Congratulations to the class of 2013

Education is a life long journey

GOING PLACES: Hugo Chichana (class of 2009) is the co-founder of Paradise Jungle a website that aims to get ordinary South Africans talking about themselves.
features

Congratulations from the Vice-Chancellor

Class of 2013, it is an honour to preside over your graduation ceremony, the crowning achievement of all your efforts these past few years.

Congratulations to every one of you for your perseverance and resolve in successfully completing your studies, and warmest thanks to the staff members of the CPUT who contributed to your success. In witnessing your joy and celebration, I would also like to acknowledge the parents, guardians, caregivers, family members and donors, who have sacrificed and contributed so much to ensure this happy day would come to pass.

Many of you may be entering the working world, some of you will be continuing your studies, but all of you share a common bond – you are now an alumnus of CPUT, and will be for life. We warmly welcome you into the fold and urge you to stay in touch with your Alma Mater.

By updating your details and staying in touch with our Alumni Office, you can take advantage of networking and career-enhancing opportunities.

Tell us of your career progressions, and enjoy the camaraderie of social events by becoming an active member of our Alumni Association.

Help us create more opportunities for those struggling to fund their education by pledging your support to the CPUT Bursary Fund on the Pledge Form inside this magazine. This donation is not simply a financial one. More importantly, it gives dignity and hope to a deserving student and contributes to nation-building in South Africa and beyond.

You, our Alumni, are our finest brand ambassadors and the truest reflection of our achievements as an institution of higher learning. We wish you every success in the future and urge you to use your skills to actively contribute to the development of the CPUT, your country and continent.

contributors

PUBLISHED BY The Marketing and Communications Department, CPUT

WRITERS Kwanele Butana, Candes Keating, Jan Weintrob and Lauren Kansley

PRINTED BY Viking Print on environmentally-friendly Munken Lynx paper
Watching his career grow

A Landscape Technology graduate, Jonker’s words of advice for new graduates comes from experience.

Just four days after completing his BTech in Landscape Technology, Jonker started work as a junior landscape technologist, but passion for his work, ambition coupled with his willingness to learn has earned him a promotion after just one year into his first job.

Based at Cape Contour Landscape Solutions in Muizenberg, Jonker specializes in vertical gardens, the latest trend in the landscape industry, which sees him design and install gardens on any vertical surface, from skyscrapers to walls.

MOTIVATED

“I always wanted to do something with my hands and could never see myself sitting in an office all day,” says Jonker.

At just 22, Jonker has already worked on some of the most exciting projects in the industry and next month will make his television debut on Top Billing, where he will showcase this latest trend.

‘I can’t see myself doing anything else. This is a very rewarding job and the people I work with are fantastic,” he says.

Jonker credits CPUT for his success and says without the right academic background and the practical skills he would never have stood a chance of surviving in such a competitive and fast paced industry.

“The course was hands on and worked to my advantage,” says Jonker.

Currently wrapping up a design project at the Observatory based offices of the Green Building Council of South Africa, Jonker says he is excited for his career prospects.

“This is a new market in South Africa and is growing rapidly. The possibilities are endless and there are so many opportunities for me.”

Please stay in touch with your alma mater by emailing Valerie Deelman or Francois Jooste at alumni@cput.ac.za or call 021 460 3786/3829/3389

You’ll find us in the Advancement Department on the 5th Floor of the Administration Building on the Cape Town campus.

Please update your details at http://www.cput.ac.za/alumni/profile so that we can keep in touch with you about alumni socials and networking events in your area.
Handy man

By Candes Keating

For graduate Simon Longela, a qualification in Mechanical Engineering was more than just securing a high-paying job at a top engineering firm.

The Democratic Republic of Congo native enrolled at CPUT determined to secure the skills needed to develop prosthetic limbs that would restore hope to many of his compatriots who lost limbs during the country’s brutal civil war.

Fast forward to 2014, Longela’s ambitions have been realised and today this alumnus, once voted CPUT’s most innovative student, is involved in groundbreaking research and development of medical devices at the Biomaterials Department at the University of Oslo in Norway.

As part of his MTech research at CPUT, this ambitious 32-year-old developed an artificial human hand using adaptronic technology, which mimicked several motions similar to that of a human hand. The project earned Longela this much coveted opportunity in Oslo.

“My mechanical background at the CPUT prepared me enough to join this multidisciplinary team in Oslo. I am the only mechanical engineer with smart metals background in a team of biologists, chemists, material engineers, pharmacists and dentists. I am now a kind of bio-mechanical engineer,” he says.

beBUSY

By Kwanele Butana

Take every opportunity presented to you

Hugo Chichava has precious little spare time in his life. Not only is he the co-founder and online editor for Paradise Jungle and a part-time lecturer but he is also a musician.

For Paradise Jungle, Chichava films and edits videos and subtitles for the innovative website that aims to get ordinary South Africans talking about their everyday experiences in an attempt to understand one another better. However, the creative path his career has taken was not immediately evident by the choice of course he decided to pursue.

“I studied Office Management & Technology, a course that is very diverse, which was perfect for my personality,” he says.

Chichava obtained his National Diploma: Office Management & Technology at CPUT in 2008, and completed his BTech the following year and he says the varied nature of the course was exactly what he wanted.

EAGER: Hugo Chichava

“I studied Office Management & Technology, a course that is very diverse, which was perfect for my personality,” he says.

He says he owes his career success to the assistance from CPUT staff throughout his years as an undergraduate student.

He is also grateful for the university’s mandatory in-service training, which he underwent for six months, as it gave him a taste of the real world out and how the workplace feels like.

“I got involved in extra-curricular activities such as the CPUT Radio where I met colleagues who helped open doors for me in the South African music industry as well.”

Office angel

By Kwanele Butana

It pays to know it all

Never being afraid of a challenge is what earned Zoe Adams her top job as a Cabinet and Parliamentary Liaison Officer.

She is the self-confessed go-to-girl in the office because she is as likely to find an obscure parliamentary memo as she is able to fix the office printer.

“If there is something I don’t know, I will find an answer,” says Zoe.

Her all-round abilities were honed while studying Office Management and Technology at CPUT. These days her job entails managing and coordinating all Cabinet activities and Parliamentary matters and ensuring the integrity of all communication that leaves her office.

Adams obtained her National Diploma in Commercial Administration from CPUT in 1999 and went on to complete her BTech in Office Management and Technology a year later. In 2008 she completed her MTech in Office Management and Technology.
John Lucas was just seven when he decided on his career path and years later has no regrets.

A Nature Conservation graduate, Lucas has carved out his own career and found a perfect balance between his love for the environment and passion for adventure.

Lucas is the Director of Explore-4-Knowledge, a non-profit that uses adventure and expeditions as a catalyst to promote environmental awareness.

To date Lucas has given thousands of learners and students a once in a lifetime opportunity to explore some of the most beautiful realms of nature conservation in South Africa.

“One of my passions over and above conservation is humans and human interaction. I enjoy seeing how people’s faces light up when they have seen something in nature for the first time or when they realise their fascination with something small,” he says.

“For example showing someone a time lapse I took recently of the stars moving in the night sky, they had no idea that stars moved like that.”

Lucas is a WWF SASSI Ambassador, Springbok Scout and has participated in numerous high-profile projects, including Marion Island’s 69th Over Wintering Crew that manned this Sub-Antarctic Research Base from 2012 to 2013.

Despite his achievements, Lucas says what stands out is the many inspirational people that has crossed his path.

“I would say that individuals have built my character, providing me with tools and values to pursue my passions and dreams by,” he says.

“Anyone can attend a university, pay the fees and get a piece of paper with a lot of diligence and hard work. But only a few can be taught life lessons throughout their time at a tertiary institution, I would say for me some of the lecturers during my time at the CPUT taught me life lessons.”

Lucas hopes that through Explore-4-Knowledge he too will inspire others to follow their dreams.
GRADUATION IS THE DOORWAY to life-long learning

BY JAN WEINTROB

EMC student goes on to study medicine

Now a medical student, Kate’s thorough grounding in emergency services gave her the practical skills to further her studies and pursue her dreams. When Kate first heard about the EMC course, she knew very little except that the job involved driving fast cars with flashing lights and wailing sirens.

“"My first taste was the fitness assessment during the entrance tests. It was all uphill after that!”

“We were required to be fit in both mind and body and were subjected to tests, exams and fitness assessments throughout the year as part of our rescue modules.

During these stressful times, which required every last ounce of our strength, we formed very strong bonds. I walked away with more than just a degree- I left with everything needed to succeed in a career in the emergency services, and many close friends,” she says.

FIRST JOB

Kate’s first job after graduation was with ER24 emergency services. She says she’ll never forget the daunting feeling of being handed the keys to the response car with the words, ‘Good luck, you’re on your own now,’ ringing in her ears. She was surprised and relieved when the expectation she could handle any emergency that came her way was proved true. Soon she was comfortable responding as the senior paramedic on a multi-vehicle accident scene.

The plucky 5th year medical student, who still works part-time as a paramedic, explains that her studies at CPUT helped her to make an easy transition into studying to be a doctor.

For paramedic Kate Price, graduating from the CPUT in 2010 with a BTech in Emergency Medical Care was just the beginning.

“"I had a better understanding of the earlier work that was covered and already had a good foundation and excellent grasp of the practical skills required to help patients. As a graduate of CPUT, you’re equipped with everything you need to succeed. Never stop learning, never stop being inspired and never, ever give up on your dreams.”

By Lauren Kansley

cutting EDGE

Maintaining a strong relationship with her old lecturers and ex-bosses has helped catapult this young restaurateur into the big leagues.

Whitney Wentzel owns 65 on Main in Green Point and the restaurant recently celebrated its eighth month birthday with a trail of positive feedback from customers and exciting overseas and national ventures beckoning. The spunky 27-year-old takes the demands of owning and operating her own business in her stride but says having lots of industry mentors have helped her through some tough times.

“Whenever I hit a bump or I am uncertain about something then I can call up my ex-lecturers or old colleagues and ask their advice,” she says.

Whitney says having a strong business network is crucial and she maintains contact with CPUT’s Cape Town Hotel School in Granger Bay which she hopes will extend to getting her own staff trained there and accepting interns for work placements soon.

SUCCESS

Another key player in her road to success was the partnerships with like-minded young professionals she made while launching 65 on Main.

“I used the service of another CPUT alumnus to market my company and he did such great work in the beginning that I learned from him then took an online marketing course afterwards to learn more,” she says.

Whitney says a strong sense of trust from her family but especially her mother drives her towards making her business a success.

“My mother has sacrificed a lot to make this dream a reality for me. She was a strong believer that education is key to success as well as lots of hard work so I feel that responsibility,” she says.

With past employers like The One and Only, The Taj Hotel and Zimbali Lodge it is little wonder that Whitney is at the forefront of culinary innovations in Cape Town.

“After working at those places I decided to take a break and then the lease for this spot came up, so something that was just a dream became a reality and it has all been an amazing journey so far,” she laughs.

Contact Whitney at info@65onmain.com
SHE’S A GEM

BY LAUREN KANSLEY

Jewellery designer says working for a boss helps you become self employed

If you are wearing a red sash at graduation this year then you are lucky to be entering the work place during one of the most exciting design centred phases in SA’s history.

Graduates from CPUT’s Informatics and Design Faculty are guaranteed a qualification from one of the most respected design schools in the country.

Marietjie Beeslaar graduated from Jewellery Design in 2003 and her company Skermunki is on the hot list of contemporary jewellery design studios.

She participated in the recent Design Indaba expo where her gorgeous Table Mountain jewellery range caught the eye of House and Leisure journalists who praised its simple sophistication.

But Marietjie is quick to point out that each day involves lots of hard work.

“When you own your business it’s really hard because you don’t work for a salary. You have busy months and slow months. And you really have to hustle for what you have,” she says.

WORK FIRST

After graduating she first worked for other companies for almost five years before branching out on her own and she says this is key to anyone interested in being their own boss one day.

“Sometimes you can think you know everything or you are only taught one way at university but really there are lots of different ways of doing things,” she says.

“Actually working in the trade was a humbling experience that taught me lots.”

Marietjie also praised the four years she spent at CPUT.

“It was a really good place to study, technically it was brilliant. They made you do things over and over again. In retrospect it was really helpful because technically I am very good now,” she says.

And to those graduating today who are anxious about their career path from this day on- Marietjie says taking it one day at a time helps.

“I struggle with that myself but I say give your career a good shot and don’t be afraid to change direction for a bit if that is what you need to do,” she says.

ETCHER sketcher

Creative freedom is key for former CPUT Graduate

BY LAUREN KANSLEY

All graduates aspire to career success with a touch of excitement mixed into their jobs. Graphic Design graduate Rayaan Cassiem has enjoyed both and is only getting started.

Last year Rayaan hosted the first solo exhibition of his work at the Black Box Gallery in Cape Town while taking on the challenge of a new job at e.TV as a motion graphics designer. He previously worked as a senior designer for the prestigious TBWA advertising agency but after years in the ad industry he wanted to re-ignite the creativity he felt was stifled in his professional work.

SUCCESS

Cassiem graduated from the Bellville campus branch of Graphic Design in 2003 and returned in 2007 to do his B-Tech and still counts his lecturers as a big part of his success.

“They definitely laid a solid foundation for my career path because art and design is inherent in someone and they helped me find it in myself,” he says.

Cassiem works with a variety of mediums including spray-painting but these days his favourite method is etching in black india ink. The dip and draw technique gives a precision to his work that is catching the eye of art collectors.

“My work has been criticized for being too dark so I have tried to inject some colour but at the end of the day if the work doesn’t resonate with someone it never will,” he says.

“I would describe my work as being not-so-subtle social statements.”
SO, YOU’VE MADE IT THUS FAR, 

congratulations

………but what now

Here are a few job searching tips for you as a new graduate...

UPDATE AND FINE TUNE YOUR CV AND COVER LETTER
They represent your first impression with potential employers. Make sure that they represent you well. Remember:
• Your CV must be clear and easy to read – employers do not have the time to figure out what you are trying to say
• Highlight your skills – tell employers what you can do and back it up with examples from your previous experience
• Showcase your experience – Highlight your Workplace Learning and other work experience. Employers are interested in this information.

DO NOT SIT AT HOME WAITING FOR A JOB
Go out there and make yourself visible. It is called initiative and employers like to know that you have it.

CONTACT THE GRADUATE RECRUITMENT OFFICE
Do this as soon as possible and get information about all resources and services that are available to you as a CPUT graduate

ATTEND THE CAREER FAIRS AND EMPLOYER PRESENTATIONS ON CAMPUS
You will get to meet and network with employers and even hear about employment opportunities at these events.

NETWORKING WORKS
Attend the institution’s Alumni events and meet other graduates who may be in jobs already. Talk to them and ask about opportunities they may know about. It’s okay to go up to perfect strangers and discuss work opportunities at these events.

TAKE UP INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
This way you gain more skills. For employers, this tells them that you have some experience of working in a professional environment and are not only interested in making money.

USE SOCIAL NETWORKS EFFECTIVELY
Fine tune your profile to resemble a CV. Putting yourself out there means people see you are keen to work.

GET A DRIVER’S LICENCE
It gives you an edge and sets you apart from the competition.

ONCE YOU GET THAT INTERVIEW – DO NOT LET IT GO TO WASTE.
Come prepared. Display a positive attitude and a strong desire to get the job. Remember, this is the only opportunity you have to convince a particular employer that you are the best person for the job

Are you a recent graduate looking for employment?

THE GRADUATE RECRUITMENT OFFICE IS JUST THE PLACE FOR YOU.

UPLOAD YOUR CV TO THE CPUT CAREER PORTAL

www.cput.ac.za/mycareer

contact

GRADUATE RECRUITMENT OFFICE
Centre for Community Engagement and Work-Integrated Learning
1st Floor, New Science Building, Bellville Campus
TEL 021 959 6499 / 6273
EMAIL gradrecruitment@cput.ac.za

ATTEND OUR CAREER FAIR EXHIBITIONS AND MEET EMPLOYERS ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

5 AUGUST
BELVILLE CAMPUS

14 AUGUST
CAPE TOWN CAMPUS

www.cput.ac.za