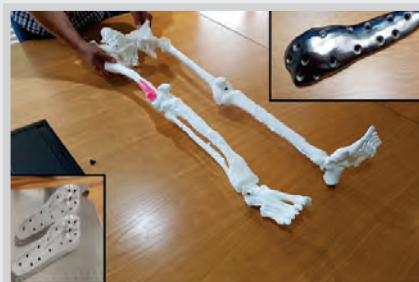




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Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof. Henk de Jager

Dear CUT students

Greetings to all! Ke Ya Dumedisa Bohle Kaofela! Groete aan u almal!

On behalf of the Central University of Technology, Free State (CUT) community, welcome to all new and returning students to the 2021 academic year!

During the past two years, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to wreak havoc in South Africa and globally and caused a massive human crisis. Much discomfort was caused by this pandemic, and Management deeply empathises with all the hardships felt. CUT's proactive approach helped us to emerge stronger from this crisis, and to fully embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

You have joined more than 21 000 other students, including international students from more than 12 countries, at both the Bloemfontein and Welkom campuses. We are glad that you have chosen CUT as your academic home away from home, where you can reach your full potential and create a future that you and your loved ones can be proud of. Students are the heart of any university, and every academic year brings a buzz of activity, excitement and renewed energy to our university, and inspiration to our employees.

Those of you who have joined us for the first time have made an excellent choice, and you can look forward to an enriching experience at this institution. We are confident that our competent staff, and our academic and research programmes will provide a platform for you to sharpen your knowledge in your respective fields.

CUT offers a holistic learning experience. Your learning will not be limited to academic learning, as there are other important skills that we wish to develop in you. Now more than ever, it is important to

develop graduates with not only academic acumen, but also emotional intelligence and creative, critical, and entrepreneurial skills. One such example is Sizolwakhe Mtetwa, a third-year Construction Management student, who won an award at the 2021 Global Young Innovators Programme, which offers forward-thinking entrepreneurial minds from across South Africa and the United Kingdom (UK), a platform to join forces, ignite ideas and co-design solutions that can help solve some of the greatest challenges facing the global community. We also seek to develop ethical leaders who are equipped to make decisions based on high moral standards, and who consider how their decisions will affect others – thus, responsible citizens.

Furthermore, we offer an array of extramural activities that will allow you to develop your talent in sport, culture, and leadership. There is something to cater for every taste – soccer, rugby, netball, basketball; cricket; tennis; choir; student societies; and CUT FM, to name but a few. The staff members within Student Affairs are highly competent and well trained to support you at various levels.

Learn to take full responsibility for your own development. However, know that you are not alone. If you find it hard to cope, seek help. We have state-of-the-art resources to support student learning and development, such as the Wellness Centre, the Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching (CILT), Counselling Services, and Library and Information Services. Talk to your classmates, housemates, friends, Students' Representative Councils (SRCs), and your lecturers or mentors. They constitute the support system you need. Remember, you are destined for greatness!

We are committed to enhancing our institutional culture, as we value our employees and students, and want to create an enabling environment for them to flourish. Thus, we aim to uproot all forms of unfair discrimination, whilst embracing diversity, non-racism, non-sexism, and human dignity for all.

We believe that our students, graduates, alumni, and staff are taking the lead in activities that will fuel economic growth post-COVID-19, especially through cutting-edge research and life-changing social and technological innovations, as we measure our success by our ability to contribute towards socio-economic development worldwide. You will be the post-pandemic graduates who must rebuild our economy. Make maximum use of this opportunity to achieve success in your studies, build your future and character, and protect your moral qualities. Live your values, so that people will see that CUT students are unique, and that they have high ethical values and the unique characteristics to become leaders in our society.

In conclusion, I wish to encourage you to take the bull by the horns and maximise this great opportunity to create a future that you and your loved ones can be proud of. The late social rights activist, Martin Luther King Jr, eloquently reminded us of the significance of education when he said: *"the function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically..."* If you manage to do that, you would have run half the race!

All the best with your studies and enjoy your CUT journey!

Best wishes / Kattleho le Mahlohonolo / Beste wense

Prof. Henk de Jager
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

CRPM partners with EmoyaMed to change a life with 3D printing technology



The surgical team who took part in the operation. Back row: Dr Wilbur van Biljon, Dr Dennis Tewson, Prof Cules van den Heever, Matron Henriette van Vuuren and Dr Charles van Niekerk. Front row: Dr Irshaad Abdoola, Ms Marcia Pitso, Ms Glenda Potgieter and Ms Naomi Gertse.

The [Centre for Rapid Prototyping and Manufacturing \(CRPM\)](#) has made history through collaboration with [EmoyaMed Private Hospital](#). The first ever operation in the new theatre wing took place on 29 June 2021, with the patient, who had a benign tumour on his lower jaw receiving a custom 3D printed titanium implant manufactured by CRPM.

Award-winning prosthodontist, Prof. Cules van den Heever, explained that the project began with making the custom implant for the patient. "We were contacted by a surgeon at EmoyaMed, Dr Charles van Niekerk, who was aware of the custom implants that CRPM has been producing. During the planning stages, we worked from the CT scan of the patient with tumour diagnosis on the right side of the jaw. We have since operated and removed the tumour and replaced the jaw with a 3D printed titanium jaw," said Prof. van den Heever.

The operation was done pro-bono, with EmoyaMed donating their facilities and staff for the operation procedure. EmoyaMed Chief Executive Officer, Dr Willie Wiid, said that they saw this as a great opportunity to give back to the community.

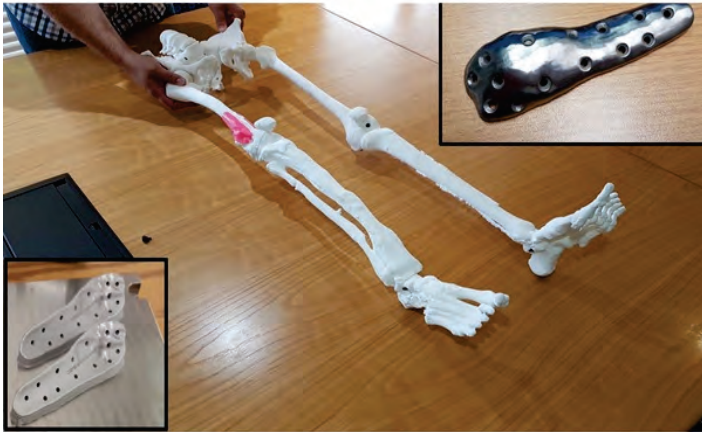
"The procedure was not fully covered by the medical aid thus we decided to provide the facility for free. This procedure marks the official start of our theatre complex," he said.

Dr Wiid added that giving back to the community through collaborations such as the one with CRPM is one way the hospital is entrenching its services in the Bloemfontein community.

Prof. Cules van den Heever added that projects such as this one would not be possible without collaborations. "CUT is currently the world leader when it comes to 3D printed titanium and cobalt implants, and it is all happening here in Bloemfontein. The technology that we have here is not being done anywhere else. We've got another partner involved called Selective Surgical. Through this partnership they market our products, and we also do 3D printed implants for them."

The male patient in his thirties has since recovered successfully. "It's always good to do something for the community. I was born and bred here, and it feels good to be back, give back to the people of this area and to make history," Prof. van den Heever concluded.

CUT's CRPM – Building Additive Manufacturing Ecosystems in Botswana



The image shows the skeleton and implants produced, using a "wax-up" procedure on the reproduction of the skeleton.

The Central University of Technology, Free State (CUT) Centre for Rapid Prototyping and Manufacturing (CRPM), has once again succeeded in breaking more ground in their attempt to transfer Additive Manufacturing (also known as 3D-Printing) knowledge and skills to industry and the community.

Through the Southern Africa Innovation Support (SAIS) initiative, funded from Finland through its Project Management office in Windhoek, Namibia, a successful bid was made under the SAIS2 programme to establish an Additive Manufacturing (AM) Ecosystem in Botswana, in collaboration with the University of Botswana (UB) and the Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation (BITRI).

Before starting with the AM hardware and its applications to service Botswana's needs, a comprehensive needs assessment was done, which included a review of the current Innovation Ecosystem, followed by a review of the Botswana National System of Innovation, and because of AM's immense impact on health treatment, an overview was done on Botswana's Health System, and how AM could impact on that. In addition, a comprehensive gap analysis was also done, and led to various training initiatives, presented in Botswana and at CRPM in Bloemfontein.

In parallel, some training initiatives have started, focussing on AM and AM applications training, Design for AM (DfAM), a short course on Quality Management Systems necessary for AM and more specifically medical AM applications, in addition to AM skills development for Clinicians. A public launch was also hosted in Gaborone, in order to bring government, private and public institutions and importantly, industry and the medical fraternity on board.



The Southern African Innovation Support (SAIS) project team at the project launch, which took place at the University of Botswana.

With the COVID-19 bringing travel between SA and Botswana to a halt, the project progressed very well. All project related activities continued in a virtual environment, which did not pose a major problem to the project, as a significant part of the Design and AM process is based on software use, and DfAM in a medical environment starts with CT or MRI scans, to identify the patient-specific needs that will drive the manufactured solution, surgery guides (drilling and cutting guides), to lead to optimum surgical outcomes in the shortest possible time span.

Typically, surgeons are prepared for using the custom-designed and AM-produced implants by Prof Cules Van den Heever, CRPM's Clinical Advisor, through direct involvement. Under COVID, this had to be done virtually to a team of clinicians, surgeons, engineers and designers involved in the SAIS project in Botswana.

The implants, surgery guides and representative reproduction of the patient's skeleton was produced by means of AM and sent to Botswana, with a follow-up virtual preparation. The accuracy and efficacy of the implants produced, led to a successful surgery in Botswana, and a successful outcome for the SAIS project.

The project reached its objective, as available infrastructure in Botswana was brought together as an ecosystem; including support with identification, acquisition and commissioning of industrial grade AM equipment, advice on support equipment, preparation for commissioning and further, leading to advanced outcomes with significant impact.

CRPM plans to use the success achieved in Botswana to advance AM in Sub-Saharan Africa and beyond, leading to millions of people that can benefit across Africa.

CUT participates at the final YEBO Conference

YEBO! | INTERNATIONALIZATION OF DOCTORAL STUDIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

From 12 to 14 April 2021, the YEBO! Project hosted its final conference organised collaboratively by all consortium partners and hosted online by the University of Pretoria and the University of Uppsala. The conference themed *"Internationalisation of the PhD: from possibilities of today to challenges of the future"* included a set of great activities with a specific emphasis on core aspects of the Doctoral Studies: modernisation and supervision.

CUT is among the seven partner universities in South Africa and (8) European Higher Education Institutions co-coordinating the YEBO project along with the University of Montpellier and supervised the development of the YEBO PhD Portal and the Open4YEBO! funding tool.

Speaking at the conference, Prof. Alfred Ngowi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagement illustrated on the developments of the project with much emphasis on the lesson learnt, the impact, challenges, and the way forward of the Yebol Project.

He said that the project has provided an opportunity for international collaborations, which is supported by resources and there is a revised workload model to allow quality supervision. "The project has enhanced the administration of the PhD life cycle, implemented a professional development programme for PhD candidates and supervisors, enhanced the supervisor capability through assistance from international partners, and also, enhanced infrastructure and governance systems with international partners."

Looking at the national imperative in South Africa through the national development plan of 2030, Prof. Ngowi said that as one of the objectives, South Africa has been established as a hub for research capable of attracting a significant share of the international student population and researchers.

He further mentioned that some of the challenges faced was realising that obtaining a doctorate degree is not a priority for SA students and that PhD programmes are not appealing to students. "There is a lack of awareness of the international dimensions of PhD studies and of mobility during their PhD program to further enhance internationalisation.

There is also a lack of structure and support for PhD students at home universities and a lack of knowledge to improve university capacities to structure their internationalisation of PhD strategies. Students are often unaware of the opportunities available to them, and supervisors are not always equipped to promote their programmes effectively".

When highlighting the opportunities created through the Yebol Project, he said that through the PhD portal developed and accessible to all members, there is a mapping tool that shows all collaborating institutions, institutional profiles, and their PhD opportunities. "A funding tool that provides PhD funding opportunities has been put on the portal. European University Association and SA University resources are being placed to enhance PhD eco-system and we have arranged five conferences and four training sessions," he concluded.

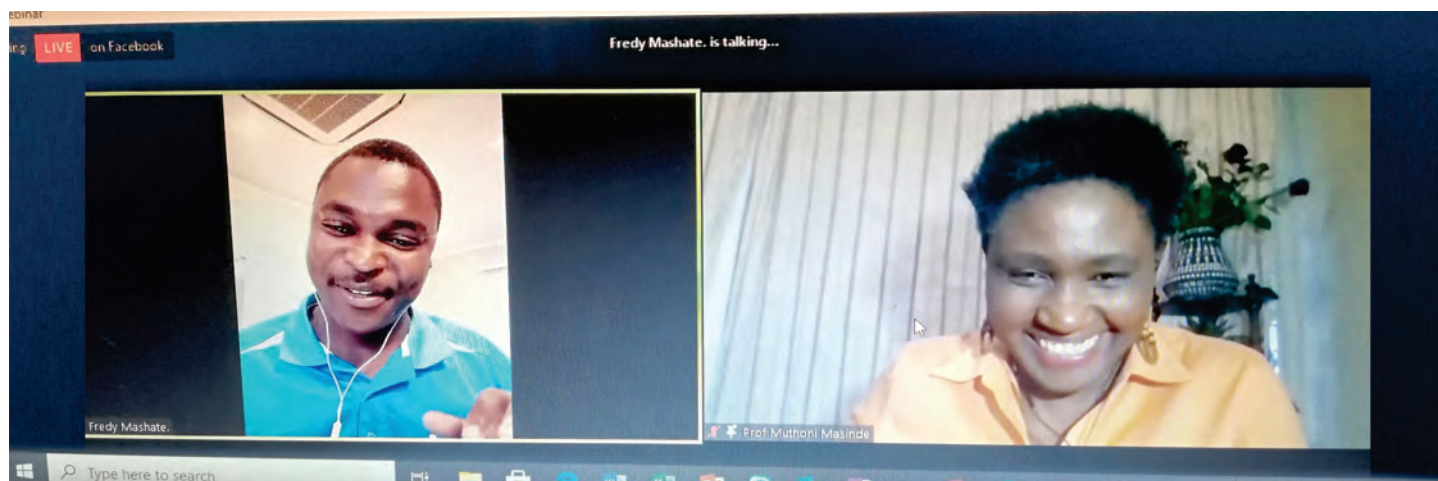
In his keynote address, Senior Director: Research and Postgraduate Studies, Prof. Laetus Lategan, spoke about the brave new world, local doctoral researchers, global scholars, and pointers to use.

He said that the lesson learned during the COVID-19 era is that people, economy, environment, and technology are extremely important. "The COVID-19 pandemic made us discover the extreme challenges regarding safety and security."

He also mentioned that no one can claim that they are researchers or scholars without understanding their context and without moving into the global space. "Somehow, the global and the local should come together to form this new space in which we are working at, and this is not the space where we are excluding, it is a space where we are integrating."

He emphasised the importance of quadruple helix networks (industry, government, academia, and society), which he said will enhance knowledge transfer and product and service development that will ultimately shape the future of regional development, the country and the world.

Prof. Muthoni Masinde presents at Scifest Africa on application of Design Thinking in the creation of ITIKI tool



Many innovations fail to create social impacts due to lack of involvement of targeted beneficiaries. Given that Design Thinking (DT) emphasises on empathy, invention, and iteration, its adoption in creating social innovations can help in reversing this trend.

On 16 February 2021, Scifest Africa, South Africa's National Science Festival (previously known as Sasol Scifest) hosted Professor Muthoni Masinde, an Associate Professor and [Head of the Department of Information Technology](#) in the [Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology](#) (FEBIT) to present on the application of Design Thinking in steering innovation for relevance and social impact.

Scifest Africa, South Africa's National Science Festival, aims to break through popular misconceptions and create a new mindset about science, technology, engineering and mathematics by demonstrating that these disciplines underpin our everyday activities.

In her presentation, Prof. Masinde elaborated on the application of Design Thinking (DT) in the creation of Information Technology and Indigenous Knowledge with Intelligence (ITIKI) tool, a drought predicting tool designed for Africa's small-scale farmers, which she officially launched in June 2019. The tool is envisioned to bridge the gap between indigenous and scientific knowledge.

She said that drought is a threatening natural hazard that remains the number one disaster in Africa, and of all the people affected by all types of disasters, drought is responsible for over 88% of them.

"The ITIKI was developed with the objective of delivering a high accuracy, affordable forecasting tool for Africa's small-scale farmers that boosts yield, incomes and resilience through better cropping decisions and its success was to be determined by the level of community participation in building it. This project acknowledges the fact that lack of an appropriate drought-forecasting tool for small scale farmers makes them continue to rely on their indigenous knowledge to predict the occurrence of rainfall and critical cropping decisions, but this knowledge seems to be disappearing due to climate change," she said.

The device is an integrated system (artificial intelligent algorithms, weather sensors and a Mobile Application) that combines weather data with the traditional knowledge of African farmers to predict droughts. The weather and planting information is distributed to the farmers through text messages in their home languages and can be received on a simple and low-cost mobile phone. The forecasts are sent to farmers via an app or SMS message and are also accessible through a web portal, emails and audio files.

Prof. Masinde acknowledged that the main driver of ITIKI was the local people's knowledge on droughts, and that three design science tools were applied in the entire innovation process leading to high rate of adoption in Kenya, Mozambique, and South Africa.

"If we stick to the core science with a fixed frame without thinking about the people whom we are creating the products for, we will then fail to create an impact. Contextualised innovations built by, with and for local people, have a higher chance of succeeding and Indigenous Knowledge Systems bridges this gap because it supports ways that are culturally appropriate and locally relevant to them."

She also said that when the tool was developed, they followed the design process by involving farmers, listening to them, and having consistent contact sessions with them to find out where their challenges are. They then came up with prototypes, tested those prototypes and repeated the process. "We have found that what works in Mozambique does not necessarily work in Kenya and in South Africa because each perceive things differently and their Indigenous Knowledge System (IKS) is unique. We ensured participatory community driven technique through brainstorming, storytelling, prototyping, and repeated learning launches so that we see which one works and which doesn't."


She further mentioned that there are many challenges that are not only faced by farmers but the world at large. "We are now faced with COVID-19, and there are some places where locusts are invading farms, so there are many problems and I believe we can still use IKS in those domains as long as we use design science with our people. Do not go to the office, develop a product, and deliver it, rather involve the beneficiaries, and work together with them. When you do that, then we can say that you are an innovator. Imagination is the highest form of research, be in a quiet moment, think about it and you will become an innovator. Do you want to create innovations that are relevant and impactful to the society? IKS intertwined in the Design Thinking process is one of the best tools, and it works wonders."

Prof. Muthoni Masinde, grew up in Kenya and her own experiences inspired the drought predicting tool (ITIKI). The tool has been effectively implemented in Mozambique, Kenya and South Africa. She has since presented her innovative tool at the renowned World Bank Water Week in Washington, DC in April 2019, and was among some 500 delegates including leading innovators, thought leaders and partners to the flagship event.

CUT Lecturer offers solutions to disaster management



Managing the risk of a disaster is more critical than managing the disaster. This was the focus of the presentation by Dr Logan Munsamy titled 'Social constraints in Disaster risk reduction models.

 Dr Munsamy, lecturer in the [Department of Government Management](#) presented at the Nature Inspired Solutions for the Built Environment (NISE 1): Integrated Natural and Engineered Systems Online Sandpit event.

The two-day international event, saw a group of like-minded academics coming together to give talks on their research and how it contributes or can potentially contribute to the development of next generation of ground intervention.

While completing his PhD, Dr Munsamy developed a model after studying the work of giants in the field of disaster management. "I looked at over 40 models to come up with a so-called universally accepted model which could be used at different levels to bring about a better understanding of disaster risk management. What is normally heard throughout the world is disaster management, and managing a disaster is a bit too late but managing the risks of disaster is early intervention," he said.

"When we talk about natural disasters, its commonly assumed that it is beyond humanity, but global warming suggests that human behaviour is the cause of climate change resulting in erratic weather patterns which causes mass natural disasters, and the end

result is poverty alleviation and sustainable development. How ironic that we talk about poverty alleviation and sustainable development when we ourselves are responsible for disasters via global warming and climate change," said Munsamy.

He further explained that disaster risk reduction is a multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional activity which cannot be attributed to one sector of a community. "You don't have to be an intellectual or disaster risk reduction scholar to understand this, it is everybody's business and the first respondent to a disaster is the community."

He added that it is essential to develop and build community resilience. "Most poverty-stricken communities do not have a voice, political connections or support so they rely on their own indigenous knowledge systems and develop their own adaptation strategies. To reduce the risk factors, we need to build on community resilience, we need to make sure that there is a strong institutional base at local and national level with more focus at local level. We need to identify and enhance early warning systems and we also need to use the knowledge and innovation to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels," he concluded.

The conference was hosted by the University of East London and attended by academics and industry stakeholders from across the globe, with CUT's Prof. David Ngidi and Prof. Albert Strydom as honorary guests.

CUT academic selected for Future Professors Programme



Dr Mokgaotsa Jonas Mochane hopes taking part in the Future Professors Programme will propel him into becoming a leading scientist in the field of polymer nanocomposites.

Dr Mokgaotsa Jonas Mochane, Chemistry Lecturer at the Central University of Technology, Free State has been selected to take part in the Future Professors Programme (FPP), a competitive and selective programme of the [Department of Higher Education and Training \(DHET\)](#) which aims to prepare promising early-career academics to become a new association of South African professors.

Dr Mochane, who was born and bred in Mafahlaneng, Tweeling in the Free State is a National Research Foundation (NRF) Y2 rated researcher and a New Generation of Academics Programme (nGAP) Chemistry Lecturer at CUT. He is also a registered Professional Scientist (PrChemSA) who is passionate about research and mentoring the next generation of researchers.

"I am so excited to be part of the programme, as I believe that it will assist me to grow as a researcher who wants to produce both master's and PhD students. I will take full advantage of this opportunity to become a leading researcher in the field of polymer composites. I am looking forward to the programme and learn as much as I can so that I can improve my NRF rating from Y to C-rating," said Mochane.

This distinct capacity building, national programme aims to fast-track senior researchers to full professorship at South Africa's public universities looking to turn senior researcher/lecturers into associate professors and full professors in a shorter space of time.

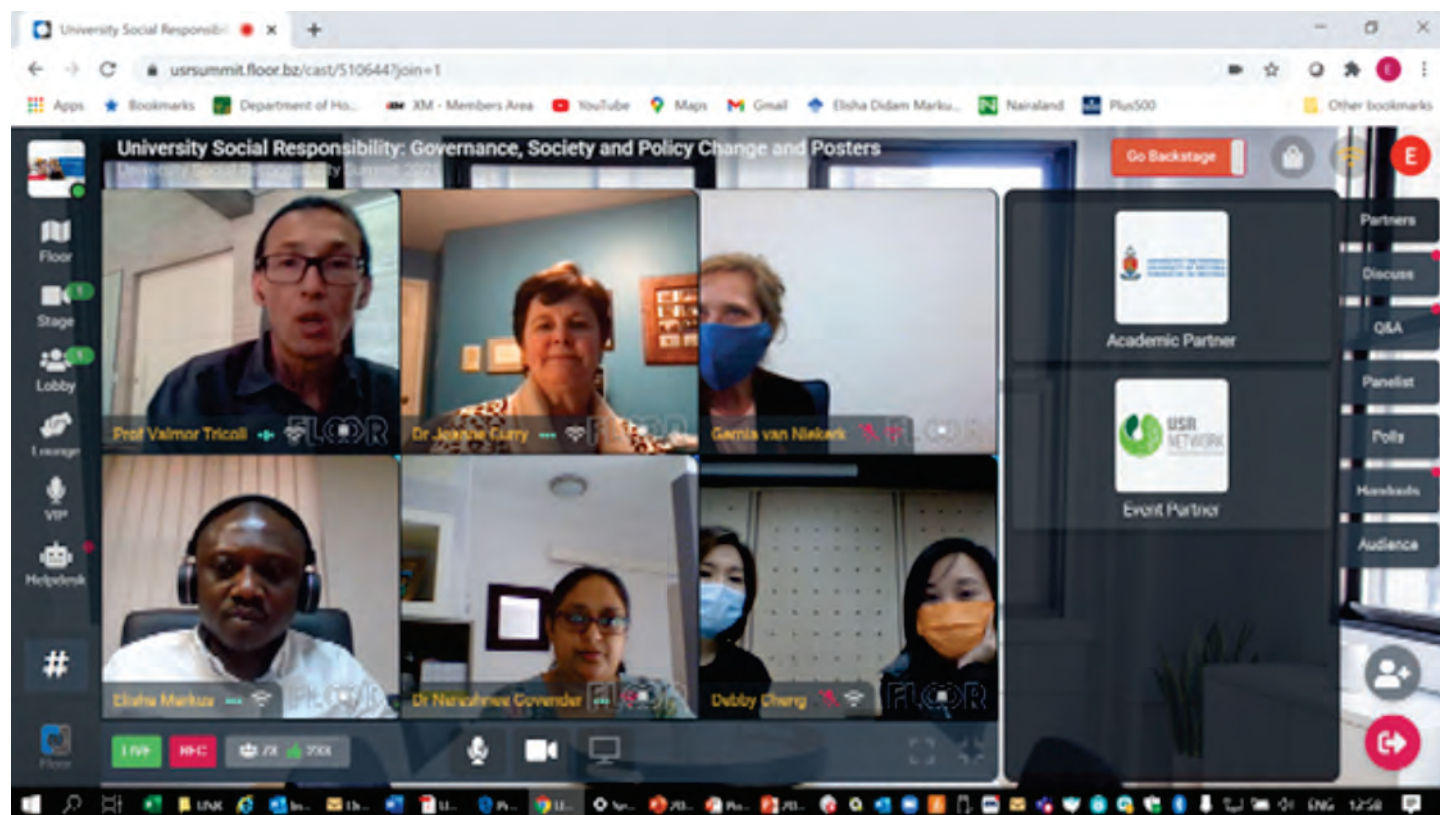
"I believe that after a series of seminars and evaluation, I will be in a good position to improve my rating furthermore, I hope I will be in a good position to be amongst the leading scientists in the field of polymer nanocomposites both locally and internationally," he added.

Mochane has authored and co-authored more than 20 research articles in the field of polymer nano composites and blends. He has additionally published more than 40 book chapters in well-known publishers such as Elsevier, Wiley, and Springer etc. His research work has been cited 451 times with an h-index of 10 from Google Scholar.

Living by the words: 'The greatest growth happens in discomfort'; Mochane has been focused on supervising master's and PhD students, assisting them to complete their studies, while also working on a book proposal and planning on publishing it in the next two years.

"I want to train many postgraduate students to be excellent researchers and to publish research articles in accredited journals. I am also looking into possibilities of commercializing some of my research projects so that the society can benefit from them. It is my dream to have a Polymer Chemistry Centre that can research about community-based projects, i.e., to provide solutions to community problems," said Mochane.

Dr Markus Elisha presents on how Universities of Technology in South Africa can promote social responsibility agenda at the USR MOOC Summit 2021



Dr Elisha Markus is passionate about Community Engagement, transformation, and social justice. He has been an active community engagement participant for over two decades. An engineer and a researcher at heart, Dr Markus also run several projects in collaboration with the industry relating to the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). Originally from Nigeria, he joined CUT in 2013 and has been living in South Africa for over 10 years.

Gone are the days where the role of social responsibility was perceived to be a role played only by businesses or companies. The practice of social responsibility in higher education will soon be a norm as academics around the world forge partnerships and share insights on how best universities can improve in fulfilling societal expectations.

On 3-6 February 2021, the University of Pretoria, and the University Social Responsibility Network (USRN) co-hosted the first digital Social Responsibility Summit where more than 70 academics, students and practitioners from 27 institutions and 14 countries virtually shared ideas on how social responsibility programmes and projects can be explored meaningfully within the university

community and extended to the broader society in which the institutions exist. The purpose of this platform is to steer global discussion and advocacy for broader social responsibility in the higher education, and to connect and foster partnership among world renowned universities.

The USR launched Massive Open Online course (MOOC), a project set to provide momentum to many institutions that may not be formal members of the USRN but are already promoting a culture of social responsibility. MOOC aims to examine how universities in all continents are creating new innovative ways to increase the social impacts and benefits of their teaching and research to their societies.

Continues from page 11

 Dr Elisha Markus, CUT Community Engagement Chair in the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment, and Information Technology and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering, in partnership with Ms Nereshnee Govender, Manager at the Writing Centre- DUT built a case of how UoTs in South Africa can promote social responsibility agenda.

Presenting on a study “Can Universities of Technology in South Africa Achieve Transformation by Promoting a Culture of Social Responsibility Among Academic and Student Agents”, the pair highlighted that Universities of Technology are still struggling to find their identities in terms of teaching, learning, research, and community engagement. Their presentation explored how far Universities of Technology have been able to integrate the culture of social responsibility, while adhering to their mandate and contributing to the creation of knowledge societies.

Dr Markus said that so far, CUT has drafted a social responsibility framework whereby students are encouraged to participate in local community projects. “To make an impact on local communities, CUT has demonstrated a commitment to social responsibility by making available expertise and infrastructure for community service programmes.”

He also said that Universities, particularly UoTs, tend to focus more on technical knowledge where academics and students also follow suit and ignore the social responsibility aspects. “Most universities espouse the vision of transformation and social responsibility but very little is done for its implementation. I believe that there should be a synergy between universities, industry, and the society and this should reflect in our curriculum if we want to produce civic minded graduates.”

He added that a major goal for the transformation of universities in South Africa is to develop civic-minded graduates who leave university to become agents of positive social change in a broader society. “Universities must strive to produce education for public good not just for private benefit of the individuals. Transformation requires for graduates to be able to think and act for themselves within their communities of practice. It also means that they can critically engage in challenges of social and economic injustices that has plagued the country in the past.”

When asked whether Universities of Technology in South Africa can achieve transformation by promoting a culture of social responsibility among academic and student agents, Dr Markus said he believes that it can be achieved “if we create an enabling culture”.

“Currently, there is a lot of resistance among academics and students, and this partly reminded us of the need for this shift during the 2015/16 protests, where they demanded a decolonial turn in the curriculum. We need to begin engagements through developing innovative developmental strategies and partnerships like joining the USR network and engaging in the MOOC could be our first step to prosperity”.

He further said that academics in UoTs should stop asking ‘What am I good at?’ and start asking ‘What am I good for?’ “We must encourage colleagues to participate in engaged teaching and learning, engaged research and citizenship. We must not just think about our role as subject experts, we must think engagement.”

Asked if CUT is ready to take up the challenge? Dr Markus said “CUT has always been ready for the challenge. We have about 10 research centres, units and groups that are already making headways in terms of the social responsibility. We also have seven academic support structures that carries out applied research in teaching, learning and academic development.”

CUT as an engaged university, has had many community engagement projects through collaboration and partnerships with the industry for the benefit of local communities, and most of these initiatives were steered by academics, students, and employees. Through 3D printing technology, a gratuitous service to ordinary people in need of help was done and to date, about 65 patients' lives were changed for the better and the medical process was done for free.

“CUT is a very innovative university and we have made strides in areas of research and innovation. Our geographical location is very strategic, and we should take advantage of that and do more. I would like to encourage the CUT community to participate in the MOOC and become more active members in their communities. This will have a long-standing effect on our students,” he said.

He mentioned that he is still actively involved in teaching, learning and research, and would like to do more engaged research for the good of society not just for the benefit of publications. “I am planning on including service-learning component in all the modules that I teach. As the university talks about smart cities and the 4IR, I hope to see more interdisciplinary collaboration among staff and students alike.”

In conclusion he said that “CUT is an innovative university with great academics and students striving to produce qualified graduates fit for the industry. We have a lot of potential to rise above the rest by doing more for our communities and students. There is a lot of good already happening in silos and I believe that if we come together, we can do more than there already is.”

CUT-Idea Gym experts equip Heidedal businesswomen with skills on how to grow their business



Mr Marnus van Zyl (Middle) showing the Heidedal businesswomen how to play the value-e-game. From left: Angelique Stasie, Beveley, Venessa Pretorious and Milisza Najoe.

The promotion of entrepreneurship, transformation and contributing to socio-economic development has always been a priority for Central University of Technology, Free State (CUT). On 17 and 18 March 2021, the Idea Gym held a community entrepreneurship workshop where the community of Heidedal gathered at Angels funeral parlour hall to learn and acquire new skills necessary to grow and turn their ideas into viable businesses.

To achieve this, the CUT team used the fun and educational game- "the Value-E-Game", an educational game developed to assist entrepreneurs who have existing businesses but do not have the necessary entrepreneurial skills as well as aspiring entrepreneurs who have business ideas but are struggling to take it off the ground.

"The main objective of this game is to assist and teach aspiring entrepreneurs about the basic entrepreneurial skills. It consists of seven different levels and each level focuses on a specific aspect of entrepreneurship such as marketing, accounting, sustainability, production etc. Each one of the games takes an hour and a half to complete with a specific outcome for the player. At the end of each game, players should then understand the basic principle of what we are trying to convey through this activity," said Mr Marnus van Zyl, Value-E-game facilitator.

Prof. Johan van Zyl, Senior Researcher: Enterprise Studies, presented on the Entrepreneurial Development Program where he taught entrepreneurs who either have ideas or small start-up business on how to attract their target market, market their product and think about value-adding around the product. "This is all about doing business in a proper way for them to let the business grow. What we are doing is not based on a lot of theory but on practical things that they can apply to their business. The entire program content is for them to be able to compile a business plan.

My role is to present all the different components of a business plan and show them how to put it together so that they can be able to compile their final business plan."

Ms. Azalia Daya, business owner within the community said that at first, she did not really understand what the workshop was about "but as it progressed, I was blown away." She also said that the workshop is something positive that can benefit the community more. "The aftereffects of this workshop will definitely benefit our community even long after the CUT team is gone. I feel that the scheduled time was not enough, and they should consider hosting it for a week at a time and not just for two days. My business has been stagnant for so long and 15 minutes into this session, I am inspired to pick up from where I left off and soldier on. The information I got here today, is really going to help me improve and get my business off the ground again. What makes this program even more unique is that we will always be in touch with Prof. van Zyl and the team because most of the time, people who come here conduct workshops and disappear on us when we need assistance. At least with this one, we know it is linked to CUT and we can always go back if we need any information or assistance."

Ms Mellisza Najoe, a small-scale vegetable gardener who plants, packages, and sells spinach, chilli jalapenos, oregano, peppers, and kale said that the sessions were very beneficial to her business and wishes that it can be scheduled more often. "It is so sad that this is our last day. I really enjoyed this fulfilling and informative session, and I believe with the skills and information acquired here today, I will be able to expand my business and take it further. We are grateful to Prof. Van Zyl, the Idea Gym and CUT for reaching out to us. We really needed this, and I think it should be done more often as the games are not only fun but educational and helpful for us as entrepreneurs."

CUT and partner Microsoft launches Artificial Intelligence (AI) Universities programme



Prof. Alfred Ngowi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research Innovation and Engagement, Ms Matseliso Mfanta, CUTis Chairperson and Cllr Mathew Rantso, CUT Chairperson of Council at the official launch of CUT and Microsoft's Artificial Intelligence Universities Programme.

On 30 June 2021, the Central University of Technology, officially launched the Microsoft's Artificial Intelligence programme (AI) that was introduced in July last year. For the first time, the event was streaming online via Microsoft teams. The programme is aimed at addressing the demands in the province, and South Africa in general.

The Innovation Services of CUT (CUTis) and the Free State Provincial Government will be the first to benefit from the programme's training, which has been designed to enable the skills transfer to the university lecturers who will lead the programme in the coming years.

The 12-months programme uses blended learning model that includes the integration of self-study, online learning, classroom instructor-led training and flipped classroom. These covers: Mentorship and coaching by industry experts, Business skills, Microsoft Azure AI Associate Certification, Flipped Classroom, Guest Lecturers, Career days, Examination and Certification.

Mr Asif Valley, National Technology Officer: Microsoft SA, said that the programme has been designed to pass on the skills that employers' value and need by teaching young multi-disciplined graduates with limited or no work experience to explore, transform, model, and visualise data, as well as to create the next generation of intelligent solutions.

64% of organisations in SA expect to see an increase in positions that require technology skills within the organisation in the next 2-3 years. "The collaborative nature of the AI university programme will unlock the value of AI by bringing together private and public sector partners, students, facilitators, mentors, coaches and industry experts. The programme will enable the development of critical AI skills that will help young people become more work ready and employable, as well as help organisations adapt to the ever-changing demands of the world of work. We believe that a strong partnership with CUT combined with world class training, real world experiences and online classrooms, can build a knowledge-based economy that leaves no person behind and enable both future and current workers to realise the promise of technology."

Shubna Harilal, Managing Director: Cijima Technology Solutions, said that the programme is aimed at addressing the lack of access to critical and relevant 4th Industrial Revolution skills in South Africa. "This will help to create the capacity needed in order to help suitably qualified AI engineers. AI and Data are undoubtedly the future and businesses need groomed AI engineers with certified skills and hands on project experience to assimilate into the workplace quickly and seamlessly. The power and the impact of the journey that you are embarking on puts you in an advantageous position of changing the lives of the people of our country, the continent and the world. This path will allow you to expand your knowledge in this area, setting you on a great future in both the technology and business worlds."

MEC for Free State Treasury, Ms Gadija Brown said that this is a huge and necessary step for the government and industry to acknowledge and embrace the changes that are coming. "I think that this partnership between the Free State Provincial government, CUT, Cijima, Microsoft and all other partners is impactful, and these programmes are sought to have tangible outcomes. If we do not allow ourselves to leapfrog and work towards these developmental models, we will skip the need and lag, and we will really have to pay a lot in terms of funding and fiscus to catch up at a later stage. AI may assist us in all sectors of our economy and can also be utilised on a hybrid basis until we are able to roll it out."

Ms Brown also added that in terms of safety perspective of jobs, their role as government is to continue working towards sustaining what they have and build a more developed and innovative future. "As a province, this initiative could not have come at a better time given the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges that have worsened our economy and youth unemployment. We hope that the graduates of this programme will not only be employable but will be able to use the acquired skills to establish their own businesses and create jobs," she concluded.

CUT becomes first SA University to join MIT J-WEL as newest Higher Education collaborative member



Prof. Alfred Ngowi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagement, steering CUT's engagement agenda on the international front.

The Central University of Technology joined the [MIT Abdul Latif Jameel World Education Lab \(J-WEL\)](#) as the newest member of its Higher Education collaborative and the first university in Southern Africa to join J-WEL.

An initiative of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Community Jameel, J-WEL promotes excellence and transformation in education at MIT and globally by engaging educators, technologists, policymakers, societal leaders, employers, and employees. Through in-person and online collaborations, workshops, research, and information-sharing events, J-WEL member organizations—including schools, universities, NGOs, government agencies, and companies—work with MIT faculty and staff to address global opportunities for scalable change in education.

Julia Reynolds-Cuellar, Associate Director for J-WEL Higher Education, expressed her enthusiasm about the engagement: "CUT is the first South African university to join J-WEL, and our collaboration stems from key connections built through the MIT-South Africa Program. We are delighted to welcome CUT as an important member and contributor to our community, such that we can learn from and leverage the work they are doing to reform South African higher education."

Prof. Alfred Ngowi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagement, added that by [2030, the Central University of Technology, Free State will be a leading African University of Technology](#), shaping the future through innovation. "This is CUT's Vision 2030, and one of the strategies of pursuing this vision is to establish robust collaboration with industry and other institutions that have a track record in innovating education and developing entrepreneurship. MIT happens to be such an institution and CUT membership to J-WEL has made it possible to share experiences with MIT and other J-WEL members in our endeavour to pursue this vision."

Through J-WEL membership, CUT joins a community of 33 other colleges, universities, government agencies, and companies addressing the world's most pressing education challenges and exploring opportunities presented by new educational technologies, effective practices, and emerging scientific understandings of learning.

Other members of the Higher Education Collaborative include the Mongolian University of Science and Technology (Mongolia), Universidad Nacional de Colombia (Colombia), Njala University (Sierra Leone), and Ahmadu Bello University (Nigeria).

CUT representatives joined 221 other practitioners and educators from around the globe to participate in the second J-WEL Connections. The event provides participants with first-hand access to MIT innovations and practices, while also serving as a platform for J-WEL and its community to connect and learn from one another. Participants were able to see and discuss how diverse institutions, including CUT, are responding to COVID-19 and other complex challenges.

During Connections, CUT shared some of its strategies for responding to the pandemic, while Professor Percy Sepeng, Head of Institutional Renewal and Transformation, spoke on the event panel, "How to Foster a More Equitable Campus Panel," sharing his rich experience with J-WEL members across the globe.

Through collaboration with J-WEL, CUT will work on deepening "Problem-Solving Approaches to Education" in its curriculum, providing students with the knowledge and skills they need to tackle "hard problems" in both their local communities and globally upon graduation. CUT will also focus on enhancing its innovative and entrepreneurial capacities, supporting its Vision 2030 to shape the future through innovation as a leading African University of Technology.

Students assisted with life-changing devices to improve their academic lives



CUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof. Henk de Jager, Xolisa Lubhelwa, Tsholofelo Tiba and Dr Ntsoaki Malebo, Senior Director: Innovation in Learning and Teaching at the handover ceremony held at the CUT Welkom campus.

Differently abled students from the Central University of Technology, Free State (CUT) have welcomed assistance from the Unit for Development, which has handed over various assistive pieces of equipment that will help make their academic lives more manageable.

After receiving a donation of R50 000 from the Ackerman Family Educational Trust, the Development Unit opted to assist a student who needed a wheelchair, another who needed new crutches, and devices for students with hearing and vision disabilities.

First-year Information Technology student, Xolisa Lubhelwa, sat proudly in his new electric wheelchair, excited at the possibility of moving around campus with ease. "I love being mobile, I'm always out and about and these new wheels are going to help me immensely. In rainy seasons when I attended classes, I used to slip with my old wheelchair, especially when going up a steep incline. I am grateful that I can now travel without worries. I'd often see other students with electric wheelchairs travelling with ease, and I've always known deep in my heart that someday I would own one," said Lubhelwa.

Second-year Human Resources student, Tsholofelo Tiba received new crutches as the rubber soles of his old crutches were worn out. "I'm very excited to receive these new crutches. They are lighter in weight, and I will be able to move around much faster."

CUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof. Henk de Jager reiterated that students at the University are a top priority. "It is pleasing to note that there is an increase in the intake of differently-abled students and that really excites me. We currently have 130 differently abled students that are supported by NSFAS and 23 students who are supported by the University through other means, like we are doing today. All these efforts prove that CUT is an appealing institution as it attracts a growing number of differently abled students, and we will continue working on this. I hope that these devices you have received will not only enhance your mobility, but will improve your quality of life," said Prof. de Jager.

2021 Entrepreneurial Matriculant of the Year announced



Front from left: Willie Pretorius, 3rd place; Chantel Chimbunde, 5th place; Mia Olivier, 1st place and Neo Mvambi, 2nd place. Back: Prof. Henk de Jager, CUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal; Ms Nolwazi Nkeane, Standard Bank Head Province Sectors and Products (Free State and Northern Cape) and Mr Tim Thabethe, OFM Programme Manager (CMG).

The Central University of Technology, Free State (CUT) hosted the first annual 2021 Entrepreneurial Matriculant of the Year Competition to announce the top five finalists at a Gala Event held on 8 May 2021 at the CUT Hotel School. CUT launched the Entrepreneurial Matriculant of the Year Competition in collaboration with Standard Bank South Africa (SBSA) and the Central Media Group (CMG) in March 2020.

Mia Olivier from Oranje Meisieskool won the first place and received a cash prize of R20 000. The second place was Neo Mvambi from Eunice High School and received a cash prize of R15 500. The third place was Willie Pretorius from Hoerskool Sentraal who received R12 000, fourth place went to Sebastian Meyer who received R8 500 while Chantel Chimbunde from St Joseph's CBC received R5 000 for fifth position.

"I'm very proud of myself, it still feels a bit unreal but I'm so thankful to be a part of this competition. I just want to thank CUT for this amazing opportunity. The most important thing I've learned is to persevere in the corporate world and to keep on believing in yourself," said Mia Olivier.

The top five each received full bursaries to study at the Central University of Technology for the duration of the academic programme of their choice, including tuition, accommodation, and books.

The competition attracted 68 grade 11 learners who entered the competition. Among a list of criteria, learners had to submit a short business plan of their concept or an actual business. The initial 68 entries were evaluated, and 16 were nominated to take part in the final stage of the competition.

From 6 to 27 March 2021, the finalists received virtual training on all aspects from starting to running a successful business. The purpose of the training was to equip them with theoretical and practical business skills, as well as ideas and strategies on how to manage a sustainable business. The finalists were further trained to prepare mock presentations to polish their skills for the competition where they competed for the top 5 spots in front of adjudicators.

CUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof. Henk de Jager commended all finalists for their dedication and immaculate attendance of classes which were held on Saturday afternoons. "The competition allows the learners to attempt to conceive and describe a business idea to enhance their entrepreneurial skills, provoke their fundamental skills of entrepreneurship and enhance their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. I have so much hope for this country if we have such young people that are so passionate, committed and willing to make a difference," said Prof. De Jager.

Free State MEC for Education awarded with the Chancellor's Excellence Award at the 2021 CUT doctoral graduation ceremony



Former Registrar, Dr Nothemba Mrwetyana, awarding Dr Tate Makgoe, Free State Education MEC with the Chancellor's Excellence Award.

The Free State Education MEC, Dr Tate Makgoe has been awarded with the Chancellor's Excellence Award for his sterling leadership excellence and immense contribution to the advancement of education, not only in the province, but nationally, as his work has touched communities and institutions alike. Dr Makgoe is the 3rd recipient to be bestowed this prestigious award since its inaugural in 2017, following in the footsteps of Mr Teboho Loate (2017), Dr Maleho Seane (2018) and Dr Ellen Blekie (2019).

In his acknowledgement statement, MEC Makgoe said "I'm honoured and humbled to receive such a prestigious award. My sincerest appreciation goes to members of the CUT Council for approving my nomination. Although this is a personal award, it will always remain as a token of appreciation dedicated to teamwork involving our hard-working teachers, school governing bodies and officials in the Department of Education.

He mentioned that growing up in the dusty township of Tumahole, Parys, he could have never imagined that one day he'd be standing in front of esteemed academics, receiving a distinguished award. "This accolade is a symbol of appreciation for one's capacity to guide and motivate others to excel, with a proven commitment to serving and contributing to the development of our country, our province and our communities."

On the day, the university also celebrated the achievement of doctoral candidates for reaching a high point of their scholarly pursuits at the 2021 Autumn Doctoral Graduation Ceremony, where 39 doctoral degrees were conferred.

In his congratulatory speech to the newly capped doctors, MEC Makgoe highlighted the significance of the doctoral candidates graduating during Africa Month. He said, "let us go out there and change our whole continent to be amongst the best in the world."

He further challenged the graduates to engage government further regarding their various research topics in the efforts to improve the community. "Do not be afraid to engage us, do not be afraid to criticize us, and do not allow any experts from everywhere else, who do not even understand the province to be the ones to speak about our province. What is important about criticism is that we must learn from our mistakes and solve problems. Although every solution brings its own challenges, it is a continual relationship, therefore we really want to circulate your research."

Amongst the 39 newly graduated doctors were:

Doctor of Human Resources Management: William Makumbe, Willard Nyamubarwa and Honest Mupani.

Doctor of Business Administration: Ratakane Maima and Thandeka Ntshangase.

Doctor of Public Management: Mpho Tshilo and Teboho Sebakamotse.

Doctor of Management Sciences in Marketing Management: Gideon Uboegbulam and Nhamo Mashavira.

Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Health: Elvina Smith, Frank Komati and Shirleen Theisinger.

Doctor of Health Sciences in Biomedical Technology: Lebogang Mogongoa, Martin Tjatji and Senate Moshoeshe.

Doctors Technologie: Agriculture: Zenzile Khetsha, Armistice Chawafambira, Gabriel Nkomo and Mmaseala Lynette.

Doctor of Health Sciences in Biomedical Technology: Dr Pakiso Makhoahle,

Doctor of Engineering in Civil Engineering: George Ndlovu, Daniel Nicholas de Bruyn, Rebecca Alowo, Samuel Abejide, James Edward Honiball and Rangith Baby Kuriakose.

Doctor of Philosophy in Information Technology: Mkhonto Mkhonto, Sheethal Liz Tom and Adeyinka Akanbi.

Doctor of Education: Medson Mapuya, Ruth Adesokan, Dr Kgosietse Segola, Paseka Mollo, Pulane Molomo, Margaretha Maria van der Merwe, Solomon Bereng Thajane and Morakane Mphojane.

Doctor of Communication in Language Practice: Nombulelo Mkumatela and Mantoa Molete.



Dr Kgotso Nkhatho, Honorary Doctorate in Communication and Language Practice; Prof. Itumeleng Mosala, Honorary Doctorate in Business Administration; CUT Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Henk de Jager; Dr Jerry Chaka, Doctorate in Environmental Health and FS Education MEC, Dr Tate Makgoe, Chancellor's Excellence Award.

The Honorary Doctorate recipients are, Dr Kgotso Nkhatho, a renowned author, actor, and playwright; Prof. Mosala, a scholar and administrator in higher education sector and Dr Chaka, a multi award-winning Environmental Health Practitioner who has contributed immensely to the global environmental health community were also celebrated for their achievement, ongoing commitment, and support to the advancement of their respective fields.

CUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof. Henk de Jager thanked the graduates for choosing to further their studies at CUT. "You leave the ceremony today with a duty to uphold the good name of your Alma Mata. Go out there and make a difference!"

Meanwhile, CUT held its first virtual Autumn graduation ceremony from 28 to 30 April 2021 to honour and acknowledge the 4689 class of 2020 graduates, including 59 masters.

Enactus- CUT President wins at the Global Youth Innovators programme



Sizolwakhe Innocent Mtetwa, Enactus- CUT President and third-year Construction Management student, won 10 000 UK Pounds together with his partner Sherina Begum from the United Kingdom (UK) at the 2021 Global Young Innovators Programme.

The Global Young Innovators Programme offers 60 forward-thinking entrepreneurial minds from across South Africa and the UK, a platform to join forces, ignite ideas and co-design solutions that can help solve some of the greatest challenges facing the global community.

The young innovators were tasked to generate innovative ideas to help address challenges in South Africa, with the potential to take the solution to a global scale. Sizwelakhe and Sherina collaborated and tackled challenges such as climate change, unemployment, and food waste. Some of the potentially viable solutions to these challenges include the production of less chemical-based cosmetics using natural raw materials such as fruit and vegetables.

Sizolwakhe said that his journey did not start where he is today. In 2019, he joined CUT First-Year Leadership Programme, where he learned various leadership traits and participated in the Enactus programme (a community of student, academic and business leaders committed to using the power of entrepreneurial action to transform lives and shape a better more sustainable world), where his leadership and entrepreneurial skills were cultivated. In 2019, he served the team as a Project Leader and in 2020, was promoted to Project Manager position, where he led all Enactus-CUT projects, and that improved his leadership and entrepreneurial capabilities greatly.

This year, he was promoted to Presidency, allowing him to lead the entire team. He alluded that he would not have been where he is if it were not for Enactus. "Enactus has instilled and assisted me to improve my entrepreneurial spirit, leadership skills, business ingenuity, creative thinking, and innovative mindset. What I admire the most about this programme is that it invests resources in students who, in turn, take entrepreneurial action for others and ultimately create a better world for all."

Sizolwakhe Innocent Mtetwa is a 23-year-old third-year Construction Management student at CUT. He was born in KaPhunga in Sinceni, a small village in the Kingdom of Eswatini. He grew up in South Africa in the Kwa-Mashu township (Durban) and matriculated from Lakehaven Secondary School in Newlands East. Growing up, Sizolwakhe said he enjoyed helping people, playing music with his band, participating in public speaking, reading books, and working with calculations. Asked about his future, Sizolwakhe said that upon completing his junior studies, he wants to pursue a PhD in City Planning or Built Environment, continue to mentor and be a role model to youngsters, own successful businesses and have a family of his own.

Enactus-CUT win awards at the 2021 virtual Enactus South Africa national competitions



Enactus students who presented at the 2021 virtual Enactus South Africa national competitions are from left: Sizolwakhe Mtetwa: Enactus-CUT President, Yanelisa Giyose, Enactus-CUT Deputy President and Boitumelo Tlou: Enactus-CUT member.

The overall team is made up of entrepreneurial and innovative students who are led by Sizolwakhe Mtetwa (President) and the executive committee which includes Yanelisa Giyose (Deputy President), Mathapelo Setlholo (Projects Manager), Blessing Ngo (Secretary General), Christopher Molefi (Public Relations Officer), Refilwe Mabaso (Chief Operations Officer), Edwin Masoane (Chief Financial Officer), Masego More (Project Leader), Noxolo Lwandle (Project Leader), and Molefe Thamahane (Project Leader).

Once a year a group of business, student, and academic leaders from across the country gather to showcase how entrepreneurial action and open innovation are transforming lives and creating a better future for South African citizens. Twenty-seven University based Enactus teams across the country consumed their year converting their ideas into action as they worked in collaboration to improve the livelihoods of others. Enactus National competition affords each team an opportunity to showcase their community empowerment projects that made a difference in their communities and had the momentum to create new careers, spark business innovation and deliver fresh energy in social responsibility.

From 19-23 July 2021, Enactus- CUT took part in the Virtual National Competitions, winning numerous awards and advancing to the final round. The team presented one innovative project called Village Fa that strives to curb urbanization, eradicate poverty, stimulate employment, generate income, and promote sustainable development.

With project Village Fa, the team anticipate achieving a self-sustaining community which will guarantee food security, improve social inclusion and equality, safeguard the environment, provide employment, and produce high quality crops and products that meet the commercial market standards. This is envisioned to reduce the rural-urban migration rate of young people since the village will be generating its own income, thus, stimulating employment opportunities.

Enactus has managed to build greenhouses for the cooperatives in the village to produce seedlings for themselves and other 15 villages around Gladstone village. Furthermore, the irrigation system has been obtained by the team, which draws water from the existing boreholes to the farms of the two cooperatives.

As the village becomes economically active, urbanization will decrease, rural economy will expand, and cities or urban areas will

be able to support a reasonable population rate, thus, guaranteeing the realization of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Their core values of integrity, passion, innovation, and collaboration assure success in all it does. The awards won at Enactus South Africa 2021 National Competitions are:

Thematic Awards

Element 1: The award was given to the team that considered the prevailing Economic, Social, and Environmental Factors.

Triple bottom line: Sustainability: 1st Place

Sponsored by Nedbank

Element 2: The award was given to the team that applied Business, Economic Concepts, and Business Solutions for community development.

Entrepreneurial Approach: 1st Place

Sponsored by Harmony Gold Mining Company limited

Harmony Special Competition Awards

The purpose of 2021 Harmony Local Economic Development Enactus Competition is to challenge Enactus teams to intervene and assist their communities to take advantage of opportunities and to overcome challenges.

2021 Harmony Local Economic Development (LED) Enactus Challenge

Enactus-CUT won 2nd place

2021 Ford C3 Cycle 8 Competition

The award is given to teams that uses entrepreneurial action to find innovative, creative, and unique ways to address an urgent, unmet social need or problem in the local community, empowering the community to become a more sustainable place to work and live. Enactus- CUT won the grand fund of \$5000-00.

2021 MTN ICT Challenge

The award was given to the team that managed to solve challenges in the spheres of Education, Health, and Agriculture. Enactus-CUT was among the winners who received a grant of R80 000 for business development/implementation of the solution. This grant gives Enactus members an opportunity to own their business.

Enactus-CUT further received two more awards for qualifying to participate at the 2021 National Competitions and advancing to the final round of the 2021 National Competitions. The team came out as the 2nd runner ups (3rd Place) of all the universities in South Africa.

The team created several partnerships with businesses, organizations, and institutions to guarantee Sustainable Development Goal no. 17 which is Partnership for the Goals and the success of project Village Fa. The partners included: AgriBusiness Corner, Mr Ephraim Tshobeka, Technical Advisor from the Business Support Studies department, Roger Moffat Mentor/Bee Farmer, Prof. Johan Van Zyl, Crop Farming Advisor from the Centre for Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Studies, SEDA, AKB Poultry Farming and CUT Community Engagement office.

Enactus CUT 2021 National Competition Presentation link

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AXgOXwn6ZSx7n-XN7-qNBC0p_-1yKX7o/view?usp=sharing



CUT Students amongst the DHL GRADSTAR TOP 500 STUDENTS IN THE COUNTRY



One of the four top 500 students from CUT is final year student Dimakatso Dhladhla doing her Advanced Diploma in Applied Management

Four of the CUT students have made it to South Africa's Top 500 Tertiary Students that were announced at the 2021 DHL GradStar awards. The students that shined amid thousands of other students and made the university proud are: Refemetswe Khanare, National Diploma: Public Management; Jongi Motsoeneng, Diploma in Engineering Technology: Electrical Engineering; Daniel Mokodutlo, Bachelor of Technology: Human Resources Management and Dimakatso Dhladhla currently studying towards her Advanced Diploma in Applied Management.

GradStar is a programme that recognises top students across the country based on leadership qualities and readiness for the workplace. Attracting over 10 000 entries this year, things were a little different, as a new GradStar App was used to connect students to the world of work.

From announcing the top 500, students will go through a 3-stage process where they will need to take a Future Fit assessment, followed by a video of themselves and then a Personal Development Plan, culminating in the Top 100.

One of the students Dimakatso Dhladhla, said that the DHL Gradstar competition is a good programme as it opens a lot of opportunities for students who are dedicated and willing to put in the work. "This achievement has made a great impact in my life, and I am grateful to be part of the Top 500 GradStar awards. As a student I barely participate in any school activity but this one caught my attention. When I saw this competition, I thought it was a great start to do something different and invest my energy into new positive things. I would like to thank CUT for supporting and exposing me to this competition".

The GradStar programme and Awards Ceremony, sponsored by DHL, Accenture, Fasken, Absa, bp, BAT and Epiroc and partnered with NPO Golden Key, organised and developed by BlackBark Productions (creators of the Rising Star Awards) and using the judging expertise of FutureFit, is designed to recognise the most employable students across the country and introduce them to future employers.

It is not the first time that CUT students shine among the GrandStars. In 2017, three of our CUT students, Deliverance Kgonyane, BTech: Information Technology, Gareth Gericke, BTech: Electrical Engineering and Portia Naledi Thothela, BTech: Information Technology made it to the top 100 South African tertiary students at the GradStar programme.

Africa Day celebrated to promote, unearth, and preserve the African Heritage



From left: Sheikh Hamid Fernana, Translator and Scholar and Ikhraam Osman, Business Manager: African Intellectual Heritage Institute.

On 24 May 2021, CUT celebrated Africa Day to promote, unearth and preserve the African Heritage. The celebration included a book launch hosted by the [Library and Information Services](#), of three booklets which have been translated from manuscripts discovered in Timbuktu, Mali. The booklets namely, *The book of Saints*, *The benefits of Plants* and *The Description of Timbuktu City*, have been translated into English by the African Intellectual Heritage Institute to encourage further understanding of precolonial African intellectualism.

Mary Minicka, Head of Preservation for the Western Cape Archives and Records Service, who was involved in the process of conserving the historical documents and manuscripts from Timbuktu, described the various methods used to preserve the manuscripts before they could be translated.

When elaborating on the conservation process, she said “the manuscripts we found in Timbuktu conform to the West African Islamic manuscript structure, which includes writing from right to left, and the foredge (or envelope) flap. One of the most important things that we had to do in the course of our field work was to research the manuscripts so that we could make sound conservation decisions regarding treatment of the manuscripts because we did not want to make incorrect repair work based on how the manuscripts were formatted and the nature of the manuscripts,” she said.

She also added that the West African Islamic manuscript tradition is understudied in terms of the format and traditions around it and there remains a considerable amount to unlock the understanding of the tradition, not only as a historic collection but also, as a continuous contemporary tradition.



The three booklets which have been translated from manuscripts discovered in Timbuktu, Mali.

Ikhraam Osman, Business Manager: African Intellectual Heritage Institute, stated that the African Intellectual Heritage Institute aims at creating a world that understands and appreciates the precolonial African intellectualism and to also use the knowledge to expand African Intellectualism going forward. “We wanted to make sure that we can translate the manuscripts as it is a good thing that these documents are preserved and safe kept in better conditions than they were. The question is, of what value would they serve if they were only restored and not utilised by the society to find out more about what happened in the past and learn about the future,” he asked.

Sheikh Hamid Fernana, Translator and Scholar said that translating the manuscript highlighted the importance of historical indigenous knowledge. “There are answers in the past as well as there are answers in indigenous knowledge. We need to benefit from the past. In those years, the manuscript was the most expensive commodity in Africa. The manuscript was more valuable than gold. When it came to the market of Timbuktu from various regions of the world, not everybody could afford to buy a manuscript.”

He added that their attitude towards knowledge was admirable. “I went back and looked at their learning space, how it was arranged, what happened in that space and what was the purpose? They never sat in lines, they sat in circles known as the ‘circle of knowledge’. What is your attitude towards teachers? In Timbuktu they believed teachers to be prophets of God and that you should sit at their feet to learn, and their purpose of knowledge was ethics, to serve mankind and that is why they prospered.”

Welkom Campus celebrates unity and solidarity amongst Africans



Images of Africa Day celebration from Welkom Campus.

On 25 May 2021, CUT joined in the masses to celebrate the progress that Africa has made while reflecting upon the common challenges that the continent faces in a global environment.

The day is meant to build a strong and united Africa, embrace and acknowledge the differences of Africans, as well as celebrate the rich culture and heritage. However, the celebration came when the continent is still grappling with the harsh effects of COVID-19 that have put an immense dent on the African economy.

This year's Africa month was celebrated under the theme: "The year of Arts, Culture and Heritage: in the year of Charlotte Maxeke". Under this year's theme, "Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want," the AU is celebrating 58 years of bringing African nations together.

In his speech, Dr Solomon Makola, Campus Director, said "as senior leadership of this university, we need to demonstrate the importance of strong and servant leadership and solidarity as we pass through what seems to be a storm leading us to greater heights through self-cleansing and self-reflection to achieve institutional efficiency at operational, strategic and governance levels, respectively. As we showcase our efforts towards building the Africa we want in arts, heritage, innovation, and entrepreneurship education, I want to remind and urge the CUT community to show high levels of resilience, solidarity, and the spirit of Ubuntu to those who are viewed as marginalised and impoverished," he concluded.

Transformation Summit delves into transformation in higher education



Prof. Thuli Madonsela, The Law Trust Chair in Social Justice, University of Stellenbosch attended virtually.

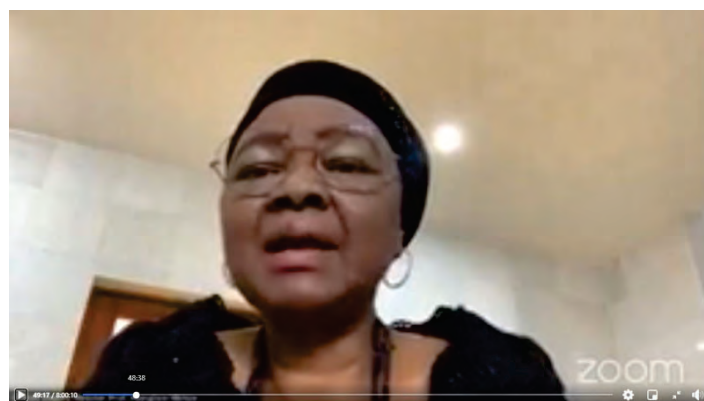
CUT held its third annual transformation summit on 9 and 10 June 2021 at the Welkom Campus. The summit delved into an informative discourse around the sub-themes: inadequate representation of women in leadership roles within CUT and the participation of black African women in strategic leadership roles.

Other topics discussed included digital transformation in higher education; decolonisation of the curriculum within CUT context; transformation of curriculum from the lens of internationalisation in higher education as well as the student's perspective on decolonisation of the curriculum.

The keynote address was delivered by the Deputy Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Prof. Hlengiwe Mkhize, who highlighted how shameful it is that patriarchy is still suppressing the rights of women. "From the onset, it's important for us to come clean and acknowledge that 26 years of the ushering in of the democratic dispensation, we are still shamefully existing side by side with patriarchy in all its toxic and deadly dimensions. The dominance of patriarchy really talks to the tackling of transformation. It's an absolute shame that women, the very backbone of the community, continue to endure systematic discrimination, indignity and blatant marginalisation under the constitutional democracy that they gave birth to," said Prof. Mkhize.

"At a higher education level this is clearly manufactured in how women are in leadership positions in our institutions. How many women are lecturers, in research positions and in which fields of study do female learners tend to graduate. It results in why certain fields are historically dominated by men, so we need to go back to basics and think very deeply about the empowerment of women," she added.

Prof. Thuli Madonsela, The Law Trust Chair in Social Justice, University of Stellenbosch added that we need a continuous approach to deal with GBV in society. "One of our problems is we think we can solve things with one transaction, and we need to be patient and have a system thinking approach, but a long-haul approach with one thing leading to the next and of course, we must double up on accountability and consequence management. I believe we can do this; we need a solutionist leadership and an engaged citizenship with greater collaboration that leverages the transformative power of education to approach the structural and systemic pillars of gender inequality and its GBV dimensions."



Deputy Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Prof. Hlengiwe Mkhize



CUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof. Henk de Jager and Member of Parliament, Nqabayomzi Kwankwa at CUT's 3rd Annual Transformation Summit.

Member of Parliament, Nqabayomzi Kwankwa reminded civil society that leaders should be held accountable. "As a Member of Parliament, I must admit to our failures and say we have not held government departments, institutions of higher learning to account enough on driving the transformation agenda. Why? Probably because there are many people still appropriating public funds for private use. We've been running after the rands and cents and not looking at all the governance issues or other objectives that we've set for ourselves holistically. It is the reason why even though South Africa has been faced with gender-based violence that parliament is only waking up now, saying let us form cluster committees to deal with this issue. This is because the very same civil society does not hold us accountable enough," said Kwankwa.

The two-day summit presented an opportunity for the CUT community to identify achievements and shortfalls in achieving transformation at the institution of learning, while living by the University's definition of transformation, which states: "a dynamic, continuous process of change and adjustment that impacts on all facets of university life, as encapsulated in the three missions of a university, and all attendant policies, systems and practices that constitute the day-to-day life of a university. It is also the intelligent design of the university's processes, engagements and activities, such that students and staff are encouraged, supported and stimulated through participation to become more competent, accepting of difference, caring, and engaged citizens of the university, and society as a whole".

CUT hosts stimulating intellectual discourse on Human Rights in remembrance of Charlotte Maxeke



The roundtable discussion webinar hosted by CUT took a closer look at promoting Human Rights and Freedom in the era of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"People tend to think that we need protection as women, who do we need to be protected from? We do not need to be protected; in fact, we can look after ourselves. We need to focus our energies on the perpetrators of that violence, whether that be the system or violent men." These are the words of Honourable Fasiha Hassan, former SRC President (Wits), Deputy President of SAUS and the youngest member of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature, who took part in the roundtable discussion webinar hosted by the Central University of Technology, Free State (CUT), in an effort to shine a spotlight on the call for Human Rights.

The discussion themed "The year of Charlotte Maxeke: Promoting Human Rights and Freedom in the Era of Covid-19 pandemic", focused on questions such as- "What are the pressing issues that women around the world are still confronted with and how free are they when their Human Rights continue to be violated and marginalised"? Other guests included Prof. Kasturi Behari-Leak, Interim Director of Academic and Professional Staff Development in the Centre for Higher Education Development at the University of Cape Town (UCT); Bathabile Madela, Mangaung Metro PR Councillor; Dr Mantoa Molete, Communications Lecturer at CUT and Dr Connie Mphojane, also a Lecturer from CUT.

Hasaan added that social movements must be intersectional, feminist and all inclusive. "We cannot participate in a movement that does not understand or acknowledge that all struggles are linked. Fees- must- fall was very much a Human Rights movement that sought to assert Human Rights, particularly of young people and students. What's very important about #FeesMustFall is that it was by in large lead by women. There were of course male student leaders but the majority of us who did the planning and organizing were women. In as much as it was an incredible movement which sought to fight for Human Rights, we experienced incredible patriarchy in that movement. What was shocking about it at that time was that it was a space in which there were progressive students who were fighting for a very progressive cause," she said.

Bathabile Madela, Mangaung Metro PR Councillor touched on the subject of students exercising their rights to protests but victimizing academic staff. "Universities are microcosms of our communities, they are the mirror image that reflects the socio-economic as well as the political-social dynamics that exist within our communities. We have patriarchal tendencies that are very rife in our communities, which is the same in our societies and this is the negative tendencies that metricizes to other tendencies such as high concentration of toxic masculinity and other acts of violence that are targeting mostly those who are assumed to be very vulnerable in society. Universities must have progressive, gender-sensitive framework that frowns upon violence and abuse behaviour," said Madela.

Prof. Kasturi Behari-Leak took a closer look at the diversity programmes in universities. He added that, including a sectional diversity programme into a university would be excellent and important for both staff and students, but not if it is done in a siloed manner with no sign of consideration for everything around it. "We need to interrogate and take a critical look at who we are and what it means to be Africans without centralizing or romanticizing it, but to assert that state of being, is to give our students confidence that they can come into their own with the old values that were taught and passed down from generation to generation. The reproduction of some of the curricula that we have been exposed to has erased that sense of who we are. While a diversity program might be highly beneficial, it is important that we think about all the pathways and the connections between such a programme and everything else that's happening at a university," concluded Prof. Behari-Leak.

Welkom Campus launches Idea Generator and Fabrication Lab



CUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof. Henk de Jager; Lejweleputswa District Municipal Manager, Ms Zingisa Tindleni and Ms Nomsa Mosuwe, officially launched the iGym and FabLab at the CUT Welkom Campus.



The Central University of Technology, Free State (CUT) has launched the [Idea Generator \(i-GYM\)](#) and [Fabrication Lab \(FabLab\)](#) at the [Welkom Campus](#) in the Matjhabeng Local Municipality district, on 12 May 2021.

The iGym and FabLab were officially opened by former CUT Council Member and Businesswoman, Ms Nomsa Mosuwe who encouraged attendees - which included learners from Leseding Secondary Technical School and Goldfields TVET College, to find their purpose in life and use entrepreneurship to help improve society.

The iGym and FabLab facilities are a major boost in the efforts to strengthen the University's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem to support socio-economic development in the region.

These facilities are also envisioned to assist employees, students, high school learners, SMEs and the broader Welkom community with ideation and prototyping of new ideas. They will also serve the broader higher education sector, thus including Technical and Vocational Education and Training Colleges, and Community Education and Training Colleges in the region.

"We are developing some of you to go out and start your own companies. Don't sit there and complain about unemployment, do something about it. We are building to ensure that there is economic growth and wealth generation. The economy of South Africa contracted by 8.8 % from 2020 to date, the economic contraction of the free state is sitting at around 6.8%. 1.3 million people lost their jobs, 45.9% of people in Lejweleputswa District live below the poverty line. If people don't work, and hear me clearly, I'm not discounting permanent work, I'm saying that if you are not using the gift that God has given you, this will end up making municipalities to struggle with service delivery because a lot of people would then be dependent on social grants. It's high time that we take action, we need to be deliberate in finding non-conventional and innovative ways of growing our economy," said Mosuwe.

The iGym and FabLab teams will visit the campus every Monday and Tuesday to further assist innovative thinkers to take their ideas and turn them into profitable businesses. People can also contact them through their Facebook page: FabLabBloemfontein for further assistance. The two units at the Welkom Campus will act as a venue to promote, inspire, and enable creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

"It's not about status, it's about taking your position in the community. There must be a paradigm shift from business as usual to business unusual. We need innovators, we need people who will say, I am here to bring forth change," Nomsa Mosuwe concluded.



Mr Francis Mahlangu, Goldfields TVET College Principal; Ms Zingisa Tindleni, Lejweleputswa District Municipality's Municipal Manager; Prof. Henk de Jager, CUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal; Ms Nomsa Mosuwe, former CUT Council Member and Businesswoman; Prof. Alfred Ngowi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagement, and Prof. Solomon Oupa Makola, Welkom Campus Director.

Small Businesses stand the chance to benefit from Idea Generator



The i-GYM in Bloemfontein was officially opened by CUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof. Henk de Jager.

Following a successful official launch of the [Idea Generator \(i-GYM\)](#) and [Fabrication Lab \(FabLab\)](#) at the [Welkom Campus](#) on 12 May 2021, Bloemfontein Campus launched the Idea Generator (i-GYM) on 11 June 2021. The facility, which used to be an old school gymnasium, is now a home for the enhancement of entrepreneurship amongst the CUT community.

Dr Norah Clarke, Project Manager: Entrepreneurship Development at the Department of Higher Education and Training, shared her views on the importance of entrepreneurship development. "The language we use when we talk about entrepreneurship is often not embraced and recognised in faculties outside of commerce and management sciences. That is why I want to challenge universities to start raising awareness amongst students in some of these atypical entrepreneurship disciplines. Are we giving students who are going to open their companies the right skills to run a business? Is that part of the curriculum? Are these the conversations we are having with students in these spaces," asked Dr Clarke.

The i-GYM facilities serve as a major boost in the efforts to strengthen the University's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem to support socio-economic development in the region. The centre is accessible to employees, students, high school learners, SMEs and the broader community with ideation and prototyping of new ideas. The facility will also serve the broader higher education sector including Technical and Vocational Education and Training Colleges, and Community Education and Training Colleges in the region.

Ms Grace Baloyi, Manager: Technology Stations Programme at the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) added that the TIA's mission is to take the ideas that scientists and innovators have to the market and provide financial and non-financial support.

"We have what we call non-financial support, where we provide platforms or buildings called technology stations where you can walk in as an entrepreneur, a normal client or a scientist and say this is my idea how can you help me," she said.

The i-GYM aims to promote, inspire, and enable creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship. The i-GYM will further assist innovators to turn their ideas into profitable businesses.



Prof. Henk de Jager; Free State Development Corporation Acting General Manager, Mr Peterson Molukanelo; TIA Manager: Technology Stations Programme, Ms Grace Baloyi; CUT Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagement, Prof. Alfred Ngowi and CUT Chairperson Council, Cllr Matthew Rantso.

CUT proud of Chancellor Justice Molemela for her appointment by the Constitutional Court



Chancellor Mahube Molemela during her interview for the Constitutional Court Judge position, proudly wearing her CUT scarf.

The Central University of Technology, Free State (CUT) congratulates CUT Chancellor, Madam Justice Mahube Molemela, for her appointment by the Judicial Services Commission as a Constitutional Court Judge.

Madam Justice Molemela made history when she was appointed as the first female Judge President in the Free State High Court. In 2018 she was appointed to the Supreme Court of Appeal.

The University is truly proud to be associated with Justice Molemela and is privileged to have her as the University Chancellor. Born and bred in Bloemfontein, Madam Molemela has always been a proud Free Stater, with a good record of personal support to worthy causes in our communities. She continues to render such support through the position she holds in society.

CUT wishes Justice Molemela all the best for this opportunity, and we look forward to her contribution of the expeditious administration of justice in the judiciary.

Dean of Humanities appointed



Professor Wendy Setlalentoa, new Dean of Humanities.

Prof. Wendy Setlalentoa joined CUT in 2004 as a Lecturer: Teacher Education (2004 to 2010). She further held the following positions at CUT: Programme Head: Natural Sciences (January 2011 to December 2012); Senior Lecturer and Head of Department (HoD): Mathematics Science and Technology Education (December 2012 - June 2017); Associate Professor: Mathematics Science and Technology Education (July 2017); and

Acting Dean: Faculty of Humanities & Head of Department: Mathematics Science and Technology Education (01 May 2020 to 30 April 2021). Prior to joining CUT, Prof. Setlalentoa worked and held the following positions at different institutions: Lecturer at Taung and Strydom Colleges of Education (1984 -1987); Senior Lecturer at Strydom College of Education (1988 -1990); Head of Department at Strydom College of Education (1991 -May 1994); School Management Developer/Circuit Manager at Ladybrand Education District, Department of Education, Free State Province (April 1994 - October 2000); Whole School Evaluation Supervisor at the Department of Education, Free State Province (November 2000 - December 2003). She has since been appointed as Dean of Humanities, with effect from 01 May 2021.

She holds a Bachelor of Science (Education) degree from North-West University (NWU), former University of Bophuthatswana (UNIBO); Bachelor of Education (Honours) degree also from NWU; Master of Education (Didactics: Science) degree from the University of the Free State (UFS); and a PhD: Education degree from the Central University of Technology, Free State (CUT). Her other achievements include Higher Education Leadership & Management (HELM) Fellowship Programme; Project Management (Regenesys); Financial Management (Regenesys); HERS-SA Academy Alumni; Registered Assessor and Moderator (ETDP SETA); Skills Development Facilitator (ETDP SETA); and currently a fellow of the Next Generation Women in Leadership Programme (nGenWiL at CUT).

Prof. Setlalentoa has published several articles in accredited journals and conference proceedings, both nationally and internationally. She has also supervised students at postgraduate level and served as an external examiner for different institutions.

CUT bid farewell to the retiring Registrar and welcomed the new Registrar



L-R: The newly appointed Registrar, Dr Sally Dzingwa, is the successor of the now retired Registrar, Dr Nothemba Mrwetyana.

The Central University of Technology bid farewell to Dr Nothemba Pinky Mrwetyana after forty years of her illustrious career in the higher education sector. Dr Mrwetyana joined CUT in 2013 and has spent the last month inducting the new registrar, Dr Sally Dzingwa, who joined the university on 1 July 2021.

Dr Mrwetyana has been lauded as a passionate and resilient leader, who always encouraged her team to reach for greater heights, especially the women who have worked with her.

She has served on several bodies, including the National Registrar's Forum, and has won several awards, including a grant by the Association of Commonwealth Universities to participate in seminars for African university leaders on "Leadership and Strategic Change in Higher Education"; the Bram Fischer Oxford South Africa Award; a grant by DEVTECH for the Tertiary Linkages Project; and the SABUFSEP Fellowship by the African American Institute in New York.

She holds a BA (History and Anthropology majors); UED (English and History Methods); BEd; and MEd (Instructional Technology) from the University of Fort Hare; an MEd (Curriculum Studies: History) from Rhodes University; and a PhD (Technology in Education) from the University of Natal. She is currently completing modules towards the master's degree in Business Leadership at the University of South Africa (UNISA).

Prof. David Ngidi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning, praised her for lending her wisdom to help steer the University's ship. "She's a storm calmer, especially when the temperature would flare up during meetings, she would say: 'colleagues calm down' and we would listen. She has been motherly, always offering many of us a shoulder to cry on. We will miss her wisdom and deep knowledge and understanding of the higher education sector, which she has used so intelligently to guide us," said Prof Ngidi.



Dr Sally Dzingwa

Meanwhile, the CUT Council has appointed the new Registrar, Dr Sally Dzingwa, with effect from 01 July 2021. Dr Dzingwa succeeded Dr Nothemba Mrwetyana, who has reached retirement age.

Dr Dzingwa holds the following qualifications: a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of KwaZulu-Natal; a Master of Administration (Research) from the University of KwaZulu-Natal; and a Doctor of Administration (PhD) from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

She joined the Vaal University of Technology as Bursary Officer (1998 to 2002) and was later appointed as Faculty Administrative Officer (2002 – 2009). She joined the University of KwaZulu-Natal as Faculty Officer (2009 – 2010); and Witwatersrand University as Faculty Officer (2010 – 2012), where she was promoted to Senior Faculty Officer (2012). She then returned to the Vaal University of Technology as Deputy Registrar: Enrolment Services (2012 – 2018) and was promoted to Senior Deputy Registrar: Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) (2018 – 2022).

In addition to her accolades, it is worth noting that Dr Dzingwa has published several articles in accredited journals and conference proceedings.

CUT hosted Carnegie African Diaspora Fellow



Project leaders, from left: Prof. Eric Asa, Fellow from North Dakota State University, United States and Prof. Fidelis Emuze, Head of Built Environment in the Faculty of Engineering.

CUT was selected by the [Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program](#) (CADFP) to host an African Diaspora scholar from the United States to work with on a collaborative project on how to halt practical drift to failure that leads to accidents and fatalities on construction site. The project will be led by Prof. Fidelis Emuze, Head of Built Environment in the Faculty of Engineering and Prof. Eric Asa, a Fellow from North Dakota State University, United States.

A 'drift into failure' is a gradual decline of safe work procedures (SWPs). The decline of SWPs is driven by workplace factors, which include safety violations on construction sites. This research aims to assess how to halt drift due to work pressures that leads to safety violations. The argument is based on the premise that such violations move construction practices incrementally towards the edge of safety boundaries. Work pressures that mask the normalisation of safety violations that drives the drift into failure shall be addressed to curtail the loss of safety control on project sites. The results will impact construction practice and the society through reduction of harm to people on and off-site.

The Central University of Technology project is one of 74 projects that will pair African Diaspora scholars with higher education institutions and collaborators in Africa to work together on curriculum co-development, collaborative research, graduate training, and mentoring activities in the coming months.

The Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program, now in its fourth year, is designed to reverse Africa's brain drain, strengthen capacity at the host institutions, and develop long-term, mutually beneficial collaborations between universities in Africa, the United States and Canada. It is funded by Carnegie Corporation of New York and managed by the Institute of International Education (IIE) in collaboration with United States International University-Africa (USIU-Africa) in Nairobi, Kenya, which coordinates the activities of the Advisory Council. A total of 471 African Diaspora Fellowships have now been awarded for scholars to travel to Africa since the program's inception in 2013.

Fellowships match host universities with African-born scholars and cover the expenses for project visits of between 14 and 90 days, including transportation, a daily stipend, and the cost of obtaining visas and health insurance.

Host university contact information, Prof. Fidelis Emuze
femuze@cut.ac.za

Institute of International Education (IIE), AfricanDiaspora@iie.org

See the full list of newly selected projects, hosts and scholars

Direct all questions related to the application process to
AfricanDiaspora@iie.org



Born flanker, Luvuyo Ndevu embraces his new role as the FNB CUT Ixias Captain



Hard tackle from Luvuyo Ndevu, 3rd year IT student, number 7-flanker and the newly appointed FNB CUT-Ixias Captain at the last rugby game played before COVID-19. He is seen here tackling his opponent from FNB UCT- Ikeys at the FNB Varsity Cup.

The Central University of Technology, Free State (CUT) welcomed the new FNB CUT-Ixias Captain, Luvuyo Ndevu. Born and bred in Kareedouw, a small town in the Eastern Cape, the 23-year-old 3rd year IT student fell in love with the sport when he was just 11 years old and never looked back. He matriculated at Quteniqua High school in George, Western Province, and has been playing for the school as a flanker. Although he maintains that he has tried other sports like soccer, cricket, and golf, his love for rugby remained untainted.

The new captain took the baton from the former captain, Heino Bezuidenhout, whom he said had good leadership skills that he wishes to emulate during his tenure. "I have much respect for Heino and admire his leadership skills. I have learnt so much from him and will continue with his teachings and always put my team first."

"My role as a flanker was to be a good ball carrier and the guy that tackles hard, but today, I have a bigger responsibility and must lead from the front. I am super excited and feel blessed and humbled by this opportunity. Already, there are lots of capable leaders within my team, and it means the world to me to be the chosen one and have their full support on and off the field."

Luvuyo mentioned that what makes him a great player is his ability to learn, adapt quickly and motivate others. "I am goal-oriented and always eager to improve and succeed in whatever I put my mind onto. I also think that my ability to make people smile and the way I communicate with other players contributed to where I am today. My strategy is simple-dedication, focus, improve every game and win the league."

Asked about his captainship goals, the number 7-flanker said he intends to bring his flanker position attributes (speed, strength, fitness, tackling and handling skills) into life in his leadership role. "I am planning to bring these attributes to life in my reign as a captain and I want to bring the Ixias spark back and make my university and team members proud," he smiled.

His advice to aspiring young rugby players is to always have an open mind, work hard and never stop chasing their dreams, but most importantly, to have fun while doing what they love. "Sport is not only a physical activity but mental as well. Playing sports helps your brain grow and function better."

FNB [CUT Ixias coach](#), Mr Pieter Bergh, described Luvuyo as a very good rugby player with good leadership skills required to lead the team. "Luvuyo is now into his 3rd season and has grown so much as a person and a rugby player since joining CUT. He is loved and respected by all players, and I have no doubt that he will do a great job."

The coach also mentioned that what excites him about the CUT rugby team is the diversity. He mentioned that Luvuyo is a great example of someone who worked his way up and deserves this opportunity. He believes that he has the capabilities of taking Ixias to the next level. "I believe that the coach and captain relationship play a huge role in the success of the team, and I am glad to mention that we get along very well. He understands my game strategies and how important a good team culture is to the success of our team. Last year's Varsity Cup ended just as we gained momentum. We were unbeaten in our last three matches played and this gives us a lot of confidence going into this year's competition and we are looking forward to representing CUT well. The only difference this year is that we will miss our loyal and vocal supporters at our home matches but hopefully, they will be watching and cheering the team from their home screens."

Bergh further said that although the COVID-19 pandemic did not make things easy for them during the pre-season, he is happy with their progress in preparations for this year's competition. "It has been a very long pre-season and everyone is now tired of just training and we cannot wait to start playing matches. To ensure safety for all and observe the COVID-19 protocols, we are testing all our players and supporting staff weekly before going into the first bubble, and so far, all is well, the boys are fit and ready to take the cup," he said.

Fact File about Luvuyo Ndevu

- His role model is Ardie Suemalo Savea, Rugby Union flanker.
- His favourite rugby team is the Hurricanes.
- He intends to take his rugby career to a professional level.
- He enjoys the flanker position because he can be everywhere in the field, support other players and score tries.
- He can also play eighth man (no.8)
- He has played other sports like soccer, cricket, and golf.

Varsity Cup: CUT Ixias shocks Maties

Story supplied by Dan Lombard



FNB CUT Ixias overjoyed with victory.

FNB CUT overturned a 15-point halftime deficit to beat FNB Maties 23-18. Ixias recorded their greatest feat as they scored a last-minute try to beat FNB Maties at the Tuks B-Field.

With the scores locked at 18-18, a spilt ball from Maties halfway was picked up by FNB CUT lock Derik Pretorius, who stormed up field before putting fullback Cohen Jasper away for the match-winning try. It is the first time that the three-time FNB Varsity Shield winners have beaten the five-time FNB Varsity Cup champions. After 9 matches played, 6 wins and 29 points, CUT is currently in 5th position on the [2021 FNB Varsity Cup log](#).



FNB Player That Rocks: Zinedine Booysen (FNB CUT Ixias). Booysen is also on a short-term contract with the Toyota Cheetahs.

FNB CUT Ixias – Tries: Hans Terblanche, Heino Bezuidenhout, Cohen Jasper. Conversion: Charles Williams. Penalties: Williams (2).

FNB Maties – Try: Lian du Toit (1x7). Conversion: Christian Schreuder. Penalties: Schreuder (3).

CUT student makes it to the International Student Online Chess Championship final.



Ofentse Botipe, second-year Mechanical Engineering student reached the finals of the International Student Online Chess Championship, organised by Vyatka State University (Russia) in collaboration with the Liaoning University of Science and

Technology (China), sponsored by Chess Craft Trading House, <https://chess-craft.ru/>. This global virtual tournament featured more than 60 students from 8 different Countries (Russia, China, Bangladesh, South Africa, Malaysia, India, Belarus, Tajikistan).



CUT's invite came through the bilateral engagement between Centre for Global Engagement (CGE) and Vyatka State University, Russia. Students were called to participate in teams. CUT Chess Club led by Dr Joel Timere, Lecturer in Design & Technology, managed to register 11 students and amongst them, Ofentse Botipe made it through to the play offs and finals and took home a finalist diploma and a prize from our sponsors which will be shipped from Vyatka as soon as the post offices in Russia are operational due to strict COVID-19 protocols in that country currently.

Ofentse said "I never thought of making it to the final, but my passion and dedication pushed me to earn good things from the work I have put in. Chess is one of my personal interests and I treat it as a remedy to refrain from the outside world".

The CGE confidently believes that cultural immersion experience contributes to the formation of a solid foundation, and it is critical for the development of life skills which strengthens all internationalisation endeavours linked to academic or extracurricular programs.

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