

2016

GRADMAG

CPUT ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Congratulations
to the class of 2015!



creating futures



Cape Peninsula
University of Technology

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WELCOMES YOU TO AN EXCLUSIVE CLUB OF HIGH-CALIBRE GRADUATES

Heartiest congratulations to our graduates on this special day. Your hard work, dedication and commitment to your studies has been exemplary. We'd like to now invite you to become a member of the CPUT Alumni Association, along with the tens of thousands of talented men and women who have earned their diplomas and degrees from CPUT.

Whilst your studies may be over for now, we encourage you to remain in touch with your Alma Mater. By updating your details and staying connected with the CPUT Alumni Office, you can:



Valerie Deelman

- Receive our electronic alumni newsletter, the Alumni Connect
- be invited to career-enhancing gatherings, networking events and socials
- be able to participate in workshops and activities to address alumni, University and societal needs
- Be invited to CPUT as a motivational guest speaker, to inspire current students and address graduation ceremonies
- be able to access on-campus resources and be eligible for some wonderful exclusive discounts
- be eligible to be elected to serve on the Executive of the Alumni Association, alumni chapters and Convocation



Francois Jooste

To take full advantage of all we have to offer, visit our Alumni page at www.cput.ac.za to update your details and join our LinkedIn and Facebook groups.

We'd love you to pop in and visit the Alumni Office on the Cape Town Campus of CPUT, and update us per email with news of your career success.

Email: alumni@cput.ac.za

Tel: +27 21 460 3786/3829

features

Alumni Profiles

| | |
|---|----|
| Lindsey Cyster 2 | 2 |
| <i>Emergency Care Technician and External Load Operator</i> | |
| Pavo de Freitas 4 | 4 |
| <i>Entrepreneur and Businessman</i> | |
| Julian Peters 5 | 5 |
| <i>Human Resources</i> | |
| Gary van Wyk 6 | 6 |
| <i>Photographer</i> | |
| Sarita Louw 8 | 8 |
| <i>Teacher</i> | |
| Sylvia Shilikomwenyo 9 | 9 |
| <i>Biotechnologist</i> | |
| Robin Adams 10 | 10 |
| <i>Journalist</i> | |
| Amanda Gcanga 12 | 12 |
| <i>Researcher</i> | |

contributors

PUBLISHED BY CPUT Alumni
Department

WRITER Jan Weintrob

PRINTING Koerikai on environmentally
friendly Munken Lynx paper



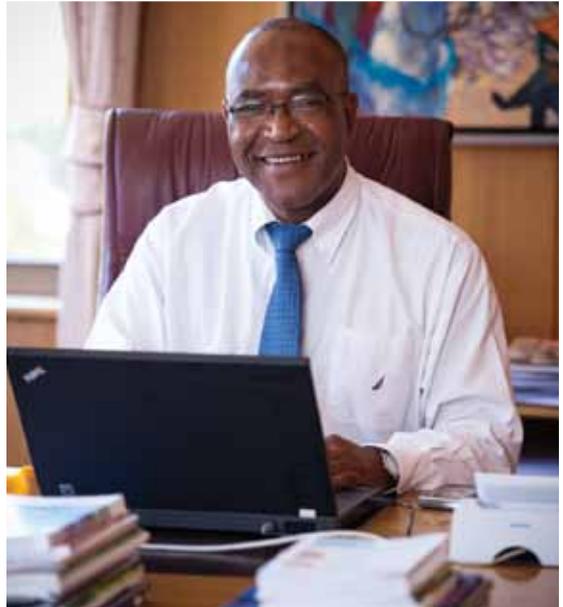
Congratulations from the Vice-Chancellor

Class of 2015,
congratulations to every
one of you, and deepest
thanks to the staff members
of the university who have
contributed to your success.
Our gratitude and thanks is
also extended to the parents,
guardians, caregivers, family
members and donors, who
have sacrificed so much to
ensure this happy day has
come to pass.

These have been turbulent times in the South African higher education sphere and CPUT has had its share of ups and downs. 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.

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 – today you become an alumnus of CPUT, and will be 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



Vice-Chancellor Dr Prins Nevhutalu

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 decade. 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 ever-greater heights.

Alumni Profiles



LINDSEY CYSTER

Emergency Medical Technician
and External Load Operator

“That feeling you get when you’ve rescued a person at sea or in the mountains and reunited them with their family is overwhelming!” So says Lindsey Cyster, an Emergency Care Technician, and one of the first

female External Load Operators (ELO’s) in South Africa and the continent. An ELO is essentially the eyes and ears of the rescue pilots on the helicopter. She directs the pilot on how to manoeuvre the aircraft during rescue operations and loads and removes rescued patients.

Motivated by her mother, who is a nurse, Lindsey got her passion for all things medical



“ That feeling you get when you’ve rescued a person at sea or in the mountains and reunited them with their family is overwhelming! ”

by sometimes accompanying her mom to hospital. Being more of an adrenaline junkie however, Lindsey chose the paramedic route, completing a National Certificate of Emergency Care in 2011. She qualified as an External Load Operator for the Red Cross Air Mercy Service a year ago.

“I always wanted to help people and the thrill of being able to do it from a rescue helicopter platform is very special. Being part of a rescue team is an awesome feeling but the cherry on top is seeing the smiles and hearing the heartfelt ‘Thank you!’, after you’ve done a good job.”

Lindsey says she loves working with different

people every day, making a change in their lives and the rush that comes along with it.

“You need to be mentally and emotionally strong and fit for this job though, because things are not always sunshine and roses. As an ELO, physical strength is needed as you have to move people and equipment in and out of the aircraft.

My advice to new graduates is to follow your dreams, no matter how challenging this is. Success is never easily achieved, you have to work hard for it. And women – don’t be intimidated in a male-dominated field! Set your mind, go for it, and don’t stop until you succeed.”



"We pride ourselves on providing a professional service at an affordable rate to corporates, while giving back to the community. Having worked in contact centres, we realised that

“ My lecturers have always been incredibly helpful and provided an endless stream of knowledge. To graduates entering the world of entrepreneurship with a business idea, I say ‘Get the ball rolling!’ Even if you are moving at a very slow pace, it is a million times better than being stagnant. ”

PAVO DE FREITAS

Entrepreneur and Businessman

This newly-minted graduate is that rare thing – someone who truly believes in giving back. He has already put his money where his mouth is, having pledged to plough back up to 10% of his companies’ profits to education. CPUT’s Bursary Fund has already reaped the benefits.

Pavo graduated with a diploma in Entrepreneurship in 2013 and wrote final exams for BTech: Management in Entrepreneurship in early 2016. He is now the founder and owner (along with his cousin) of Isipho Recruitment. Isipho specialises in providing staff for various positions to contact centres throughout Cape Town.

quality staff are highly sought after, but not always readily available. I helped former employers with staffing solutions and loved it so much that I decided that it was a business I would like to go into.”

Pavo loves linking individuals with opportunities and corporates with human capital.

“It’s a good feeling knowing that I have helped a client find the right candidate who fits all the job requirements and mixes well with the corporate culture. I also like giving back as it gives our business a greater sense of purpose. We decided to choose the name Isipho, it means gift in isiXhosa. We knew right from the start that we wanted to give back.”

Pavo is considering doing an MTech, and says he loved being a student at CPUT and the Entrepreneurship Department, in particular.



www.facebook.com/isiphorecruitment

info@isiphorecruitment.co.za

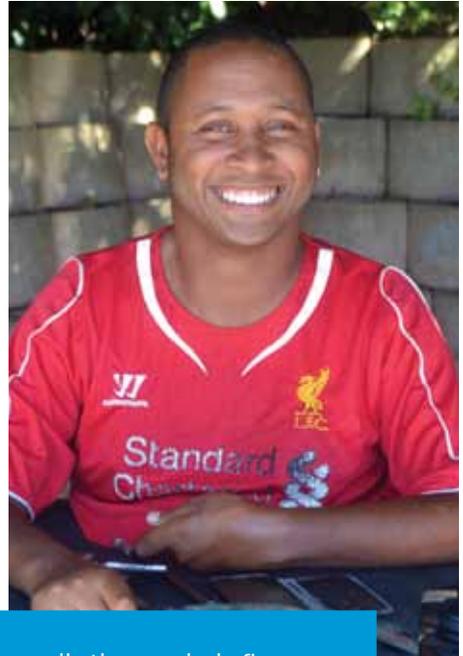


JULIAN PETERS

Human Resources

The ever-smiling Julian, often found chatting with his friends in the sunshine on Cape Town campus, has overcome many challenges to complete his National Diploma in Human Resource Management. Ten years ago, this remarkable young man and avid cricket player dived into a swimming pool, breaking his neck as he hit the water.

He has been confined to a wheelchair ever since. This hasn't stopped him from striving for independence and achieving his educational goals. This year he is registered for a BTech in Human Resources, a career choice he thought long and hard about following his accident.



“From day one at CPUT I had the support of the amazing Dr Nina Du Toit, Head of Department of the Disability Unit. The Unit helped me with everything I need, from feeding to organising scribes for me to write exams. My lecturers were very helpful and my classmates hugely accommodating. On my first day, my lecturers announced that I would need help taking my computer out my bag, settling in to class and packing away my stuff afterwards, which everyone was glad to do.”

Julian aims to finish his BTech this year and climb the Human Resource ladder as high as possible.

“ I had to be realistic and define my core strengths after I was paralysed. My dreams of playing professional cricket were now over – so what was I good at? Talking, of course”, he says with his trademark gentle smile. ”

“Success to me is finishing whatever I have started. To be as independent as possible and be able to provide for myself is also critical. I don't get discouraged easily as I associate myself with positive people. Everyone has those moments where we wish life was better. I just let the moment be and get over it. Sometimes I go to a buddy and talk it out. Remember, there is always someone in a more difficult position than yourself. Keep going, and look at the bright side of life.”

GARY VAN WYK

Photographer



Gary graduated from (the former) Pentech in 2003 with a National Diploma in Photography. He is a partner in local photographic and cinematic agency, Gingko, who work for such prestigious clients as the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Nikon and Mercedes-Benz. He's also more famously known as the behind-the-scenes photographer on the third season of the SABC 3 show, 21 Icons. Gary tells us a little of his fascinating journey.



Imizamo Yethu, Hout Bay, 2015.

As a photographer, I find every part of the frame of a photograph to be equally important. An image's background has always felt as crucial to me as the foreground, and this one really shows that. There is a youthfulness captured here, but the photograph still speaks to the layers of life found in SA today. As adults, it's crucial to make the kinds of decisions that help the youth of our country.



My most memorable experience of Pentech is Colin Adonis – my first year lecturer. His passion for photography and his love for people inspired me as a student – for me he was the perfect example of a teacher, and that’s what I needed at the time to encourage me to pursue photography as a career.

George Hallett, in my third year, was a huge influence in the style of photography that I am most passionate about – this being documentary photography. George took our



Hout Bay Beach, 2016.

As a student I became obsessed with the work of the great Henri Cartier-Bresson. He became famous for the term ‘The Decisive Moment’ - that creative fraction of a second when you take a meaningful photograph. Always be ready for the unexpected moments. This was one of them.

in his field, his passion for his work never waned. He also had an incredible sense of humour, making everyone laugh and feel at ease throughout the shoot.

“ My advice to new graduates in photography is to take photos every day. Learn from your mistakes and keep moving forward. Study the Masters of Photography in order to expand your knowledge of the art and find your own voice through that. ”

class on a trip to Genadendal - it was on this trip that it felt like the class really connected and I truly started enjoying photography.

The dark room was the place where I remember spending some of my best times in the Photography Department – seeing your photograph develop and printing through the night to hand in projects.

In my third year I did a two-day internship at Independent Newspapers and ended up working there as a staff photographer for five years. I was then head-hunted by Oryx Media, where I worked for two years. I then met Adrian Steirn at the beginning of the 21 Icons project in 2010. Together a few of us formed The Ginkgo Agency, where I’ve been working on awesome projects for the last six years.

Out of the 3 Seasons of 21 Icons, Professor Phillip Tobias inspired me the most. His vast knowledge about his field of expertise was extremely impressive. What impressed me most though was that even though he was an expert

What I absolutely love about my job is that every day is different. I travel the world seeing the most incredible places and get to meet new, interesting and inspiring people along the way.

Traits that are essential to the job are to be able to work under pressure; be willing to work hard; be flexible because sometimes the work involves jobs you don’t necessarily want to do and most importantly – to be able to adapt to changing situations.

My advice to new graduates in photography is to take photos every day. Learn from your mistakes and keep moving forward. Study the Masters of Photography in order to expand your knowledge of the art and find your own voice through that.

For me, photography is about capturing life as it is – so in order to take good photographs, you need to live life and experience as much as possible. As a National Geographic photographer once said – ‘If you want to take more interesting photographs, stand in front of more interesting things.’”



Sarita (left) racing with Team CPUT Absa Cape Epic partner, Etienne Joubert.

SARITA LOUW

Teacher

28 year old Sarita Louw completed a B.Ed Intermediate and Senior Phase degree at CPUT in 2011. She's now a teacher at Hottentots Holland High School and also happens to be an incredible cyclist, who completed the Absa Cape Epic, one of the toughest mountain-bike stage races in the world, a mere few weeks ago.

A battle-hardened veteran in the mountain biking world, having raced in almost every big race there is, Sarita often wins 1st, 2nd or 3rd place. In this year's Epic, she achieved the quickest time of individual finishers in the mixed category.

Sarita says her time at CPUT is definitely four years of her life that she misses.

"I met my closest friends during that time and miss seeing them every day. Wellington is a beautiful campus and my lecturers were always helpful and friendly. Wellington also has some of the best MTB trails around. We had a great

“ Teaching and caring for the children with challenges in their lives is a joy. When the kids show respect towards me and appreciate what I do for them I am happy. I think to be a good teacher, one has to have a strong personality and be selfless. ”



Sarita (left) with her husband, Etnard Louw, at the Absa Cape Epic 2016.

group of friends riding together enjoying the single tracks.”

She says the children she works with are sometimes challenging, but the more she understands their culture, the better she is able to handle discipline.

Her father and husband play a very big role in her cycling and the level at which she is riding today. Her dad is also an alumnus of CPUT, having graduated from the Engineering Faculty of the former Cape Tech.

"My father is one of my best friends and we are very much alike. I enjoy training with him and having a laugh."



SYLVIA SHILIKOMWENYO

Biotechnologist

Sylvia, the Deputy Chief Medical Technologist at the Namibia Institute of Pathology (NIP), graduated 6 years ago with a BTech: Biomedical Technology, cum laude, from CPUT.

The self-confessed bookworm has high praise for the Biomedical Sciences Department, especially for Professor Khan and Ms Santos, whom she says, always went the extra mile for their students and were passionate about teaching.

Sylvia returned to Namibia in 2011, where she was employed as an intern at the NIP. After completing her board exams, she slowly worked herself up to her current position. It's a broad role that involves Quality Management, HR Management, Occurrence Management and Safety and Inventory Management, amongst others. Most critically, Sylvia is

responsible for supervising the testing and technical processing of patient sample testing - ensuring quality results for quality patient care.

“The only way to do great work is to love what you do!”

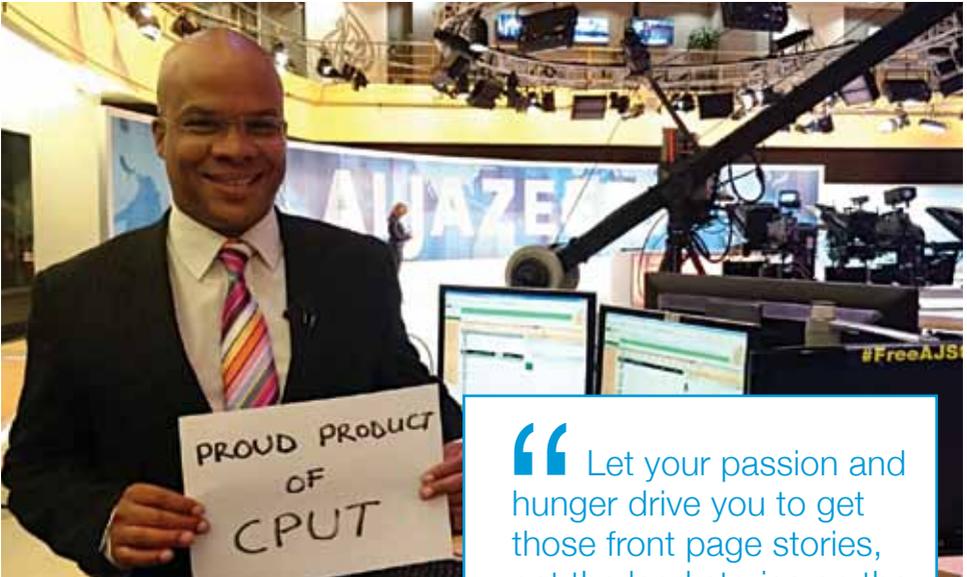
Sylvia explains that the NIP is the largest diagnostic pathology service provider in Namibia.

“It handles all public health sector pathology testing and provides an extensive array of disease monitoring services. Laboratory results provide information which enables physicians and other healthcare workers to make diagnostic or therapeutic decisions for their patients. In a nut-shell, the services which the NIP offers are crucial. Without medical labs, it would be complex, if not impossible to detect and diagnose certain diseases or conditions and to monitor the progress and results of treatment.”

Sylvia is passionate about her role in contributing towards health care delivery in Namibia. Key traits that help her perform at her peak are patience, a methodical, accurate approach and strong organisational skills.

Her advice for those about to enter the field is pretty simple -continuous engagement in professional development and life-long learning.

Her final piece of wisdom for young graduates is a quote from Steve Jobs which she fully endorses, “The only way to do great work is to love what you do!”



ROBIN ADAMS

Journalist

This sparky livewire with the infectious smile completed a National Diploma in Journalism at the former Pentech, graduating in 2001. But believe it or not, his dream job was something quite different. He shares his interesting journey to becoming a sports anchor at one of the world's premier broadcast networks, Al-Jazeera, in Doha, Qatar.

"My dream, ever since I was three, was to be a bus driver. And when I matriculated in 1997, I had three years to kill before I was of legal age to drive a bus. So I finished my course at Pentech and joined Golden Arrow soon after to fulfil a childhood dream. Best job I ever had. But please don't tell my bosses at Al Jazeera I said that!

“ Let your passion and hunger drive you to get those front page stories, get the lead stories on the TV newscast, do those live crossings for radio and Tweet, Facebook and Instagram too. And always have fun while doing it! ”

My three years of bus-driving was the most fun I had in my life. Every single day on shift was a new experience – and a memorable one too. I was the youngest driver at Atlantis depot and probably the tiniest to boot. So picture this young laaitie driving a huge double decker bus – fun times!

I feel incredibly proud of studying the journalism course at the former Pentech. When I applied in

1997 I was one of about 8,000 applicants. That was narrowed down to a few hundred to write an entry exam – I was one of them. Eventually only 40 were selected – I was one of them. After three years, only a dozen or so actually finished the course – I was one of them.

I loved how hands-on the course was. We sat in courtrooms doing crime reporting, we developed photos in the darkroom and we even got to spend an entire year working for a media house earning good money.

I started my media career at Independent Newspapers where I worked as a reporter and photographer. After stints at Good Hope Radio and Heart 104.9 FM, I eventually worked my way up to Prime Time sports presenter on eTV, then Sports Editor and eventually getting my own TV show – Sports Fan with Robin Adams. When the chance to go international came knocking, I grabbed it with both hands. I moved to Doha, and here we are five years later. I have been very blessed. Work has taken me around the world allowing me to meet fabulous people along the way. I love interacting with some of the biggest sports stars in the world.

Our Olympic swimming sensation Natalie Du Toit will always be an inspiration to me. Her beautiful nature and bubbly personality is infectious. West Indies cricket legend Brian Lara is one of the most fantastic people I have met. We hit it off immediately and have been in contact ever since.

In my current position, I write, edit and produce sports inserts for our daily bulletins on Al Jazeera International, which is beamed live across the world to about 1 billion people. I also go out into the field to report from big sporting events like the Africa Cup of Nations and the Monsoon Cup sailing competition in Malaysia.

Live television is immediate, direct and fun – it's also super-stressful. Especially when sports



events are live while you are on-air. Football scores change in seconds, cricket games can turn in a matter of minutes. So that script you're about to present to the world in the next 30 seconds can become useless on the spot. You need to be calm when producers and directors whisper scores in your ears, causing you to abandon the script.

My advice to the newly-minted graduates would be – don't ever watch the clock, unless you're on deadline. Journalism is a 24-hour a day job. Let your passion and hunger drive you to get those front page stories, get the lead stories on the TV newscast, do those live crossings for radio and Tweet, Facebook and Instagram too. And always have fun while doing it!"

AMANDA GCANGA

Researcher

Living in a drought-prone country, we often hear that water is a precious commodity, not to be wasted. These words inform a passionate young CPUT researcher's philosophy – she not only believes water is the essence of life, but is using her formidable intellect, knowledge and experience to ensure equitable access to water for all in SA.

Amanda Gcanga completed a BTech: Water Engineering at CPUT in 2012. Through CPUT's International Office, she was then awarded a full scholarship to study for a Masters in International Land and Water Management at the University of Wageningen in the Netherlands. Amanda's thinking around water issues was deeply influenced during this time, with consultancy work taking her to Spain, Ethiopia and Malawi.

"Part of the programme focuses on water use and sustainability of irrigation schemes, watershed management, water institutions, climate change, and water system design at catchment level. One has to "marry" the technical and social aspects to try establish the most appropriate approaches to deal with challenges in the water sector, fully taking into consideration equity and gender."

From looking at ways to make irrigation methods more equitable and accessible and improving public health through better



“ I hope to influence rural development and poverty alleviation policy across Southern Africa.”

sanitation systems, Amanda's foundation in water engineering drives her passion to meet the challenges of

water allocation reforms in SA, particularly for emerging farmers.

"I am currently registering for a PhD and I work as a researcher at the Centre for Water and Sanitation Research, at CPUT Bellville. Here I contribute towards framework development, data analysis, and writing draft chapters. I'm also involved in project proposal development and I help mentor Masters students."

"My research topics include rural development and implementation of poverty alleviation projects, water allocation reform, water governance, and water institutions. Once I have completed my PhD. I'd love to play a major role in rural policy development, and water and agriculture programmes across South and southern Africa."

Graduated and want to study further?

The CPGS will guide you every step of the way, whether you opt for our full or part-time MTech programmes or PhD qualifications.

You'll find us on Bellville and Cape Town campuses, where we aim to be a one-stop shop for prospective and current postgraduate students. The CPGS manages all postgraduate bursaries at CPUT, including the CPUT bursary, the Mauerberger bursary, a wide range of NRF bursaries and other tuition grants. We also support postgrad students and staff with research assistance, including planning a research project, survey design, questionnaire design, statistical consultation and statistical data analysis.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US

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Are you clued-up on the rewards of Intellectual Property management and commercialisation?

Researchers of CPUT – here at the TTO, we facilitate, protect and enhance the transfer of IP from CPUT to the business sector, uplifting the communities we serve while generating royalty income for the university and the applicant.

We're here to help with all your questions on protecting your research through patents, copyright, trademarks and much more.

For further information on technology transfer issues visit the TTO on the Bellville campus, call or email us on:

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