

GRADMAG

ALUMNI MAGAZINE 2015



Congratulations
to the class of 2014



Cape Peninsula
University of Technology

Education is a life long journey

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES: Christelle Dreyer (class of 2008), a Graphic Designer and world champion dancer, has risen to the top



STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR ALMA MATER VIA THE ALUMNI OFFICE

Heartiest congratulations to our graduates on this special day. You're now a member of an exclusive "club", the CPUT Alumni Association – consisting of thousands of talented individuals 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'll

- Receive our electronic quarterly 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 society needs
- be invited as motivational/guest speakers – to current students and at graduation ceremonies
- be able to access on-campus resources and be eligible for some exclusive discounts
- be eligible to be elected to serve on the Executive of the Alumni Association, alumni chapters and Convocation

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.

Pop in and visit the Alumni Office on the Cape Town Campus of CPUT, or email us with news of your career success.

Email: alumni@cput.ac.za
Tel: +27 21 4603786/3829



Valerie Deelman



Francois Jooste

features

ALUMNI PROFILES

2005 - 2014



2005
DR GAVIN MAGENI
Design Guru

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2006
JASON HAYDEN
Oceanographer

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2007
CARIKA VAN ZYL
Nature Conservationist

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2008
CHRISTELLE DREYER
Graphic Designer

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2009
DR REZA FOUDAZI
Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering

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2010
CHRISTOPHER BRIKKELS
Head of IT: Marketing, Woolworths Financial Services and Online

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LINDELWA NONQANE
Senior Administration Officer: Outreach and Training, IEC

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2012
CHRISNE ABRAHAMS
Radiographer

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DR CHRIS HIKUAM
Biomedical Researcher

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2014
LUKHANYO MDINGI
Fashion Designer

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Congratulations from the Vice-Chancellor

Class of 2014, it gives me great pleasure to witness your joy and celebration at your graduation ceremony.

Congratulations to every one of you, and deepest thanks to the staff members of the CPUT who have contributed to your success. Special mention must also be made of the parents, guardians, caregivers, family members and donors, who have sacrificed so much to ensure this happy day would come to pass.

This year sees the CPUT celebrate its 10th anniversary as a merged institution – a decade in which we've produced tens of thousands of graduates, made history by launching Africa's first nano-satellite, introduced exciting new qualifications, revamped campuses and operations and seen our research outputs surge. 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 advantage of networking and career-enhancing



PROUD: Dr Prins Nevhutalu

opportunities and enjoy the camaraderie of social events by becoming an active member of our Alumni Association.

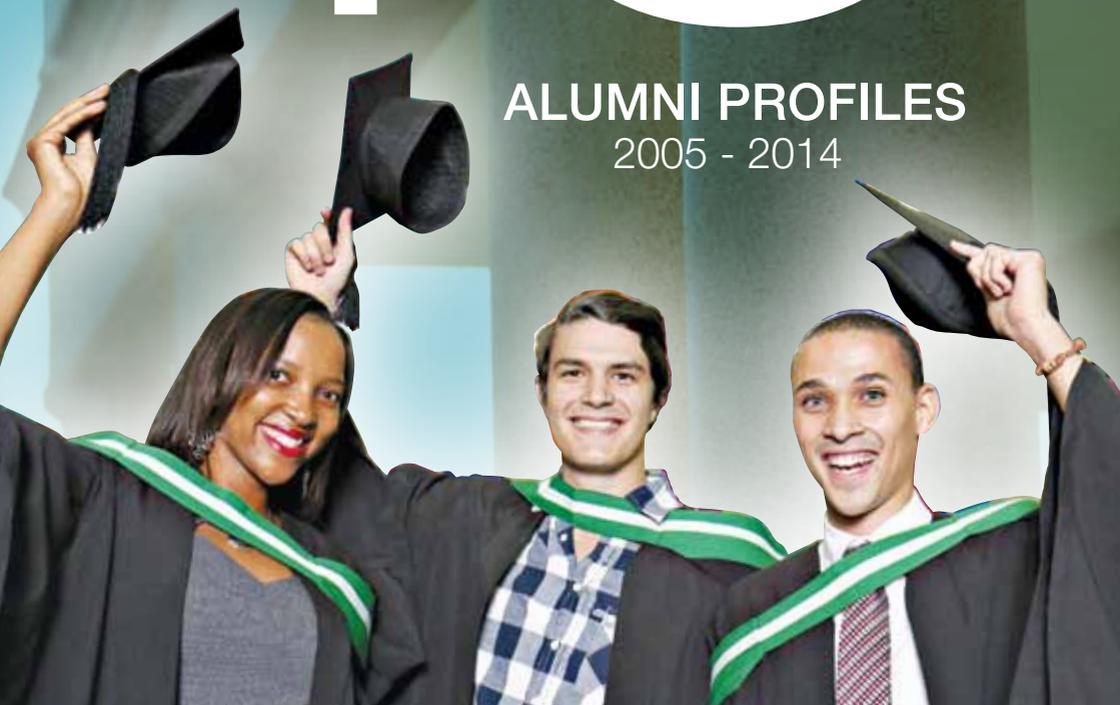
You, our alumni, are our finest brand ambassadors and a reflection of our many achievements over the past decade. We wish you every success in the future and urge you to use your skills to help take our university, our country and continent to ever-greater heights.





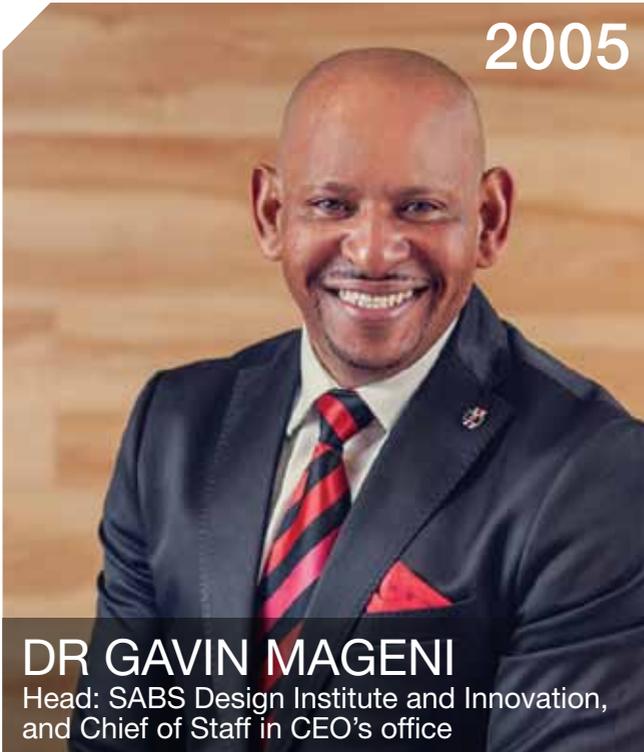
10 YEARS OF CREATING FUTURES

ALUMNI PROFILES
2005 - 2014





2005



DR GAVIN MAGENI

Head: SABS Design Institute and Innovation,
and Chief of Staff in CEO's office

In addition to completing an MTech (cum laude) from CPUT in Strategic HR Management in 2005, Mageni obtained his Doctorate in Strategic Management here in 2012.

A man who embraces the notion of lifelong learning, he also holds formal professional qualifications from the University of the Western Cape, University of Pretoria and the University of South Africa.

He boasts vast experience within the banking sector, where he has held various senior leadership roles across several disciplines, from Retail Banking, to Group Marketing and Corporate

Communication, amongst others.

Perhaps it's no surprise then that this high-flying, formidably qualified alumnus is currently employed with the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) where he performs not one, but two roles. He is both the Head of the SABS Design Institute, and plays an advisory role as Chief of Staff within the office of the CEO.

The Design Institute is

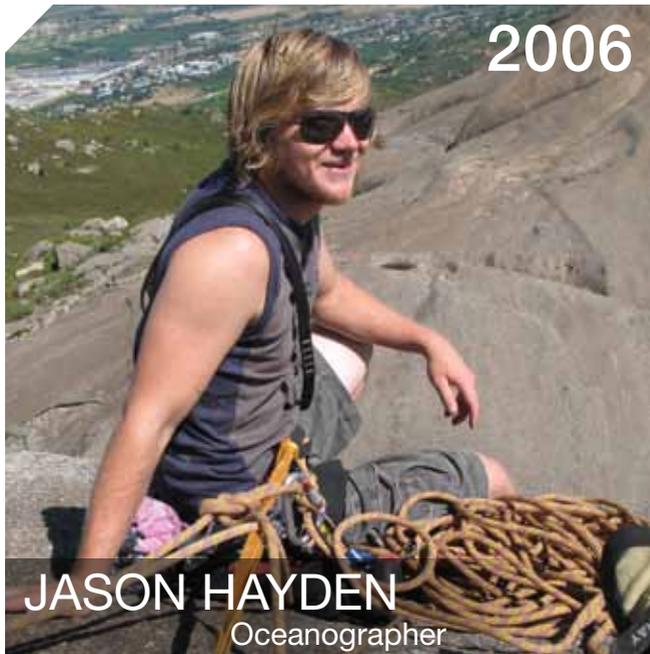
“Design serves all of us and is deeply concerned with people,” says Mageni.

mandated to champion design and innovation, with the ultimate aim of improving the prosperity of the nation. Its philosophy of design is a very egalitarian one - far from being nebulous and unaffordable, the Institute believes that design is for everyone.

Research, development and innovation must translate into sustainable economic opportunity. Mageni believes that by promoting the benefits of design, the economic and technological spin-offs can make a meaningful contribution to denting our high unemployment and poverty rates.

“Design serves all of us and is deeply concerned with people,” says Mageni.

“It's about making things better and brings beauty and simplicity to chaos and complexity. Intrinsic to design is the need to do good, to look at the human experience and make it better.”



“It’s a very technical role, which I love. To be able to do this job well, one needs to be a jack-of-all trades and be pretty adaptable. One has to learn quickly how to wield a spanner, be proficient at measuring currents and deal with buoys, pulleys, wires, shackles and winches. It’s high-paced and diverse, with a lot of potential disasters to mop up.”

Jason spends about 10 days a month away from home, jetting off to countries like Mozambique, Tanzania or Angola. Here he’ll live on a rig, surrounded by a vast expanse of blue, in a remote offshore location.

Despite the international opportunities, Jason says he always wants to work and live right here in South Africa.

“Since I was a small child, I’ve kept fish tanks and have been passionate about marine life ever since.”

Growing up in landlocked Brakpan may have had something to do with it, or it could have been the influence of his sailor grandfather, but Jason always had a love for and interest in the sea.

“Since I was a small child, I’ve kept fish tanks and have been passionate about marine life ever since.”

Jason completed his National Diploma in Oceanography in 2006 and says he chose CPUT because of hands-on experience it offers as part of the degree.

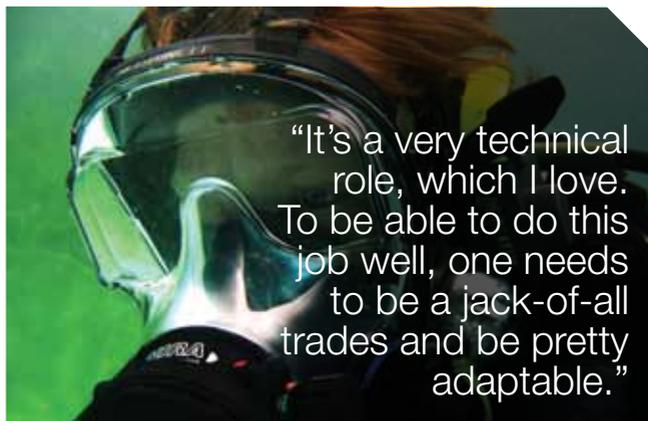
“I particularly enjoyed the electronics, digital systems and engineering subjects that were taught, and was lucky to have a great bunch of fellow students in my class, many of whom I’m still in contact with.”

He has since gone on to complete an MTech in Oceanography and sits on the Marine Sciences Advisory Council at CPUT.

A qualified PADI Advanced and commercial diver, Jason

now works as a physical oceanographer, part of a team that provides oceanographic and meteorological services to the offshore oil & gas market.

“There’s no place like home. The beauty, the natural splendour, the people – all combine to make this one of the most magnificent countries in the world for me.”





CARIKA VAN ZYL Nature Conservationist

Carika graduated with a ND: Nature Conservation in 2007, having spent her formative years in Ceres, surrounded by mountains and fynbos.

The beautiful Bushmen paintings in the region and the magnificence of the landscape played a big part in her decision to become a conservationist.

“After two years of working at a Cape Town Street child project, I realised there was immense power in working with these special children in natural areas. I then decided to study Nature Conservation at CPUT as the course ticked all the boxes. I loved it - we had wonderful lecturers, experts in their field, and the class consisted of passionate individuals.”

Despite the heavy work-load, Carika says she's still reaping the benefits of learning so much.

“My practical year really prepared me to be job-ready. I was able to do research on baboons, tracking a troop by fitting a GPS collar on one of them, to better manage human-wildlife impact. After my three years of intensive study, I could do the research, manage teams, take minutes, write reports - everything I needed to hit the ground running.”

Carika worked for seven years within the mainstream conservation sector, beginning as a Field Ranger, then a Researcher and Conservation Manager. Realising that she had the requisite knowledge and experience to start her own business, she took the plunge and is now an independent Biodiversity and Conservation Consultant.

“This requires hard work and dedication as there is no longer a salary at the end of the month,” she says.

Her role sees her doing everything from data collection, to mapping of areas, identification of species and working in partnership with governmental organisations to give feedback on her findings.

Her advice to young graduates?
“Trust yourself and believe in your ability to make your dreams a reality. When you enter the workplace, be dedicated and remain friendly, understanding and willing to learn.”



2007

“After two years of working at a Cape Town Street child project, I realised there was immense power in working with these special children in natural areas.”



Christelle is a woman with remarkable focus and determination, who despite her challenges has achieved so much.

Born with a condition called Osteogenesis Imperfecta, Christelle's bones are very brittle and she uses a wheelchair to support her petite frame. Though small in stature, Christelle's strength and resilience shine through.

Christelle completed her BTech in Graphic Design in 2008 and says she had loads of fun as a student. The only thing that ever managed to really distract her from her studies was dancing. While she works freelance as a Graphic Designer, her passion is now dance.

"A lot of my work is spent doing conventional graphic design – corporate identities, posters and the like, but I think of myself more as a freelance artist, who designs and dances. I started dancing in school. It was just a school activity but ended up becoming more serious as I started competing in local competitions. I then worked my way up to dancing at provincial and national levels, then in international competitions."

Amongst her many titles, Christelle won the World Championships in Holland in Ballroom and Latin American dance in 2007.

"I believe that if you do something that really inspires you and resonates in your soul and you persevere no matter what, anything is possible. Sometimes the hardest things in life make you a stronger person. I have



CHRISTELLE DREYER
Graphic Designer and Dancer

achieved a lot, but there are many things I have failed at too. Through perseverance, however, even my failures will eventually turn into triumphs."

And as for Christelle's future plans?

"I truly believe the possibilities are endless. Whatever I decide to do, I will give it my all and never give up on dreaming. There is so much to discover, and who knows what untapped talents there are within me."

"I believe that if you do something that really inspires you and resonates in your soul and you persevere no matter what, anything is possible."

DR REZA FOUDAZI

Associate Professor in Chemical Engineering
New Mexico State University

Born and raised in Tehran, Iran, Dr Foudazi saw an advert 8 years ago that was to change his life.

“CPUT was advertising a project with international collaborations on the rheology of highly concentrated emulsions. I was very interested in the topic and did some research about Cape Town and it looked like a great opportunity. The other driving force was my interest in acquiring international experience.”

As a PhD student at CPUT, Reza spent most of his time in the lab researching.

“I found the students, staff and professors to be very open and kind, and I made many friends from different cultures. As a member of the Flow Process Research Center, I was very stimulated by our research, which was high-impact and

productive. And of course, I found the beauty of Cape Town phenomenal.”

Reza says he loves his job as an academic at New Mexico State University in America, particularly doing research, uncovering unknown mechanisms and phenomena and teaching.

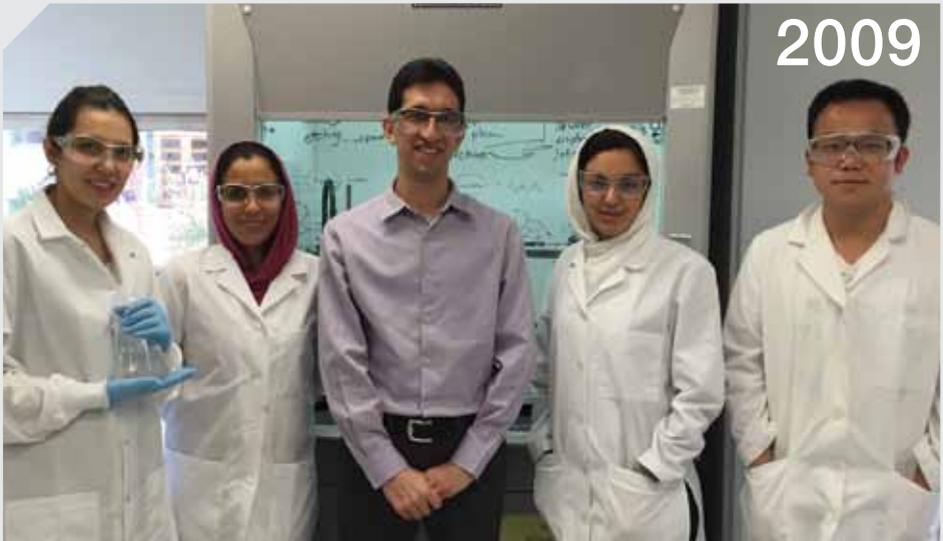
“I find Interaction with students at different levels a very joyful experience. My teaching philosophy is that I learn the most not from any textbook, but from my students.”

He considers his greatest achievement thus far as the two provisional patents he has applied for. The first is called - Method for Production of High

Internal Phase Emulsion Foams, and his other patent - Imidazolone Based ZIFs for CO₂ Capture and Separation.

“Over the next five to ten years, I hope to advance my field of science and train a new young generation of scientists at New Mexico State. My words of wisdom for the current crop of young graduates? Develop critical thinking skills – this is key. Work hard and even though it sounds clichéd, never give up on your dreams.”

“I find Interaction with students at different levels a very joyful experience. My teaching philosophy is that I learn the most not from any textbook, but from my students.”





CHRISTOPHER BRIKKELS

Head of IT: Marketing, Woolworths
Financial Services and Online

Chris graduated with an MTech in Business Admin and Management in 2010.

Long before this however, whilst working at Woolworths as an Internal Auditor, he was exposed to various areas of the retail environment that fascinated him.

"I always knew that Auditing would be a stepping stone to something else. I was given different opportunities within Woolworths, including roles in their Finance, Franchise, Supply Chain and IT divisions. This led me to further my studies in General Management and Leadership. The MTech exposed me to many valuable insights, including strategy and understanding what it takes to maximise shareholder value. I was fortunate to work on my thesis with Dr Myles Wakeham, who taught me principles I still apply in my job today."

Chris is currently responsible for managing IT services and

delivery to the Marketing, Woolworths Financial Services and Online businesses.

"A key part of my job is to partner with these teams and ensure IT delivery meets their current and future needs. I also have to ensure that their strategies are distilled so that

the IT objectives to meet those strategies are understood and contracted. The role exposes me to industry subject matter experts on application development and cutting-edge retail technology."

Another big believer in life-long learning, Chris has also completed 2 post-graduate courses in Management and Leadership. His studies and work have taken him to the United States, Canada, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, Botswana and Mozambique, opportunities which all arose through his focus on continual self-development.

"To the graduates reading this - you are now poised to be a contributor to the economy and a change agent. You have the chance to influence systems and organisations for the better. Try challenge yourself continuously and take the opportunities presented to you. You never know what new journey it may lead you on."

"It's a very technical role, which I love. To be able to do this job well, one needs to be a jack-of-all trades and be pretty adaptable."



LINDELWA NONQANE

Educator and Trainer

Lindelwa, an inspiring Maths and Science teacher for over a decade, returned to part-time studies to gain a broader understanding of mathematics.

She completed an Honours in Education at CPUT in 2011, developing a huge interest in the current state of the country after democracy. Her years as a teacher made her realise most of the problems relating to poor learner performance needed to be addressed at a national level.

“The best thing about being an educator is having the ability to change the mind set of young learners from hopeless to hopeful human beings. I loved mentoring my former students, and during my teaching years I had an opportunity to be involved in various projects. These included being part of a Western Cape Education Department delegation to China to share teaching expertise in Mathematics & Sciences and hosting National Science Week for our school. I realised that I loved up-skilling and jumped at the chance to join the Independent Electoral Commission’s Outreach & Training Department. 60 % of this department’s work is Civic & Democracy Education.”

Lindelwa’s responsibilities at the IEC, where she is a Senior Administration Officer: Outreach and Training, include the coordination and implementation of electoral training. She also renders procurement services, coordinates outreach events & projects and recruits and manages expansion staff.

“I love reading motivational books and publications on current affairs and hope to enrol for a Masters in Human Behaviour. I want to continue motivating the young people of South Africa to achieve and never give up on their dreams. To the graduates of today I say, never limit yourself by underestimating your capabilities - always aim to achieve more.”

“The best thing about being an educator is having the ability to change the mind set of young learners from hopeless to hopeful human beings. I loved mentoring my former students, and during my teaching years I had an opportunity to be involved in various projects.”



2012



CHRISNE ABRAHAMS
Radiographer

Chrisne completed her BTech in Diagnostic Radiography at CPUT in 2012 having been introduced to the career years before in high school.

“CPUT was promoting the course for disadvantaged communities and Bishop Lavis High School, where I was a scholar, was one of them. I was immediately intrigued and thrilled when I was accepted for the course. I knew I had to work hard, especially since I had to pay for it myself.”

Chrisne made huge sacrifices as a student, studying three days a week and working at the hospital the other two days from 8am till 4pm.

“I would then run to the hostel to get dressed for my part-time job that ended at 9pm and then come back to study. My years at CPUT taught me the meaning of hard work and gave me a strong sense of independence, for which I’m very grateful.”

In 2008, Chrisne decided to

broaden her horizons and work in the UK.
“Walking through Heathrow airport for the first time was

When I started work at St George’s Hospital NHS in South West London, I was nervous. What if they didn’t like me or how I worked? My solid training allowed me to slot in perfectly, however.

frightening and exciting at once. When I started work at St George’s Hospital NHS in South West London, I was nervous. What if they didn’t like me or how I worked? My solid training allowed me to slot in

perfectly, however. Life in the UK was very relaxed. I learned to enjoy life and not be afraid to communicate.”

Chrisne describes Radiography as a demanding profession, physically and mentally. Emergency cases, on-call duties, extended hours and dealing with emotional situations of patients and their families are all a part of it.

“Compassion is key. You need to deal with accident cases calmly and efficiently. It’s inevitable to be nervous at first but it’s important to snap out of it and remember the hard work that got you here. Face your challenges head-on, speak your mind, share your ideas and remember the words of Madiba – ‘A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination.’ “

DR CHRIS HIKUAM Biomedical Researcher

Dr Hikuam's doctoral thesis in Biomedical Technology made many sit up and notice – he found that some indigenous plants have the potential to serve as protection against liver cancer.

The Namibian researcher also provided the first description of the chemo-preventative mechanisms associated with consumption of these plants. He's a CPUT alumnus through and through, having studied here from National Diploma all the way to PhD level.

"After finishing school in Windhoek, I began my journey at the then Cape Technikon in 1997. At that time, the Biomedical Technology Department was at the main campus in Cape Town. Since hostel space was limited, no foreign students were accommodated. This forced me to live around the peninsula, including in a wooden shack in the first year of studies in Cape Town. I've come a long way since then!"

CPUT not only catered for Dr Hikuam's academic needs, but the social aspect of his educational experience as well. He was co-founder and founding President of the International Students Organization, served on various professional committees as student representative, and played soccer for the CPUT senior team.

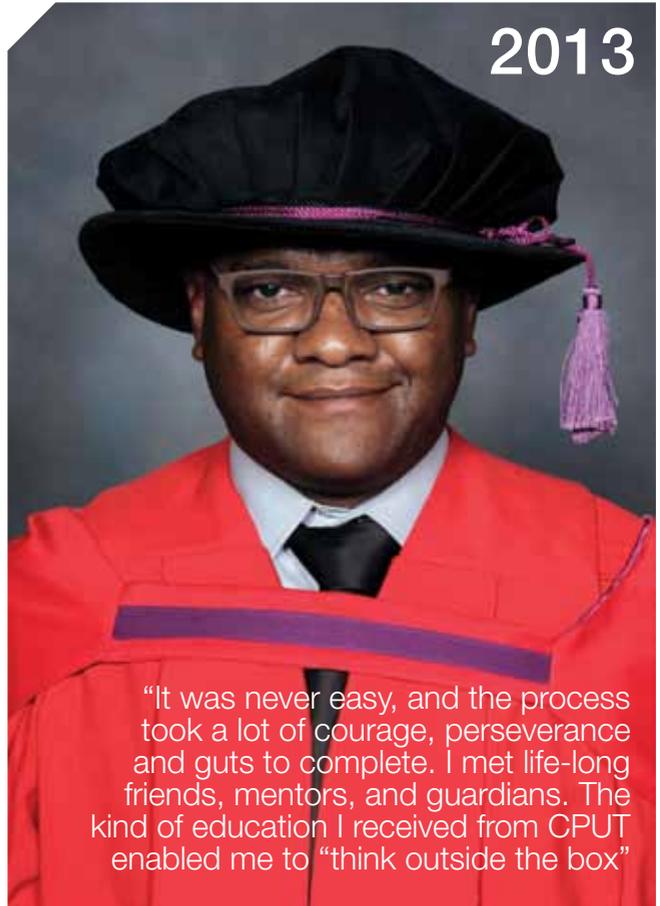
"It was never easy, and the process took a lot of courage, perseverance and guts to complete. I met life-long friends, mentors, and guardians. The kind of education I received from CPUT enabled me to "think outside the box", and strive towards leaving

a legacy behind for the generations to follow."

Chris is currently the President of the Namibian Association of Medical Laboratory Science. As Biomedical research is still a developing field in Namibia, his focus is now on boosting funding

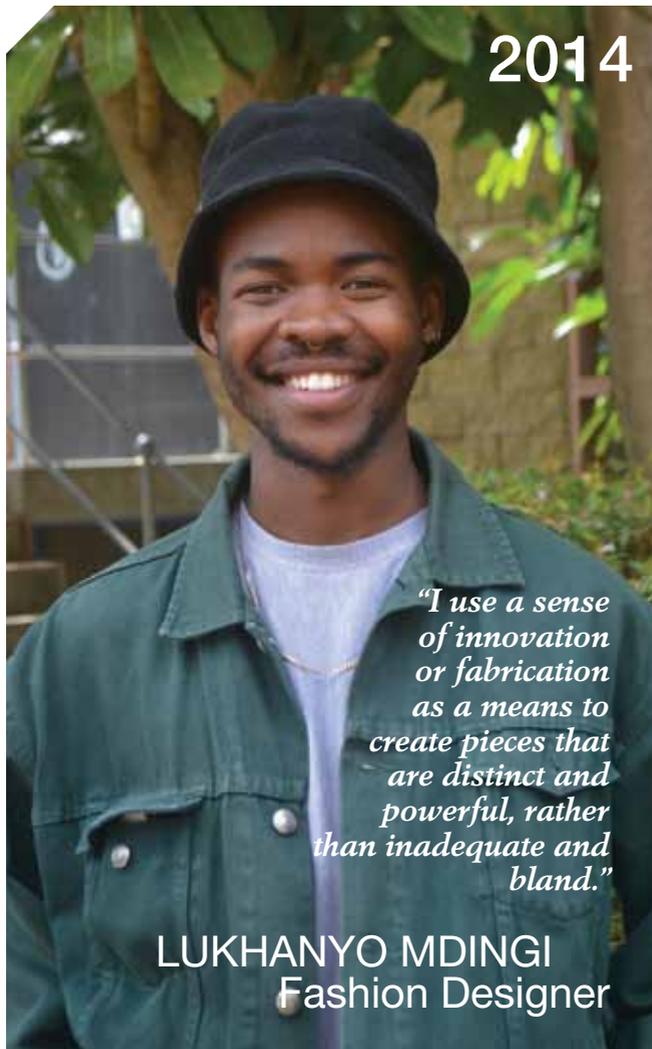
and infrastructure development.

"I'm also advocating for the national benefits of higher qualifications for the Biomedical Science fraternity, as human resources will be required once our limitations are addressed."





2014



“I use a sense of innovation or fabrication as a means to create pieces that are distinct and powerful, rather than inadequate and bland.”

LUKHANYO MDINGI
Fashion Designer

Barely a few months after completing his BTech in Fashion Design last year, Lukhanyo Mdingi was shortlisted as one of Design Indaba’s 40 Emerging Creatives.

Chosen out of 262 applications to be featured at South Africa’s premier design showcase, Lukhanyo rubbed shoulders with the very best artists and designers from here and abroad.

He describes the experience as phenomenal.

“Design Indaba is a wonderful platform to exhibit and sell your products and promote

your brand. It’s helped me identify my customer and given me great insight into where to position myself as a fashion designer in South Africa.”

During his studies, in third year, he was also selected as one of the top 8 finalists for the 2013 ELLE (in association with Mr Price) Rising Star Competition.

Lukhanyo loved being a part of the FID and says CPUT’s Design building feels like a buzzing hive of activity, with young creatives influencing one another on a daily basis.

He has high praise for his lecturers, who, he says, go the extra mile to provide their students with their distinct teaching methods of theory and design knowledge.

Lukhanyo describes his own aesthetic as something that is based on minimalism.

“I use a sense of innovation or fabrication as a means to create pieces that are distinct and powerful, rather than inadequate and bland.”

He believes strongly in consistency and determination, citing these qualities as his keys to excellence.

“My dream in the coming years is to establish my brand as a fully-fledged fashion designer, and create garments that are concept-inspired. I’d also like to make a positive contribution to the lives of young emerging creatives, empowering them to believe in hard work to fulfil their dreams.”

TRY AN INTERNSHIP

Graduating but not sure of your options?

WE TALKED TO RECRUITER,
MS LINDELWA MBADLANYANA FROM NAMPAK

WHY SHOULD NEW GRADUATES CONSIDER INTERNSHIPS?

Internships expose graduates to the work environment and to the reality of how things are done. It also allows graduates to correlate theory and practice.

AS A RECRUITER, WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE THE BENEFITS OF AN INTERNSHIP TO A NEW GRADUATE?

Interns gain work experience which is crucial when applying for work in the future.

While an internship is not a guarantee of a job, interns certainly have preference when there are positions, as they have experience of the working environment.

PLEASE SHARE HOW YOU GO ABOUT RECRUITING INTERNS?

I request CV's from the Graduate Recruitment office at CPUT, specifying the discipline of the interns I am looking for. Once I receive

the CV's, I proceed with the selection process.

We also talked to Babalwa Sikepu, a CPUT graduate who is doing an internship at the Golden Arrow Bus Service.

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THAT OTHER GRADUATES CONSIDER PARTICIPATING IN AN INTERNSHIP AFTER GRADUATION?

Most definitely, yes. Nowadays, it is not easy to get a job right after graduation, yet a lot of employers require some kind of experience in order to hire a new graduate.

The internship is helping me to get work experience. I know that when I leave here at the end of the year, I will use this to strengthen my CV. The internship also helps me to learn to be independent knowing that I take full responsibility for my work. I am also experiencing personal growth in my field as I get to understand it outside the classroom.

SO,
HOW WOULD
AN INTERNSHIP
HELP?

WHAT KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE ARE YOU GAINING BY PARTICIPATING IN THIS INTERNSHIP?

Firstly, I am working in the Training and Development department, so I am learning a lot about training and people development within a large organization. This is part of what I studied and thus the internship is giving me an opportunity to apply this knowledge. We are training groups every day and this has taught me about working under pressure and the importance of managing my time.

Golden Arrow is also a very diverse organization, so I am also learning a lot about diversity management.

CENTRE FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDIES (CPGS)

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

Tel: 021 953 8600
Email: cpgs@cput.ac.za

New Library Building
Bellville Campus
CCE Building
Cape Town Campus

Researchers of the CPUT...

ARE YOU CLUED-UP ON THE REWARDS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND COMMERCIALISATION?

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.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OFFICE (TTO)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION on technology transfer issues visit the TTO on the Bellville campus, call or email us on:

TEL: 021 959 6879 E-MAIL: rabiuh@cput.ac.za

ARE YOU A GRADUATE LOOKING FOR EMPLOYMENT?

The Graduate Recruitment Office is just the place for you!

Submit
your CV to
**gradrecruitment
@cput.ac.za**

Attend our Career Fair
exhibitions and network
with employers on the
following dates:

13 AUGUST
CAPE TOWN CAMPUS

20 AUGUST
BELLVILLE CAMPUS



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