and of course that ever present infusion of ubuntu which permeates through the curriculum and every guest experience. To the students and former students, you have been privileged to study in this ideal location and at a campus which is the jewel of the CPUT crown. I hope you appreciate your time spent here.

All CPUT departments and courses boast a connection to industry that guides the course offering and assists in employing our graduates. However in the case of the Cape Town Hotel School we have something extra special. Founded in 1981 to fix the ailing hospitality industry, the school graduated its first class of only 41 students. Today this school graduates in the region of 400 students every year, an indication of how the course offerings have expanded to meet the changing needs of industry. These excellent industry ties are also felt in the Work Integrated Learning component of the each course. Where other courses are struggling to find placements for the students, the Cape Town Hotel School still boasts a 100% placement in industry. This happens because the hotels, guest houses and hospitality partners appreciate that a **CPUT student .... Is a quality student.**

The second ingredient in this magical recipe for success is the dedication of staff. In a world of job hopping it is truly remarkable when you find staff members who had spent over 30 years building their careers in one place. Ri-Anne Voigt you started as a lecturer and have worked your way into the position of HOD. We also appreciate the efforts of Rina, Debbie, Mariette and Desre who all boast about 3 decades of service. Your institutional knowledge and commitment to CPUT and the Hotel School students is worth a special mention. Equally, to the Director of the School, Dr Thembisile Molose- you embody the type of excellence that we expect from our alumni. You were once a student at this very school, you then left for industry and honed your trade and now you are back to shape the next generation of talent. Thank you to these individuals, and all the other dedicated staff working behind the scenes to maintain the school's reputation as a centre of excellence.

And this reputation is appreciated beyond our shores. In 2022 the Cape Town Hotel School will be the host of the Euhofa (**PRONOUNCED E-HOFA**) International Congress, which is the International Association of Hotel Schools. You will agree ladies and gentlemen that exposing our staff and students to the international hospitality community is a career changing experience and we look forward to benchmarking the CPUT experience with this community of hotel school experts.



Thank you to the event organisers for putting this stunning event together. I hope the evening is full of fond reminiscing and networking.  
Thank You

