

ALUMNI connect



Cape
Peninsula
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of Technology

VOL 2 EDITION 3 2014



Warmest greetings to all the alumni of CPUT!

I'm Andiswa Mali, the deputy chairperson of CPUT's Alumni Association. I'm honoured to guest

edit this edition of your Alumni Connect, which is packed full of inspirational profiles of fellow alumni. For those who don't know me, I'm currently a Project Manager at Eskom in East London, my hometown, where I returned after graduation to give back to my community and province.

For me, being an active alumna means I can continue to use and encourage education as a source of empowerment in people's lives. I find it inspiring to nurture young graduates as they move into the working world - their lease on life is fresh and uplifting.

Despite Women's Day and Month having come and gone, we couldn't pass up the chance to profile CPUT's amazing female

graduates in this newsletter – they are quite simply, everywhere! Our wonderful women can be found in the boardrooms of the country's emerging nuclear energy groups and the newsrooms of Namibia, in the living rooms of every avid Masterchef addict and winning awards for ground-breaking scientific research. Read on and discover just how diverse and talented CPUT's alumni are. We also bring you exciting news of our year-end event on December 5th in Cape Town – yes, it is almost that time of year again, and we can't wait.

Before I go, I give my deepest thanks to the women who play such a key role in our regional chapters – here they are at our Alumni AGM held recently in Cape Town.

From right, our former Eastern Cape chapter co-ordinator, Michelle Mbaco. Michelle completed a Higher Diploma in Education: Commerce, from the former Pentech and has been involved in education for the past 25 years. Her exciting news is that she has moved to Cape Town to take up a new role in the Office of the Chief, ANC Parliamentary Caucus. It's lovely to have you back in the Mother City Michelle, all the best.

Charlotte Van Wyk (left of Michelle) "I am doing admin related duties at the Bainsvlei South African Police Force (SAPS), Bloemfontein and am also involved in voluntary duties as a member of the SAPS Women's Network. I've just finished writing my Postgraduate certificate exams in Education and am also busy with my BTech Human Resource Management, with just 4 subjects to go. In addition to my studies I am blessed with a gorgeous hubby and two boys, aged 8 and 11 years old. I'm involved in the AA because I felt I had to give back to the community. I was so blessed to be the first one in my family to study and was assisted financially with bursaries. I feel I owe it to the people who gave me a chance to pay it forward. I believe we should



seize opportunities when they present themselves to help others at all times."

Menesia Muinjo has a National Diploma in Journalism from the former Pentech and is a veteran journalist in Namibian broadcasting, boasting over 20 years of broadcasting experience in both radio and TV. Awesomely exciting news is that Menesia has just been appointed Chief News and Programming Officer at the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation. This is a massive portfolio which sees Menesia head News and Current Affairs across Radio and TV and all multi-media platforms of the NBC. Congratulations and all the best

to Menesia in this challenging new role.

Left of Menesia is Charity Gaosenkwe, our Northern Cape coordinator. Charity holds a BTech degree in Environmental Health (2003) and is currently employed by Sedibeng Water as a Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) Officer. Charity says she's joined the AA as it's a great opportunity to give back and help others to have the gift of education. Thank you to you all, ladies.

A quick word on our first Annual General Meeting in July 2014. It was a great turnout with alumni participating strongly in discussions on the draft constitution.

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The meeting resolved to allow more time for alumni chapters to give input on the draft document and year programme for 2015. We will post these documents on CPUT's webpage for final comment in January 2015 and advertise this widely. The final draft will then be moved for adoption at a Special General Meeting in February 2015.

And so without further ado, shine on and enjoy the newsletter!

Andi



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6.30 pm for 7 pm

dress code Semi Formal

R220 pp

Please RSVP by Friday, 7 November 2014 to HELENA PIETERSEN on pietersenh@cput.ac.za or Tel: 021 460 3389

ALUMNI Profiles

We recently had the privilege of hosting Dr Ramatsemela Masango, the Chief Executive Officer of Mzesi Energy, at our Spring Graduation.

Mzesi was established in 2012, to find alternative energy solutions as part of the government's strategic intent to grow the South African economy.

Dr Masango was previously employed by the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (Necsa), for 3 years as a Group Executive, she spent 5 years at Pebble Bed Modular Reactor Company where she held management positions in safety and licensing and nuclear compliance, 6 years with the National Nuclear Regulator and 4 years at Eskom's Koeberg Nuclear Power Station.

Dr Masango obtained her PhD in Nuclear Engineering from the Pennsylvania State University in USA in 2008, having graduated first from CPUT with a BTech degree in Chemical Engineering in 1996.

She is passionate about mentoring, motivating and supporting young people to achieve their career goals – as you can hear in her address at our September Spring Graduation ceremonies.



Dr Masango's inspirational speech begins at the 20 minute mark.



Dr Ramatsemela Masango (right) pictured here with CPUT's Chancellor, Dr Trevor Manuel.



DR KAREN DOS REIS

From the country's boardrooms to CPUT's classrooms, where it all begins...

Dr Karen Dos Reis currently lectures Accounting in the Education Faculty, Mowbray. She's the powerhouse behind the Accounting Intervention Programme (AIP) which was motivated by her doctoral study in 2012. The findings of the study revealed that pre-service teachers don't receive adequate mentoring during their internship. The AIP aims to give pre-service teachers this mentoring to enhance their knowledge and promote Accounting Education in schools.

As Dr Dos Reis explains, "A total of 150 Accounting students from 1st to 4th year participate in this project. I provide the students with a topic to teach according to the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS) document provided by the Western Cape Education Department. I coach the students how to teach the topic before it is presented at the school on a Saturday. Groups of three to four top performing CPUT students

are given an opportunity to teach learners from 09h00 -12h00. Currently, 350 learners from approximately 13 local schools participate. The Peninsula School Feeding Association provide nutritious meals to all learners at the end of the lesson."

"I am a proud CPUT Alumnus and consider myself a CPUT brand ambassador," says Karen.

She believes that alumni have a moral obligation to protect the integrity of the university in various ways, including -

- Always do more than what is required from you in the workplace and communities.
- Promote equality and defy inequality.
- Show "patriotism" for your Alma Mater
- Do not hold back, give back.

Dr Dos Reis was featured on local TV recently, explaining just why she's inspired to give back...



AIMEE FRANKLIN

Aimee is currently working for the Democratic Alliance's sister party in the United Kingdom, the Liberal Democrats, managing the party's Africa programme. This is called the Africa Liberal Network, and it is the largest political network on the continent.

Aimee filled us in on her time at CPUT and beyond.

We had a small, very close class and really enjoyed the fact that we had a strong practical element to our studies that enabled us to put all the theory into practice – one of the highlights was definitely coordinating our classes' AfroGlam fashion show in second year as a part of our event management module.

After graduating, I was keen to apply my skills in a field where I could really make a difference. I have always been an activist at heart and quite

accidentally fell into a career in politics after the Democratic Alliance selected me for their prestigious Young Leaders Programme.

Starting off in the party's national media office, I went on to manage the party's national youth and student organisations.

The strong communication skills I had learnt in my PR studies really came in handy for a career in politics, which is all about how you communicate.





JEANINE BENJAMIN

It's a clichéd phrase, but here is a woman who definitely wears two quite different hats with aplomb.

What role has your Dad played in shaping your worldview? Has he been a big influence in your life?

My father is a lecturer in Applied Sciences and has indeed been a major influence in my life. He's always supported me and believed in what I want to do and my capabilities. He also always told us as kids that no matter the outcome, the important part was that we did our personal best, not that we were the best overall.

What motivated you to study Mechanical Engineering and what was it like studying in a fairly traditionally male-dominated field?

I was motivated to study Mechanical Engineering because in high school I was in a similar stream, doing sciences, technical drawings and Fitting and Turning. I was actually the top student in the province in Fitting and Turning in the Matric exams! This also meant that I was quite used to being in a male-dominated class since the age of 14 - it was fairly easy for me to adapt.

Mech Eng to Jewellery design! Wow – what a shift! What was it that prompted the change in direction and how did it feel starting from scratch in a newish field after graduation?

I often hear people say that to move from engineering to jewellery is an unexpected shift. Ultimately what lies behind both is design, with a consideration for function and form of an object.

Though I was making jewellery for some years, JINN was solidified when I was unable to find employment after I graduated from UCT. I had been making jewellery a few years before so when I found myself in a situation that was ripe for innovation, lots of time and no money, I decided to start my business. Within the first 2 months I was stocking 2 well known boutiques, one in Cape Town and one in Johannesburg. I kept my business going after accepting a position as a mechanical engineer at consulting firm Arup, and used some of my salary to fund a silver smithing course. The business developed organically from there. As mentioned before, I did fitting and turning in high school, which is basically metalwork, it really wasn't that new a field to venture into. On starting the silver smithing course I was actually surprised at how much of the theory I already knew and the hand-skills I had mastered as a teen.

Tell us a little about your design aesthetic and what influences are evident in your designs?

My design aesthetic is generally geometric, in line with the fundamental shapes behind objects. This can be seen in the new handbag range I have recently launched (not yet available for sale but can be viewed on JINN social media pages). My design inspiration comes from various influences through my experiences in life, from being a child during the last years of a lively liberation movement in South Africa, to my grandparents' timeless style and elegance that I modernise, to the technical drawings I would produce in my time as an engineer.

Where to now – please explain your plans to study in Paris and how people can help you achieve this goal?

Though I have managed to build a profitable business, I have always felt that I would like to expand on my business education. I went searching for MBA programmes that suited me and was very happy to find an MBA in Luxury Brand Management at ESSEC Business School in France. This specialised MBA will develop my understanding of business processes within the luxury goods industry. It will put me in direct contact with current and future leaders and decision makers in various aspects of this industry. It will also expose me to core workings of luxury business in other emerging markets. In my view, the knowledge gained in this degree will help me grow the brand into a lean and ethically-operated African luxury brand with a global footprint.

Jeanine graduated from CPUT with a National Diploma in Mechanical Engineering in 2007.

She's currently pursuing an MBA in Luxury Brand Management at ESSEC Business School in France – all the better to manage her burgeoning jewellery design business, Jinn making waves across South Africa.

Her Dad, Michael, is a lecturer at CPUT and her sister Lindsey is also a graduate of the Mechanical Engineering Department, so the family ties to CPUT are strong!

This multi-talented woman answers a few of our questions and shares some of her beautiful designs.

View more of Jeanine's exquisite designs at www.jinn.co.za or find her on Facebook: **Jinn Jewellery** Instagram: **@jinn.co.za** Twitter: **@Jinn_jewels**





PROF PRISCILLA BAKER

Kudos to outstanding academic and winner of the Distinguished Woman Scientist (Natural Sciences and Engineering) Award 2014 from the Department of Science and Technology - Professor Priscilla Baker.

Prof Baker obtained a National Diploma in Analytical Chemistry (first class) in 1993 from CPUT.

During her internship, she was drawn into the domain of electrochemical research and graduated with a BSc honours (chemistry) in 1995. 2 years later, she successfully completed her MSc dissertation as a Council for Scientific and Industrial Research bursary holder at the University of the Western Cape. (UWC) and then finally completed her PhD in 2004 at Stellenbosch University.

Currently a professor of chemistry at UWC, Dr Baker is also co-leader of SensorLab, an electrochemistry research group in the Department of Chemistry. Sensorlab focuses on the fundamental and applied electrodynamics of smart materials for sensors, energy devices, and environmental and health solutions.



DEMELZA MULLIGAN

Demelza Mulligan, who holds a BTech degree in Hospitality Management after graduating in 2009, was appointed Managing Director of HAVER Southern Africa in August of this year.

HAVER & BOECKER is based in Germany. Under the umbrella of HAVER & BOECKER OHG, the Wire Weaving and Machinery Divisions, together with over 50 subsidiary companies on five continents, make up the HAVER Group. In 2013 the HAVER Group posted a sales turnover of 470 million euros.

The Wire Weaving Division produces woven wire mesh and processes it into engineered woven wire products. They are used for screening and filtration by the chemical, plastics, automotive, aviation, aerospace, electronics, foodstuffs and feed industries, as well as for architectural applications and analysis sieves.

After Ms Mulligan graduated from CPUT, she earned her international Master's Degree in Germany at the Polytechnic University of Münster. During her studies there she made contact with HAVER & BOECKER, going on to work for the Chamber



of Industry and Commerce in South Africa. The business administration specialist then changed over to HAVER Southern Africa in 2013 where she was able to use her fluent language skills in German, English and Afrikaans as the marketing manager - and now as managing director.

Mulligan says her new role allows her to combine her "European academic foundation with the African reality, on a daily basis".



MASTERCHEF ABIGAIL MBALO

As this newsletter went "to press" so to speak, we were still rooting for CPUT alum and staff member Abigail Mbalo, cooking up a storm on the hugely popular Masterchef South Africa Season 3 series on DSTV.

Mbalo has been with CPUT for six years and works as a Dental Technologist at the Tygerberg campus. After losing a brother to diabetes in 2007, Mbalo became passionate about changing the eating habits of the black middle class. Her dream is to educate South Africans about the versatility of food, using fresh, local ingredients. Follow Abi's quest on Masterchef, every Thursday at 19h30 on MNet. (Channel 101)

Investing in the future

And finally, we'd like to acknowledge one of CPUT's finest assets.

The clattering tea-trolley of **CATHLEEN PETERSEN** making her way along the hallways of the Cape Town Campus is a sight and sound that's always welcome to us. Affectionately known as "Aunty Cathy", this remarkable lady has been working at CPUT for 23 years. Not content to simply bring a smile and welcome tea-break to staffers, Aunty Cathy is also an active supporter of the university's Bursary Fund.

"Every day, I see underprivileged young people whose parents can't afford to pay for their studies," she says. "I know that education is the one thing they need and this motivated me to support the Bursary Fund with a monthly donation. I'm hoping that one day, even though I may not be here anymore, my grandchildren will be able to benefit."

If you'd like to join Aunty Cathy, download a pledge form from <http://www.cput.ac.za/advancement/pledge-form> OR email Francois Jooste (joostef@cput.ac.za) at the Advancement Department.

Don't hesitate to get in touch, give us feedback, tell us of your success or just say hi!

Val and Francois are at your service...alumni@cput.ac.za





MUCH-LOVED CPUT STAFF MEMBERS PASS AWAY

THE PASSING OF ZULEIKA NORTJE, PROF JOHAN ESTERHUYSE AND SEVERUS CERFF.

As we honour our accomplished alumni, we also pause to honour 3 deeply respected staffers, who passed away this year.

ZULEIKA NORTJE

A lecturer for 27 years in Dental Assisting obtained a Diploma: Oral Hygiene at the University of Stellenbosch.

After joining the Peninsula Technikon in 1987 she enrolled for the NHD: Post School Education which she completed two years later. In recent years she enrolled for an MSc (Dentistry) at UWC. She had submitted her dissertation and would have graduated towards the end of this year or early in 2015.

During her 27 years as a lecturer, she saw the intake of students grow from 10 to over 70 this year.

READ MORE

PROF ESTERHUYSE

Prof Johan Esterhuyse is described as a remarkable man who had a great impact on CPUT and the Biomedical Technology Profession.

He obtained a ND: Medical Technology at the Cape Technikon in 1978 and continued his studies at the University of Stellenbosch where he obtained his Ph.D in 2005.



He was appointed at the Cape Technikon in 1989 as a lecturer and became Head of the Department of Biomedical Sciences in 2002. He continued to lead the Department within the Faculty of Health and Wellness Sciences when the Cape Technikon and Peninsula Technikon merged to form CPUT in 2005. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2008 and his promotion to full Professor was approved as recently as June 2014.

Sadly, he passed away before he had the opportunity to present his inaugural address as a Full Professor, an honor given to all such academics. Staff and students within his department describe him as being a true gentleman who had time and patience for all, and who treated everyone fairly.

SEVERUS CERFF

Sevèrus, the Advertising Manager in the Marketing and Communication Department and an alumnus gave 33 years of loyal service to CPUT.

He was in every sense of the word, a CPUT stalwart, loved by all. Here at the Advancement Department he always popped his head around one's door with a naughty grin and greeted everyone warmly in his rich deep baritone. Severus will be remembered for his invaluable contribution in building the University's brand. His presence in the Marketing and Communication Department and the Advancement Department will be deeply missed.



Sincere condolences to Sevèrus's wife Susan and daughters, Heste and Suzaan, and the rest of his family.

We particularly like this picture of Severus attending his daughter Zaan's graduation – it reflects his wonderful laid-back demeanour and the immense pride he took in his children's many achievements.

Rest in Peace, dear Boet.

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