

GRADMAG

CPUT ALUMNI MAGAZINE



2019



Cape Peninsula
University of Technology
creating futures

Alumni profiles



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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 broader CPUT community
- be invited to address current students as motivational/guest speakers
- be eligible to be elected to serve the Alumni Association, alumni chapters and Convocation

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

Pop in and visit the Alumni Office on the District Six campus of CPUT, or email us with news of your career success.



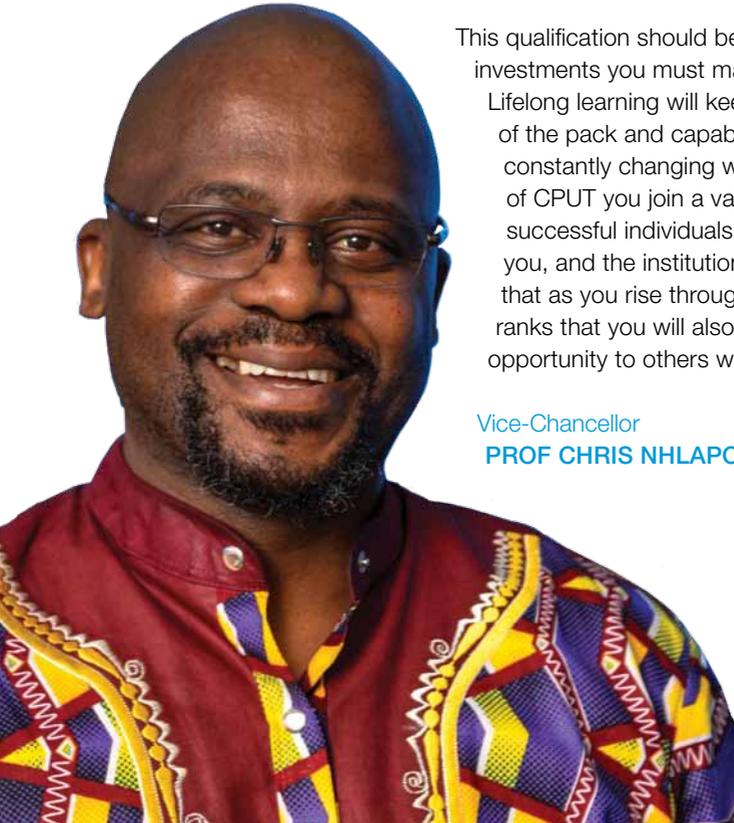
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Congratulations from the Vice-Chancellor

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2019. In the pages of this booklet you will read phenomenal alumni success stories of people who once sat exactly where you are now. Some of them took their CPUT education and are now working in those exact industries. Others have graduated but then turned unrelated passion projects into viable businesses. The overwhelming message is that there is no challenge that hard work, grit and resilience won't overcome.



This qualification should be just one of many investments you must make in yourself. Lifelong learning will keep you a step ahead of the pack and capable of adapting to a constantly changing world. As a graduate of CPUT you join a vast network of successful individuals who want to see you, and the institution flourish. I hope that as you rise through your own industry ranks that you will also open the doors of opportunity to others when they knock.

Vice-Chancellor
PROF CHRIS NHLAPO

ZOZIBINI TUNZI

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Alumna Zozibini Tunzi has captured the hearts of South Africans and enthralled audiences across the globe. The Public Relations graduate was completing her BTech in PR when she was crowned Miss South Africa at a star-studded event on Women's Day.

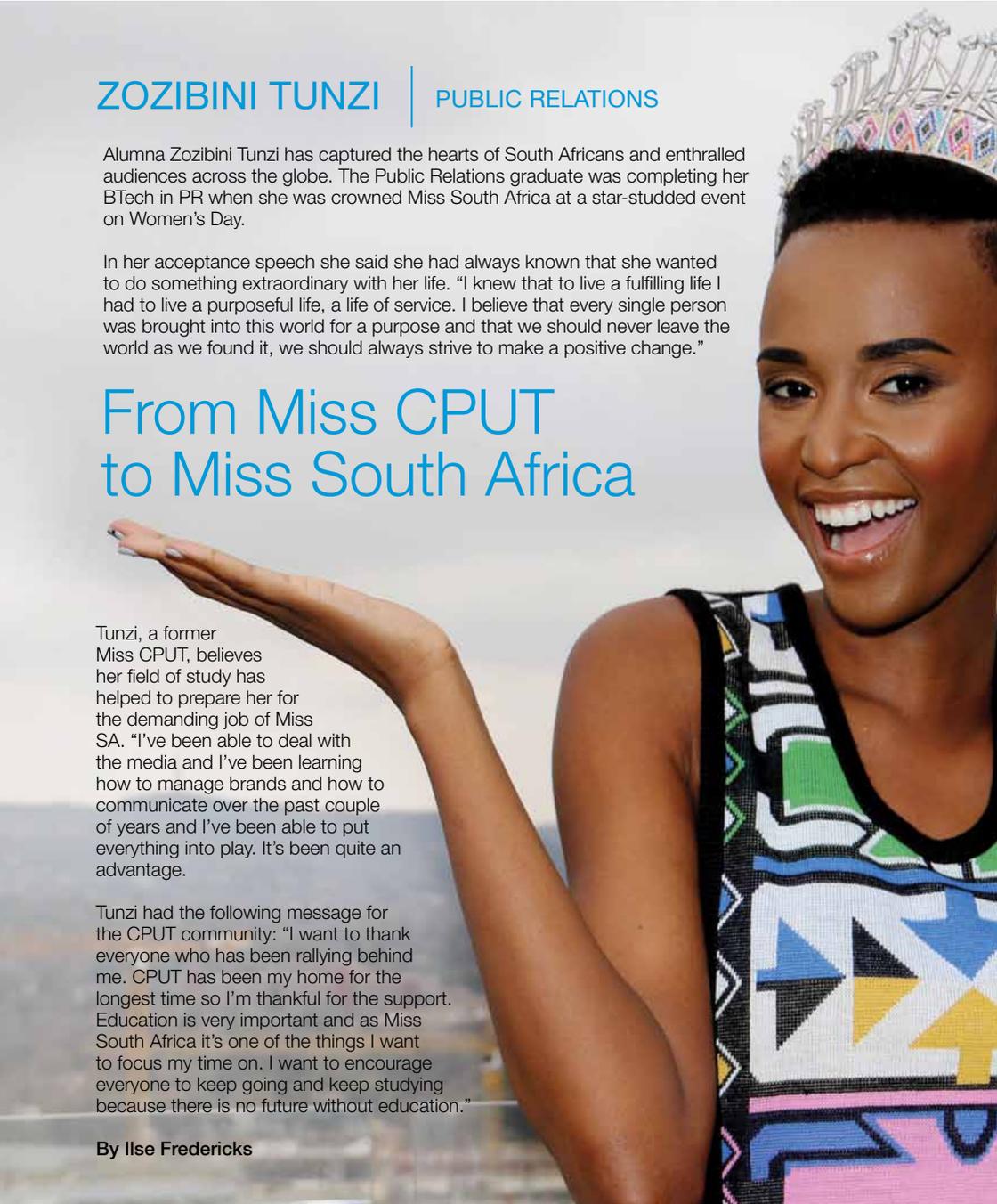
In her acceptance speech she said she had always known that she wanted to do something extraordinary with her life. "I knew that to live a fulfilling life I had to live a purposeful life, a life of service. I believe that every single person was brought into this world for a purpose and that we should never leave the world as we found it, we should always strive to make a positive change."

From Miss CPUT to Miss South Africa

Tunzi, a former Miss CPUT, believes her field of study has helped to prepare her for the demanding job of Miss SA. "I've been able to deal with the media and I've been learning how to manage brands and how to communicate over the past couple of years and I've been able to put everything into play. It's been quite an advantage.

Tunzi had the following message for the CPUT community: "I want to thank everyone who has been rallying behind me. CPUT has been my home for the longest time so I'm thankful for the support. Education is very important and as Miss South Africa it's one of the things I want to focus my time on. I want to encourage everyone to keep going and keep studying because there is no future without education."

By Ilse Fredericks



LUVUYO NDIKI

PRODUCT DESIGN

Luvuyo Ndiki is South Africa's first designer to manufacture 3D printed biodegradable cups which are cost effective than what is currently available on the market, and this earned him a nomination for the South African Premiere Business Awards.

Ndiki launched his cups at Pick n Pay and Caltex across the Western Cape and Eastern Cape in May, and was subsequently selected as a Hennessy entrepreneurial ambassador for their digital campaign. Recently, he was amongst the top five FNB Innovative Business Awards finalists.

It thus comes as no surprise that while growing up as a child Steve Jobs and Bill Gates were his biggest sources of inspiration, but he also gives credit to Leonardo Da Vinci for inspiring him to be the person he has become.

Economical 3D printed Cups

"My family and friend also played a key role in my decision to study towards the [National Diploma in Product Design at CPUT]" says Ndiki. At home he used to change his room furniture every week for a fresh look, and then his mother asked him if he was not keen to study interior design in Cape Town.

"When I arrived at CPUT I was told that I didn't have the right design subjects, so I had to study Design Foundation which led me to choose 3D Design later." In 2014 Ndiki graduated from CPUT with a diploma in Public Relations.

The hardworking former cattle-herder is the founder

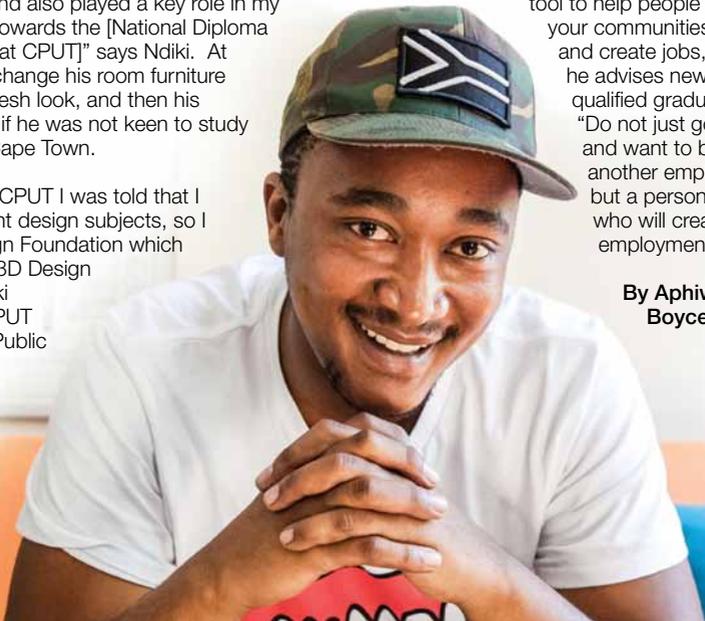
and Chief Executive Officer of Red Village. The company uses 3D printing manufacturing technology to produce cost-effective drinking cups using Polyactive acid filament which is derived from corn-starch and sugarcane.

He learned his values from his grandmothers whom he visited during the school holidays. "They installed a sense of self-belief in me and respect for other people so they can also respect me [too]," he quips. "If I didn't believe in myself I would not push myself to achieve what I have achieved so far."

Ndiki submits that his biggest challenge is finding investors to help him open new manufacturing plants for mass production and creating job opportunities. "Another challenge is the investors' lack of knowledge from investors about 3D printing as a form of advanced manufacturing process".

"The thorough [real] journey has begun so use your degree as a tool to help people in your communities and create jobs," he advises newly-qualified graduates. "Do not just go out and want to be another employee, but a person who will create employment."

By Aphiwé Boyce



CARLA BARNARD | EDUCATION

“Start where you are, use what you have, do what you can.”

With this quote by the late tennis legend Arthur Ashe, alumna Carla Barnard hopes to inspire the class of 2019 to chase their dreams. Barnard’s life encapsulates these words. She grew up in poverty in the small suburb of Ruyterwacht and was thankful for anything she could get to eat.

Dare to Dream

Despite the trials she faced, she never gave up on her dreams.

“One thing that I remember clearly was the fact that my grandmother always taught me to have faith and to trust in the Lord as He will provide. She was my inspiration and, to this day, I live according to the principles which she taught me. I might not have known my biological father and had a perfect loving family, but God blessed me with an amazing mother and grandmother.”

Carla excelled at academics and dreamt of becoming a teacher.

“I was always one of those learners that wanted to learn and achieve good marks. I then also realised that I have a gift. I can motivate others and inspire them with my story and be a living

testimony that no matter what you may face, you still have the power to achieve anything if you put your mind to it.”

After matric she enrolled at CPUT where she thrived during her four years of study. In 2018 she became the first graduate from the Mowbray Campus to be awarded a Dean’s Medal in the Faculty of Education. Barnard obtained 41 distinctions out of the 42 subjects with a final aggregate of 83, 41% over the four years of study.

“I never knew about the Dean’s medal and awards that one could obtain. I just worked hard every day, every semester and every year for four long years. They say hard work pays off. When I graduated and I received this award it was probably one of the best moments in my life.”

Barnard now works at De Vrije Zee Primary School in Goodwood where she is a Grade 7 teacher.

“I enjoy the fact that every day is a new challenge. Most of all, I know I can make a change in one or even two of my learners’ lives if I am lucky. Just knowing that a child comes to school to see me and to learn something exciting makes my heart melt,” she says.

By Ilse Fredericks



ACHIEVER: Teacher Carla Barnard during her graduation ceremony in 2018 where she was announced as the Dean’s Medallist

NTOMBEKAYA NONXUBA

ENTREPRENEUR

Ntombekaya Nonxuba dreamed big and her drive for success saw her stitching together a successful business. Nonxuba, who hails from Esilindini Village in the Eastern Cape, hoped to own her own clothing company and enrolled to study clothing management at CPUT.

“I never had a small business in mind, to me it was always a big business.”

Her vision became a reality. The business, Phakamile Industries (trading as Rise Uniforms), specialises in manufacturing and supplying corporate uniforms and in 2014 was awarded a contract to supply uniforms to Pick n Pay staff countrywide.

Last year the business was also awarded the Boxer Superstore staff uniform contract. She credits CPUT for playing a major role in preparing her for the clothing industry.

She completed a National Diploma in Clothing Management, a BTech degree in Quality and MTech in Quality at CPUT. Nonxuba has worked at the Technology Station: Clothing and Textiles.

“As a student, the opportunity to be placed in a factory during experiential learning exposed

me to the practical and technical skills needed to run my business.

The technology advisor position I held at the technology station gave me an opportunity to interact with clothing businesses and to understand the challenges faced by the business owners in my sector. That assisted me in understanding and selecting our company’s focus area.”

She started her business while working at CPUT and enrolled her sister to study a part-time pattern making course, so that she could be responsible for production while Nonxuba focused on sales.

“We started selling church and school uniforms in 2007.”

Her message for graduates is to think job creation not job seeking.

“South Africa needs more entrepreneurs. We are the change we want to see. Unemployment will not be solved solely by Government, we need students who start at the university level to invent new products and who understand that they are not studying to be employed but to create their own employment and for others.”

Nonxuba says there are a few ingredients in the recipe for her business’ success: “We do not sell to our clients we build relationships, having a clear vision, dedication and understanding our purpose, which is to alleviate poverty and decrease unemployment through building a sustainable business,” she continues. “As a business owner I make sure I’m always available and I always show up. When you do not show up you miss an opportunity to meet new people and build new relationships”.



Rise to Success

By Ilse Fredericks

ANTHONY KLAASTE

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

“Have a clear career direction; try and save money as much as you can for you may never know what the future holds for our economy. So be prepared,” says Anthony Klaaste to newly-qualified graduates.

Klaaste, who completed his ND: Food Technology at CPUT in 1998, is the Director for Supplier Management and Development at the Gauteng Provincial Treasury. He says his job is a 24-hour responsibility, “but I enjoy being of assistance to aspiring business people from all walks of life.”

As part of his duties he manages various databases that include professionals, non-governmental organisations and business companies in Gauteng. He also manages supplier development projects for his department, constantly seeking innovative strategies to combat unemployment, poverty and inequality.

“I constantly engage with banking institutions and the private sector, seeking access to business opportunities for suppliers,” adds Anthony. “I oversee the development of quality product and service specifications within a framework of approved standards, regulations and acts.”

He is also responsible for verifying bank details, BBBEE status and tax compliance of suppliers. He leads a team of 42 colleagues. “I see my main responsibility as that of a team player [and] yet a strategic leader,” he adds.

During his time at CPUT, Klaaste formed valuable relationships with fellow residence students and colleagues in the Food Technology laboratories as well as the library. “The [Bellville] Campus was very neat and welcoming, and I will always treasure my experience at CPUT.”

He loves fun but within a framework of discipline and CPUT offered him exactly that. “I love swimming, so I often made use of the swimming pool.”

Klaaste says CPUT lecturers assisted students with in-service-training contracts at various companies. “I was privileged to be placed in leading companies; the exposure to international companies definitely moulded me for greater things and together with the best training received from CPUT I knew I was set.”

He also remembers the Product Development Exhibition which saw private companies interacting with students, and says he regards such initiatives as important because networking in the business world has become an essential tool for success.

Klaaste started working as a Food Technologist for SGS South Africa in 1999 and was later appointed as a Microbiologist. He joined Johannesburg Fresh Produce Market in 2005 as a Special Projects Manager before becoming a Deputy Director for Vendor Management at the Gauteng Department of Finance. He started in his current job in 2013.

By Kwanele Butana

Save money



CONSTANCE NENGOVHEL

MARITIME STUDIES

Seafaring is what Constance Nengovhela knows, what she loves and what she lives for. It allows her to see the world, it affords her opportunities to interact with people whom ordinarily she would never have met in her lifetime.

Born and raised in a small village of Ha-Mashau in Limpopo, the accidental seafarer was awarded a scholarship by Transnet in 2004 to study towards a National Diploma in Maritime Studies after she completed her Matric in 2002. At CPUT she passed all modules with distinctions.

Upon completing her first year, Constance began sailing around the world in 2005. She completed her International Watchkeeping Certificate at the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) in 2006, and currently sails as a Second Navigating Officer at Grindrod Shipping on board a 179m Bulk Carrier Ship.

The multitasking alumna focuses on her inspirational clothing business, Life

Beyond, when she is not sailing. "I am the founder as well as the creative designer of our Life Beyond merchandise.

"Through seafaring I am exposed to unlimited opportunities all around the world. Being able to visit ten different countries within six months is what many people can only dream of."

Growing up in rural Venda, the little Constance had no idea about the maritime industry as her family could not afford to travel to coastal cities for holiday making.

She says, "My ability to fail successfully. A skill which I believe one acquires through life experiences. I have failed several times to know that failure does not mean the end but rather an opportunity to redeem oneself and try again until achieving the desired outcome."

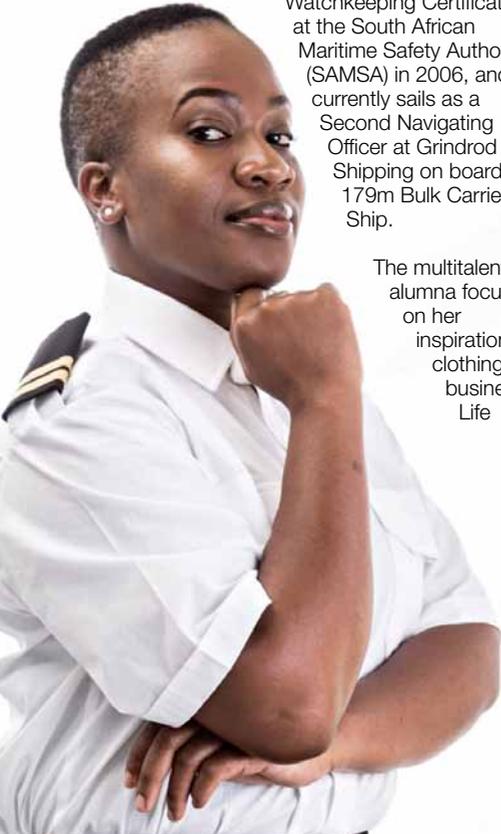
After obtaining the International Watchkeeping Certificate she trained as a Tug Master in the Port of Cape Town. A year later, her career took another turn as she joined De Beers Marine South Africa as a Second Navigating Officer working aboard an Offshore Exploration Vessel and later on an Offshore Mining Vessel, mining diamonds off the Orange River on the West Coast of South Africa.

Constance completed her National Diploma in Maritime Studies Cum Laude in 2010 and joined SAMSA as a Deputy Registrar of Seafarers.

Launching her own business this year has been an ultimate achievement for Constance. "It is one thing to dream about launching a business but to finally do it and have it received positively by those whom I serve has been an absolute achievement."

"CPUT changed my life by introducing me to a whole new world of shipping," says Constance. "Had it not been for my training at CPUT, I would have lived my whole life without being aware of the existence of the maritime industry and the role it plays in global economies."

By Aphwe Boyce



INGA DLUMANE | AGRICULTURE

Award-winning Inga Dlumane is a Junior Production Manager at Dutoit Agri, a farm where he plans and implements production processes to ensure that quality fruit is produced. His duties involve irrigation scheduling, crop protection, weed control, fertilizer applications and staff management (placing the right person in the right job in order to ensure maximum productivity).

Dlumane won the first regional Western Cape Prestige Agri Awards competition in Witzenberg in 2017. The Witzenberg regional competition was the first in a series of regional competitions which are taking place across the province annually. The awards are co-sponsored by the Western Cape Department of Agriculture and Shoprite. The overall winners form part of the Western Cape Prestige Agri Worker Forum that meets with the Minister of Agriculture on a quarterly basis.

But how did Dlumane enter the world of work? In 2016 he had an opportunity to do his Work-Integrated Learning, as required of final year student in the ND: Agriculture (Crop production) programme. "I successfully completed my diploma at the end of 2016 and I was appointed as a production assistant early 2017."

Dlumane says that, with regards to his academic training, the university went beyond the call of duty. "CPUT prepared me for life and more than just the career I was studying towards, [I was taught] how to be a better person and stand out from the rest. CPUT is indeed 'Creating Futures.'"

The scientific knowledge he gained from his studies informs his decision-making on a daily basis.

Dlumane has the following message to newly-qualified graduates who would like to enter the world of work. "Don't be afraid or ashamed of starting at the bottom, because the only guy who starts from the top is a guy who digs a hole."

He concludes: "Lastly, never stop learning because the world never stops teaching, instead be like a sponge and absorb everything that comes your way."

By
**Kwanele
Butana**

Award-winning farm manager

Last year, he registered for the BTech degree in Agriculture while working and successfully completed it and was subsequently appointed as a Junior Production Manager on the farm.

His most memorable experience at the Wellington Campus was the "new family I made there". "Thanks to the brotherhood of the fellow students and mentorship from the lecturers' side, those two were outstanding for me, brotherhood and mentorship."



KARABO MAROANE

REAL ESTATE

Karabo Maroane is wearing two hats as he is a centre manager for Delft Mall and property manager for Site C Plaza in Khayelitsha. In these shopping malls, Maroane has numerous responsibilities ranging from contracts management to staff management, security, cleaning, monthly variance reports, budgets, health and safety adherence.

His journey has not been a roller-coaster ride as he faced many challenges such as combating crime in the shopping centres that he manages. He started off as a rental administrator at Houses4rental while studying in his second year at CPUT. The company caters for the residential market in Cape Town's southern suburbs.

Maroane was working closely with the estate agent and director and his scope of work was very

administrative and included arranging viewings to undertaking a portion of viewings when necessary. "It was a good lead-way into property management as one would expect residential administration to be the starting point," he says.

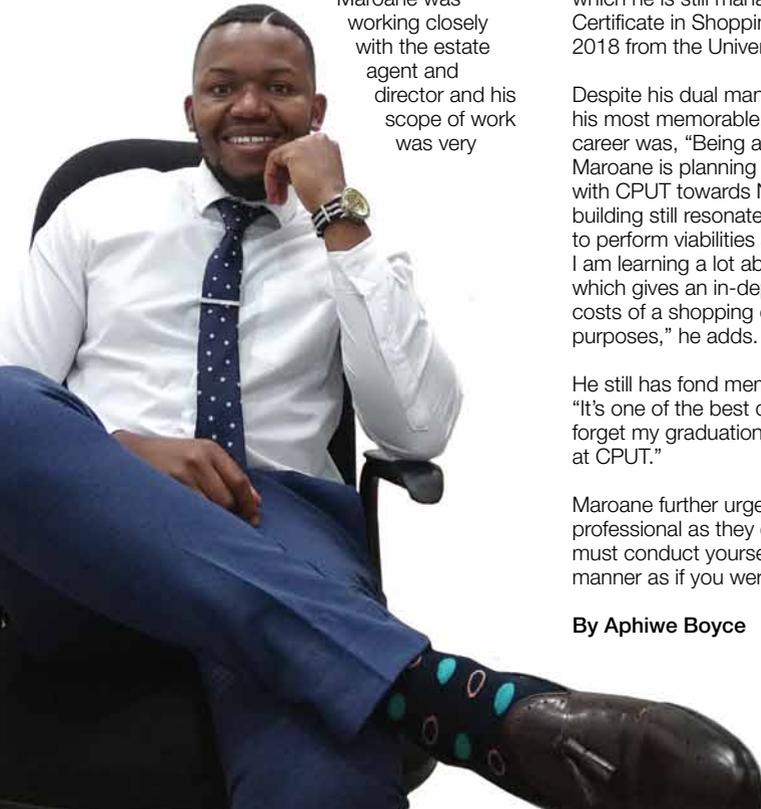
In his third year of study he got recruited by The Foschini Group as a facilities administrator where Maroane worked closely with store and area managers to restore and improve the general look and feel of stores from a position of allocating contractors and acting as a business support structure for maintenance. After he graduated with his ND: Real Estate in 2016, the Mafikeng-born lad was recruited by Shoprite to be a trainee property manager. Two months later he was a centre manager of a new development, Delft Mall which he is still managing. He also obtained a Certificate in Shopping Centre Management in 2018 from the University of Pretoria.

Despite his dual management positions, he says his most memorable moment in his flourishing career was, "Being accepted at CPUT in 2012". Maroane is planning to pursue further studies with CPUT towards ND: Building. "The idea of building still resonates strongly with my ambition to perform viabilities and valuations. At this point, I am learning a lot about centre management which gives an in-depth knowledge of operational costs of a shopping centre and development purposes," he adds.

He still has fond memories of his graduation day, "It's one of the best days of my life, I will never forget my graduation and the relationships I built at CPUT."

Maroane further urged the new graduates to be professional as they enter the job market, "You must conduct yourself in a very professional manner as if you were a brand."

By Aphiwe Boyce



ILZE WAKEFIELD

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Information Technology (IT) alumna, Ilze Wakefield, works as a Corporate Infrastructure Engineer at Amazon in South East Asia. Ilze's main responsibility is to ensure that new corporate offices are launched with fully compliant IT infrastructure before their launch dates.

She holds a National Diploma in Information Technology, which she completed in 2004. "I started as an IT technician with Amazon in Cape Town in 2011, in 2013 I accepted a new role as IT Engineer and moved to Luxembourg," she says. "My time in Luxembourg is where I changed my mind-set and cross-skilled myself in Audio Engineering which has helped me become more flexible in being able to launch sites globally, not only the IT infrastructure aspect."

In 2017, Wakefield moved to Singapore where her main responsibility was Audio Engineering, covering Asia Pacific. During this time she built a strong skillset in the region, mentored new engineers and launched some exciting sites such as Amazon's Fashion Studio in Tokyo and Amazon's first Customer Service Centre in Cebu, Philippines. Her training at CPUT did not come without challenges, though. She sacrificed two years in the Software Development stream but later realised that this was not what she wanted to do for the rest of her life.

"I knew Networks and Communications was my niche and CPUT offered me the opportunity to change and follow my ultimate goal," she continues.

She adds that during her time at CPUT she always looked forward to basketball practice with her coach and team. "At the time, I was the only coloured female (and also secretary of the team) with the rest either being Zulu or Xhosa," recalls Wakefield. "I loved the camaraderie and diversity in the team and how we all played together as a team despite communication challenges with me."

She commends the group of ladies for teaching her some isiZulu and isiXhosa words as she later could understand what they were saying but was too shy to speak the languages. "This proved to me how CPUT can change one's understanding of what diversity is all about."

Wakefield also remember falling on hard times during her studies but she could count on her lecturers who always motivated her. Her most memorable experience was being able to invite her grandparents to her graduation since she is the eldest grandchild.

She has the following message for new graduates. "Don't ever become complacent on your learning path, don't miss that opportunity where you could learn something new," says Wakefield. "There is always something bigger and better out there."

By Kwanele Butana



Audio
engineering
at Amazon

SAZISO MATIWANE

INTERNAL AUDITING

“CPUT has made an indelible contribution to me and it is for this specific reason that it will forever be imbued in my conscious,” says Saziso Matiwane, Regulatory Compliance Auditor at the Western Cape Gambling & Racing Board.

This is what prompted Matiwane to run for the position of Convocation President. “I asked myself this question, ‘what is it that I can do to meaningfully contribute to the life of my alma mater?’”

Value of ploughing back



He adds that he realised that the Convocation plays a very important role in the life of the institution. “It is the kind of platform that can afford me the necessary space to make a meaningful contribution to this prestigious institution of ours.”

Consequently, Matiwane was elected President of CPUT Convocation at this year’s Annual General Meeting. He views his new role as that of connecting the university’s alumni, especially those who are leaders in the private sector and

government, in order to channel everyone’s efforts towards fulfilling the university’s interests.

The former student activist completed his BTech degree in Internal Auditing in 2009 after completing his Diploma in 2007.

As a Regulatory Compliance Auditor, Matiwane performs compliance audits pursuant with the National Gambling Act, Western Cape Gambling Act and other applicable legislations and bylaws. Among other duties he provides input on policies and Limited Pay-out Machines Rules amendments to ensure adherence to the National Gambling Act and other applicable legislations.

He has so many fond memories about life at CPUT, because he was involved in student governance and that played a pivotal role in his personal development. “I used to call myself a graduate that offers more than just what is taught in the classroom, due to the exposure I got while on campus.”

Sazi, as his peers affectionately call him, says representing students on the University Council and other Council subcommittees has to be one of his highlights at CPUT.

“There are, of course, other moments that are up there as well, like when as SRC President I tested for HIV in public as part of an institutional campaign to get students tested.”

He adds that many CPUT graduates are doing very well in their careers, because the institution prepared them for the roles they occupy in various sectors.

“And I am no exception, the little that I have achieved thus far was precisely enabled by the kind of training and an all-encompassing experience at CPUT. The kind of training I received goes much further than just what is taught in the classroom.”

Matiwane encourages new graduates to engage themselves in a journey of lifelong learning, because the information they have already acquired would soon become irrelevant if they do not constantly learn, relearn and unlearn in order to adapt and seize the opportunities presented by the 4th Industrial Revolution for instance.

By Kwanele Butana

Creating value from CPUT INNOVATIONS

Scientific insights and academic breakthroughs draw interest and enthusiasm from the research community. However, without a partner willing to commit in bringing the invention to the marketplace, many potential benefits of these breakthroughs are likely to end in the laboratory.

With a focus on societal and economic impact, we develop and commercialise technologies developed by Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) academics and students. The vision of CPUT Technology Transfer Office (TTO) is thus, 'to provide a technology transfer process that creates value for the people of South Africa.'

The TTO supports CPUT's researchers, staff and students, offering commercial skills and a range of specialist resources in order to maximise innovation impact. Income is shared with those involved according to the IPR Act, and profits from commercialisation are returned to the University to benefit research and education.

Our services include, inter alia:

- Intellectual property protection
- Sourcing of development funding
- Pre-commercialisation activities

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