

DUTCONNECT

FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

AUTUMN 2016



Dear friends and colleagues

Welcome to the fourth edition of **DUT CONNECT**. We have been overwhelmed by the positive feedback following the first three editions of our magazine and on behalf of the DUT Development and Alumni Office, please accept my most sincere appreciation for your continued support and encouragement.

We are thrilled that our bi-annual publication has been so well received. We have also taken into account some of the feedback that you have submitted so that we can make the necessary improvements. Please feel free to contact us online at www.dutalumni.com – where you can update your details, get the latest news regarding DUT and our Development and Alumni events and stories – and you can also scroll through our Silver Tusk Wall of Honour. I hope to see you on the Wall of Honour in the years to come. Importantly, you can also donate towards our fundraising efforts.

I'm sure you would have heard about the higher education challenges in South Africa. The #FeesMustFall campaign has assisted our students, however, many of them still cannot afford the cost of higher education. While the National Student Financial Aid Scheme has helped thousands of students, many students at DUT are still in a very concerning financial position. This is where you can come in and help us by supporting our Alumni Bursary scheme and the 'One Meal, Once a Day' initiative that we have started. Please consider going to our website www.dutalumni.com and pledge an amount – every bit helps and we will ensure that your donation goes directly towards helping our students.

We have great articles for you to read in this edition of **DUT CONNECT**. We have included Alumni like Masterchef judge Benny Masekwameng, jewellery designer and DUT lecturer Songezo Baleni, fashion designer Nabeela Osman, the talented DJ Merlon and speaking of Masterchef, the first ever winner of the popular TV show in South Africa, Deena Naidoo, who is also a DUT graduate – will be featured between these covers. We also highlight other alumni who continue to make positive strides in their careers and who are great ambassadors for DUT.

April is graduation season for us at DUT and this year thousands of graduates will join the alumni family. If you are one of them, congratulations to you on your success and welcome to the DUT alumni family. Please remember to keep in touch with us by visiting our website www.dutalumni.com – and if you're continuing with your postgraduate studies, good luck with your next qualification.

DUT is also very proud to confer an honorary doctorate on liberation fighter and legendary South African, Mr Ahmed Kathrada. Uncle Kathy joins an illustrious group of awardees that have received honorary doctorates from DUT over the years. I am sure that you will join DUT in offering our sincere congratulations to Mr Kathrada and to thank him for his contribution towards making South Africa a better place.

Finally, the DUT family will be saying a sad farewell to our Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Ahmed Bawa at the end of April. Prof. Bawa was inaugurated as our Vice-Chancellor and Principal in 2010 and has made a significant impact at DUT. Our University will miss him tremendously and we wish him continued success and good health as he relocates to Johannesburg in May.

Once again, thank you for reading **DUT CONNECT** and please remember to help us raise the much needed funds to support and assist our students on campus.

Our website is www.dutalumni.com – best wishes for a safe, happy and successful 2016.

Sincerely,
Alan Khan
Senior Director
Corporate Affairs

CONTENTS

Shrugging off stereotypes to pursue his passion	2
- Benny Masekwameng	
Leaving a design legacy	4
- Sifiso Shange	
Presenting his most sincere self	6
- Deena Naidoo	
Creating a unique South African design aesthetic	8
- Siyanda Mbele	
Weaving Zulu heritage into jewellery	12
- Songezo Baleni	
Reaching out to students and the community	14
Building personal business brands	16
- Vuyisile Ngobese	
Building a uniform fashion brand	18
- Nabeela Osman	
Riding a medical tourism brainwave	20
- Siphokazi Feke	
Succumbing to the power of music	22
- Sibusiso Mhlongo	



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Disclaimer: This magazine is published in good faith and every effort has been made to ensure that the information was true and correct at the time of going to print.

SHRUGGING OFF STEREOTYPES TO PURSUE HIS PASSION

Not only does Benny Masekwameng travel the world profiling South African cuisine, he also meets and cooks for international icons, and shares the judges' hot seat on South Africa's Masterchef cooking contest.

What many South Africans won't know, is that Benny Masekwameng, foodie extraordinaire, had his mind set on studying electrical engineering after graduating from high school in his hometown of Alexandra, Johannesburg in the early 90s. Fate, however, had other plans for the young Masekwameng.

"My family was displaced in the political violence of the early 90s, and we were forced to start over, effectively rebuilding our lives from scratch. My dad continued working and my mother started supplementing the family's income by preparing meals for construction workers at building sites.

I worked solidly for two years, saving up enough money to make up my first-year tuition costs, and those two years really opened my eyes to life's realities, and the dedication and hard work one needed to survive."

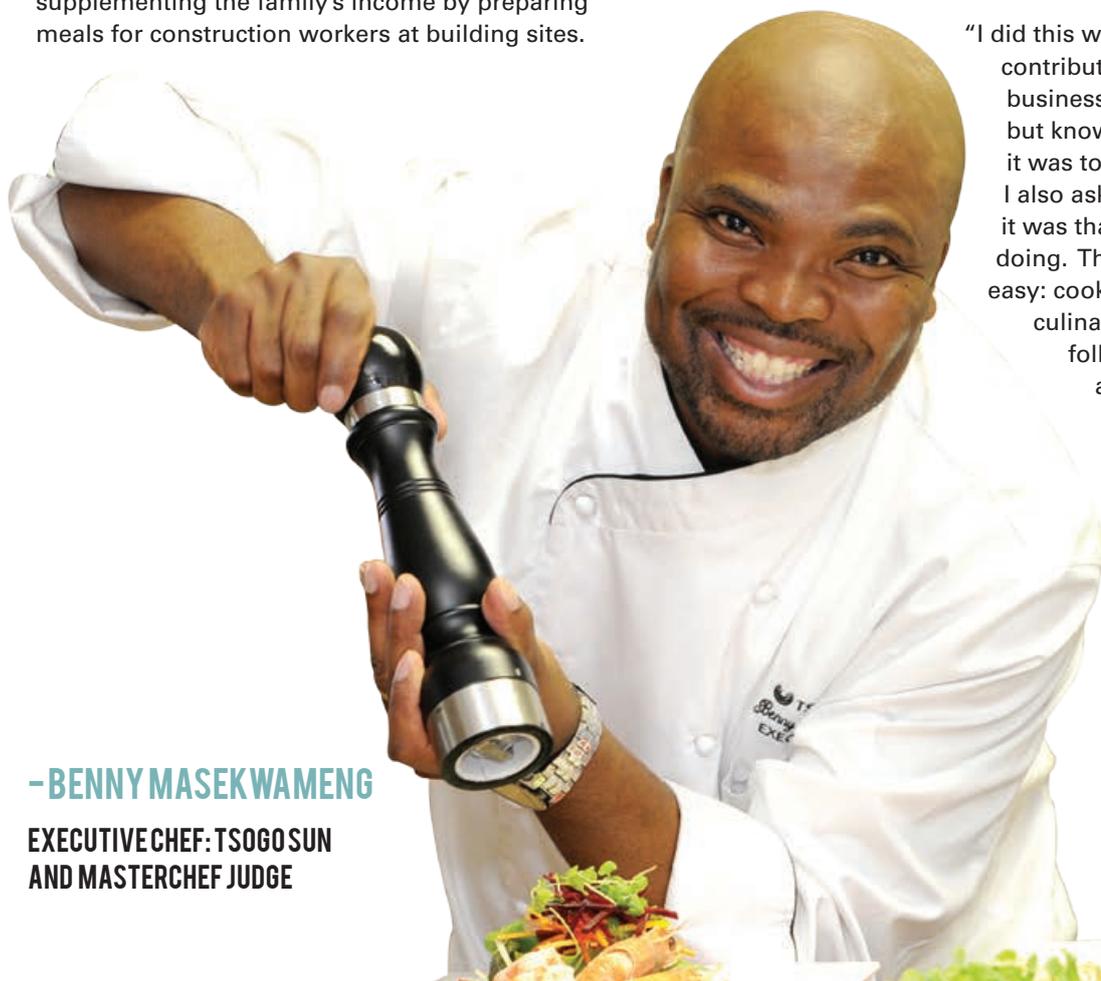
Work hard at what you love doing

Watching his parents work relentlessly to make a success of his mother's flourishing catering business, Masekwameng decided to embark on a different career direction, pursuing Catering Management at the Durban University of Technology instead.

"I did this with a view to contributing to the family's business to some extent, but knowing how important it was to 'give it my all', I also asked myself what it was that I truly loved doing. The answer was easy: cooking." An illustrious culinary journey followed, peppered along the way with the many peaks and troughs of life that have all contributed to the iconic chef he is now.

- BENNY MASEKWAMENG

EXECUTIVE CHEF: TSOGO SUN
AND MASTERCHEF JUDGE



Breaking stereotypical moulds

Most significantly, explains Masekwameng, life experiences have forced the township born-and-bred young man to challenge the stereotype of pursuing a career considered to be a female-only domain, perceived as being both thankless and underpaid. "I forced myself to shrug off stereotypes in order to pursue my passion, and years later, I've accomplished so much more than I'd set out to. Masterchef has not only undoubtedly changed my own and my family's lives, but it has opened up a complete array of opportunities to others, who like me, originate from backgrounds that have historically not supported career ambitions. Youngsters from townships like my own now see me, the level of success and exposure I have experienced on an international platform, and they realise the potential to achieve similar levels of success in their own lives."

Speaking of family, Masekwameng discloses another little known fact about his early life. The Durban University of Technology is also in part responsible for the chef's love story. "I actually met my wife Purity while studying. She was a first-year student and I was in final year. At the time, we did not become romantically involved," reveals Masekwameng. The couple crossed paths again at the Hilton Hotel, but only began dating five years after their initial meeting. They now share a daughter, Dimakatso, who turned four recently.

Exploring newer avenues

The celebrity chef also attributes his popularity, in no small way, to the popular culture boost the culinary industry has received in recent years. Following the meteoric rise in popularity of reality television cooking shows, the celebrity status of being a professional chef has reached an all-time high. Masterchef, as an example, has become one of the most viewed culinary programmes in the world since its international launch in 2005. According to Masekwameng, one in three people he meets daily nowadays are 'foodies', and it has become widely acceptable to proclaim a love for food and cooking, effectively ending the gender stereotype he encountered early on in his career.

On a typical day, Masekwameng's activities have now diversified to run the gamut of presenting motivational talks, judging best restaurants and wines, emceeing at awards events and regularly travelling the world to places like Jamaica, USA, Germany, France, Australia, Dubai, Mauritius, Turkey, UK, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Madagascar, where he passionately promotes South African cuisine.

A true South African ambassador, he is passionate about telling the South African story through food. An avenue he often uses to promote local cuisine is via his role in designing the South African Airways Business Class inflight menu.



I forced myself to shrug off stereotypes in order to pursue my passion, and years later, I've accomplished so much more than I'd set out to.



"There is so much to see in this beautiful country of ours. So much more than the politics, it is a place like no other and I work hard to ensure that every dish I create tells not only my own personal story, but that of South Africa too. We need these stories to be told," an impassioned Masekwameng concluded.

Chef Masekwameng reveals a few of his passions

Favourite restaurant: Currently, it is La' Columbe in Constantia, Cape.

Favourite international cuisine: Turkey. "The foods are flavourful and they do some magnificent grills."

Early significant cooking influence: "I shared breakfast duty for three years with Aunty Molly Pillay at the Hilton Hotel in Durban. I learned so much from her in those early years about creating flavours and cooking really good curries."

Most honourable guest: "I've been lucky enough to cook for Madiba, but a while back, while at the Hilton Hotel in Durban, I was charged with cooking for Fidel Castro for a week. His personal chef was with him and on the first day he scrutinised my dishes. But after I received favourable feedback from President Castro, I was allowed to continue cooking for him for the duration of the week without being watched over. Castro was a huge political mentor to my father at the time and I was pleased to present him with some cigars and bottles of rum Castro gave me on his departure. My father was extremely proud of me."

LEAVING A DESIGN LEGACY

Landing a spot in SABC3's Win a Home contest finale fresh out of interior design study at the Durban University of Technology, interior designer Sifiso Shange has seen his career propelled into the national spotlight faster than the paint on his design project wall could dry.



- SIFISO SHANGE
INTERIOR DESIGNER

For the 25-year-old recent Bachelor of Technology (Interior Design) graduate, the experience garnered in the pressured design reality series competition (Win a Home) has not only provided him with a national platform to showcase his talent, it has given him the maturity and drive to confidently manage a project portfolio far beyond his experience.

"The Win a Home challenge was a real game changer for me. Apart from the exposure I received, it has taught me so much about people dynamics, working under stress in a team setting, and the importance of respecting and understanding each other." As a team designer at LYT Architecture, based in Gauteng, the aspirational designer has certainly leveraged his contest experience in the workplace.

Shange's excitement is palpable as he describes the scale of commercial and residential projects he is involved with on a daily basis. He is currently working with the interior design team of what is expected to be the most beautiful casino in Africa and the first ever 'twisting' building to be constructed in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Also up his sleeve are two personal projects; a newly launched line of caps from his Phezulu Power range, and a yet-to-be unveiled collaboration with the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) provincial government, revamping traditional woven products for the international consumer market.

Giving back

Considering himself to be a spiritual person, Shange believes that through his participation in the KZN project, he is able to pay forward the opportunities he has been presented with in recent years. In collaboration with other contestants met through the Win a Home contest, Shange has helped form a Not-for-Profit Organisation (NPO) called Faith Hope by Design (FHD), which will see a design team redesign a care centre in Gauteng to commemorate Mandela Day this year and in the future.

“The use of colour and design to uplift, motivate and rejuvenate has been illustrated even in scientific study. Just by painting a room in a colour palette that invokes feelings of a warm embrace, I believe we can make a difference in the outlook of the residents.” Shange believes the use of colour and design has been a motivating force in his own life too. In fact, he goes as far as to attribute his love of earthy yet trendy design to his Zulu heritage, the knowledge and understanding of which was largely imparted to him by his parents and grandmother.

Being struck by an epiphany

In 2007, as the eldest of three children, expectations of the young secondary school graduate were high. Feeling the pressure of parents wanting him to pursue studies in the medical field, and not knowing himself which direction to go, he decided to take a gap year to consider his choices.

“It was during this time that a friend mentioned that my lifelong hobby of drawing was what I should look to when deciding on a career direction. I did a Fine Arts application test at DUT, and I was advised that with my technical mind, I should in fact consider a career in interior design. It was at that moment that I was struck by an epiphany of sorts. When they explained what interior design was, I realised that growing up, this was exactly the type of art I was drawn to; creating spaces and products. I was so grateful that the DUT faculty members picked up that talent in me and steered me in the right direction.”

By studying his passion through the Interior Design course, Shange has won various awards, including an opportunity in final year to redesign the outside seating area of the DUT City Campus courtyard. “It was exhilarating. I designed the seating area and its triangle mosaic, which was inspired by the new DUT logo of unity in diversity. I saw my design come alive



and knew that it would be my legacy on campus long after I'd left – it made me realise how impactful my work could be.”

This inspired designer is considering doing his Masters dissertation using his Zulu heritage to shape the perspective of his work. “After all,” concludes Shange, “my background has allowed me to bring a unique formula for success to what I do. Who I am is represented in everything I design.”

Shange's secrets to success

His purpose: “I live to create beautiful spaces and products that inspire and motivate others.”

His mantra: “I never give up. I wake up every morning and tell myself that I am a star and I am going to be my best self”.

His legacy: “I would rather die a legend than die rich. I want to leave a legacy that truly contributes to the upliftment of others and not be remembered as someone who pursued success selfishly”.

“

The use of colour and design to uplift, motivate and rejuvenate has been illustrated even in scientific study. Just by painting a room in a colour palette that invokes feelings of a warm embrace, I believe we can make a difference in the outlook of the residents.

”

PRESENTING HIS MOST SINCERE SELF

Deena Naidoo will forever hold two honours in the Masterchef halls of history – as the first person to claim the Masterchef South Africa title, and as the first Masterchef winner internationally to receive the rights to run his own restaurant.



- DEENA NAIDOO
RESTAURANT OWNER
AND MASTERCHEF
WINNER

Not bad for an Electrical Engineering graduate from the Durban University of Technology (then ML Sultan Technikon) who went on to work as an IT professional prior to his big win.

In Naidoo's characteristically humble way, four years after praise for his winning menu has long since died down, he still believes he is living a surreal dream. "To say living this life is a dream realised would infer that I harboured a dream to become a chef, and to open my own restaurant. In fact, none of this was part of my life's plan. I have always been the type of person who is extremely appreciative of what I have in life. I will never take any of this for granted. I live each day in awe of the dramatic turns my life has taken to get me to this point, and I try to show my gratitude by doing everything with passion and humility."

Speaking of his passion, Naidoo animatedly describes the progress he's made on his 'culinary baby' – the restaurant Arya – based in Montecasino, Gauteng. Opened in November 2012 and run in collaboration with hospitality giant Tsogo Sun, the restaurant is, as Naidoo describes it, a partnership made in heaven.

"When I found out about the restaurant, I quickly realised that while I may be passionate about cooking, I would risk killing that passion if I attempted to translate what had only been a hobby up until that point, into a commercial venture."

A partnership made in heaven

Naidoo approached Tsogo Sun with the idea for a partnership that would see him design the menu and create the dishes, while their experts managed the logistics and business details of the

venture. Three years down the line, Arya (named after his daughter and a Sanskrit word that translates into being kind, noble and honourable) enjoys a five-star rating on eatout.co.za and is a manifestation of what the first Masterchef hoped for – a reflection of South Africa’s diverse multicultural influences. Naidoo enjoys a fantastic relationship with Tsogo Sun and is indebted to the company for the support they’ve given him.

In all of his pursuits, Naidoo is determined to continue learning as much as he can from those around him, and staying true to his humble culinary start in life as a seven-year-old food enthusiast from a traditional Indian township in Durban. With no professional cooking credentials, Naidoo is as excited as he is relieved that we live in a world today that is so enthused by both eating and cooking food.

A food-based technology evolution

“Growing up, I loved cooking for family and friends. I took immense pleasure from the enjoyment they got out of my culinary skills but the thought of embarking on a career in cooking never entered my mind. It was the 80s and I was more enthralled by the birth of a technology evolution that I knew would change the world.”

“Little did I know that this evolution would open up platforms of communication that catapulted the stature of food from a means of survival to a social mechanism that has united people in their love of it. It’s allowed us all to think so much more laterally and it has materialised this amazing life I am so thankful for on a daily basis,” states an enthused Naidoo.

Breathe in, be calm

Thrown into the spotlight at 45, an age later than most, Naidoo is known for his humility and calm composure, even under the pressure of the heated Masterchef finale. He has appeared as a guest on the popular cooking show Cooking with Reza and has participated in live cooking displays at cooking exhibitions. When asked how he maintains such a cool demeanour, he is quick to point out a few vital life lessons he shares with his children regularly.

“I believe wholeheartedly in presenting your most sincere self at all times, irrespective of your audience or the platform. I’ve always felt that it is only when I am not presenting my truest self that I feel unnerved. In all of these situations, I tell myself to breathe in, be calm and be my truest self. It’s a motto I live by.” It’s also a principle he makes an effort to impress upon with his two younger children, Arya and Theslin. The eldest, Naveshan, is now an adult.

“You know, the most difficult job in the world is being a parent. My wife Kathy and I both make our family our greatest priority and we are so careful about the influence we have on our children. I think back and I honestly believe the role models of today would have been perceived as the villains of yesteryear. As a parent, you wish to do what is right; to guide and love them and hope this is enough to show them the right path in life.”



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Asked if he would influence their post-school study decisions, given the change in career direction his own life has taken, Naidoo is adamant that he would support their choices: “Every child is unique and as a parent, it is my obligation to love them irrespective of their choices, and to be there to support them even if those choices are the wrong ones and they fail. I hope and pray they do make the right choices, but ultimately I believe their journeys are their own.”

Naidoo’s second hobby

Hailing from a family of pioneering building contractors, Naidoo reveals that he has spent a large part of his youth on construction sites with his father and is himself extremely proficient in all aspects of building and construction.

He has personally undertaken over 11 home building projects and reveals that getting his hands dirty doing DIY is the perfect stress release from running a restaurant. It’s even given him an outlet to practise his electrical engineering training, Naidoo discloses.

CREATING A **UNIQUE** SOUTH AFRICAN **DESIGN** AESTHETIC

Siyanda Mbele is more than an interior designer; the man behind the brand name Pinda is an African iconoclast, bringing the world his unique representation of evolving African design.

It is said that inspiration comes to a man who is ready for change. Like many of this millennial generation, Siyanda Mbele is a young man with a unique sense of self. He projects a modern, individualistic and independent image, but dig a little deeper and you realise that this thoroughly modern sounding 24-year-old is as equally proud to be identified by his traditional Zulu heritage as he is of his contemporary, trendsetter identity.

It is at the confluence of these two personas that a creative spark is ignited and Mbele is able to constantly invent fresh design ideas that appeal to both the traditional and contemporary audiences of interior design. It is for this reason, explains Mbele, that he has named his brand Pinda.

“Phinda is a Zulu word that means a continuous process. It represents to me the process of continuous growth and a constant evolution of the quality of my work as I learn more, become aware of industry trends, and incorporate these into my designs. I wish to live in a state of continuous improvement in my life, and I want to represent that in my work by constantly revisiting what has been done before, redesigning it and making it better all the time.”

-SIYANDA MBELE
INTERIOR DESIGNER

I am a modern Zulu man, and it is the traditional practices, the art, and the heritage that I have been exposed to that shapes my perspective on life.

The Pinda side table, a trademark piece of furniture that has the design world talking, is a perfect illustration of Mbele's creative genius. While the colourful designs owe their inspiration to traditional Ndebele art with graphic legs that come in a multitude of colours, the range of plywood-topped tables are practical and contemporary also, allowing you to stack the tables on top of each other to create clever shelving units.

According to this Durban University of Technology B.Tech graduate, these little nuances define his design approach. "I am a modern Zulu man, and it is the traditional practices, the art, and the heritage that I have been exposed to that shapes my perspective on life. In conjunction with this, I have also been through years of study, being tutored in the more contemporary styles of international, often European design aesthetic, that have also influenced my outlook.

The result, I believe, is the emergence of a generation of strong black creatives like myself who are now gravitating toward the creation of a unique South African design aesthetic that fuses both the traditional and contemporary with very appealing results." Mbele is quick to point out, though, that his identity as a designer is not a fixed, but fluid one. "I did not start out being the best and I was determined to improve on my skill set continuously to meet the needs of the design industry." He credits the concept of self-improvement to the SABS Design Institute and Design Indaba through their role of mentoring Mbele and six other designers nationally through a business incubation programme. The Institute assisted Mbele to redesign and repurpose his table legs, and build a brand identity for marketing purposes.

"The programme really humbled me and gave me a much more comprehensive understanding of how to realise the progression of my work. I am constantly comparing my designs to those I admire, asking myself the difficult questions with a view to improve." While the incubation programme has contributed to Mbele's developing business savvy, he is still greatly indebted to his traditionally close-knit family who provide him with an extremely strong support network in all of his endeavours. It is this network that Mbele credits for steering him into tertiary study, and coming to his rescue on a constant basis.

"My mother passed away when I was young and I was raised by my father's side of the family: my grandparents, father and aunts raised me; my older sister and two cousins. I live with my elder sister and grandmother now, and I was never made to feel like I lacked a mother. Family ties are strong and so is the drive to study, work hard and excel. When the



time came to study, and later finance the start of my business, they have pitched in, no questions asked, to get things done."

Mbele is equally grateful for platforms such as social media, Instagram in particular, for assisting him to establish what he hopes will soon be an African brand with international appeal. After making his first sale via an Instagram post, Mbele is determined to continue building on the business and its ability to meet the demand for products. "Having spent the past five years establishing the Pinda brand and negotiating relationships with production companies to be ready to supply to industry requirements, I am ready to begin supplying to bigger stores both locally and internationally," explains Mbele. Already, suppliers in the US and Gauteng have expressed interest in the brand. And in the meantime, Mbele will continue to also lecture Interior Design AutoCad draughting students at the Durban University of Technology, passing on the practical insights he has learned from his own journey of continuous improvement in the design business. They're lucky to have him.

Siyanda's accolades

2012 – Second place, Office Design/Commendable Development in Design, Durban University of Technology Interior Design

2013 – Design Indaba: Memphis meets Africa Exhibition, Curated by Li Edelkoort, sponsored by Woolworths

2014 – Durban University of Technology Emma Smith Art Award Scholarship Nominee – Interior Design representative

2014 – Design Indaba Emerging Creative

2015 – SABS Design Institute: Design Candidate

2015 – 100% Design South Africa: 100% Talent

2015 – Sunday Times: Homewear Designer to know

2015 – House and Leisure Rising Star

2015 – Southern Guild Scholarship recipient

2016 – Creative Nestlings Young Product Designer of the Year



PHD MANAGEMENT SCIENCES SPECIALISING IN LEADERSHIP AND COMPLEXITY

The DUT PhD in Management Sciences specialising in Leadership and Complexity, through the Centre for Continuing and Professional Education and the Faculty of Management Sciences at DUT, in association with the Leadership Dialogue, is a unique programme designed to provide a step-change in your theoretical understanding and practical application of working with complexity and turbulence in management systems: how to lead in a world that is in constant flux, messy, with multiple value positions, competing and complementary goals, where straight-forward answers no longer work.

The programme is grounded in systems thinking and complexity science, which gives you the edge to make a difference at the level of personal development, organisational effectiveness, competitiveness, yet in ways that are ethically defensible, environmentally responsible, culturally desirable, technologically savvy, globally aware, locally responsive and systemically feasible.

Programme Structure

This programme is a part-time research degree with structured support based on a cohort supervision model to provide relevant content and competency building in academic writing, research capabilities, systems modelling and systemic methodologies for change and leadership enhancement.

Entrance Criteria

A Cognate Master's degree or equivalent is required. Conferment of status granted through an internal evaluation process in alignment with DUT policies.

*International applicants with foreign qualifications are required to have their qualifications assessed to confirm that they are equivalent with the requisite South African qualification. This evaluation is carried out by SAQA (South African Qualifications Authority). The SAQA certificate of evaluation must be attached to the application form. Study permits will also be required to enable registration.

Deliverables by students

- A concept paper and research proposal. A short concept paper (2-3 pages) word processed, in which the prospective student outlines the opportunity and potential for leadership and research in systems. The concept paper should introduce the topic and provide a rationale for the study as well as a motivation for the study in the local, national and international contexts. A possible site for academic and practice engagement must be included.
- Workshop assignments
- Each chapter against deadline set
- The complete thesis
- Post-marking corrections
- At least one journal ready article to share your research findings

Continuing Participation, Monitoring and Support:

- Participants will be required to attend workshops based on a cohort supervision model.
- On-going interactive dialogue with fellow students and supervisors is expected.
- Supervisors will monitor progress against timelines.
- Electronic support will be available by email through contacting stan@leadershipdialogue.co.za

Content/Themes:

• Systems Thinking	• Leadership in contexts of complexity and disruption
• An overview of systemic methodology	• An overview of complexity science
• Systems modelling	• Applied research in the field of systems and complexity



Workshops Topics:

All workshops are of a 2-day duration and workshop dates and venue will be communicated to all registered students.

Workshop 1: Introductory Issues	Orientation: University, Resources, Standards and Expectations. Academic ethics and plagiarism. An introduction to the academic writing style. Referencing and EndNote. Systems Diagramming.
Workshop 2: Personal and Organisational Learning	Learning, Self-Discovery and Multiple Intelligences. Ethical Leadership and Decision Making. Organizational Learning and Learning in Organizations. Introducing Systems Approaches to Large Scale Change and Intervention.
Workshop 3: Overview of the Research Process	Research Paradigms: Qualitative, Quantitative, Critical, Mixed Methods and Systemic Research. Understanding your problem context from a systems perspective. Defining the problem statement and research questions. Literature review and the conceptual framework within a systems and complexity framework.
Workshop 4: Systems Methods 1	Soft Systems Methodology
Workshop 5: Systems Methods 2	Systems Dynamics
Workshop 6: Writing Skills 1	Viable Systems Modelling
Workshop 7: Writing Skills 2	Writing the Introductory chapter of a thesis
Workshop 8: Writing Skills 3	Structuring the literature and theory chapter of your thesis
Workshop 9: Writing Skills 4	Constructing and writing up the research design of your thesis
Workshop 10: Writing Skills 5	Presenting your research results
Workshop 11: Writing Skills 6	Systemic learning and intervention strategy
Workshop 12: Writing Skills 7	Presenting your conclusions and suggestions for further research and Presentation of research findings in a workplace or conference setting

Fees:

- 2016 Tuition Fee of R21 520 plus student levies as applicable.
- Re-registration fee as applicable in the year of re-registration plus student levies as applicable.

Other costs:

- Prescribed textbooks
- Subscription to ILA

Rules:

The institutional rules of the Durban University of Technology and the Faculty, apply.

For enquiries contact:

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www.ccpe.ac.za

WEAVING ZULU HERITAGE INTO JEWELLERY



From his first introduction to jewellery design – watching a hometown local make rings using the piping on a primus stove in 2007 – Songezo Baleni knew that creating pieces of jewellery was a calling for him.

Less than a decade later, the Durban University of Technology Master of Technology student and lecturer is already making the industry sit up and take notice of his trademark weave design jewellery.

Baleni (31), who hails from Ntsikeni in rural Umzimkulu, KwaZulu-Natal and is the product of a single parent home, knew only two things when considering his career direction at senior high school level – that he did not want to spend the rest of his life working in a corporate setting, and that he enjoyed art and using his hands. “I’ve always admired those glossy magazine cover images of designs by Van Cleef, Arpels and Christian Dior, but to be honest, I didn’t relate these images back to a career option; I didn’t even consider myself a very good artist,” Baleni reveals. Focused only on the thought that education was necessary to improve one’s chances in life, a principle driven home to him by his mother, Baleni made the choice to leave behind his rural home, and after researching the Jewellery Design diploma offered at the DUT, applied to begin studying in 2004.

Baleni hasn’t looked back, having blazed a trail of success that has seen him amass design awards and critical acclaim from mass media houses and the local design industry at large. Symbolically, while the rural KZN boy has travelled far from home, it is his heritage, in particular the art of traditional grass weaving and braiding that he learnt while cow-herding in his village, that has catapulted Baleni into the spotlight. Using precious metals such as silver, 18-carat gold and platinum, Baleni has created a trademark jewellery design identity using the weaving technique learnt all those years ago. His pieces range in cost from R500 to R40 000 and can take anything from a week to a few months to complete, depending on their intricacy.

“The idea came to me when we were tasked with creating something unique towards our final year design project. I remembered the grass bangles I had made back home and wanted to create something that would be uniquely associated with me.” The weaving process is a complicated one and Baleni is cautious with his use of metals; “I often use silver to create test pieces before moving on

– SONGEZO BALENI
JEWELLERY DESIGNER AND DUT LECTURER

to platinum, in particular. While gold filings can be melted down and reused, platinum filings cannot, so I take every precautionary measure not to waste the metals I use," explains Baleni. After spending a few years working in the industry, designing for jewellery stores on completion of his Diploma, Baleni was retrenched in the economic downturn of 2010. The gap provided the deflated goldsmith with an opportunity to re-evaluate the direction his career was taking.

"Until that point, the work I'd been involved in was pretty uninspiring. I knew that I wanted to do something more and two important things happened during this time. Firstly, Ms de Beer, a former lecturer, encouraged me to enroll in a BTech degree. Secondly, I was introduced to Veronica Anderson, the owner of a jewellery gallery in Gauteng, by Ms de Beer."

Anderson, enamoured with the unique weave designs that are Baleni's trademark, regularly exhibits his work at her gallery. It is these showings, together with his exhibitions at the Design Indaba (in 2012 and 2014), that have helped Baleni's unique brand to get the attention it deserves.

In the immediate future, brand building is top of mind for the intrepid designer, who is currently designing a collection for a New York-based store, Baleni's designs having caught their eye via his Instagram account.

"I will use the opportunities I am provided with to begin forging relationships with international suppliers. I would like to begin looking at exporting my pieces, doing exhibitions at trade shows, and basically doing everything I can to get my brand out there on an international level."

Judging from his successes to date, there is no doubt the talented young goldsmith is destined to shine as bright as the precious jewels that he has come to be uniquely identified by.



Baleni the trail blazer

In 2011, Baleni was awarded a merit award at the 2011 PlatAfrica Awards, a design competition giving South African students and professionals the opportunity to be recognised for their work with platinum.

In 2012, Baleni broke a record at the DUT Department of Jewellery Design by obtaining 100% for the portfolio component of his Bachelor of Technology (BTech) degree.

In 2013, he was awarded the Emma Smith Art Scholarship Award, which is a R40 000 cash prize awarded annually to exceptional students in the DUT's Faculty of Arts and Design.

Baleni's jewellery has been featured in Top Billing and Destiny magazines, and in numerous other mass media publications.



REACHING OUT TO STUDENTS AND THE COMMUNITY

The newly refurbished DUT clinic opened its doors a mere three years ago to provide an integrated and affordable health service to its communities.



Image by Waheeda Peters

The clinic, which is situated on the Ritson campus in Berea, integrates the Chiropractic, Dental, Homeopathy, Radiography and Somatology Clinics into a revamped, centralised healthcare facility that is open free of charge to DUT students, and at a marginal fee to the public.

It is one of only two in the country and the only clinic in KwaZulu-Natal to offer a recognised Homeopathy qualification, one of only three to train chiropractors in South Africa, and one of a very few offering courses in Somatology. Since the refurbishment, the clinics have seen significant increases in their programme intakes, with the Somatology programme almost doubling in size in the past three years.

According to Clinic manager Dr Charmaine Korporaal, the clinics, which began operating in their refurbished capacity in February 2015, have just started getting over their initial teething problems: "We effectively needed to get a centralised system to work, which integrated the activities of the various clinics on site. Now that this core operational system is beginning to take off, we can begin exploring other opportunities for further growth and development."

Improving service delivery

In the meantime, Korporaal explains that the Faculty (of Health Sciences Clinics) has scaled up its efforts in improving service delivery, and has evolved in the past three years to the point that it is really contributing to the well-being of surrounding communities. "The Homeopathy clinic runs satellite services at Ukuba in Redhill and at Kenneth Gardens.

The Chiropractic clinic offers their services at Marburg and Sea Cow Lake, and all three clinics (including the Somatology programme) provide services at sports and other community events on request," explains Dr Korporaal. These events include marathons like the Comrades, and corporate wellness days hosted by large companies. A mobile clinic, which is largely funded by the Faculty, also



aids its clinics to reach their patients in outer lying areas where screening, and when possible, patient treatment, can be effected. Dr Korporaal believes that these activities have provided extremely valuable learning experiences for students, who understand the needs of communities, as well as the importance of providing consistently good, dependable services at affordable rates. "Apart from the fact that we provide services at rates that are half or a third of the cost of other facilities, I believe students see for themselves how good patient relationships translate into patient returns."

The result has been the emergence of a symbiotic platform by which senior level students are exposed to all aspects of working in the real world, and members of the public are given access to specialised medical care either free of charge or at a marginal cost.

Learning in real time

According to Chiropractic students Hyla van der Colff (25) and Nondumiso Khumalo (26), the Clinic experience has been an eye opener, truly equipping them for life after study. Sixth-year student van der Colff says that while the internship has required discipline and dedication on her part, she is extremely grateful for the opportunity it has provided in exposing her to every aspect of a clinic facility: "You're partnered with a clinician and they are there, holding your hand through this experience as you go through the various challenges of real-time patient consultation. I've grown so much during my time here to the extent that while I wanted to seek the approval of my clinician when making a diagnosis and giving treatment at the outset, I now sometimes want to even challenge the advice they've given me. That's how much my confidence level has grown."



Van der Colff is equally grateful for the opportunity provided by the Faculty to also learn the business aspects of running a clinic. Students are asked to perform administrative duties while on rotation during their study period in addition to logging patient hours. "The administration experience has actually helped me make the decision to look at managing a clinic facility as a business in the future." For Khumalo, who hails from Vryheid and has just started her clinic training this year, the experience has given her the impetus to make a difference in her own community.

"Through the various outreach projects that we participate in, I've seen how desperately communities like my home town need people to reach out and advise them on the array of health options available to treat their ailments.

When I am through with my studies, I am definitely going back to my home to practice."



I've grown so much during my time here to the extent that while I wanted to seek the approval of my clinician when making a diagnosis and giving treatment at the outset, I now sometimes want to even challenge the advice they've given me. That's how much my confidence level has grown.

Hyla van der Colff



Plans for expansion

Having just returned from a corporate wellness day event at the Road Accident Fund, Dr Korporaal is excited at the prospect of the Faculty offering integrated corporate packages involving the various programme specialisations. "I know that plans are afoot to look at including the nursing and biomedical technology programmes into our facility, and that will certainly help to increase the footprint and the walk-ins to the Faculty. With these specialisations on board, I believe we could begin to offer really comprehensive wellness day programmes to big companies and even corporate package vouchers that will significantly assist us with additional revenue streams for our ongoing activities."

BUILDING PERSONAL BUSINESS BRANDS

At just 30 years of age and in just under a decade, Vuyisile Ngobese has started and closed a business, changed her career direction, and launched another business.

- VUYISILE NGOBESE
BUSINESS OWNER

The ambitious young businesswoman has managed to achieve all of this even before earning her first tertiary qualification, a Diploma in Public Relations, which she will receive from DUT this month! In Ngobese's words, she is a true blend of her career woman mother and businessman father, with business and study fighting for dominance at various points in her life.

Ngobese, who is from Pietermaritzburg, north of Durban, was well on her way to completing her diploma when she began the in-service requirement of her qualification in 2006, after studying for two-and-a-half years. Lured by the prospect of earning money and fast tracking her career (Ngobese caught the attention of her seniors at the start of her career), she went on to continue practising corporate communications, first at the then Local Government and Traditional Affairs (LGTA) and later at the SABC between 2007 and 2009. Quickly rising to the position of Senior Communications Officer at Government Communication and Information Service (GCIS) in 2009, where she facilitated the flow of communication from National to Local government, Ngobese saw an opportunity to pursue another passion of hers: image consulting.

"It was during my time at the SABC and later in government that I realised that people often didn't make the connection between image, reputation management and brand building. I would spend my mornings at the SABC going through media monitor reports and often find incidents of DJs being involved in private altercations that directly impacted on the company's reputation as well as their own. Then in 2011, after being plagued by similar thoughts around the importance of image in career development, I decided to pursue another passion of mine and enrolled in a course that offered image management at a recognised institute called Colourworks."

After doing the course in January, Ngobese, who had initially not planned to immediately start consulting, was inundated by requests from many of her and her mother's friends to help them revamp their images. "Many of these women were already accomplished career women, but they'd reached a point where they needed an 'edge' to boost their self esteem, and present a more professional persona to take on more senior positions in their respective career fields. I offered my assistance free of charge as I considered it great practical experience, and it



was an ethical conflict for me to earn money doing this while working full time." It was only in 2012 that Ngobese took the risky decision to resign from her full-time position and open up the image consultancy, RefinedU. The consultancy helps clients with appearance, behaviour and communication aspects of corporate or personal image and usually consists of a three-to-four session programme.

"I realised how much of a need there was to start a business of this nature for women of my culture, and even for men who wanted to receive guidance with the reputation management aspect of their corporate images. From doing one-on-one individual sessions, I began receiving requests for corporate sessions with companies looking to train employees, either through the induction process or via workshops, on the importance of brand building and reputation management of both the individual in his/her professional capacity, and the company."

Ngobese's corporate wellness workshops and seminars, which are starting to really take off, focus more on creating brand ambassadors and about managing the personal brand without hurting reputation. "I started the company as an image consultancy, but I've seen the need for so much more than that so I decided that it was time to complete my diploma in order to lend the credibility of a professional qualification to the work I knew I could do." So Ngobese took a risk, closed down the Bridal Boutique she had started along with the consultancy, and reapplied herself to her studies full time. She will graduate this month after completing her last diploma module in 2015, and is already eager to pursue a BTech.

"I am a strong believer that everything has its time and this is really the time I am meant to pursue my studies while building my business. I've accomplished everything I'd set out to do based only on the experience I'd notched up in the corporate world over an eight-year period. I'm now ready to take my brand and business to the next level." Asked about her personal objectives in the near future, Ngobese is quick to dispel any notions of a forthcoming marriage or thoughts of motherhood. "I have a grandmother who is always asking me if 'something is wrong'. I manage to laugh it off each time and I take the time to explain to anyone who asks that when the time is right for those things to happen, they will. Right now, I'm focused on a different area of personal growth."

In the near future, the talented young woman sees herself helping to build a platform for women empowerment in the province, hopefully aided by a corporate sponsor. "I am inspired by women

who take up challenges to grow all the time. It is a personal motto of mine to constantly grow from my experiences in life and I want to help create a platform to allow other young women to tackle their challenges and rise up to success the way so many others have before."

“

I am a strong believer that everything has its time and this is really the time I am meant to pursue my studies while building my business. I've accomplished everything I'd set out to do based only on the experience I'd notched up in the corporate world over an eight-year period. I'm now ready to take my brand and business to the next level.

”

Ngobese lists African Union leader Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma as a personal mentor of hers and a woman she believes is the perfect role model for future generations. "She is educated, humble, yet powerful and self-made. She has a poise and elegance about her that commands respect and I believe she uses her leadership role to truly make a difference in the lives of the communities she serves. This is the kind of woman we need to enlist to positively influence the next generation and I hope to be part of this evolution in the very near future."

Ngobese's image consultancy programme in a nutshell

Session one: Ngobese does a 30-minute briefing to discover what the client is looking to achieve, their background and their lifestyle.

Session two: In this session, Ngobese conducts a colour and body shape assessment to create a style guide that can be used for all future shopping trips for clothing, accessories and even underwear. During this session, a colour swatch with the client's most complementary colours is also created.

Session three: In the final formal session, a wardrobe audit is done to help the client decide what should be included and discarded from their future wardrobe. An additional service is offered to either personally shop for the client or accompany the client to guide him/her on making the correct clothing choices.

BUILDING A **UNIFORM** **FASHION** BRAND



Fashion design's latest star, Nabeela Osman is determined to be successful in her own right, through her own hard work.

At just 24 years of age, Osman launched her own fashion brand called Uniform, which she describes as 'street', appealing to a target market of 18- to 30-year-olds.

For now though, the vivacious designer explains that her brand building passion is on hold as she builds up experience and networks in the industry by working as a designer for a national fashion retailer.

Osman's entry into the fashion world, with an inaugural showing at SA Fashion Week's 2014 Autumn/Winter collection, was hailed as nothing short of visionary, and came after securing a coveted spot to undergo the KwaZulu-Natal Fashion Council's Capacity Building Programme, 21 Steps to Retail.

-NABEELA OSMAN
FASHION DESIGNER

“

I spend my time collecting inspiration from all different kinds of sources, watching trends and doing style research. Then I gather information on what is trending on the ramp and start designing, with a view to identifying top items that are suited to the South African market.

”

“The KZN Fashion Council has really exposed me to so much! They have been there every step of the way, mentoring me and giving me this amazing opportunity at SA Fashion Week. I am so grateful as it opened up the avenue of SA Fashion Week to me, which has been a dream come true.”

Since capturing the eye of the judges with her ‘trendsetting’ fashion identity, Osman remains passionate about earning her place in the South African fashion retail market on a national level. “My dream is to develop the brand (Uniform), into a ready-to-wear line that is trusted for its great quality.”

Fashion in the blood

As the granddaughter of a fashion designer (Osman’s grandmother was a fashion designer), Osman is not short on fashion mentors, recalling her own passion for the industry starting at a young age. “My mum and gran have always supported me in my goals and they’ve been there for me every step of the way.” After completing her Fashion and Textile Diploma studies at the Durban University of Technology in 2011, Osman was ready to enter her dream career in fashion, which she did as a Junior CAD designer.

“I learnt a lot in that first job and I am so grateful that my mother constantly encouraged me to study full-time. It gave me the opportunity to develop skills such as graphic design, pattern and garment construction which I used from the moment I began working in the field, and which I use in my career every day.”

Osman’s typical creative process is based entirely on her ability to recognise trends in style in the international design world. “I spend my time collecting inspiration from all different kinds of sources, watching trends and doing style research. Then I gather information on what is trending on the ramp and start designing, with a view to identifying top items that are suited to the South African market.

I then create patterns and start to make mock ups. The final step is to work out any kinks and then we go into production.”

Launching Uniform

It was while working as a CAD designer that Osman first entertained the thought of launching her own brand. Although she has successfully managed to launch the Uniform name and showcase her talents on numerous fashion platforms locally in KwaZulu-Natal and nationally, Osman is a realist about the fashion industry.

“I’ve realised through my own experience that in entering the creative field, you must have the flexibility to either finance your own company as an entrepreneur or consider career paths that have scope in the job market. There aren’t many jobs out there as the creative market is a very competitive one and you must be at the top of your game to either succeed as an entrepreneur or secure a job in the industry.”

Asked about the distinction between working for oneself and a large company, Osman explains: “Working for oneself requires a lot of discipline and a lot of overtime, and it is a risk. I enjoy it more as you have creative freedom and are able to make your own decisions. Working for a company is great too because you get to work within a team.”

Keeping it local

Although inspired by the work of international greats like designer Alexander Wang, Osman foresees her future in the South African Fashion Industry: “South Africa is an emerging market so I would undoubtedly remain focused on growing my brand in South Africa first.”

Quick facts

- She has won the Young Designer Award at the Vodacom Durban July in 2011.
- Her inaugural showing was at SA Fashion Week 2014.
- She was ranked in the top three designers in KwaZulu-Natal and in the top 10 designers in South Africa in 2011.

RIDING A **MEDICAL** TOURISM **BRAINWAVE**

Siphokazi Feke, who graduated from the Durban University of Technology with a Clinical Technology qualification in 1998, is the first South African woman to qualify in the profession with a Nephrology specialisation and to be registered with the Health Professions Council.

Hailing from Madiba's birthplace of Mthatha in the Eastern Cape, Feke is Managing Director of BrainWave (BW) Medical Group, a very successful Ghana-based medical travel agency that arranges for patients who cannot receive the treatment they need in Ghana to be flown to South Africa.

According to Feke, her specialist skill set in Nephrology, (a medical specialty focused on kidney disorders and their treatment, dialysis and kidney transplantation), and some lateral thinking, has allowed her to go where few South African-based entrepreneurs go, using the platform of her South African nationality to harness business potential in the African continent.

Now at the helm of the company that also runs a dialysis and urology clinic in Ghana, Feke's path to career success has been through sheer determination, hard work, and a good dose of entrepreneurial savvy. In researching her case for the establishment of a medical travel agency, Feke was presented with her first challenge – presenting data on the number of patients requiring dialysis in Ghana's capital.

"Funders want data but no-one keeps those records. What they do have are death certificates with the cause of death listed. I looked through those records for any deaths that could be linked to renal failure and the numbers of patients on chronic medication for hypertension and diabetes, looked at the growing middle class, and from that I could extrapolate that a need existed for a clinic. After that, it was gut feel and hard work."

Exploring African avenues

Four years later, BW is considered a trusted medical travel agency, which is a self-sustaining venture, allowing Feke and her business partners to begin exploring similar entrepreneurial opportunities in the rest of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

-SIPHOKAZI FEKE
BUSINESS OWNER



Asked why the initiative was launched in Ghana as the first ECOWAS region, Feke's entrepreneurial spirit kicks in as she explains the economic potential and viability of launching business ventures in other African states.

"Ask the World Bank for funding and they are far more likely to fund a start-up in an African state rather than a venture in Cape Town, for example. I realised early on that for my dream to be realised, I needed to tweak my vision and see the potential outside of South Africa for less mature economies to garner investment from the rest of the world. I truly believe that we have the opportunity to build African conglomerates; we can create wealth by Africans for Africa," Feke asserts.

Developing an entrepreneurial spirit

This entrepreneurial spirit is a far cry from her roots as a traditional clinician, and Feke is particularly grateful to those professional mentors who have, along the way, recognised the ability in her to make the transition. After working in a hospital as a clinician, and later as a sales representative for a pharmaceutical company, Feke identified in herself a strong passion for business, but recognised that her lack of business education might hinder her career development.

"I mentioned to my employers at the time, Adcock Ingram, that I wanted to get some training in business, and they were more than happy to pay for me to get a business certificate from the University of South Africa (Unisa), and I also did a programme for Management Development with GIBS," she says. As a strong believer in Africa's potential, Feke is confident that her first foray into the business world will be followed by many more such ventures in more African states. In the future, for example, she is excited at the prospect of exploring the energy business potential on the continent.

Family ties

Being a single mother to a four-year-old son Kuhleke, the 40-year-old believes that in making the sacrifices of relocating for part of the year to Ghana, and through juggling motherhood and running a business, she is contributing to a better future for her country and the continent her son will inhabit in future. She is equally grateful that this continent is Africa, where

the spirit of Ubuntu and family values still underlie everything we do: "People here still believe that a child is raised by a village, and because of that, my son has been able to adjust well," she says.



I realised early on that for my dream to be realised, I needed to tweak my vision and see the potential outside of South Africa for less mature economies to garner investment from the rest of the world. I truly believe that we have the opportunity to build African conglomerates; we can create wealth by Africans for Africa.



Feke credits her passion and determination to fearlessly attempt new ventures to a piece of advice she once received from her father many years ago, after failing a single matric subject that prevented her from going on to study medicine. "My father suggested that I was still young enough to go back and redo matric. I still remember what he told me: failure is an event; it does not need to define who you are."

Making the decision to pursue a different vocation

Feke had actually initially enrolled to study Medical Technology at the then ML Sultan Technikon in 1996. After some investigation into the lack of black students registered for the course, Feke discovered that most black students did not meet the selection criteria. She further discovered that if she were to pursue Clinical Technology instead of Medical Technology, she would be more likely to secure employment as a black professional entering the field.

Feke's entrepreneurial instinct kicked in, and she made the change over to Clinical Technology, specialising in Nephrology, or kidney disorders and their treatment. She later graduated as the first Black female Clinical Technologist in 1998. The rest, as they say, is history.

SUCCUMBING TO THE POWER OF MUSIC

At just 31 years of age, DJ Merlon (real name Sibusiso Mhlongo), is the music maker of the moment on the South African music scene.

His latest album 'Original Copy' features collaborations with the legendary Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Unathi, Black Coffee and Khaya Mthethwa, an experience he describes as being a defining moment in his musical career.

"When you work with these musical giants, you need to know your own story, you need to be the best you can be, and it motivates you to really work even harder to achieve similar levels of greatness."

These are humble words coming from the man behind *Koze Kuse*, the chart topping single that had every radio station playing to his tune post release in November 2014. And while his enthusiasm over the track's phenomenal success, both locally and internationally, is almost tangible, there are other unexpected characteristics that come to light when talking about the 'it' kid of music right now. Like his groundedness and sound business sense.

"I'm not a new kid on the block. I've been around DJ-ing, managing musicians since 2005. Music is like soccer, it's not a long-term career and I am not always going to be the musician who is trending. I've been through a long journey, and I know what to do, how to do it, and when to do it. So I will invest myself, my talents and my money wisely to ensure that I will always be in a position to look after myself."

The journey Mhlongo speaks of goes back to a rural upbringing in Umbumbulu, south of Durban. Ambitious at an early age, the high school-aged Mhlongo left behind his parents and six siblings to pursue a better high school education in the town of Esikhawini in Zululand prior to beginning his studies at the Durban University of Technology in 2003.



I remember the support I received from people like my elder brother Fisokuhle, who's stood behind me both financially and emotionally through the years, and I want to use opportunities like this one to give back whenever I can.

Contrary to expectation, Mhlongo, as the last born in a long line of siblings who pursued tertiary study, did not pursue tertiary study in Music. "My parents were not comfortable with me going that route so I chose to study Operations/Production Management."

Being on campus did, however, awaken Mhlongo's passion for music. After befriending music students who included Zakes Bantwini, L'vovo Derrango and Mondli Ngcobo and playing around with the equipment of other students, Mhlongo's talents as a musician and DJ were recognised and he was encouraged to pursue the skill further, which he did part-time.

It was only after graduating in 2005 that Mhlongo finally entered the music industry, albeit as a production manager on Zakes Bantwini's label, Mayonie Production.

"When I couldn't secure a job in my own profession, I took up an offer from Zakes Bantwini after trying my hand at an events company that didn't work out. Zakes signed L'vovo as his first client and I worked as his tour manager. After working as an artist manager for three years, and later with Derrango on his label, I decided enough was enough. It was time to focus on myself."

Fast forward to 2012, DJ Merlon, by now a household name, releases his first full length album titled 'Sounds Musical'. After years of working as label manager to the Derrango label, executive producing on L'vovo's albums, and playing as supporting artist to L'vovo, DJ Merlon finally left Derrango to focus on a solo DJ career.

But it was the 2014 single Koze Kuse that made an indelible impression on local and international music audiences. "Mondli and I did the song together and we released it in November, and by the end of that year, every single radio station was playing it. I was being called to play at gigs locally and internationally and early in 2015 when I went on tour to the UK, I realised exactly how big the single had made it."

With the 'Original Copy' album currently enjoying airtime across the country, Mhlongo is excited about another smash hit in the making: Ubugingqigingqi, a zulu word used to relay the action of something having a 'domino effect'. Similar, explains Mhlongo, to the music he's currently making.

"This track is a celebration song for us. We're killing it with our music and everyone's succumbing to the power of the music. Through music, not weapons, you can rule the world."

It's a message he also hopes to relay to his young audiences when he runs his third annual Durban Music Carnival event on 28 and 29 May at the Gateway Wavehouse and Eyadini Lounge in Umlazi,

Durban. Initiated via a collaboration of local and international artists, the carnival is used as a platform to motivate and develop the musically inclined youth of Durban.

"I remember the support I received from people like my elder brother Fisokuhle, who's stood behind me both financially and emotionally through the years, and I want to use opportunities like this one to give back whenever I can."

Mhlongo, who is currently between homes in Durban and Gauteng as he continues to build on his magical Merlon brand, is also set to tour this year to Italy, Spain and the US. And when the touring is done, he says, he often goes home to his parents who are today the proudest parents in the village to have a son whose musical career has truly put the Mhlongo family name on the map.

"They are very proud, and it makes us all feel truly blessed by God, who has made it all possible."

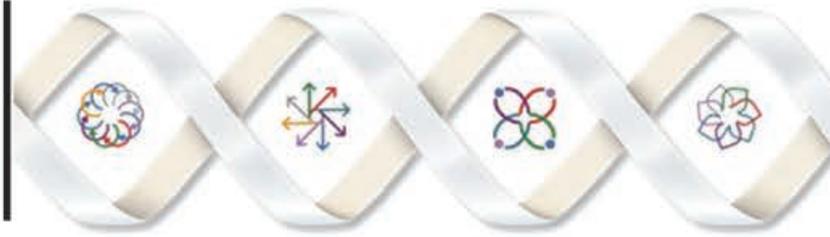
Mhlongo gives back

Mhlongo's Durban Musical Carnival is almost entirely sponsored by the DJ himself, who brings together local and international artists to inspire youth to pursue musical careers.

As brand ambassador for the DUT, he also supports the 'One Meal, Once a Day' campaign, which seeks to assist needy students across all the University's campuses.

**- SIBUSISO
MHLONGO
DJ AND
MUSIC MAKER**





VISION

A preferred University for developing leadership in technology and productive citizenship.

MISSION STATEMENT

To excel through:

- A teaching and learning environment that values and supports the University community;
- Promoting excellence in learning and teaching, technology transfer and applied research; and
- External engagement that promotes innovation and entrepreneurship through collaboration and partnership.

VALUES

- Academic freedom, collegiality and ethical behaviour;
- Institutional autonomy;
- Good governance based on accountability, co-operative governance and transparency;
- Relevance to society, both local and global;
- Seeking new knowledge through research;
- Understanding our students as developing human beings; and
- Seeing staff development as essential in the DUT purpose.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

-  1. Building sustainable student communities of living and learning;
-  2. Building research and innovation for development;
-  3. Build a learning organisation;
-  4. Building a sustainable University.

DUT GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

DUT Graduates are:

- Critical and creative thinkers who work independently and collaboratively;
- Knowledgeable practitioners;
- Effective communicators;
- Culturally, environmentally and socially aware within a local and global context; and
- Active and reflective learners.



INDIVIDUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

"An initiative by DUT Alumni to support needy students"

DEVELOPMENT
AND ALUMNI
RELATIONS

DUT is driven by two imperatives: student-centredness and engagement. These are the threads that constitute the fabric out of which DUT is created; the two strands in its DNA. Our strategic plan speaks of one of DUT's purpose as being committed to the improvement of the life chances of our students by amongst other things 'building a safe society - addressing poverty reduction, food security, health security and water security'.

To this end, we call upon each of you to join me in contributing towards addressing the (sometimes desperate) needs of our students. Please consider donating to the University's individual Giving Fund. The Fund supports two primary beneficiaries; the **Alumni Bursary Fund** and the **One Meal, Once a Day** food security initiative of the Student Services Division.

Prof Ahmed Bawa
Vice Chancellor and
Principal of DUT



Mr Wiseman Madinane
President of
Convocation

SMS
"GIVE"

PLUS
"YOUR
NAME"

TO
33000

ABOUT THE BENEFICIARIES:

The **Alumni Bursary** scheme augments the current National Student Financial Aid Scheme's allocation to DUT with a specific focus on students that fall between the cracks either due to insufficient funds or inadequacies in the national allocation criteria.

The **"One Meal, Once a Day"** initiative is the university's dictum for a feeding scheme campaign to assist needy students across DUT campuses. The project was conceptualized in order to provide needy DUT students with at least one meal every day. A swipe card system assists students with obtaining these meals from the campus cafeteria, protecting the students' dignity while ensuring efficiency and transparency in managing the project

FOR DIRECT PAYMENT / EFT

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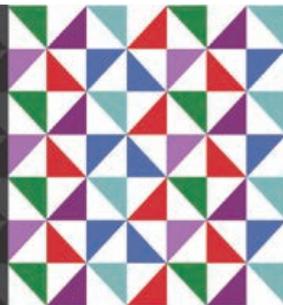
INDIVIDUAL
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An initiative by DUT Alumni to support needy students



**DEVELOPMENT
AND ALUMNI
RELATIONS**



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