

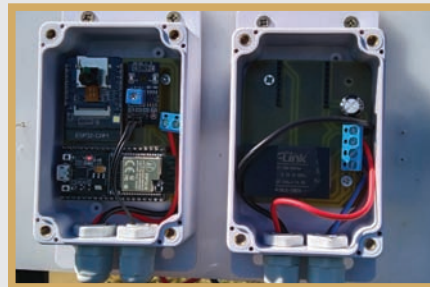




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Highlights

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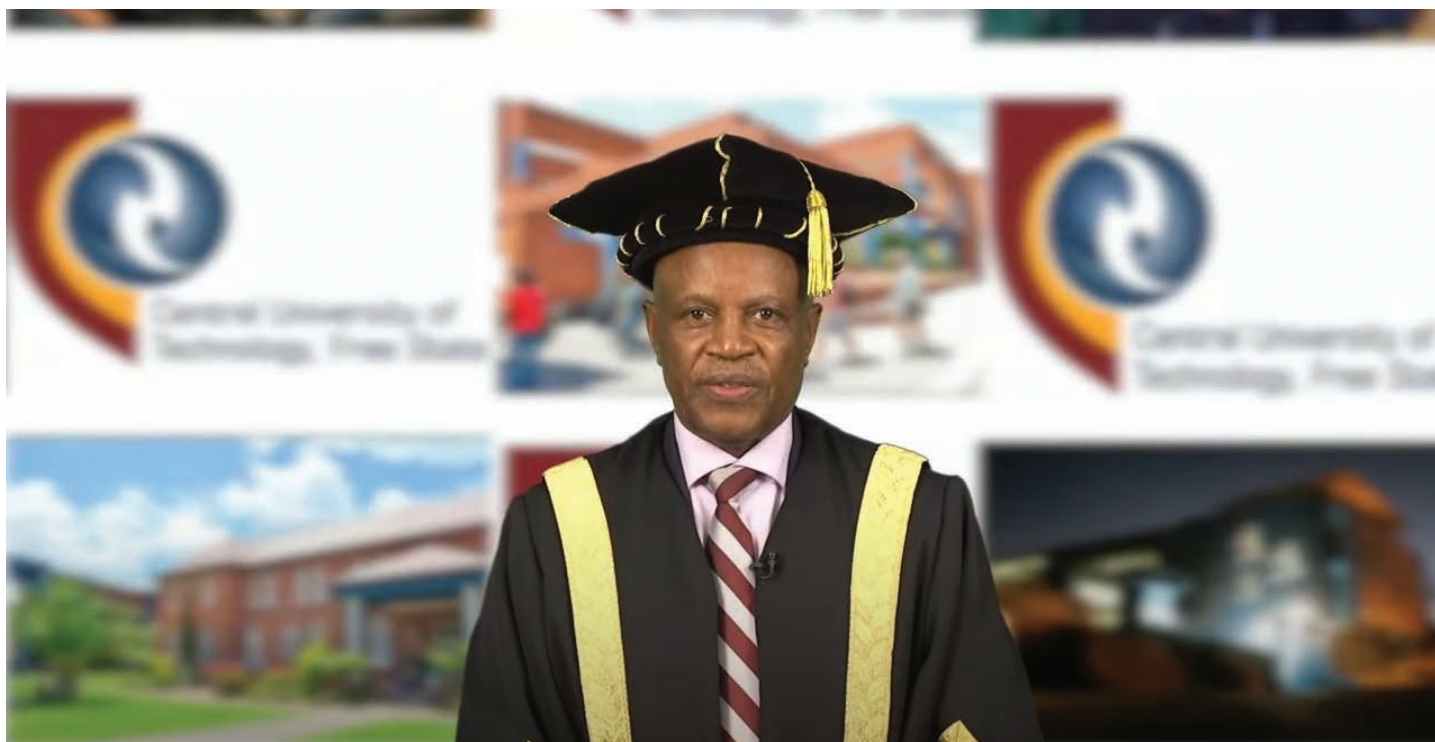


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Acting VC's message



Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Alfred Ngowi.

Dear CUT Community

We have come towards the end of our 2022 academic year, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of you for keeping our university afloat and going an extra mile to ensure that we reach the set goals towards our journey to accomplish our vision in becoming the best University of Technology in Africa.

It has been a long and bumpy ride for us as the first semester was characterised by demonstrations, which hampered the smooth running of our normal academic activities; but with your undying support, commitment, and dedication, we managed to reach some milestones together.

As you know, the university has appointed Prof. Pamela Dube as the new Vice-Chancellor and Principal, effective 1 January 2023. Prof. Dube brings vast knowledge and experience in the higher education sector. She also brings a wealth of expertise and passion to work with students who remain the number one priority at CUT. I trust that you will welcome her with warm and open arms and provide her with all the necessary support so that her transition can be swift and effortless.

As the acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal, you made it easy for me to work with you and I will forever cherish that opportunity. It was such a pleasure to lead a winning team such as yourselves. Meanwhile, I will be acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal until the end of December 2022 and will continue to provide my leadership role to the university.

As you will be travelling wide and far to join your families and loved ones during this festive season, I want to wish you safe journeys for those who will be travelling and all the best in your endeavors. I also want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2023.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all CUT employees, students, alumni, stakeholders, partners, donors, and Council for the opportunities they afforded me as acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal. Thank you for believing in me and trusting me to steer this ship.

Kind regards / Ditumediso tse mofuthu / Vriendelike groete

Prof. Alfred Ngowi

Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal



CUT appoints new Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Pamela Dube to lead 2030 Vision



Prof. Pamela Dube has been appointed as the new Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Central University of Technology, Free State.

The Central University of Technology, Free State (CUT) has appointed Prof. Pamela Dube as Vice-Chancellor and Principal, effective 1 January 2023.

Presently, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Student Development and Support at the University of Western Cape, her passion for strategic partnerships, leadership and student support initiatives puts the Central University of Technology in a position necessary to drive the 2030 Vision to its fruition and beyond.

She is an accomplished international leader in academia, having attained numerous qualifications from various national and international universities. A graduate of the University of Siegen in Germany and the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), Prof. Dube has lived and worked in Germany at the University of Siegen after completing her doctoral degree.

In addition to her substantive experience at the executive level, Prof. Dube has initiated effective relationship-building approaches with academic, government, and business partners as well as public communications skills. She also brings this entire tapestry of talents, knowledge, a wealth of experience and passion to work with students who remain the number one priority at CUT.

Professor Dube has had a versatile career stretching from lecturer and researcher at the University of Siegen in Germany to Director and Acting Chief Director at the National Department of Education, and Head of Human Resources Development and International Relations at the South African Nuclear Energy Cooperation.

She has also served as a guest lecturer at the Kathmandu University in Nepal, as a Special Advisor to the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Johannesburg, as well as Executive Director: Human Resources at the same institution.

"The University Council is grateful for the meaningful participation of all stakeholders within the university in her appointment. On behalf of the university community, I wish to thank her for taking up this offer and availing herself of the opportunity to lead our institution toward and beyond Vision 2030," said CUT Council Chairperson, Councilor Matthew Rantso.



Applied research delivers cutting-edge assistive devices to change the lives of differently abled students



Cllr Matthew Rantso, Chairperson of Council, handing over the custom-made cranial protector to Ms Joyce Visage, mother of 10-year-old Olebogeng Visage, one of the recipients and learner from Pholoho Special School.

Disability Unit in collaboration with the Product Development Technology Station (PDTs) and Unit of Development (UD) donated seven assistive devices to students and members of the community living with disabilities. Members of the community received 3 in1 wheelchairs, while two CUT students received automatic wheelchairs. One learner from Pholoho Special School received a custom-made cranial protector to protect his head against injuries.

The three-in-one sustainable wheelchair that was built and designed by the PDTs, was initiated by Mr Schalk van der Merwe, who has been wheelchair-bound for 27 years. All that Mr. Van der Merwe wanted was a sustainable, multifunctional, affordable, durable, and flexible wheelchair that is suitable for rough terrains and rural areas. The team later collaborated with two universities in the United Kingdom, Aston and Loughborough, to further improve the wheelchair design and manufacture it on the African continent.

The PDTs, DU, and UD are significant landmarks for learners, students, and community members with impairments. The donations made by the unit are part of enabling an inclusive environment, wherein individuals who have received the assistive devices can gain a sense of self-reliance and self-worth.

Prof. Alfred Ngowi, acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal said, “we consider this undertaking as a means of assisting those living with disabilities to be able to participate meaningfully in their community activities, on an equal footing with other members of their communities”. He further added that the university supports the government in its call for full representation and participation of people with disability, and that any assistive device is a life-changing experience, as it opens doors of education for learners with disability; employment and social interaction. “Denying them access to these life-changing tools violates their constitutional rights,” he added.

CUT is committed to promoting diversity among students on campus to give differently abled students access to equitable educational opportunities. Through the provision of a variety of programs, the DU aims to establish a supportive atmosphere that encourages students with disabilities and the wider community to realize their full potential. The chair costs up to R80 000 when importing the parts from overseas. “We manufacture all this for just R7 000, and we use bicycle parts. We use these parts because we want to ensure that accessibility is easier to the people in our communities,” Van der Merwe said.

The university is now able to mass produce these wheelchairs, with 20 of them already built and ten more expected to be manufactured soon.

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From left: Prof. Samson Mashele, acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagement, Dr Malebo Ntsoaki, Senior Director: Innovation in Learning and Teaching, Dr Gary Paul, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Resources and Operations, Cllr Matthew Rantso, Chairperson of Council, Prof. Alfred Ngowi, acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal.

Seated: Wheelchair recipient, Mr Tello Mofodi.



Some of the custom made assistive devises manufactured by PDTs.



The 3in1 wheelchairs that were donated to CUT students and members of the community. The sustainable wheelchair was built and designed by the PDTs and initiated by Mr Schalk van der Merwe, who has been wheelchair-bound for 27 years. The team later collaborated with two universities in the United Kingdom, Aston and Loughborough, to further improve the wheelchair design and manufacture it on the African continent.



Smart Farming gets a head start at the CUT farm



A setup of the smart farm which includes the WIFI weather station, soil moisture sensor as well a camera that works with WIFI.

Pastures are natural feed to animals and are maintained to ensure good quality and quantity of the feed to get the best animal products.

Unlike traditional ways of managing pastures, which are costly and labour-intensive, the use of technology in farming has introduced the concept of smart farming, making pasture management more manageable and cost-effective.

Smart farming integrates advanced technological methods, including the Internet of Things (IoT), big data, and cloud computing. These concepts enable tracking, monitoring, automating, and complex operational analysis operations. However, even with the use of these new technological techniques, there are still challenges facing pasture management.

Pastures are dependent on climatic conditions; therefore, climate change has a significant impact on pasture management. With the onset of climate change, it has become a challenge for livestock farmers to predict weather conditions making it impossible for decision-makers to deal more effectively with the effects of climate variability. However, the digital twin concept proved to be the best technique to tackle these challenges due to its complex prediction techniques, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning.



The circuit on the cameras and the sensors.

The project is hosted at the CUT farm in Bloemfontein, and a weather station has been set up to gather information about pasture growth, such as temperature, soil moisture, and rainfall. The collected data is then brought to a host laptop using ThinkSpeak (IoT analytic platform service that allows aggregation, visualization and analysis of live data streams in the cloud) and open-source software (for users to communicate with internet-enabled devices). The collected data is then processed using an Artificial Neural Network (ANN) algorithm.

"Based on this algorithm, we are able to predict the temperatures to an accuracy of 1.6 degrees Celsius and, predict the height of the pasture for a given month in the future. This project currently adds value to the CUT farm as it allows the farm managers to plan the feed (natural or artificial) for the animals. Once the veracity of the model has been established, such a project can be rolled out to small and medium-scale farmers within and around the community. This will greatly aid their farming as well as mitigate the challenges brought about by the unforeseen climate changes," said Dr Baby Kuriakose, Snr Lecturer: Electrical Electronics and Computer Engineering.



Engineering Council (ECSA) once again gives the green light to CUT's Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and IT programmes



CUT Engineering graduates

CUT offers accredited academic programmes by highly respected accredited bodies, such as SAIPA, SABPP, and Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) and has strong affiliations with several Sector Education and Training Authority (SETAs).

The ECSA review team visited the Faculty of Engineering, Built and Information Technology (FEBIT) on 20 and 21 October 2022, for regular and provisional accreditation of engineering qualifications.

The Bachelor of Engineering Technology (BEngTech) in Electrical Engineering received full accreditation until the next normal cycle (5 years). The BEngTech Honours in Civil and Mechanical Engineering both received Provisional Accreditation (Provisional Accreditation is given after 50% of the qualification is completed.) The honours degree will be reviewed in 2023 for full accreditation. CUT is the first university to receive provisional accreditation for offering the BEngTech Honours degrees.

ECOSA is a statutory body established in terms of the Engineering Profession Act (EPA), 46 of 2000. Its primary role is to regulate the engineering profession.



Senior IT students commissioned to develop an APP for the university



The Department of Information Technology and ICT and Computer Services celebrated International Programmers Day on 13 September 2022 with senior IT students to honour programmers and innovators who make business, government and industry's lives easier by innovating, designing, and bringing solutions through developing programmes.

"In celebrating this day, the Department of Information Technology in the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology as well as the ICT and Computer Services Unit commissioned 28 female senior IT students to conceptualize and develop an ICT-related solution in the form of a mobile app which will serve as a communication tool to keep the university connected to prospective students, current students, staff, and alumni.

This assignment forms part of the Work Integrated Learning (WIL) programme, which allows them to gain the much-needed work experience to solve real issues facing organisations," said Prof. Muthoni Masinde, Head of the Department of Information Technology.

"Globally, programmers are playing a critical role in the development of technological solutions required by various sectors such as government services, education sector, healthcare services and other critical fields that have seen extraordinary growth of programming as the backbone of innovations and design within the IT-related industry. As a university, we need to see more of our young women forming an integral part of the digital transformation agenda of the university", said Prof. Alfred Ngowi, Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal.

A hackathon will be set up to allow groups of senior students to compete and work around the clock to conceive this student-driven solution app and present it to a panel of experts," he said.

Participating students felt that the initiative is exciting and inspiring as the university does not have such an app currently. They also believe that it will make their communication lines open and their student life easier.



CUT expands educational experience in the beer industry



InterVarsity brew sponsors, judges, craft brewers, UKZN Pietermaritzburg students and the 2021 winning team from 1000 Hills Chef School.

The Brewing and Tasting Intersivity (Intersivitybrew) hosted a five-week sensory training tour ahead of the craft beer brewing competition, co-hosted by South African Breweries and the Central University of Technology.

The team which included Dr Olga de Smidt, Deputy Director: Centre for Applied Food Security and - Biotechnology (CAFSaB) Research and Jacques Janse van Rensburg, Technical Sales Manager - South Africa at Lallemand Brewing; visited brew teams from different universities in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Makhanda, Bloemfontein, and Kwa-Zulu Natal ahead of the annual brewing and tasting competition.

The sensory training tour is one way in which the competition is expanding from the annual two-day competition held at the end of October, by engaging in more activities throughout the year, ensuring that students gain more knowledge about brewing and remain engaged and inspired throughout the year.

The 2022 Brewing and Tasting Intersivity competition aims to get students excited about brewing and beer culture and the judging is done according to the international Beer Judge Certification Programme (BJCP) style guide. The trainings gave brewers an opportunity to improve their sensory skillset and pre-assess their beers before entering the competition.

"This year we received sponsorships from Lallemand Brewing and the Siebel Institute of Technology in Chicago to train new tasters. Siebel Institute of Technology provided off-flavour sensory kits, which contains a concentrate of the chemical compounds that are often considered undesirable in a good beer. We tried to expose the students to off-flavour sensory training so they can taste and smell it for themselves. For instance, what a beer contaminated with bacteria may smell like or what it smells like if you used old hops for brewing. The off-flavour sensory training was a face-to-face experience on the six main off-flavours in beer. Brewers also learned to detect if the off flavours were present in their brews, where the compounds come from and what can be done to fix the beer or avoid it in future brews," added Dr de Smidt.



CUTbrU student brewing team taking part in the training tour at the East End Brewery in Bloemfontein.



CUT's CAFSaB hosts Inter-VarsityBru Awards



Lehlolonolo Qhanya, CUTbrU team member exhibiting the CUT beers at the Inter-VarsityBru Awards. Of all the categories, CUT managed to bag third-place position in Best Label Design and second place in Best Low Alcohol Beer.

Following a successful educational experience in the beer industry, CUT's Centre for Applied Food Security and Biotechnology (CAFSaB) in partnership with the South African Breweries (SAB), Beer Association of South Africa and HEINEKEN South Africa, hosted the Inter-VarsityBru Awards at the Hotel School following the two-day beer brewing competition which began on 21 October 2022.

According to Dr Olga de Smidt, Deputy Director: Centre for Applied Food Security and – Biotechnology (CAFSaB) Research, the main aim of the competition is to promote craft brewing and beer culture in South Africa under the umbrella of responsible drinking. "It's about understanding the beer you are drinking, choosing a specific type of beer (from over 120 styles), and getting involved in the actual brewing process."

About 15 institutions including universities (made from five members per team) participated in this year's Inter-VarsityBru competition, bringing students and the industry together. Teams were challenged to create brews in categories such as Best Lager Beer, Best Sour Beer, Best African Wild Ale, Best Low Alcohol Beer & Best Bottle Dress Design Label that were evaluated according to the Beer Judge Certification Programme (BJCP) guidelines.

1st place winners of different categories are:

- Best IPA: University of Cape Town
- Best Sour Beer: 1000 Hills Chef School
- Best Lager: University of Cape Town
- Best Low Alcohol Beer: 1000 Hills Chef School
- Best African Wild Ale: University of Kwazulu-Natal
- Best Bottle Dress Design Label: Stellenbosch University.

The overall winners of the Inter-VarsityBru 2022 with the Best Beer on Show are University of Cape Town. Of the above categories, CUT managed to bag third-place position in Best Label Design and second place in Best Low Alcohol Beer.



CUT is creating a platform for agriculture skills transfer among the youth



Learning the ropes from CUT's agriculture experts. The training for the Agri-Skills Expo included practical training on sustainable animal production.

Youth in the Free State Province had the opportunity to refine their agriculture skills at the Free State Youth Agri-Skills Expo hosted by the Central University of Technology in collaboration with the Black Management Forum (BMF).

The CUT Community Engagement Unit hosted its first-ever two-day Free State Youth Agri-Skills Expo for Young Professionals in the Free State on 30 June and 01 July 2022 at the CUT farm in Bainsvlei area. The expo included practical training on sustainable animal production systems.

The training took place with the assistance of the CUT's Head of the Agriculture Department, Prof. Pieter Fourie and CUT Farm Manager, Mr Jan Jacobsz. The session was attended by agriculture graduates, members of the BMF young professionals, women in the agricultural field from the American Corner Mangaung, Enactus and interested community members.

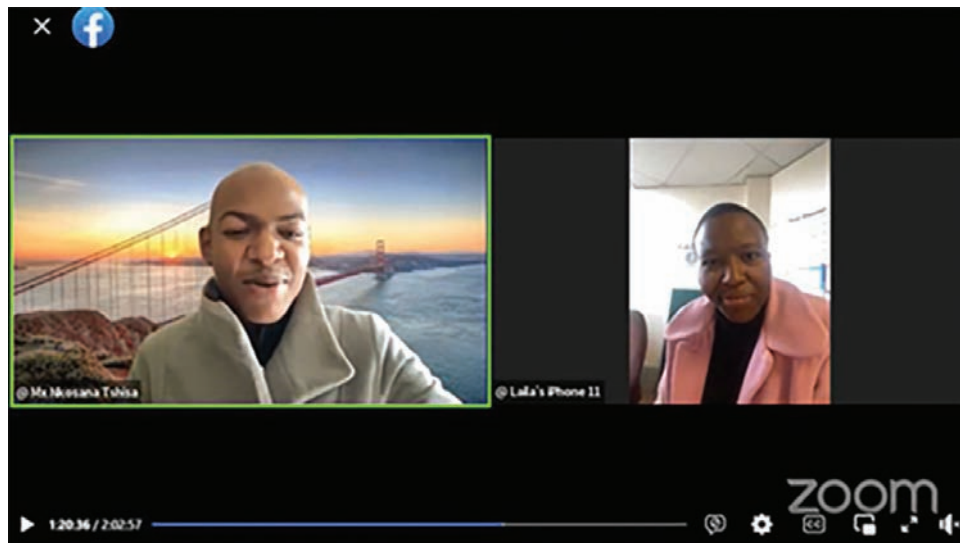
The second day of the expo took place with the participation of various stakeholders from business formations and the farming community to exchange valuable information and best practices with delegates. In attendance were the Serick Group, Glen Agricultural College, BMF, the CUT Idea Generator (i-Gym), Enactus CUT, and Dieketseng Farming.

The FS Youth Agri-Skills Expo sought to create a platform for skills transfer among the province's youth so they could participate in the sector and network with relevant stakeholders.





CUT hosts a dialogue webinar on the LGBTQIA+ community and discriminatory practices on campuses



From left, MX Nkosana Tshisa, Lecturer: Business Management, and Laila Nnyane, CUT FM Station Manager.

CUT hosted a successful virtual LGBTQIA+ Dialogue Webinar on 26 July 2022, under the theme: "How the Local and International Higher Learning Institution can create benefiting environment for the (LGBTQIA+) Community?"

The university stakeholders, including employees and students, attended the webinar and actively participated in the thought-provoking dialogue. Some topics that emerged were issues concerning safe spaces, tolerance, acceptance, recognition, equality, workplace harassment, GBV, senseless killings, corrective rapes, rejection, bullying, mental problems, hate speeches and inclusiveness.

Among the panelists who led the dialogue were Hlengiwe Buthlezi, Executive Director: KZN LGBTQIA+ Recreation, Tanki Mulvine Moea, CUT SRC: Transformation, Equity & Diversity and LGBTQIA+ Activist; Mr Hosia Malekane, GBV Activist and Chairman of Newpart Holdings, MX Nkosana Tshisa, Lecturer: Business Management, Mr Tshidiso Koena, LGBTQIA+ Activist and Sector Chairperson of Lejweleputswa District, Mr Axolile Sikhondo, CUT student and LGBTQIA+ Activist and MX Minothando Hlanganyana, CUT queer student and Coordinator of Embrace Diversity Movement, FS. They spoke about embedding LGBTQIA content into official university documents and learning programmes.

Hlengiwe Buthlezi emphasised the role of inclusivity and encouraged institutions of higher learning to consistently create awareness around queer matters, sensitize the workforce, create and implement policies on hate speech towards the LGBTQIA+ community. "Every faculty within the university needs capacity building from management to students. Constant awareness is important, and everyone must be aware of queer members around them. As queer members, we suffer a lot of bullying and harassment everywhere. We need safe spaces, including the third bathroom that is gender neutral. We need inclusive sports so that everyone can participate equally in all activities without fear. We are relying on you as leaders to create consistent awareness and educate your university communities about the LGBTQIA+ community."

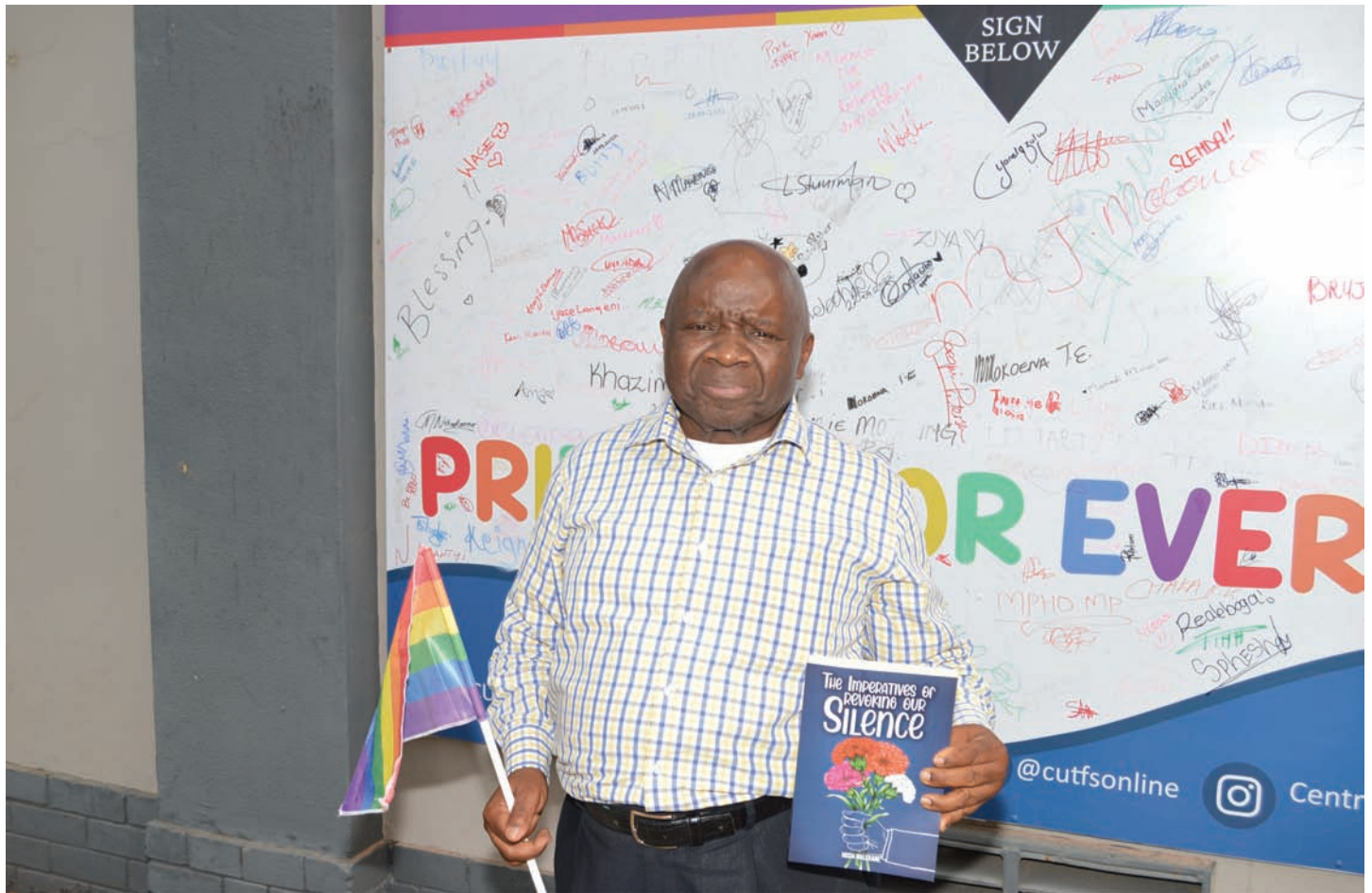
Some students revealed that they have suffered bullying at the hands of homophobic lecturers and students and do not feel comfortable using male-only or female-only bathrooms. They suggested that the university should have an office specifically for the LGBTQIA+ community and equip its Wellness Centre with professionals who can deal with daily challenges. They further proposed that the university introduce a gender and sexuality module to all first-year students, hoping that it will help fight homophobic lectures and students. Another concern was the need for gender-neutral language in the university documents like forms.

In closing, Professor Makola said, "we live in an environment with many blind spots and today, I feel happy because I am conscientised. These engagements will help us draw a wealth of knowledge and lessons that will shape our understanding and challenges facing our LGBTQIA community, not only here at CUT but nationally. As a university, we are committed to creating awareness for the CUT community, creating safer spaces, and providing the necessary support for queer members."

Did you know? Gay Pride month is celebrated in June due to the June 1969 Stonewall Riots, in which police arrested gay patrons simply because they were gay. Since then, every pride march has been dedicated as a tribute to those who retaliated against police brutality in pursuit of gay rights.



CUT pledge against GBV



Mr Hosia Malekane: Author, GBV activist and Chairperson of Newpart Holdings.

On 3 October 2022, the CUT Renewal and Transformation Unit in collaboration with the Wellness Centre and Library Services hosted the 2022 pledge Against Gender Based Violence (GBV) and launched a book- 'The imperatives of revoking our silence', authored by Mr Hosia Malekane, GBV activist, Director and CEO of Newpart Holdings.

The purpose of this event was to raise awareness to the CUT community about Gender-Based Violence (GBV), address the burning issues within the institution and launch a book. The book is envisioned to address the intensifying gender-based violence infiltrating universities and colleges. Five panellists presented on topics such as- what is GBV, how can it be stopped on campus and how the institution can improve the reporting of GBV. A pledge was also signed with indication that the CUT community is against gender-based violence within and outside the institution.

Prof. Solomon Makola, acting Director: Renewal and Transformation Office, said that GBV remains highly rated in our society, workplace and country, which is one of the issues that need to be addressed and placed high in the CUT transformation agenda. "Universities as an extension of our communities also encounter cases of GBV and it is for this reason that we embark on developing a policy on GBV and sexual harassment for our students and staff. The policy focuses on women, men and members of the LGBTQIA+ community to protect their rights within the institution," said Prof. Makola.

Mr Hosia Malekane, author and GBV activist said the book launched will bridge the gap between generations in forcing trust and respect between gender and sexual orientations. "I wrote this book to share my accessed thoughts and reflections on GBV and I hope it will bring light to those who are suffering in silence."

Ms Khopotso Mohlomi, third year Somatology student said "I believe that the only way gender-based violence can be dealt with is by creating safe platforms where victims can be free to speak out and get help."

CUT women celebrate their power as women in the workplace



The panel of CUT women who shared their experiences with their colleagues. From left, Ms Mpho Mbeo, Dr Laurika Van Straaten, Ms Ruth Mothae, Ms Ntokozo Mchunu and Ms Refiloe Khobo.

Every year in August, our country marks Women's Month. We also pay tribute to the more than 20 000 women who marched to the Union Buildings on 9 August 1956 in protest of the extension of Pass Laws to women. They took it upon themselves to demand equality in a world that undermined their advancement.

CUT women commemorated the 2022 Women's Day in honour of these courageous women from all walks of life who protested social injustice and discrimination.

"We believe that we cannot achieve our 2030 Vision without advancing the development of women here at CUT. Neither can we build the future we want without their full participation in leadership positions. This year, the day was celebrated under the theme: "Women's Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment: Building Back Better for Women's Improved Resilience". The concept of Generation Equality is a global campaign that links South Africa to global efforts to achieve gender equality for a sustainable future by 2030. It draws attention to significant challenges that women still face, such as inequality, the effects of global warming, sexual harassment, and GBV.

Currently, South Africa is faced with a plague of GBV, where women are being sexually violated and brutally murdered. For this reason, "we believe strongly in empowering and encouraging women to step up and occupy leadership positions. The Next Generation Women in Leadership (nGenWIL) Programme bears testament to our commitment. This programme is helping the university to prepare women for leadership positions, and to invest in their advancement as the future of academia," said Dr Sally Dzigwa, CUT Registrar

She encouraged CUT women to actively partake in shaping their future as women in the workplace. "I would like us as women to come out of these panel discussions with a plan. What is our plan, how are we going to change the narrative? How are we going to support each other to make sure that our growth will suit the way we want the future to be?" she asked.

"As we commemorate Women's Day, let us join hands in uprooting all forms of discrimination and treat each other with dignity, fairness, and respect, while promoting a culture that embraces inclusive diversity and equality. Let us create a university free from gender inequality and be an institution that supports and encourages women's empowerment."



CUT alumnae and staff celebrating women empowerment and achievements.



Dr. Sally Dzingwa, CUT Institutional Registrar, and Ms Matshidiso Mfanta, CUTis Chairperson.

Meanwhile, the CUT Alumni Office ended Women's Month on a high note by celebrating women empowerment and their achievements at a business breakfast. The networking breakfast served as an opportunity for CUT alumnae to get together and discuss the strides they are making as 'women in the workplace'.

Ms Matshidiso Mfanta, CUTis Chairperson, businesswoman and author, reminded women that women empowerment is not only about climbing the career ladder but financial independence. "Financial success is not a function of your income. Augment your income and build an asset base that will yield you a return so that you can maintain the quality of life that you are used to once you have retired. Create a portfolio of assets, find alternative income streams that is not for consumption but for investing," she said.



CUT e keteka Letsatsi La Botjhaba



Ba Lefapha La Tsa Tshireletso ba ne ba kgabile ka moaparo wa setso ba bile ba phehile dijo tse fapaneng tsa setso ho ka arolelana le setjhaba sa CUT.

Yunivesithi e Bohareng ya Theknoloji (CUT), Foreisetata, e ketekile Letsatsi La Botjhaba ka mafolofolo nakong eo e neng e hlophisitse mokete wa botjhaba khempaseng ya Bloemfontein ka la 23 Loetse 2022.

Ho ketekeng letsatsi lena, basebetsi ba CUT ho tswa mafapheng ka ho fapana ba ne ba emetse ditso tse fapaneng tse kang Xitsonga, Sepedi, Sesotho le tse ding. Hara diketsahalo tse ding ho ne ho bapaditswe ditafole tse neng di kgabisitswe ka mefuta ya dijo le meaparo ya setso, ho bapalwa mmimo ha mmoho le ho kgaba ka motjeko.

Mme Zola Thamae, eo e leng hloho Lefapheng La Dipapadi, Bonono, Botjhaba le Boikgathollo, Foreisetata, ke e mong wa dibui tse neng di mengwe ho ka tshetleha puo ho ikamahantswe le bohlokwa ba ho keteka letsatsi la botjhaba. Thamae o hlalositse ha bohlokwa ba ho keteka botjhaba e le ho bontshana lerato le hoba ngatana e le ngwe jwalo ka MaAfrika-Borwa.

Sepheo sa ho keteka letsatsi leo e ne ele ho kgaba ka setso le botjhaba bo teng ka hara yunivesithi.



Senepeng sa pele: Moleng o ka morao, ho tswa letsohong le letshehadi: Mong. Wonga Mbijekana, Ofisiri ya Lefapha La Saense ya Bophelo bo Botle le Tikoloho, Ngk. Zenzile Khetsha, Morupelli wa tsa Temo; Mof. Boipelo Nakedi, Motsamaisi wa Lefapha La Saense ya Bophelo bo Botle le Tikoloho, Porofesa. Hesta Friedrich-Nel, Dini e tshwereng mokobobo Lefapheng La Saense ya Bophelo bo Botle le Tikoloho, Porofesa. Alfred Ngowi eo e leng Motlatsa-Tjhanselara le Mosuwehlooho ya tshwereng mokobobo.

Ho ba dutsing, ho tswa letsohong le letshehadi: Mong. LG Hume, Setho sa Lekgotla la CUT ha mmoho le Mof. Zola Thamae, Hlooho ya Lefapha La Dipapadi, Bonono, Botjhaba le Boikgathollo.

Senepeng sa bobedi: Baithuti ba Mazulu ba neng ba kgaba ka motjeko wa botjhaba ba bona ebile ba apere moaparo wa setso.



CUT seeks to advance transformation in Higher Education at its 4th Transformation Summit



L-R: Prof. Alfred Ngowi, acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal with Dr David Masondo, Deputy Minister of Finance.

CUT held its 4th annual transformation summit on 27 and 28 October 2022 at the Bloemfontein campus. The two-day event focused on advancing transformation in higher education within the context of the continued consequences of segregation. The summit discussions also focused on the following sub-themes: Demystifying the interconnectedness of race, gender, and class in the context of higher education transformation in South Africa.

Deputy Minister of Finance, Dr David Masondo delivered Jabulani 'Mzala' Nxumalo's Memorial Lecture on 27 October 2022. The aim was to commemorate and celebrate his legacy, for the meaningful contributions he has made to the struggle against social injustices through his writings.

He focused his lecture on Mzala as a theorist and strategist under the topic of demystifying the interconnectedness of race, gender, and class in the context of higher education transformation in South Africa.

He added that in the context of our transformation, we need to take the question of class very seriously. "Transformation here at CUT will also depend largely on the actors here at the university because you cannot cook the rice outside the pot, the rice must be cooked here for us to have a product that will finally say this is a transformed university. And yes, as government we will set a conducive environment from outside, we have a responsibility to make sure that we pass the necessary laws and policies, but also provide the necessary funding to make sure that transformation happens," he said.



From left: Prof. Samson Mashele, CUT Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research Innovation and Engagement; Prof. Melissa Steyn, South African Research Chair in Critical Diversity Studies and Founding Director of the Wits Centre for Diversity Studies, University of the Witwatersrand; Prof. Alfred Ngowi, CUT Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal; Dr David Masondo, Deputy Minister of Finance; Prof. Solomon Makola, CUT Acting Director: Office of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal; Councillor Stefani Lockman-Naidoo, Speaker of Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality and Mr Anele Nkoyi, CUT Union Representative (NEHAWU Welkom).

In ensuring that transformation at CUT is focused on education of higher learning, Prof. Alfred Ngowi, acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal said that transformation at CUT has undergone a lot of changes starting from the days when transformation was seen as compliance to equity statistics, to the current state where it is part and parcel of the university's Vision 2030. "Our transformation plan is a project-based plan consisting of projects that are supportive of the 2030 Vision, which requires the university to be engaged in producing quality social and economic developments mainly in the central region and become a leading African University of Technology leading the future through innovation."

He further mentioned that there are still certain disparities in the country, including those related to economic involvement, higher education teaching, and learning. "The nation's reform program, however, has gained traction as institutions and residents work to close disparities and make their country an egalitarian and prosperous place for everyone to live. The summit moreover was aimed at addressing some of the above pointers," he said.

Cllr Stefani Lockman-Naidoo, Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality Speaker, and Free State SALGA NCOP delegate, touched on inequalities in societies, education, unemployment, and segregation. She mentioned that societies and different communities deal with special segregation and its consequences, racial justice, and equality that makes education and higher education a challenge to students in institutions. She further highlighted that the youth must change their mindsets and become more urgent in changing how things are done.

"It is time for us as the youth to have progressive thinking rather than be reactive. It is time for us to come up with strategies on how to solve real problems affecting us otherwise, we will be frustrated without hope. We need to change everything and start doing things differently this time," she said.

Mr Leemisa Ramatiisa from Goldfields TVET College said "we believe that the efforts of the institution such as CUT will make an impact and help accelerate the pace of transformation, furthermore we trust that the policy that will emerge out of the process will be the one to fast-track the pace of transformation. As partners in education, we support the noble idea which aims to promote, implement, and monitor transformation at the university."

CILT hosts the 7th Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) International Conference



Academics from various universities who attended the 7th annual SoTL conference to share current trends on how to enhance their teaching and learning techniques.

The Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching (CILT) held its 7th Annual International Conference on Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) in Higher Education from 06-07 October 2022 at the CUT-Bloemfontein Campus. The purpose of the conference is to share current trends, good practices, and research work to improve teaching and research techniques.

Prof. Ngowi, acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal welcomed delegates from different universities and presenters who led discussions on various topics. In his address, he said that as a sector, it is prudent to engage in dialogues that will inform ways on how to move beyond the pandemic. "CILT is committed to improving the quality of teaching and learning through data-driven research, and this conference is a platform where academics can demonstrate pedagogical innovations. Opportunities will be created for academics to showcase strategies they have obtained through their practice and various professional development initiatives to drive innovative and research-driven practices in teaching and learning as well as improving student learning and success," said Prof. Ngowi.

Dr Pool and Dr Heymans deliberated on the topic "Celebrating excellence in Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Trends, Challenges and Recommendations." They indicated that SoTL is a platform that allows them an opportunity to engage in such discussions and debates as a way of questioning how things are being done. They further explained that Higher Education is evolving at an astonishing rate and the emergence of COVID-19 has accelerated the rapid transformation in the sector. The duo also mentioned digital transformation and social justice as key trends to aid academics as university teachers in navigating the ever-changing higher education landscape. "Even though we are taken to those uncomfortable places outside our comfort zones, the aim is to develop excellence in curriculum and pedagogical practices within a diverse and prosperous disciplinary discipline", they added.

Dr Matete Madiba presented on "forging partnerships for the creation and promotion of inclusive and equitable quality education", which she said is important and further challenged the CUT SoTL team to think of the next steps of implementation. "COVID-19, as well as #FeesMustFall, are the two defining situations for higher education in South Africa, which made the invisible more visible and exposed the complexity of issues involved in promoting equitable quality education, said Dr Matete.

Prof. Vuyisile Nkonki's presentation on "A SoTL inquiry into the mangle in the practice of teaching and learning during COVID-19 and beyond", reflected on many empirical and theoretical papers written on teaching and learning during COVID-19, with reflections on what post-COVID-19 should look like. "The concept of the mangle of practice is employed to understand the emergence of new conceptual knowledge and the becoming of students' and lecturers' identities through the dynamic interplay of material. This mangle of practice framework provides an awareness of becoming, of open-endedness, and challenges us to look at what emerged."



CUT's annual Vice-Chancellor's Awards held to appreciate outstanding employees



Award recipients from left: Prof. Elisha Markus; Mr Marnus van Zyl; Dr Izabeth Conradie; Ms Charline Geduld-Van Wyk; Prof. Alfred Ngowi; Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Esther Palmer; Prof. Freda Van Der Walt; Prof. Saheed Oke; Dr Baby Kuriakose; Dr Percy Andrews Hohne; and Prof. Lize Theron.

CUT held its annual Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Awards on 13 October 2022, to acknowledge and appreciate excellence and award the outstanding achievements of university academics and support staff.

The objective of the awards is to demonstrate the university's commitment to research and innovation teaching, curriculum innovation and community engagement-related engagement; create an environment which recognizes and rewards achievement in research, innovation and community engagement; and enhance excellence thereof through recognition process.

When acknowledging the recipients, Prof. Alfred Ngowi, acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal said, "your efforts and dedication are exemplary to all of us. As an institution with a vision to be the leading African University of Technology, we strive for the quality and grit that you display through your work. It is exciting that this year we have received outstanding nominations and I am excited about our university's output under very strenuous circumstances. This is indicative of our resilience and tenacity to progress irrespective of the challenges we face."

Prof. Alfred Ngowi also added that the Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Awards also stimulate ideas and innovation from the academic teams and support staff to go beyond their call of duty. "It is through your deep commitment and your efforts that we continue to adapt and improve to meet every challenge successfully as we move forward into the future".

In his keynote address, Prof. Lategan said 'an award should have meaning to more people than only oneself. But involving other people has the potential to cause an ethical dilemma. Hence, the question that recipients of awards should challenge themselves with is 'where does my responsibility stop, and where does the responsibility of the corporate begin? How do we balance our responsibility with that of the university?'



From Left: Prof. Samson Mashele, acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagement; Ms Jeeva Munsamy, Prof. Lize Theron, Community Engagement Award winners, and Prof. Alfred Ngowi, acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal.

He further posed critical questions to the university community about their willingness to take responsibility for themselves and others; and challenged the awardees to consider what their achievements mean to other people and whether their accomplishments are making any difference in the world in which they live.

Winners of the 2022 Vice Chancellor's Excellence Awards are:

Teaching Award Category: Early career teaching awards: Dr PA Hohne, Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology; **Mid-career teaching awards:** Ms C Geduld-Van Wyk, Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences and **Advanced career-teaching awards:** Dr EP Palmer, Faculty of Management Sciences.

Research Award Category: Early career research award: Dr B Kuriakose, Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology; **Mid-career research award:** Prof. SA Oke, Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology and **Established research awards:** Prof. F Van der Walt, Faculty of Management Sciences.

Community Engagement Award Category: Community engagement award: Prof. L Theron, Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment, and Information Technology.

Innovation And Entrepreneurship Award Category: **Innovation awards:** Prof. ED Markus, Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment, and Information Technology; **Entrepreneurship award:** Dr JH Van Zyl, Mr HPS Van Zyl, Prof. U Holzbaur, and Dr I Conradie, Valu-E Game project.



2nd Free State Industry 4.0 Summit hosted at CUT emphasises assisting communities through innovative technologies



Prof. Seeram Ramakrishna, National University of Singapore; Hon. Gadija Brown, MEC Free State Provincial Treasury; Prof. Alfred Ngowi, CUT acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal; Hon. Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies; Hon. Sisi Ntombela, Free State Premier; Prof. Samson Mashele, CUT acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagement and Commissioner Charles Owiredu, Ghanaian Higher Commissioner to South Africa.

The 2nd Free State Industry 4.0 Summit, held in collaboration with the Free State Provincial Government, MICTSETA and the Central University of Technology, took place on 21 and 22 July 2022.

The theme of the summit was: Accelerating economic growth and development of the Free State through innovative 4IR technologies. Serving as a continuation of the first summit held in 2019, the summit focused on youth participation and forging new networks with critical role players in the province. The summit strived to find innovative technological solutions that will empower communities and improve the lives of ordinary people in the region.

In his opening remarks, Prof. Alfred Ngowi, CUT acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal, stated that for the university, the summit is an important platform that will provide a unique opportunity for researchers and graduate students to network and embrace intellectual development within the 4th Industrial Revolution. "Most importantly, to provide a forum for government leaders, professional organisations, business, and industry leaders to discuss common challenges and opportunities presented by this revolution. The theme represents our aspirations and determination as a University of Technology, to be a leader in Africa, in areas of social and technological innovations. These innovations would have been impossible without the expertise of our academics and students, who are the backbone of many innovations found here in this university," said Prof. Ngowi.

Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Khumbudzo Ntshavheni highlighted the significance of ensuring that rural

communities have access to digital connections. "As long as there is no network in the rural areas, where mining and farming takes place, there will not be deployment of these fourth industrial technologies, so we must focus on the basics first by ensuring that everyone has access and secondly, continuity. We have set ourselves a challenge that 80% of South Africans must have access to the internet by 2024, but we as the department are chasing 100% access to the internet for all South Africans by 2024. South Africans are entitled to government service, and we must ensure that those who are poor are prioritised on a first come, first served basis. We are going to use technology to advance that," stated Minister Ntshavheni.

Free State Premier, Honourable Sisi Ntombela added that the critical quest of youth employment and empowerment is at the heart of it. "This summit must address the importance of accelerating education, skills, and employability - full investment in optimisation of the fourth industrial technologies. Aligning with the commitments of the last summit, the province invested a seed fund of R5 million to support the initiatives of the CUT Innovation Hub. "I am happy that the money was used well, and I've met the youth who have benefited from this hub. Fourth industrial technologies must be useful and impactful in the lives of our people. Its technologies must assist us in enhancing service delivery, development, and opportunities for our people," she added.

The summit offered CUT and the region an opportunity to interact with other experts and forge new alliances and ways of driving change within this space for the future of the country and continent.



From page 20



Prof. Seeram Ramakrishna, a world-renowned scientist and CUT honorary doctorate from the National University of Singapore

When sharing his wealth of knowledge, Prof. Seeram Ramakrishna, a world-renowned scientist and CUT honorary doctorate from the National University of Singapore, spoke about the effects of climate change and how big brands want to contribute by investing their resources to achieve NET-ZERO emissions by 2050. "I strongly believe that 4IR is necessary for the world to achieve Net- Zero emission and a Circular Economy. This will mean creating more jobs, economic growth, and sustainability for the Free State, as well as an opportunity for CUT to contribute meaningfully to the province."



Learner experiencing the wonders of virtual reality.

He also reflected on real-life examples of Net-Zero emissions and the Circular economy, a production and consumption model involving refurbishing and recycling existing materials, as seen through the eye of an influential scientist and 4IR task force member at the university.

Prof. Ramakrishna further touched on the importance of data centres and electronic waste in building a circular economy. "There is an opportunity to build data centres not only in South Africa but Africa as a whole, because you need them for growing 4IR technologies. These technologies are necessary for recycling tons of waste that we produce. Growing electronic waste is also an opportunity to build a circular economy in SA."

He said South Africa has pledged carbon neutrality by 2050 and that a fundamental transformation will happen worldwide as trillions of dollars are invested in this direction. He further highlighted that SA mining companies are looking at harnessing renewable energy in the form of hydrogen. "Hydrogen is the most environmentally friendly fuel, and Singapore, as well as other countries, are investing lots of money in building a hydrogen economy," he added.

Ramakrishna congratulated CUT and the Free State province for coming together and coordinating efforts towards driving the 4IR to fruition. "You are thinking in the right direction and making the efforts the right way. If you progress, you will regain economic growth and create job opportunities."

Prof. Ramakrishna is one of the world's most influential scientists and one of CUT's 4IR task force members. He is a Mechanical Engineering and Bioengineering professor, co-director of NUS Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Initiative (NUSNNI), and head of the Centre for Nanofibers and Nanotechnology. In 2017, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Engineering at CUT for his vast contribution to the sector.



4IR Summit exhibition hall where various innovative projects were on display

CUT in collaboration with the Free State Provincial Government hosts the 5th annual Free State Research Colloquium



From left: Prof. Alfred Ngowi, acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Free State MEC for Finance, Ms Gadija Brown, and Ms Masechaba Sesing, Head of the Department: Free State Provincial Treasury.

CUT in collaboration with the Free State Provincial Government held the 5th annual Free State Provincial Research Colloquium from 28-29 September 2022 at the Bloemfontein Campus under the theme “Transitioning the provincial economy through an inclusive economic growth and competitive recovery.”

Various university researchers and key stakeholders from Free State Government departments came together to discuss the challenges faced and explore research solutions that can be employed to bring about sustainable economic development and growth in the province.

Prof. Alfred Ngowi, acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal, expressed his sincere gratitude and welcomed all guests for honouring the annual Free State Research Colloquium. He stated that the point of focus in this year's conference is to exchange ideas, participate effectively, draw some lessons from the newly acquired knowledge in order to apply and manage activities in all respective areas of responsibility.

When highlighting the objectives of the colloquium, MEC for Finance, Ms Gadija Brown, said the 2022 Research Colloquium is to facilitate knowledge sharing and deepen the understanding on how to devise and implement effective policy tools to move the provincial economy on an appropriate growth path; as well as physical sustainability to support the economic recovery thus improving public governance, cutting off wasteful expenditure, deliver quality services to the people and enhance technological innovations.

“We have available arable land that is ready for whichever project that could create economic viability. With the use of technology and innovation, land, processes of Public Private Partnership (PPP), compliance of governments prescripts on supply chains as well as of those job creators of water and electricity, the balance of skilled and unskilled people; nothing can stop us from achieving what other countries are doing so well. All we need is the willpower,” said MEC Brown.



Central University of Technology and MTN forge an alliance on technological innovations



Mr Felix Mokoena, MTN Enterprise Business Manager; Ms Sunette Els, General Manager Central Region at MTN; Dr Sally Dzingwa, CUT acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal at the time, and Prof. Samson Mashele, acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Innovation and Engagement.

CUT and telecommunications service provider, MTN have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to forge new alliances focusing on what role the two partners can play in advancing socio-economic development through innovation, research, and engagements with various communities. The primary purpose of the MoU is to establish projects aimed at co-creating 5G-based solutions.

As part of the agreement, the partners intend to implement solutions in 3 phases. Phase 1 includes looking at all feasible upgrades of technology and infrastructure currently deployed on the two campuses. Phase 2 will focus on enhancements of used cases as CUT already has used cases which could be enhanced by MTN's ability to provide bandwidth and potential private network. Phase 3 is envisioned to bring about co-creation, with a focus on potential co-creation of industry-specific solutions such as but not limited to AI offerings, SMART campuses, Virtual Reality, and extended Reality Centres.

"As a University of Technology (UoT), CUT has certainly ensured that it does not play in the same league as others. They have most certainly shown that when it comes to innovation, they want to be the leading UoT. The university also ensured that whatever the intellectual property, the whole world knows about this... what better way to accelerate the CUT vision than by partnering with an organisation like MTN? As MTN, we would like to use the technologies that we have to bring the successes that we've seen in the 23 countries that we operate in back to the Free State," said Mr Felix Mokoena, MTN Enterprise Business Manager.

Both partners are venturing into increasing their impact on the African continent through collaboration regarding the creation of 5G and LTE technology solutions.

Dr Sally Dzingwa, CUT acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal at the time said "we intend to reinforce our relevance among our partners, and enhance our profile as a leading university of technology in Africa. This collaboration includes creating 5G and LTE technology solutions as well as enabling innovation and enhancements at both our campuses. Initially, we will consider feasible technology and infrastructure upgrades and potentially co-create industry-specific solutions from there. Our current model with technological advancements will move us closer to our vision.



Learners explore energy, toxicity, and plant growth problem-solving ideas at the 2022 ESKOM Expo for Young Scientists

Eskom Expo for Young Scientists is South Africa's science fair for schools, where learners are given an opportunity to identify a problem, analyse information, find solutions, and communicate the findings. The Expo brings learners, teachers, professional organisations, and government together for the same objective.

On 29 and 30 July 2022, the Central University of Technology, in collaboration with Eskom, hosted the annual Eskom Expo Regional Science Fair. About 97 learners in grades 6 to 11 from 10 schools in Bloemfontein and surrounding towns entered the Fair to exhibit their scientific investigations and innovative projects. Schools that participated include Setjhaba se Maketse Combined School, Oranje Primêre Meisieskool, Eunice High School, Botlehad, Navalsig High School, Madikgetla Primary, Tsoseletso High School, President Brand Primary, Johnny Haralambous, and Madikgetla Primary School.

Learners participated in different categories as individuals and pairs. The categories ranged from Agricultural Sciences, Animal Sciences, Biomedical and Medical Sciences, Computer Sciences and Software Development, Earth Sciences, Energy, Engineering, Environmental Studies, Mathematics, Plant Sciences, Physics, Astronomy and Space Science and Social Sciences. By participating in the Expo, learners increase their awareness of science and engineering, add to their knowledge, and explore entrepreneurial possibilities, while broadening their scientific horizons. Prizes won include certificates, trophies, vouchers, and laptops.

In his address, Prof. Samson Mashele said it is exciting and impressive to see the young generation participating in solving the



Best Energy project winners: Danicke Grobbelaar and Lee-Ann Britz (grade 7) from Oranje Primêre Meisieskool are flanked left by: Mrs Jeeva Munsamy, Deputy Director: Community Engagement, Prof. Samson Mashele, acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagement, and Ms Sister Mapiyeye, Manager: Schools Advancement Academy.

enormous challenges the world is facing. "I am impressed to witness young minds' work coming up with brilliant innovations that will shape our province, country, and the globe. As a country, we do not want to be consumers but entrepreneurs and innovators who will be job creators and problem solvers. With such brilliance, the future looks very exciting. I applaud each one of you for your magnificent ingenuity and thinking outside the box. I am confident that upon completing your studies, you will be part of our CUT's Vision 2030, leading through innovation as Innovation is at the centre of what we do."



Most Promising Secondary School Project winner: Lethabo Rahman, grade 8 learner from Navalsig High School, presented on 'Nephrotoxicity'.



Best Innovation Project winners: from left: Micke De Andrade and Oprah Mukhebi grade 9 learners from Eunice High School, presented on 'Plant growth in absorbing materials.'



Best Development winner: Tsiu Masiu, grade 6 Learner from Madikgetla Primary School, presented on 'Homework App'.



Most Promising Primary School Project winner: Danaé du Plessis, grade 6 learner from Oranje Primêre Meisieskool, presented on 'Alternatiewe opsies'.



Best Female winners: from left: Chane Hoek and Rouvé Janse van Rensburg, grade 6 learners from Oranje Primêre Meisieskool, presented on 'Hoe veel is ons daaglikse items?'



Best Energy project winners: from left: Lee-Ann Britz and Danicke Grobbelaar, grade 7 learners from Oranje Primêre Meisieskool.



Winners of the 2nd annual Entrepreneurial Matriculant of the Year Competition walk away with full CUT bursaries and cash prizes



Winners of the 2022 EMYC. From left, Zeta Cole (first place), Omphile Choane (second place), and Lungile Vilakazi (third place). There were eight winners with one group project (Aranchia Brandt, Jo-Nell Boyce, Nash Lynn Pieters and Inga Kuswayo), as well as Milanindesonwabe Msomi.

CUT in collaboration with Standard Bank South Africa (SBSA) and Central Media Group (CMG) hosted the finals of the second annual 2022 Entrepreneurial Matriculant of the Year Competition (EMYC) on 01 October 2022.

The EMYC is an annual contest hosted for grade 12 learners envisioned to challenge and increase their problem-solving and decision-making abilities, and improve their interpersonal skills, teamwork, and knowledge of money management.

The competition is for young aspiring entrepreneurs from the Free State and Northern Cape Provinces, which allows them to attempt to conceive, describe and present business ideas in order to enhance their entrepreneurial skills. The aim is to encourage self-learning, provide real-life experiences to learners in developing business plans and pitching to investors and also, inspire them to consider entrepreneurship education as their possible career path.

Prof. Samson Mashele, acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal at the time, commended the Standard Bank and the Central Media Group for the critical role they played in ensuring the success of the Entrepreneurial Matriculant of the Year Competition, and the distinction and excellence they have brought to this partnership. He expressed the partnership as deservedly recognised and acknowledged. Prof. Mashele further said that the young entrepreneurs are heroes that deserve to be celebrated and aspirations of what the university aim to achieve with graduates "as they reflect the values we revere, the accomplishments we respect and the hopes that give our lives meaning. By celebrating them, we honour our past, energize our present and shape our future."



A panel of adjudicators listening to Omphile Choane's presentation. Omphile is a grade 12 aspiring entrepreneur from Welkom High School.

He applauded the participating matriculants for their efforts and commitment. "Let us treat every day as a challenge for us to make a meaningful change in the lives of our young ones through entrepreneurship and innovations," he concluded.

This year's panel of adjudicators included the likes of Ms Sheeren Stamier, Head of Enterprise Direct Banking at Standard Bank South Africa-Bloemfontein Branch, Ms Olebogeng Mojanaga, Private Banker-Standard Bank Group, Ms Eleanor Nel, Project Coordinator from CUT, Mr Mamus van Zyl, CUT Lecturer and Mr Eduard Loots, Independent Financial Planner.

When asked about the level of aptitude in this year's group of aspiring entrepreneurs, Ms Olebogeng Mojanaga had this to say, "I am quite impressed by just how the youth is observing what's happening around them and the way they are also looking at the current problems with the aim of bringing change in their communities. This is a positive challenge for us as Standard Bank to say how do we collaborate even more especially with the youth, and how do we bring about change within the communities that we are operating in."

Mr Eduard Loots expressed his excitement about the competition. "I feel very excited mostly on the quality of presentations from the learners and I believe that this competition serves as an opportunity to develop future energetic entrepreneurs."



CUT hosts the Tourism and Hospitality industry at the Free State Tourism Career Expo



Learners were exposed to a vast number of companies and organisations in the tourism eco-system.

The Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTE) hosted a career expo aimed at introducing Tourism and Hospitality as a future employer as well as the career of choice for young people in the Free State.

About 395 Grade 10 – 12 Tourism, Hospitality and Consumer Studies learners from across the province, Motheo TVET College students and CUT final year and postgraduate students took part in the Provincial Tourism Career Expo (PTCE).

62 exhibitors from Tourism sub-sectors such as Hospitality, Marketing, Events Management, Transport, Tourism Academia, and Tourism Development represented the industry. The expo also included a sterling line-up of ±25 industry experts who shared their expertise.

The expo offered provincial tourism and hospitality organisations an opportunity to promote their companies and afford tourism learners exposure to potential employment and business opportunity in the sector.



CUT Tourism Management Alumni, Dithebe Moyeng and David Mphosha, exhibiting their company Funbase Tours.



CUT and Aalen University celebrates 20 years of fruitful partnership



Mr Steffen Schwarzer, Prof. Laetus Lategan, Prof. Alfred Ngowi, Prof. Desere Kokt, Ms Refilwe Molelane and Prof. Ulrich Holzbaaur.

Internationalisation has become a tune in higher education institutions, and universities across the world are encouraged to incorporate various methods of internationalisation within their scope to reap the benefits of global interconnectedness.

CUT remains connected with the rest of the world in terms of knowledge creation, production, and dissemination, and has since made great strides in its partnership with the German universities as part of its internationalisation strategy intended to expose students and academic staff to the globalised world.

CUT celebrated 20 years of successful collaboration with the Aalen University of Applied Sciences from 28-30 September 2022 at Bloemfontein and Welkom Campuses respectively. The celebration was themed "The future of universities and the universities of the future."

It has been 20 years since the most productive cooperation between CUT and Aalen University of Applied Sciences, even before the change of names of both universities (Technikon Free State and Hochschule Aalen). The celebration is also to honour the pioneers and founding members of this partnership, and to also share gratitude on the milestones achieved thus far.

Prof. Alfred Ngowi, acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal, shared some of the 20-year partnership highlights with Aalen University including regular student and staff mobility across all four CUT faculties that exposed the university to a globalised world, collaboration on research publications and books, the VALU-E entrepreneurial board games, Vredefort Dome tourism project and the active participation of both universities as a consortium of five years international universities, to develop the state of art short courses on entrepreneurship. "It gives me great pleasure to witness the successes that resulted from a long-sustained partnership between us. We are proud to be associated with Aalen University. It is evident that our relationship has been built on a solid foundation as we have made some remarkable progress in our collaboration from when it started to date. We will continue working together not only in the areas mentioned but also in the offering of our newly developed structured Masters in Entrepreneurship Development. We will continue to support this healthy and fruitful collaboration with Aalen in the years to come," he said.



Mr Siphwe Mkhwanazi, CUT Alumni who was part of the students exchange program.

Prof. Ulrich Holzbaaur from Aalen University of Applied Sciences and one of the founders and pioneer of this partnership, said the collaboration with CUT has added the much-desired value that is beneficial to both universities. He highlighted that over the past 20 years, both universities have exchanged about 135 students. "Our collaboration has managed to offer our students and staff the added niche to travel intentionally through the Baden Wurttemberg Scholarship program for over 10 years. This means there is more regular mobility of staff and students across all four faculties," he added.

Mr Siphwe Mkhwanazi, CUT Alumnus and a beneficiary to the exchange programme, shared his journey on how the CUT-Aalen university collaboration changed his perspective about life, culture, and how other people from different poles of the world do things. He said, "the relationship between Aalen and CUT changed my perception about a lot of things and I wish more students can get the chance to explore and learn more about life outside their borders, learn different ideologies and expand their horizons to become better critical thinkers and problem solvers."

Both parties wished to work together for the next coming 20 years and continue to embed the principles of comprehensive internationalization.



SA and Sweden University Forum Student Network Chapter launched at CUT



Lawrence Mkhize, CUT SASUF student network representative; Andile Mthembu, SASUF Student network Chairperson; Thuto Mashila, SASUF Student network Deputy Chairperson; Pontso Letuka, CUT SASUF student network representative and Simba Matema, UFS SASUF student network representative.

CUT Postgraduate students launched the South Africa - Sweden University Forum (SASUF) student network chapter. SASUF is a strategic internationalisation project initially launched in 2017 to take the South African and Swedish relationship to the next level.

The second phase of collaboration, named SASUF 2030, is a transformative project uniting 39 universities from across Sweden and South Africa, bringing together researchers, students, university leaders, and other stakeholders to develop solutions addressing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030.

SASUF 2030 will pilot new and innovative ways to develop joint solutions to SDG challenges. The SASUF student network's mandate and goals are driven by the UN Sustainable Development Goals making the network a crucial student-oriented institution as it advocates for students' involvement and participation in activities advocating for the enhancement of the SDGs. The CUT's network was formally launched and wishes to extend an invitation to all CUT students to become part of the network.

"I look forward to initiating collaborative projects with researchers and students from both countries addressing challenges linked to the SDGs," said Ms Refilwe Moleyan, SASUF Coordinator at CUT.



Alumni discovers his hobby and makes a breakthrough in the perfume industry



Thabo Kwakwa discovered his hobby and made a breakthrough in the perfume industry after his visit to the biggest perfume shop in the world while on study abroad programme in Europe.

"Memories may fade, but a scent will always be the vehicle that drives you back to those memories. Has someone ever made you turn your head because you were captivated by their scent?" These are the moments that Thabo Kwakwa lives for.

Thabo has always been fascinated by new technological advances and discoveries. He then decided to pursue a career in IT and completed his National Diploma in Information Technology: Software Development at Welkom Campus. Due to his tenacity and diligence, he was nominated by his Head of Department for a six months' Study Abroad Programme in his final year (2018). He studied Computer Sciences, specialising in Data Sciences at Hochschule Aalen in Germany. "My best time at CUT was when I was selected to study abroad. It felt like a dream come true, and I will always appreciate CUT for providing me with the opportunity to study and travel throughout Europe."

Thabo's perfume journey started in Europe when he visited one of the biggest perfume shops in the world and right there and then he decided that he wanted to be a perfumer one day. He is the founder of TLK Oud Boutique, an online perfume store. They deliver high-quality fragrances around South Africa and all their perfume oils are imported directly from the perfume capitals of the world, the United Arab Emirates and France. The ultimate product is elegantly packaged colognes and perfumes. His online boutique's recognition by Metro FM and Motsweding FM was his biggest professional highlight and hearing his voice on such prominent radio stations taught him that there are no boundaries to what he can do.

He is working as a technician at the Alkantpan Test Range division of ARMSCOR in the Northern Cape and he is content about life because he gets to do the two things he loves- IT and perfumery. "The best thing about owning an online store is that it is fun to see how technology has made it simple for me to run a business online. Most of my customers are people who do not know me and have never seen me, and this shows the beauty of technology." Born and bred in Limpopo and raised by loving and supportive parents, Thabo is motivated by success. "Seeing other people do well motivates me to do better!" Choosing to study at CUT was one of the best decisions I have ever made because it opened so many doors for me," he said.

His goal is to travel worldwide and have his perfumes distributed globally. He counsels young people to exercise consistency and discipline in everything they do, whether in business or academic pursuits.



CUT alumna is the people's fairy godmother when it comes to fashion



Elmarane Van Ryneveld doing what she loves most

Beauty aesthetics has always been a passion of Elmarane Van Ryneveld. From a young age, she enjoyed playing dress-up and getting dolled-up. She attended school at Sentraal High School and thereafter studied make-up and aesthetics while she was trying to figure out what her next step would be. During that time, she discovered her passion about fashion.

Elmarane decided to enrol for a National Diploma in Fashion Design at CUT, which has since been incorporated as part of the Design and Studio Art programme. She learned much during this time and found her identity as a designer. CUT did not only ripen her fashion skills, but her studies also assisted with her business skills. She has her own label called Orijinel by Elmarane Van Ryneveld, where she is the Head Designer. With a swoosh here and there and a little bit of fairy dust, Elmarane has ladies walking out with stunning evening and wedding gowns.

"There is nothing more fulfilling than waking up to do what you love. Every single dress we make is different from the previous one, and it is extremely rewarding being able to see the outcome of your product." Watching her business grow in the last ten years has had her beaming with pride. "It is a huge compliment knowing that people trust me with such important events in their lives," she smiled joyfully.

Her biggest challenge is accepting criticism. She is, however, trying to accept that she cannot make everyone happy. She talks about the impact of decisions made and how they should not be made on a whim. "Some decisions have worked out favourably and some have blown up in my face, but overall, I'm incredibly grateful for every good and bad outcome because both led to learning important lessons. Expanding my business and creating more jobs is one of my driving force each day."



The International Building and Construction research community recognises CUT's Prof. Fidelis Emuze for outstanding service and international leadership



CUT Professor Fidelis Emuze, who heads the Department of Built Environment has been an active member of the International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB) for many years.

Prof. Emuze is the coordinator of a working commission on "People in Construction" (W123) with global membership in several countries. On 29 June 2022, the Dr Wim Bakens Best Coordinator Award was bestowed in recognition of his outstanding service and international leadership of a commission from 2019 to 2022.

Prof. Emuze shares the award with Profs. Fred Sherratt and Billy Hare from the University of Colorado and Glasgow Caledonian University, respectively. The award recognises the team as the best coordinators - considering there are about fifty task groups and working commissions.

When congratulating the award-winning CUT scholar for yet another magnificent achievement, Prof. Herman Vermaak, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology, had this to say, "this is indeed an honour. Prof. Emuze's award is another confirmation of his excellent work. His leadership is also visible in the time and effort he invests in colleagues to assist them in developing. We are honoured to have Prof. Emuze as part of the faculty".

In his comment, Prof. Emuze said "it is an honour to be of service to the construction community and by extension, humanity. I appreciate the support of CUT on this front and other similar endeavors".

The CIB was established in 1953 with United Nations' assistance and holds special UN consultative status. A CIB Commission is a worldwide network of experts in a defined scientific area who meet regularly, collaborate on international projects and exchange information voluntarily. It has close to 50 entities, either a Task Group (TG) with a limited lifetime, scope and objectives or a Working Commission (WC) with a longer-term 'permanent' status and a broader programme, scope, and purpose. The worldwide network of building and construction experts aims to improve society through international cooperation and information exchange with peers.



CUT Hospitality students off to serve at Qatar FIFA World Cup



Tshegofatso Thole and Sanele Mangesi are excited about the life-changing opportunity that has just presented itself to them.

Two CUT Hospitality Management students, Tshegofatso Thole and Sanele Mangesi, both from Bloemfontein, are excited about the life-changing opportunity that has just presented itself to them.

Both ladies have just completed their Hospitality Management diplomas and have left the country to serve as waitresses at Qatar from 3 November to 21 December 2022. The World Cup event is set to take place from 20 November to 18 December 2022.

The CUT Hospitality Management programme, which forms part of the Faculty of Management Sciences, is vast and structured to train and equip students with skills that will enhance their speciality as banqueting managers, hoteliers, guesthouse managers, restaurant managers, chefs, servers, bartenders, event managers and front officers to name a few.

Tshego and Sanele are eager and determined to seize the moment with both hands and make the best out of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. "This is a breakthrough for us and as the CUT brand ambassadors, we are ready to fly the flag high in Qatar and represent our university, province, and the country. It is exciting to go out there and showcase all the lessons learnt, skills acquired, and the passion we have developed during our studies here at CUT."

When asked how this golden opportunity landed on their laps, this is what they had to say, "the advert was circulating that waitresses were needed in Qatar, and one of our Alumni sent it to us. We were highly sceptical about it but eventually applied. As we were crossing our fingers and praying about this breakthrough, we received calls a few days later informing us that we are selected to be part of the team that is going to Qatar. We are thrilled to be among a select few out of thousand applicants who also wished to seize this moment. That's when we saw a new turn, new chapter, and new heights for reaching dreams," said Sanele Mangesi.

The two also shared their experiences as Hospitality Management students and highlighted that if they were asked to re-apply for any programme, they will choose the number one leading hotel school in Africa again- CUT. Tshegofatso said "prospective students have a paved way to prove their best capabilities and full determination. The Hospitality Management programme is very challenging but worthy. Another advantage about this programme is the exposure to the world of work whilst still studying. So, if they choose to pursue this career, they need to give it their all, keeping in mind that this industry requires the best out of an individual since it is not about knowing how to execute somethings but how to fall in love with what you do," she said.

Sanele added that "if one needs to be the best, they need to do their best out of any opportunity they get because you won't know who you are serving or who is watching, so it is always good to be the best version of your profession."



From left: Tshegofatso Thole, Dr Dalene Crowther, acting HoD: Hospitality Management and Sanele Mangesi, final year student in Hospitality

Dr Dalene Crowther, acting Head of the Department of Hospitality Management said, "having to witness our students going international and getting the exposure of learning new ways, new people, different cultures and beliefs, moreover, the thought of them bringing back the experience to their peers is amazing. I am super proud of them, and I know they will raise our flag high above their peers and make us proud. I wish them a safe journey and the best experiences there in Qatar," she said.

According to the students, this is a living testimony of what they wished to achieve while still studying. When sharing their future endeavours, Tshegofatso said she wishes to own a wine brand and a sea view lodge here in South Africa, while Sanele Mangesi wants to break into the events and accommodation industry and own a culinary school.



Blending in with their peers from left to right: Mbulelo Nyapudi, Modiehi Dibe, Masabata Marumo, (first-year Hospitality students) Tshegofatso Thole, Sanele Mangesi, (final year students en route to Qatar) Bongwiwe Majola, Mathapelo Marumo, Nontlahla Mzazi (first-year Hospitality Students).



CUT final year Art student impresses at Sasol New Signatures Competition 2022

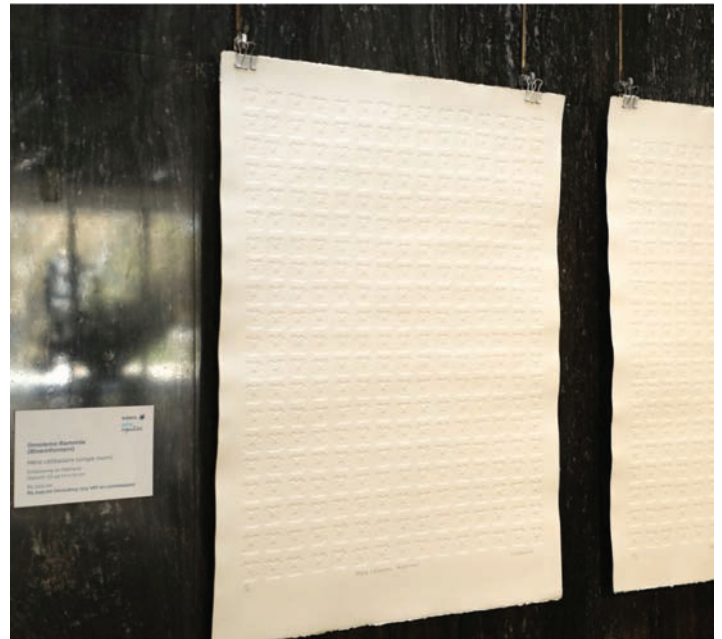


Omolemo Rammile, Sasol New Signatures Competition 2022 runner-up.

Omolemo Rammile, currently completing an Advanced Diploma in Studio Art, majoring in painting was named runner-up at the Sasol New Signatures Competition 2022. The Sasol New Signatures competition has been a platform for promoting emerging artists and their work to the public with many of the pieces placed in the Sasol art collection.

CUT acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof. Alfred Ngowi commended Rammile on flying the CUT flag high. "This is an achievement for Omolemo Rammile, she represents the creative spirit of our students, who are the backbone of countless innovations found at CUT. Her achievement serves as an inspiration to many of our students and serves as an inspiration to our lecturers who continue to nurture these young, creative minds. Our graduate attributes, entrepreneurship, and innovation programmes are directly embedded in our learning programmes; making CUT students such as Omolemo stand out," said Ngowi.

Rammile was awarded R25 000 for her work entitled *Mère célibataire* (single mom), which pays tribute to her mother and acknowledges the personal sacrifices she made daily as a sole provider and breadwinner for her twin daughters. Bread is universally considered a staple food source. She uses embossed bread tags to symbolise the 'daily bread' her mother buys to feed her family. The multiple imprints of the bread tag on the paper are akin to the lasting impact and inner mark that the mother's love has left on the artist and her family.



Rammile's artwork, *Mère célibataire* (single mom), is a tribute to the artist's mother and acknowledges her daily personal sacrifices.

Influenced by moments, observed scenes and emotions, her life experiences are reflected in her creations. "I created this work late last year as part of my multimedia drawing project. My mother always kept bread tags in a box and told me I could use them one day for my art. When creating my multimedia artwork, my lecturer said, "think outside of the box," and I immediately thought about the bread tags she kept. I somehow tried to find a way of connecting the bread tags to my mother to formulate a concept," said Rammile.

Rammile added that she has always loved drawing from a very young age. "There was no art at school, and I couldn't be as creative, or learn more about art as I would have loved to, so immediately after my matric, I promised myself to give my artistic self a chance. That's where my journey with art began. I completed my Diploma in Design and Studio Art here at CUT and have since been creating art, commissions and featuring in local pop-up exhibitions. I'm currently studying towards my Advanced Diploma in Studio Art, and am loving it," she said.

"I hope to broaden people's minds after they view my work and try to make them see life differently and appreciate it more. I want people to see and believe in the beauty of life and art. Through my work, I want to make people learn to romanticise their daily struggles and make them realise that their labours, expenditures, and efforts matter and do have an impact," she concluded.



ENACTUS CUT journey

Background: 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. Students volunteer 100 hours of their time to combat unemployment, scarce resources, lack of sanitation and malnutrition in Bloemfontein and Welkom regions. Twenty-seven University based Enactus teams from across the country spend their year converting ideas into action as they work to improve the livelihoods of others. Enactus National competition allows each team an opportunity to showcase their community empowerment projects that made an impact in communities and had the momentum to create new careers, spark business innovation and deliver fresh energy in social responsibility.

2013: Entrepreneurial Action by US (Enactus) CUT walked away with five trophies at the annual ENACTUS competitions. ENACTUS CUT received fifth overall place and was placed second in the Local Economic Development category sponsored by Harmony Gold. The team entered two projects, namely, Lefa La Rona Project and the Hare Kopaneng Project. Lefa La Rona project assisted a primary school in Chris Hani, Bloemfontein to combat their high-water bill, high unemployment in the community and malnutrition among Grade R learners. With the help of Enactus CUT, the school started a vegetable garden, which resulted in malnutrition dropping from 10% to 5% under Grade R learners. Four community members, who now play a pivotal role in maintaining the vegetable garden and irrigation, were also trained in Environmental awareness by the CUT's Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences, to assist with job creation in the community and cutting down on water usage.

The second project, Hare Kopaneng, addressed the needs for business setup and management skills in an area where there was a lack of sanitation, operation of unregistered businesses, no infrastructure for business transactions and business owners lacking financial and business management knowledge. Through the project, businesses in the area saw close to a twofold increase in customers, reduced unemployment rate and an improvement in family income. The local municipality further provided refuse bins and bags which contributed to improved health and environmental conditions in the area.

2014: Guided by academic advisors and business experts, Enactus student leaders apply business concepts to develop and implement community outreach projects. The experience not only transform lives but helps students to develop the kind of talent and perspective that is essential to leadership in an ever-more complicated and challenging world. It also establishes student programs on campuses around the world.

Their first project was a Local Economic Development Project (LED) sponsored by Harmony. The project aimed to assist small businesses in Thabong Industrial area, Welkom, to have a formal structure for conducting their businesses. The second project focused on the problems of needy university students, homeless children and how tapping on talents in communities can alleviate some challenges faced by these groups of people. In the Harmony Local Economic Development Special Competitions, the team outshined all participating universities and came home with a trophy and a cheque of R15 000 as 1st prize! The team was also awarded 3rd place in the ABSA Capacity Building through Effective Empowerment and Nedbank Tripple Bottom Line Sustainability respectively.

2016: CUT Enactus young leaders' efforts, hard work and dedication paid off when they brought victory home, bagging four trophies; two of which were for 1st prize, the other for 2nd prize and the last one for a special award beating 27 teams from 26 universities of the country. The two projects that saw the team's victory are: Katlego and Ecoquittes. Katlego project is a partnership with Harmony Gold Mine, Faculty of Management Sciences and Absa Small Business Development and focuses on capacitating Harmony Gold mine suppliers and businesses from local communities surrounding the mine with the knowledge and skills on how to run a successful business. Ecoquittes is a greening project where recycled paper, sawdust and water is combined and compressed to produce briquettes used for fuel. This project enabled three women from a location called Mothibi in Mangaung to have a registered business of producing briquettes.

2019: CUT student named 2019 Enactus South Africa Excellent Student Leader. A then second-year Electrical Engineering student and Enactus CUT Project Manager, Mr Thembisile Tyopo, scooped the 2019 WV de Wet Student Leader Excellence Award. Being amongst the highly competent students from 24 participating universities. Thembisile, led his team on several projects such as Local economic projects in partnership with Masilonyana Municipality, Harmony Gold Mine, First National Bank, Letsemeng Municipality, African Solutions Institute and Centre for Applied Food Sustainability and -Biotechnology (CAFSaB).

2021: Enactus CUT won the awards at the 2021 national competition and progressed to the final round. 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, which aims to curb urbanisation, eradicate poverty, stimulate employment, generate income, and promote sustainable development. 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.



ENACTUS CUT crowned the National Champions at the Sandton Convention Centre



14 July 2022- Enactus CUT team was crowned National Champions at the Enactus South Africa National Competition 2022 held at Sandton Conventional Centre, Gauteng. The young leaders were awarded National Champion title for their Village Farm Enterprise. This enterprise is designed with a business model consisting of two pillars: Crop Farming and Vermiculture or Worm Farming. In their crop farming component, the team aims to empower communities to use their livelihood assets, such as land and water, to create and stimulate employment opportunities in

communities in the Free State, while reducing inequality and encouraging youth and women to participate in the agricultural sector. While these young leaders are making a great impact on their communities, they are making an even greater impact on themselves, becoming value-driven leaders, preparing for careers as entrepreneurs within some of the world's greatest companies, or leading their social enterprises. CUT was the only University of Technology among the traditional universities.

Enactus South Africa visits CUT to officially congratulate the Enactus CUT National Champions



22 July 2022- Delegates from Enactus South Africa made a special visit to CUT to officially congratulate and support Enactus CUT team and National Champions. Their visit was also to discuss the institution's support of the team. Ms Letitia de Wet, Chief Executive Officer and Country Director: Enactus South Africa said that the community engagement aspect of Enactus helps position the participating institution as a responsible organisational citizen and brings the institution closer to the community.

Enactus South Africa members visiting CUT. Back row, from left, Mr Bheki Mdzikwa, Program Director: Enactus South Africa, Ms Maraka Lefera, CUT Lecturer Human Resources Management, and Enactus Faculty Advisor, Ms Jeeva Munsamy, Deputy Director: Community Engagement, Ms Letitia de Wet, Chief Executive Officer and Country Director: Enactus South Africa and Prof. Patient Rambe, Senior Researcher and Enactus CUT Co-Faculty Advisor. Front row: Kori Mohlalisi, Ms Yanelisa Giyose, Enactus President and Ms Masabata Sebusi, Regional Program Coordinator: Enactus South Africa.



A trophy parade for CUT's Enactus team, the 2022 national champions!



30 September 2022 -The Enactus CUT team celebrated their Enactus South Africa National Champion title following their national championship victory on 14 July 2022. The team revealed their previous year's trophies for the first time to the CUT community at Bloemfontein Campus through a trophy parade. Part of the parade was to inspire and recruit new students to join the Enactus CUT winning team. The team also dedicated their victory to the Community Engagement Unit, Agri-Business Corner, Prof. Albert Strydom: Dean of Management Sciences, Governance and Student Life unit, PAVA (Lesotho NGO), as well as their sponsors (Ford SA, Harmony Gold Mine and Interstate Bus Services).

From left: Michelle Tshabalala, Worm Farming Leader, Masego More, Enactus CUT President, Ms Lefera Maraka, Co-Faculty Advisor and Yanelisa Giyose, former Enactus CUT President.

Enactus CUT represents the country in America



Dressed for success, Enactus CUT Team at the San Juan, Puerto Rico, getting ready to represent. The team is led by Prof. Crispin Chipunza, Prof. Patient Rambe, Mr Ephraim Tshobeka and Ms Maraka Lefera.

30 October to 02 November 2022 -The team travelled to San Juan, Puerto Rico, to represent South Africa at the Enactus world cup competition. The first-time National Champions competed for the World Champion title. Although they did not win the Enactus World Cup, the team said they did their best and are proud to have made it that far. They also said that they have learnt a lot from this experience and will draw from those lessons to polish and improve on their future projects in order to make more impact.



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Enactus CUT team in Johannesburg before leaving the country.

Masego More: "Enactus World Cup is more than just a competition; for me, I see it as a tool for expanding one's social networking. Meeting peers who are succeeding in business was more than enough to inspire me. The Enactus World Cup also allowed me to observe how impact is broadened and how knowledge that currently exists is disseminated and improved. Touring the host city and seeing various life forms is the most amusing part of the entire experience."

Neo Moabi said, "Going to a different country and continent to represent SA and CUT felt great. Coming back from the Enactus World Cup, I have set new goals for myself, and I am seeing things differently now. I'm grateful for the opportunity."

Boitumelo Tlou: "One of my wishes since joining Enactus was to get an opportunity to present on a global stage and see how other like-minded students from different countries tackle their challenges and which strategies they apply to different challenges. I am grateful that I got the opportunity to see all that."

Boikhutso Mosielele: "To me, Enactus World Cup was a great platform to learn, grow and network with students from different countries. I brought with me global knowledge and experience."

Taelo Matlala: "This is a life changing experience for me, and I will forever cherish this eye-opening opportunity of a lifetime. As an inquisitive child, I've always been eager to learn more than what I am being taught in school. Being part of Enactus has paved my focus on developing and perfecting my leadership skills, public speaking, and entrepreneurial abilities. From here on, my focus will be to draw from the lessons learnt at the World Cup and use them to grow as a person."



Enactus CUT Co-Faculty Advisor scoops Administrator of the Year Award at the Enactus South Africa National Competition 2022



Ms Kulisile Mtunzi-Hairwadzi, Enactus South Africa Board Chairperson (right) congratulating Ms Maraka Lefera, Co-Faculty Advisor, Human Resources Management Lecturer, Social Entrepreneur and the 2022 Enactus Administrator of the Year award winner.

Ms Maraka Lefera Co-Faculty Advisor, Human Resources Management Lecturer and Social Entrepreneur scooped the Administrator of the Year Award at the Enactus South Africa National Competition 2022.

As a Co-Faculty Advisor, Maraka's role is to assist in activities relating to projects, business and entrepreneurship as well as preparing the team for competitions through encouragement, advice, mentorship, coaching and guidance.

She has served 12 years in Enactus CUT, four years as a student and eight years as a Co-Faculty Advisor. "Being in Enactus for 12 years, I have learnt system thinking and how to operate a student led social enterprise. Moreover, developing students to unleash their potential and becoming great leaders with purpose. Most importantly, I have learnt the power of collaboration."

Ms Lefera has demonstrated the Enactus values of integrity, passion and innovation. She has shown support and continued dedication to the CUT's community engagement programmes that contributed to the socio-economic development in the region through her entrepreneurial action. In October 2016, she was considered for the inaugural Global Alumni Award.

During her student years, she led several student structures, and her leadership abilities were recognized at the 2012 Vice-Chancellor's Student Leadership Awards when she was awarded the Best Student in Community Service. In 2014, she received the Student Representative Council (SRC) member of the year, also at the Vice Chancellor student leadership awards.

"My Enactus journey has been both amazing and full of emotions because it is not only about the growth and exposure of students within the Enactus group, but the lives of communities that we have touched along the journey. I am passionate about community and student development."

In 2017, Maraka was awarded the Baden-Wurttemberg Scholarship on International Student exchange programme at Duale Hochschule Baden-Wurttemberg in Ravensburg, in Germany. She is also an internalisation champion, and her role includes advancing internalisation at home projects. She has also presented at international and local conferences.

The recent award was not the first leadership achievement for Maraka, in 2016 she won the Enactus South Africa Junior Alumnus of the year (under 30) award. In 2018, she was awarded Enactus SA Faculty Advisor of the year. The prize included an all-expense paid trip with the 2018 National Champion team to Silicon Valley, California. She made history in 2017 when she was invited to attend the Global Entrepreneurship Summer School (GESS). Of the 747 applicants from universities around the globe, Maraka was among the top 30 students accepted into the programme. GESS is the Social Entrepreneurship Academy, organised in collaboration with six leading university-based entrepreneurship centres in Munich (LMU, TUM, MUAS), Mexico City (Tecnologico de Monterrey) Shanghai (Tongji University) and Cape-Town (LifeCo UnLtd South Africa).

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Asked about her achievements and how her global exposure has benefited her career journey, Maraka said, "words cannot describe how blessed I am. I consider myself a global citizen and have made the advancement of people my business. All my travels and encounters with different people from around the globe have shown me how far one could go in life if I am determined to take every encounter as an opportunity. I have grown from strength to strength and my approach to life has evolved immensely. Being a part of CUT has opened closed doors for me and I have explored the side of my talents that I never knew existed. As I advance my entrepreneurial skills, my plan is to collect all the experience gathered and information gained through exposure, plough it back here at home and practically live by it."

She mentioned that her best leadership qualities include organising, planning, communication, empathy, controlling and coaching

When asked about keeping the balance between work and Enactus activities, she said time management plays a big role in her life and putting in extra hours is necessary for her to manage both roles excellently. "Most of my Enactus work is done after work and on weekends," she added.

Maraka said some of her future plans include but not limited to establishing a worm base farm in the Free State and increasing the number of worm growers in the province through trainings and expos. She also wants to assist Enactus CUT students to establish their own social businesses before graduating and revive the Enactus CUT in Welkom Campus so that students can operate their social enterprises within the area. "So far, we have registered three students' companies that will be running worm farming as their own enterprise," she concluded.

MARAKA FACT FILE

2014 to date Enactus CUT Co-Faculty Advisor
 2013 Enactus CUT President
 2013 Student Representative Council (SRC) Member: Projects and Campaigns Officer
 2013 Carnival Chairperson
 2012 Enactus CUT Projects Manager
 2012 Wellness Assistant
 2011 Human Resources Society Chairperson
 2010 Human Resources Society Deputy Chairperson
 Her motto states **"It always seems impossible until it is done"**.

Former Enactus CUT president receives WM De Wet Student Leader of the Year award!

Yanelisa Giyose, 22-year-old 3rd year Auditing student and Enactus CUT outgoing President showcasing worms. Yanelisa said at first, she feared worms until they became part of her life. Now she is proud to be called the 'mother of worms'.



Yanelisa Giyose, 22-year-old 3rd year Auditing student and Enactus CUT outgoing President, received the 'WM De Wet Student Leader of the Year' award at the 2022 Enactus South Africa National Competition held at Sandton Conventional Centre, Gauteng in July this year.

As a young woman in leadership, Giyose said she has learned that there will always be certain assumptions that "as women we may not be capable to drive excellence, but that statement is easily proven wrong if one focuses more on continuously working hard and not always defending themselves, taking constructive criticism and learning from their mistakes." She joined Enactus CUT in her first year and has since served as a Secretary General, Deputy President, and later President. "Being a young woman in leadership may be one of the most challenging ladders to climb but it is very fulfilling when you realise that you are heading somewhere."

Asked about her best leadership qualities, she said "I trust that I embody a lot of resilience, enthusiasm, sound communication abilities, sound conflict resolution skills, a well-balanced emotional intelligence, and the ability to ground the team I work with to continue working towards a common goal.



L-R: Ms Letitia De Wet, Chief Executive Officer-Enactus South Africa with Yanelisa Giyose, at the 2022 Enactus South Africa National Competition held at Sandton Conventional Centre, Gauteng in July this year. Yanelisa Giyose, received WM De Wet Student Leader of the Year' award!

The experience has been a rollercoaster. There are late nights and early mornings, happy and satisfactory days, and others not so amazing. I have had the opportunity to be exposed to various characters that I had to channel to be a collective. In a nutshell, it has been a great experience that has built so much character."

Her secret to great leadership is to always be humble, live and learn. "Leading does not mean you know everything; it means you are trusted to gather all the brains in the team and make the most out of it. The most valuable lesson that I have learnt is that students are competent and capable to make a difference if they are trusted to do so. I can safely say that the corporate world is in safer hands if more students utilize this platform to grow and attain the necessary skills and attributes needed."



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On how she managed her academics and the Enactus president role? She said "juggling the two was quite hard at times given their level of attention and adequate input, but I managed to follow through based on my continuous implementation of time management. This also made me realise that 24 hours is actually not enough to do everything, thus one needs to try and limit time spent on leisure."

Yanelisa said that she sees herself as an independent young entrepreneur that applies the skills and resources acquired to contribute towards alleviating poverty, creating employment and most of all, bringing hope and sustainability in people's lives. "I do not want to be a person that focuses only on growing my net worth but will continue to live by the lessons learnt from Enactus."

How did you feel when you were crowned National Champions at the Enactus South Africa National Competition 2022, moreover you being the leader of 1st time National Champions?

"I almost fainted on that stage. I cried for hours because I was in disbelief! I am proud to have lived up to the dream of leading my

team to victory and am also proud to have led the willing team with so much potential. My reign as the president of Enactus CUT is fulfilled and my wish is to see the inculcation of the culture of entrepreneurship growing bigger and stronger among the CUT student population. We are regarded as the underdogs and being crowned as National Champions is a testimony that our university is recognised at national level. I wish our incoming President (Masego More) the best of luck in her reign, and I know our team is in good hands under her leadership."

She said that her role model is Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela "because she is one of the ladies that showed our young black women that a woman is very capable to lead and be efficient in that regard. Even with the influence she had, she remained humble and practiced ubuntu."

Her motto is "don't allow life to define your path, be the author of your story."

Did you know? To qualify for the Enacts leadership role, you are not elected but you have to apply for the position and go through the selection process.

Masego More ready to take up the reigns as the new Enactus CUT president



Incoming Enactus CUT President ready to take the baton as the new leader and plans to come up with more impactful projects to uplift the communities.

Enactus CUT welcomes Masego More as the newly appointed President for the 2022/23 financial year. Masego follows in the footsteps of previously successful presidents who took the organisation to another level.

Born and bred in Bloemfontein, Masego completed her high school at Our Father's Academy, a small private school in Universitas, Bloemfontein. The 22 year old said her leadership journey started in high school where she was a Prefect and later Head Girl in her final year of high school. She enrolled for BEng Mechanical Engineering and currently in her 3rd year.

Asked when she became part of Enactus CUT, Masego said "I joined Enactus CUT in my first year and moved up the ranks as a Project Leader, a Vice-President and now I'm the President."

When describing her leadership style, Masego said that she sees herself as a transformational leader, also known as a visionary leader. "I'm strongly committed to organizational purpose and big-picture goals. I tend to set objectives by mapping out where the organisation is going and what will happen when we get there. This inspired, future-focused vision is used to set expectations that engages and energizes teammates."

"My plan as the new president is to increase our team's efficiency, not only in the work that we do but even with the goals and objectives we set. I would like to see all our initiated enterprises running efficiently and creating as much impact as we can. Looking back at what I've learned from the Enactus World Cup in Puerto Rico, I realised that the main factor that assisted other countries to reach their milestones is aiming to make an impact in their communities and creating it in a productive and efficient manner. This kind of impact is one that touches the environmental, governmental, and societal aspects in communities, and this is where we will be heading."

Her main goal is to produce young entrepreneurs that are competitive in their respective industries and shaking the market like never before. "But most importantly, changing and empowering the lives of our communities in this region," she concluded.



CUT's Thobile secures bronze medal for SA at international track and field varsity games in Malawi



CUT track and field athlete, Thobile Mkhize, lands a bronze medal at the 2022 Confederation of University and Colleges Games in Malawi.

Thobile Mkhize, first-year student in the Office Management and Technology programme, put the Central University of Technology on the map when she brought a bronze medal home from the 2022 Confederation of University and Colleges Sports Associations (CUCSA) Track and Field Games, that were held in Lilongwe, Malawi from 28 August - 03 September 2022.

Mkhize, who was representing not only CUT but South Africa at the international event, competed in the 1500m race, securing third place. Earlier this year, she participated in the University Sports South Africa (USSA) Track and Field Championships, where she qualified for the competition by completing the race in record time.

Among other achievements, Mkhize is the current champion in the Free State's 10km Marathon as well as the first black CUT female student athlete to get national colours. She said that representing the CUT and wearing the national colours is her greatest achievement so far. "It's been a long journey, and representing the country is a huge achievement because it is my first time," said Mkhize.

A small-town girl from Mkhambathini, KwaZulu-Natal, Mkhize started running while in primary school. The bronze medal winner has a twin sister, who is her greatest inspiration. "I get most of my support from my twin sister and close friends, as my parents have passed away. My sister is my greatest strength; she is my rhythm. I started running in primary school and after realising my potential, I never looked back; so basically, I have been running my whole life," she added.

She mentioned that running requires a lot of commitment and discipline. "It is difficult because I am young and human, and I also wish to enjoy life with my peers. It's been a long journey, but this has been my biggest achievement because I was not only representing my university, but the province and the country as a whole" said Thobile.

"My biggest dream is to run at the Olympics because it is the biggest platform in sports. I am working towards this goal, and I would be grateful to get the opportunity. Being an athlete has also exposed me to other countries and learn different things. It has also taught me to be more appreciative of the little things that come my way," she concluded.

CUT Ladies Soccer Team at the Sasol National Championship playoffs in Limpopo



The CUT Ladies Soccer Team got a rousing send-off on 17 October 2022, as they prepared to represent not only CUT but the Free State Province at the Sasol National Championship playoffs, held at the Old Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane, Limpopo (18-23 October 2022). Although the team did not win the tournament, they managed to reach the semi-finals where they were knocked out by Tshwane University of Technology.

Cheerleading Team bags gold medals at the National Cheerleading Competitions



CUT Cheerleading Team secured a gold medal at the South African Majorettes and Cheerleading Association (SAMCA) National Competitions held in Polokwane, Limpopo on 8 October 2022. The team, which was also representing the Free State Majorette and Cheerleading Association (FSMCA), competed against three other teams, and won first place.

Nomfundo Ngwetsheni, Chairperson of the CUT Cheerleading Team said the win is impressive, especially because most of the team members were inexperienced. "I am really impressed with the spirit of the athletes, as much as we did not expect gold medals, our confidence was on another level, and this is a mood booster for the team."



2023 rugby technical team announced at the Annual General Meeting



Front row: Seppie Dercksen: 2022 Best Newcomer, Jandre de Beer: Best Backline player in 2022, Tiaan Venter: Club Man of the year, and Francois Bester: 2022 Best Forward player.

Back row: The new coaching staff for 2023 from left: Oageng Senamela: Assistant Coach, Skillie Bester: Team Manager, Michael Shaw: Fitness Coach, Far Nagia: Physiotherapist, Melusi Mthetha: Head coach Lubabalo Lento: Assistant Coach and Zinedine Booysen: Player of the year.

On 25 October 2022, the 2023 new rugby coaching team was announced at the rugby club's Annual General Meeting (AGM). Players also received trophies in recognition of their commitment and performance for this year (2022). The newly appointed head coach, Melusi Mthetha said that he is excited and feels honored to be granted the opportunity to head the CUT rugby team for 2023.

"My plan for next year is to get the boys ready for the competition. We need to be relevant and bring back the pride and respect that the CUT rugby deserves. We are currently busy with pre-season, and it is important for us to do well and be competitive. The boys are working hard on and off the field and that remains our focus. For now, I need to control what I can, which is to implement good training methods that will enable us to train hard but also smart to ensure that the team is ready to compete early next year," he said.



CUT bids farewell to FEBIT's long serving employees Jeremiah Brent bids CUT goodbye after 27 years of service



Mr Jeremiah Brent, Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology (FEBIT) Administrator is ready to say goodbye after serving 27 years at the university.

The Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology (FEBIT) hosted a farewell function for one of their long serving and devoted employee, Mr Jeremiah Brent, FEBIT Faculty Administrator, who will be retiring at the end of the year after serving the university for 27 years.

Mr Jeremiah joined the Central University of Technology in 1995 as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Education and was one of the first two black lecturers at the time. Brent said he taught many subjects and was later appointed as the Faculty Administrator in the Department of Engineering, a position that he is retiring from.

During his service at CUT, Brent was leading several initiative projects within the institution, mainly related to assisting learners from disadvantaged communities and rural schools, conducting Saturday School and Winter School that saw performance improvement in many matriculants results enrolled in STEM subjects. The projects were sponsored by Telkom Foundation.

Before joining the CUT, Mr Jeremiah was a teacher and he taught at different schools around South Africa. He said that one of his career highlights is being able to help students, a personality trait that keeps him going. "I always imagined myself sitting on the other side of the table and not being able to get help, it is discouraging and frustrating. I am passionate about my job and helping students is my pride and joy," Jeremiah said. "If the university allows me, I still want to help students even when I am retired," he added.

Brent completed his BA- Bachelor of Arts (1978-UWC), STD- Secondary Teachers Diploma (1980-UWC), MED-Master's in Education (1992-UFS) and MBA-Master's in Business Administration (2002-University of Wales).

He enjoys working with his hands "most of the things at my home I did them myself, I can do anything. Many years before I started at CUT, I did a Brick Laying course and I have a certificate for it, I can build," he said.

One of his colleagues, Miss Lizzie Simpson, Departmental Administrator in Electrical Engineering, said she has been working with Brent ever since he started in the faculty. "I really enjoyed working with Brent and I appreciate him a lot. He is that person you can rely on. He is very committed in all he does, he is strict yet humble and fair. He has this open-door policy where students, staff, and parents can walk into his office if they need his assistance. We also worked together on Saturday School project, offering extra classes to the Grade 11s," said Simpson.

Mr Mauritz van Rooyen, IT support specialist in the faculty, said he worked with him for almost 10 years. It has been an honour to work with Mr Jeremiah. He is a man of integrity; and he fights for what is right. He has been my role model from the first day we met, he deserves all the respect and will be solely missed."



Mrs Maleka retires after 12 years of service



Mrs Kelesepetse Elizabeth Maleka, CUT Cleaner in the Faculty of Engineering, Built and Information Technology

The Faculty of Engineering, Built and Information Technology (FEBIT) is bidding farewell to one of their employees, Mrs Kelesepetse Elizabeth Maleka. Mrs Maleka joined CUT in December 2010 and has been in the CUT employ as a cleaner for 12 years.

Before joining CUT, Mrs Maleka worked as a housekeeper and her previous employer registered her with Focus Personnel agency, who managed to secure her the CUT employment.

"I am very happy and sad at the same time. I wish I had 12 more years to serve the university. Housekeepers are hardworking people who don't earn much, but since I joined CUT, I have managed to turn things around at my home and family. I was able to afford the things I couldn't afford. This university has created a comfortable life for me, and my family and I will forever be grateful. Furthermore, my children also benefited from the CUT bursary and studied for free!" she said.

In her spare time, Mrs Maleka loves spending time in her garden and now that she will be retiring, she will have more time to focus on her hobby. She is also looking forward to spending time with her grandkids, especially taking them to school. "Now that I am going home, I am going to enjoy being a grandmother, but I am going to miss my CUT family who have embraced me since day one."



Carel Korff says goodbye after serving the university for 26 years



Mrs. Mpho Mbeo, FEBIT Faculty Administrator, handing over a token of appreciation to Mr. Carel Korff, FEBIT Marketing Committee Chairperson and Quiz competition coordinator.

FEBIT bid farewell to Mr. Carel Korff after serving the university for 26 years. The FEBIT- Marketing Committee Chairperson and Quiz competition coordinator bid CUT farewell after serving the institution since 1996.

Mr. Korff was born and bred in a rural community town of Newcastle, north of KwaZulu Natal. He matriculated in 1975, after which he attended the University of Pretoria and completed his two years of national service in the medical core, training as a surgical theatre ordinance.

After spending 13 years in the industry (as Civil Engineering Draughtsman and Designer) and four years with the Provincial Government (as Head of Road Maintenance and Technical Community Liaison), Carel joined CUT's Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology (FEBIT) in March 1996, as a Lecturer.

Apart from his academic responsibilities, he was involved with the CUT Rugby Club since its early years, responsible for media contributions, rugby development, and promotion on campus. "I became a rugby media contributor for the FNB Varsity Cup in 2014 and have organised the annual Campus Rugby Leagues (CRL) until COVID-19 brought us to a grinding halt."

In 1999 he started the Annual High Schools Quiz in Technology & the Environment after he received support from the then Dean of FEBIT, Prof. Jorrie Jordaan, and Dr. de Beer. The Quiz had a modest beginning but grew into a major marketing event for the FEBIT, whereby learners got the chance to win prizes worth R 126 000-00 in FEBIT bursaries, which are shared by all three finalist high schools each year. "These bursaries are awarded to the schools directly, meaning, the schools identify three deserving learners who are financially disadvantaged for tertiary studies," he explained.

Mr Korff said that his plan is to retire to a small town in the KZN (Drakensberg, Winterton, sandwiched between the Lesotho border and the N3 highway) "I am blessed to have this opportunity to look forward to and will carry with me many fond memories of my 26 years at CUT," he concluded.



Faculty of Humanities celebrates the hard work of students.



Mr SL Hantsi Best Student-2nd year BEd (SP & FET) Computer Sciences with Mr JAG Beukes, Lecture: Education.

The Faculty of Humanities hosted the Awards Ceremony on 28 October 2022, to honour top achieving students for the year 2021 and to recognise students who are part of the peer mentorship program.



Ms N.Hugo, Best Student- Post Graduate Diploma: Media Studies with Dr B Fredericks HoD: Communication Science.



Ms DP Khutsoane, Best Student-BEd Hons: Educational Management with Ms NA Kula, Best 3rd year BEd: SP&FET Economic & Management Sciences student.



Ms K Van Rooyen, Best Student Advisor with Mr T Williams, Faculty Administrator.



Mr TC Namola, Best Student- Masters in Education.



Ms M Van Rensburg, Best Student- Advanced Diploma in Design Technology.

Top achieving students were awarded with merit certificates and trophies from first year to postgraduates in all Humanities programmes. When encouraging the award recipients, Mr Mamello Khobe mentioned a few characteristics such as complacency, procrastination, self-discipline, and past failures as possible enemies of success instead of drawing lessons from them. He said that one thing that will make individuals succeed in life is how they talk to themselves. "You can succeed despite what everybody else says about you, but if you constantly criticise yourself you are doomed for failure because all you will see in the mirror will be that worthless image about yourself," he said.

He added that students should start treating themselves as brands because brands know what their value is and what they stand for.



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