

Celebrating August Women's month!



Happy Women's month. In celebration of Women's month, we feature five of our finest female alumni.

We hope you will enjoy getting to know them as much as the Alumni Office enjoyed engaging with them to say 'yes' to be profiled.

As the Acting Vice Chancellor, I offer my sincere compliments and deepest gratitude to the Advancement Department and Alumni Association for the Alumni Connect. This newsletter connects and informs our alumni all over the world about their alma mater.

The Alumni Association is committed to spreading and propagating member contact and interactions to advance the bond of fraternity. The Executive management of the Cape Peninsula University (CPUT) fully endorses it and urge our many campus audiences and pre-alumni to read it. We aspire to become recognised as one of the top research-led teaching institution in the higher education sector in South Africa.

This is the bold and exciting vision of the CPUT.

Despite the economic and competitive challenges associated with the aftermath of #FeesMustFall, CPUT has maintained a steady increase in Research and Innovation (R&I) output in South Africa. This means that significant steps have been taken to actualize the Vision 2020 and the RTI Blueprint.

We are a family organization bound together by our core values of inter alia, Ubuntu. We sincerely hope that the graduate attribute imparted on you will ensure that you continue to contribute to the development of the institution. I welcome all CPUT Alumni across the globe to come forward to contribute their share of service or financial assistance to make CPUT a great research-led teaching university of technology in South Africa, Africa and beyond!

- Let the Newsletter, *Alumni Connect*, be the catalyst for connecting our alumni into one big family.
- Let Networking grow which will lead to both direct and indirect benefits, contacts, socializing and interactions that eventually add impetus to our development, internationalization and globalization of our brand.
- Let the *Alumni Connect* be a conduit for great successful stories.
- Let the Alumni Association membership continue to grow annually.

Enkosi Siyabulela
Baie Dankie
Thank you

Dr Chris Nhlapo
Acting: Vice Chancellor

Alumni profiles

DEBUT NOVEL EXPLORES THE IMPACT OF VIOLENCE

by Lauren Kansley



INTIMATE: Dr Barbara Boswell used her own life experience as inspiration for book

As a child Dr Barbara Boswell dreamed of being a writer but without the influence of excellent black South African female writers the young girl expected the dream to remain just that - a dream. Instead after matriculating she pursued the next best career option and studied journalism - eventually graduating from Peninsula Technikon on the eve of democracy in SA in 1994. Boswell returned a few years later to complete her BTech in Journalism while working as a journalist in Cape Town.

Years later it was while she completed a doctorate in Women's Studies at the University of Maryland in the United States that the idea of finally realising her childhood dream of writing a book finally crystallised.

"My PhD led me to the work of some great, but unknown Black South African women writers and discovering them made me believe I could write fiction of my own," she says.

Visit <http://www.modjajibooks.co.za/titles/grace/> for more information about the book which retails for around R250.

"I tried my hand at writing fiction while completing my dissertation, and the novel 'Grace' is the result. The novel actually helped me complete the arduous project of writing a dissertation because it provided me with spaces of creativity."

The novel follows the story of Grace, a young girl growing up on the Cape Flats in the 1980s, who's past comes rushing back after the reappearance of a long-lost friend. As a victim of domestic abuse herself Boswell says the book explores the impact that violence, both personal and political, can have on an individual's life.

Boswell currently teaches English Literary Studies at Wits and says her novel is joining a local literary scene that is exploding with exciting talent. "We are a very creative nation and our literature is flourishing," she says. "When you look at the number of new books coming out, it is apparent that we have found our voice and are continuing to articulate our experiences in beautiful ways. It's an exciting time to be a writer and reader, as we are spoilt with a number of excellent books, both fiction and non-fiction, to choose from."

DR DEBORAH JOHNSON

by Tamryn Christians

Her passion for the industry started since she was a little girl. She loved the idea of exploring new places and her parents' fetish for traveling made her love for traveling grow even more.

Today, CPUT alumnus, Dr Deborah Johnson has been actively involved in the tourism and hospitality industry for over 25 years. During the 25 years she has experienced and achieved many things.

Deborah holds the position as Vice Dean: Innovation and lectures students at The Private Hotel School in Stellenbosch. Deborah is dedicated to develop best practice for the tourism and hospitality industry and to create new opportunities for the tourism and hospitality leaders of tomorrow. Deborah was responsible for developing the first undergraduate Event Management qualification which was approved by the South African Qualification Authorities and endorsed by the Event Management Body of Knowledge (EMBOK, United States of America). She developed the framework for the BTEch in Event Management, a post-graduate qualification aimed at the professional event industry and so much more.

Her greatest achievement however, is not the fact that she herself has achieved so much in her personal capacity.

"The greatest achievement for me is to see young people I had the privilege of lecturing to, become successful and enjoy what they do. Their success becomes my honour."

Her accolades have come with hard work and sacrifices and her family has been one of the pillars during the most difficult times. She has also taken her passion abroad in places such as Saudi Arabia and Greece. "It's an awesome experience to work in another country, environment and culture



completely opposite to your own."

Dr Johnson is also responsible to network the Africa and Middle East regions.

She has been able to build up a very good network of people and still keep contact with them and communicate on a regular basis. "It is about influencing people in a positive manner and making a positive contribution where-ever you go."

Her travelling experiences as she says have also impacted her greatly and have been her biggest learning curve. She says that it has also taught her to be considerate towards other people and not to be selfish.

When asked who her greatest role model is, she reluctantly said her father (dadda), John Robert Johnson. He was a hard worker and taught her good values and he always believed that a female must be able to stand her ground and be able to generate her own money, she says. "When he became ill with cancer, he taught me how to accept challenges you cannot change and still to live your life with vigour to the end. I really miss him."

Dr Johnson's advice to young people: "Always put your trust in God, He knows best and walk in faith. Never just give an answer quickly. Take time to think about it and get back to the person/business/entity. Enjoy life and embrace everyday with a positive approach."



CAROLINE PULE

by Ashleigh Roman

Caroline Pule, qualified Medical Scientist and final year PhD student, spoke to us about her journey as a woman in science. As the founder of the Caroline Pule Science and Literacy Foundation (CPSLF), her passion for motivating the youth of South Africa is the driving force behind her philanthropic work.

Caroline spoke to us about how Cape Peninsula University of Technology has helped her within her field and what continues to motivate her in life and her medical research.

In 2011, she graduated from CPUT with a BTEch in Medical Biotechnology, at the top of her class. Since then, she has completed her MSc in Medical Sciences at Stellenbosch University, and is currently completing her PhD in the Molecular Biology and Human Genetics departments.

"I think that CPUT, based on its vision "To be at the heart of technology, education and innovation in Africa" is a good institution, equipped with the necessary resources to educate and develop well reputable alumni. Its mission and core values also say a lot about it, especially in terms of promoting innovation, excellence, accountability, equity and Ubuntu".

"It helped me to discover more of my passion for science. The many practical laboratory classes helped to lay the foundation for me as a Medical Sciences researcher".

Her current research at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Science in the Division of Molecular Biology and Human Genetics, focuses on understanding the physiology of drug-resistant and tolerant Mycobacterium tuberculosis, and how these bacteria modulate the host response in the context of the macrophage infection model. She believes her research findings may lead to the identification of novel biological pathways and the development of novel drug targets to combat the spread of drug-resistant TB.

"Ever since high school, my dream was to be a Medical Scientist, to find cures for incurable diseases and help improve public health. This is my big inspiration which keeps me focused."

Caroline has raked in a number of prestigious awards, which includes the SA Women in Science award and the Harry Crossley Foundation Research Project Funding Award.

"Work very hard, work consistently, be smart and go the extra mile to get good marks. Life is about choices, it doesn't matter what family you come from, whether rich or poor".

An avid member of various professional societies in science, she is an ambassador for the South African National Tuberculosis Association (SANTA) and Founder/CEO of her own foundation which she describes as "a foundation with a vision of a National footprint once it becomes sustainable at a local level".

We asked her what she hopes to achieve with the foundation.

"It has the tenacity to continuously promote change movement to make a difference in the future generation, and our youth in disadvantaged communities - through literacy advancement and science education" she says.

Advocating book donations, providing scientific literature and running mobile libraries in disadvantaged communities are some of the goals of CPSLF. She would like to continue running activities that educate and equip young women with skills enhancement by developing science clubs and running career guidance activities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields, and to continue being a role model through her journey in medical research.

Caroline is a woman of many talents, who notes sports, aerobics, writing, singing and playing the guitar as some of her hobbies. "I enjoy motivational speaking and face modelling. I was Miss CPUT 2009 and Miss Western Cape Personality 2010. I'm an ASICS Frontrunner SA; I mostly run marathons and half marathons. I also enjoy travelling and outdoor activities such as hiking and camping."

"I'm more about living life to the fullest so for the sake of ensuring my tranquility, I try by all means to find time to relax and do activities that fascinate me. One gift I thank God for is the ability to be proactive, which allows me to multitask".

Going forward, she hopes to complete her doctoral degree, start writing manuscript articles for publications and graduate as Dr Pule. She aims to become a post-doctoral researcher at an International Research Institute, where she hopes to continue with DR-TB research.

Her message to young women who hope to achieve a career in Science is: "Work very hard, work consistently, be smart and go the extra mile to get good marks. Life is about choices, it doesn't matter what family you come from, whether rich or poor".

Lindall Elaine Adams

Librarian, Researcher, Inequality Activist and most recently a PhD Candidate

by Bulelani Dyomfana

in her class. She recalls one incident in which a fellow white male student referred to her as an "intellectual desert" "I was hurt and felt humiliated and never had a punch-line to throw back at him. But yes, the guy who called me an intellectual desert did me a huge favor".

"Make your voice heard. Library and Information Science is no longer about the perception people have of librarians that they must read lots of books or probably have great arm muscles because of stamping books".

But despite these circumstance at the time, Lindall pulled through and graduated in 1992. She now boasts an impressive 21 years of experience as a librarian. Currently Lindall works at an applied technology high school in Ras Al Khaimah (United Arab Emirates), doing quality assurance. She also specializes in the areas of supervising, problem solving, conflict management, information literacy, survey design, data analysis, findings, data interpretation, data mining and conference presentations and is currently working resubmitting her doctoral thesis. "I am currently working on my doctoral corrections for resubmission, and if I could find the time complete two abstracts one for a conference in Poland and the other in South Africa".

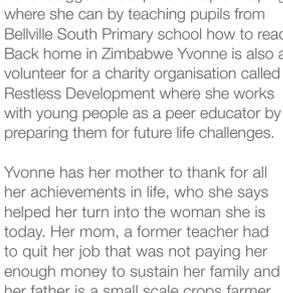
She encourages aspiring librarians to get their names out there considering how much the field has changed from what it used to be. "Make your voice heard. Librarians in and in 2011 she was awarded the Vice Chancellor's Medal and she was the Deputy Chairperson of the Association of International students (CPUT Bellville Campus).

With all these accolades under her belt, Yvonne has also proven herself as a researcher with several peer-reviewed journal articles, presenting her work to fellow scholars in conferences as well as contributing a chapter to a textbook. She has researched Barbara groundnut dietary fibres, a research she hopes will increase the awareness of the health and dietary benefits of this nutritious legume. She says that Barbara groundnut is a "complete-food" meaning it provides all the nutrients necessary for a balanced diet.

Mahatma Ghandi once said "the only joy in the world is to begin", and the beginning of Yvonne's journey from Plumtree to Cape Town was the start of her joy because she really is a happy person.

YVONNE MAPHOSA CPUT PhD student

By Coleman Nkonki



Yvonne Flying the Zimbabwean flag high during graduation

Even though Yvonne Maphosa comes from a small rural town of Plumtree outside Bulawayo in Zimbabwe, where most of her peers dropped out of school before they could even get to high school level because there were few role models to look up to, she refused to let her background limit her big dreams of becoming a Food Technologist.

In her late twenties Yvonne is just getting started with her life and fulfilling her dreams. As if being kept busy by her PhD studies in Food Technology and working as an assistant teacher at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology are not enough. She is also an author, a travel blogger and a philanthropist helping where she can by teaching pupils from Bellville South Primary school how to read. Back home in Zimbabwe Yvonne is also a volunteer for a charity organisation called Restless Development where she works with young people as a peer educator by preparing them for future life challenges.

Yvonne has her mother to thank for all her achievements in life, who she says helped her turn into the woman she is today. Her mom, a former teacher had to quit her job that was not paying her enough money to sustain her family and her father is a small scale crops farmer, so he didn't really make much either. She says she learnt about the hardships of life from a young age. "Parents always manipulate you into doing something because I always wore my sister's old uniform and shoes to school. My mother would complement me about how good it looked on me." Her face lights up as she talks about her mom and how poor they were at home, yet they were taught to be happy with the little they have in life.

"Growing up in Plumtree I didn't really have a lot of people to look up to because everyone drops out of school as soon as they can read and write, and they go to Johannesburg in search of jobs. We didn't even know that they work as maids because they would come back with nice All-Star sneakers and speak Zulu, so we thought they must be living a good life in Joburg."

One of the reasons she helps young people better their lives is because she doesn't want them to repeat the same mistakes made by her peers during her teenage years in Zimbabwe: who thought dropping out of school for a job as a maid in Johannesburg was investing in themselves.

Yvonne admits that her journey wouldn't have been without the presence of her good friends made in first year and the people that helped her get registered as a student in CPUT including her family that has always pushed her to be the best at everything she does. After arriving late for application and registration she went to get help at the International students' office, where she met Mr Mokoena who begged the Science department to accept her even though she was late. Mr Mokoena is the same gentleman that

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