

**BUSINESS
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IRE & S

ENVISION 2030

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editor's Note	2-3
DUT as a people centred and engaged university: Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Thandwa Mthembu	4-5
DUT as an entrepreneurial university: Professor Sibusiso Moyo	6-7
Message from the DUT Midlands Campus Director: Dr. Joe Molete	8
2020 in a nutshell with the Centre Manager: Ms. Nontokozo Ngcobo	9-11
Conversation with Media Mogul, Entrepreneur, Philanthropist: Allegro Dinkwanyane, the Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Orgella Group	12-13
Alumni Inspired: DUT Alumni Strives In The Digital Space: Nothando Tembe, founder of NT Communications	14-15
THE MIDLANDS ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTRE	16-21
ZOOMING IN TO 2020 ENGAGED UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES	22-39
CONNECTING WITH BUDDING ENTREPRENEURS	40-51
BUSINESS WISE INTELLECT WITH THE MIDLANDS ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTRE'S BUSINESS ADVISORS	52-55
MAJOR SOCIAL ISSUES	56-57

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EDITOR'S NOTE

It is delightful to release the Ignite 2020/2021 edition which serves to document and showcase the successes we have had in 2020, despite the chaos and confusion gripping the world as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

The intention in this year's edition is to celebrate the many wonderful entrepreneurial journeys of our alumni and current students, some of whom are participants in the Midlands Entrepreneurship Centre & Student Desk's diversified portfolio of entrepreneurship programmes. We are proud to feature their stories and we hope that they serve as inspiration among their peers and also a catalyst for greater entrepreneurial activities.

The urgency of entrepreneurship in our country to address the national unemployment crisis has been heightened by the coronavirus pandemic, which has adversely affected the country's already over-burdened employment market. Statistics SA

reported that 2.2 million jobs were lost in the second quarter of 2020. It is thus critical, as the Centre and as the university, that we give priority to entrepreneurship in our curricular and extra-curricular programmes to contribute towards addressing this national unemployment crisis. This drive is aptly articulated in the university's Envision 2030 statement of intent, that "by 2030, our people will be creative, innovative, entrepreneurial and adaptive to changes in the world".

We believe that, as the Centre, we have positioned ourselves very well in alignment with this statement of intent and the strategic objectives enunciated in Envision 2030; the many success stories of our studentpreneurs, some of whom are not featured in this edition, are testimony to this. It is also pleasing to hear of how many of our studentpreneurs are able to identify entrepreneurship opportunities and capitalize maximally on these opportunities, and at times with limited support and resources. It shows that



Miss Nontokozo Ngcobo



Miss Shuratta Muyeni



Miss Ntokozo Ndlela

indeed our students possess great potential to be “creative, innovative, entrepreneurial and adaptive to the changes in the world”.

We would like to thank the university management, academic and support departments, external partners and studentpreneurs for their support and partnership during this year which was trying on many fronts.

It will be impossible to mention each and every person by name who contributed immensely to the success of the Centre's activities, but we say to all of you, Siyabonga, Enkosi, Thank you!

Finally, it would be remiss of us as the Centre if we do not lend our voice on the national crisis that is ripping through our country, gender-based violence. We are hoping that all our partners and

stakeholders will join in with us as we aim to participate more actively in tackling this scourge head-on. We also urge all our studentpreneurs to take part in rooting this evil out of our families, communities and the society at large.

Miss Ntokozo Ndlela
Miss Nontokozo Ngcobo
Miss Shuratta Muyeni
Editorial Team

VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRINCIPAL, PROFESSOR THANDWA MTHEMBU SPEAKS ON DUT

A PEOPLE CENTRED AND ENGAGED UNIVERSITY



DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Thandwa Mthembu

With Envision 2030, we no longer have time for decrying the past and nor the present. We want to be on a flight to greatness. No wallowing. No frolicking. No prevarication. No inertia against change. The world regularly faces new problems that require approaches that are novel and generate lasting solutions. DUT embraces its role within society and strives to engage productively with its people, both those within the university itself and those outside of the university who may benefit from the societal and academic resource that an institution such as DUT represents.

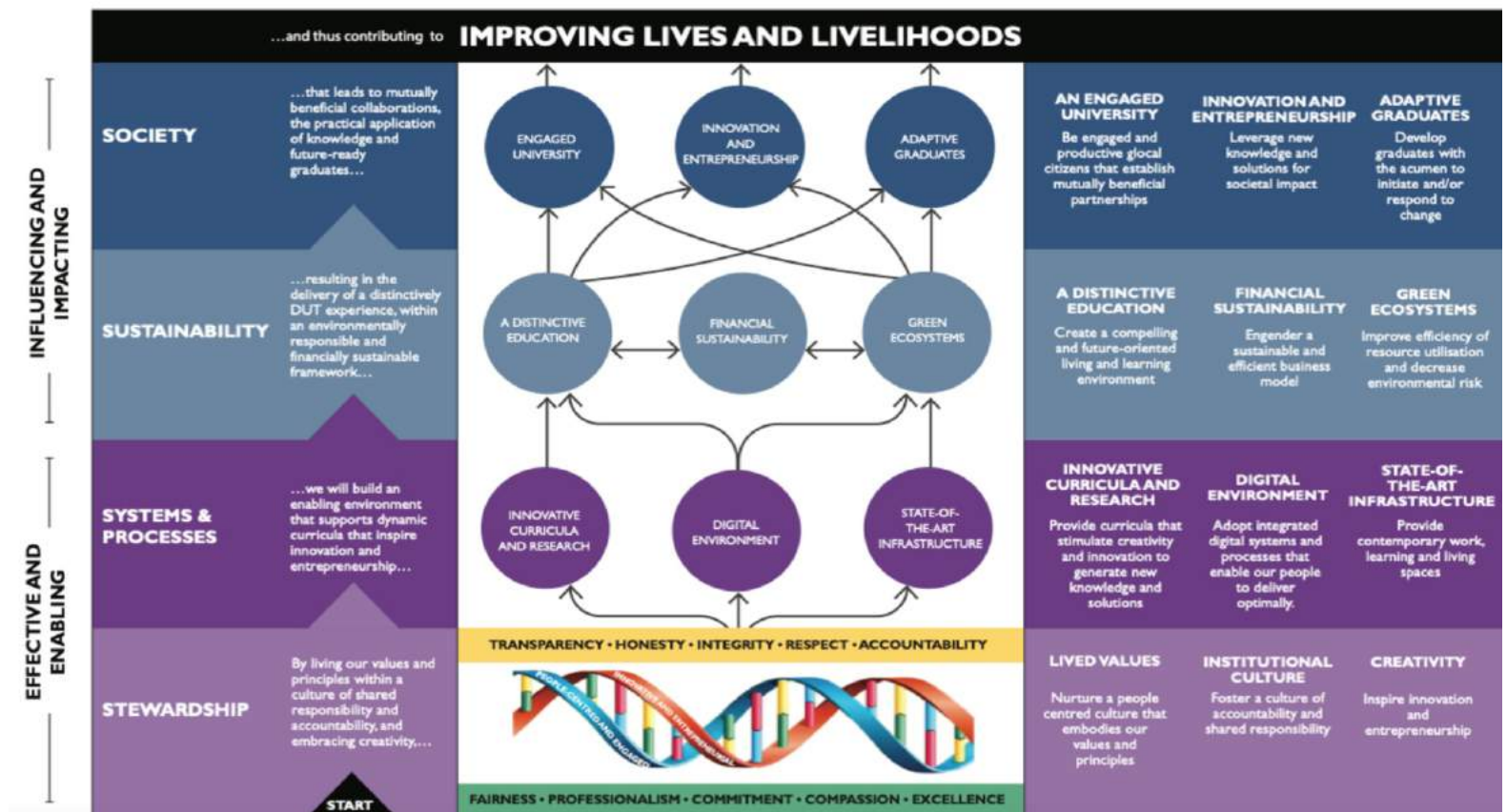
To this end, we have committed ourselves to working closely with business/industry, government and its agencies, and organs of civil society so that we design and offer well-informed curricula that will ensure that our graduates are not only adaptive, but they also become active change agents in their respective communities and in organisations they join when they leave our system.

We are still celebrating our recent achievement of being ranked in the top five of universities in South Africa and being top 10 in the world on citations of our research. We seek to lead when it comes to innovation and entrepreneurship as we have already started to do.

STRATEGY 2030

DRAFT 2030 STATEMENT OF INTENT

By 2030, Our people will be creative, innovative, entrepreneurial and adaptive to changes in the world;
 Our people will participate productively in the development of our region, country and the world;
 Our state-of-the-art infrastructure and systems will enhance an ecosystem created to achieve this vision.



At the heart of DUT's DNA are two intertwined strands of 'people-centredness and engagement' on one hand and 'innovation and entrepreneurship' on the other hand.

While one strand of our DNA is about being people – centred and engaged and the other is about innovative and entrepreneurial, both of these suggest behavioural traits we can only exhibit intrinsically. It is about what exists at the intrinsic level, deeper in our hearts and souls and our minds.

Furthermore, it is the institution's firm conviction that the general aim is to pursue the ennoblement of its people first as a precondition

for improving the lives and livelihoods of the university's broader society. We recognise that our university does not exist for itself. It exists in order to serve our people and our broader society. We recognise that it is only when we facilitate the empowerment and development of our people and the broader society that everyone could ultimately live and lead a truly free, humane, fulfilling and self-actualised life.

It is my hope that all DUT's people, from Council to students who are in their first year, can and will live the university's values and principles. That they should demonstrate the institutional

culture and be creative, innovative and entrepreneurial so we could remain true stewards of our university, its people and the broader society.

Above:
 Durban University of Technology
 (DUT) Strategy Map: ENVISION
 2030

Source: DUTCampus TV
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHOIr2mrXAY3fWEj9TmwP6g>

**WITH DVC: RIE PROFESSOR
SIBUSISO MOYO**

DUT AS AN ENTREPRENEURIAL UNIVERSITY



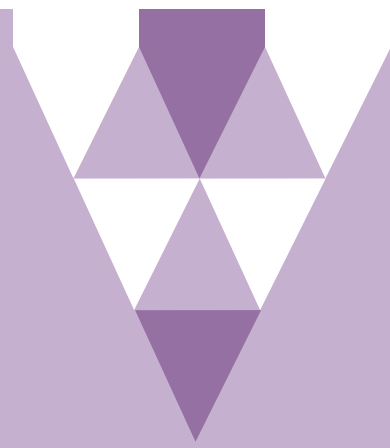
DUT Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC): Research, Innovation and Engagement (RIE) – Professor Sibusiso Moyo

The Durban University Of Technology, as the first globally ranked University of Technology in South Africa, we are deeply embedded within our local and regional context. We have an obligation to reduce the burden of unemployment; it is in our interest to transform lives in society and contribute to solutions that emerge within our communities

ENVISION 2030 speaks to the University moving towards being entrepreneurial and innovative. It also puts emphasis on the four perspectives of stewardship, systems and processes, sustainability, and society. As part of this focus, we as an Institution need to ensure that our people are exposed to digital technologies and

platforms that they can utilize to increase efficiency in their workspaces and business processes.

The transformation of the University into one that is Entrepreneurial and Innovative, with all its people, needs to start from the basics. The curriculum should be re-designed to allow students to become innovative, entrepreneurial, and creative. The institution must consider co-designed curricula by engaging industry partners and other institutions that allow creative thinking and “doing.” In terms of Entrepreneurship, every student graduating from DUT should have at least an opportunity to have attended an entrepreneurship class before they graduate. Teaching



methodologies, for instance, problem-based learning, project-based learning, and other methodologies that enhance creativity within students and staff themselves should be used in some of the modules students get exposed to.

We want our students to have 21st-century skills and work with different cultures, be creative and agile. For students to acquire these attributes, they need to be in an environment that allows for innovation and entrepreneurship; the Midlands Entrepreneurship Centre & student Desk as well as other DUT entrepreneurship entities, have played a significant role in ensuring that they contribute towards developing sustainable businesses.

Some of the University plans for advancing current entrepreneurial programs within the institution are around ensuring that we have the right infrastructure both in terms of establishing the state of the art entrepreneurial centres and creative spaces. In collaboration with Teaching and learning, we want to make sure that entrepreneurship is embedded within the curriculum and that there are programs for both staff and the students. We also intentionally are focused on expanding our collaborators and networks within and beyond the

quad-helix partners, meaning the government and its associated entities, communities, universities, and industries. We want to strengthen our relationship with our industry partners to have mutually beneficial partnerships, inside and outside the University. Our entrepreneurial network is also linked to the UNESCO-UNEVOC network, and DUT is one of the UNEVOC Centers in Africa.

Our roadmap to 2030 is embedded with ENVISION 2030 with a focus centered around innovation and entrepreneurship. We have strategically signed agreements with external partners. Some of our agreements ensure that we bring in entrepreneurial and innovative programs that are accredited not only in DUT but also in other institutions of higher learning both locally and internationally. Our investments from 2018 to-date include the following: infrastructure development, equipment for the Internet of Things (IoT), 3D Printing (as part of the Luban Workshop), the Innovation Hub, Agri-Hub and Entrepreneurship Centre in the Midlands, the mechanical engineering workshop (Maker Space sponsored by SEDA within the Durban Campuses), and many others.

We want to encourage our people to think outside the “normal

constraints and borders” as well as encourage our students to take advantage of the entrepreneurial opportunities, support, and leaning provided by the University to at least establish and advance their entrepreneurial journey.

The University will continue to provide platforms for students to engage within the country and outside the borders, allowing global and cultural exposure, making them aware of both the sustainable development goals, the national and regional development plans. Ensuring that they are thinking about their contribution so they can contextualize that within their environment to make a more significant impact beyond KZN, we further encourage our people to Think Big – Think Global!

I would like to acknowledge all staff and students for their contributions and continuing to push our work beyond our borders!

Best wishes for 2021 and Beyond!

MESSAGE FROM THE MIDLANDS CAMPUS DIRECTOR; DR JOE MOLETE



Dr Joseph (Joe) Molete: Midlands Campus Director.

The world around us is changing, and COVID19 has accelerated that change. Students need to make sure that they continuously assess their career goals relative to the changes.

The name of the game is adaptability. This does not mean you should stop studying but rather continue asking yourself difficult questions such as “will I be able to use what I am studying by the time I graduate”? If you do not find a satisfactory answer, then you need to consult with other people and attend seminars to find the solutions. Do not just sit quietly and hope that answers will come to you. To be on the safe side, you need to expose yourself to entrepreneurship to study things that are in line with your passions with the hope that you can be able to generate income on your own.

Business as usual has become business as unusual. Entrepreneurs need to assess their business models and slowly adapt to new business models. The models that were able to generate income in the past will probably not be winning models of the future. Most of the people who are in the events management space are currently struggling to find clients, and their businesses are suffering as most of their clients have adapted to new business models, and they now host events using online platforms such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and Google meet.

During the downtime, one of the best things to do is do a lot of reflection on personal life. It is during this time, searching that one can nurture a skill that was neglected for a very long time. Unfortunately, part of that

nurturing requires learning. One needs to be patient and learn. The economy will finally pick up again, and it should find you equipped with new skills and new business models to be able to thrive again.

Students should be curious and expose themselves to all kinds of information at their disposal, such as entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship will expose them to various business tools that will enable them to package their ideas, raise funding, package their products or service to be sellable in the market. Those are some of the skills that will serve them for a very long time. Working on an entrepreneurial project will also assist students in establishing relationships with people who share the same passion as them and who might just be a business partner. It is a great avenue to make strong bonds and learn how to work in teams.

Business as usual has become business as unusual.

MS NONTOKOZO NGCOBO: MIDLANDS ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTRE MANAGER

2020 IN A NUTSHELL

WITH THE CENTRE MANAGER

Beginning of 2020

The year 2020 began with excitement and promises of endless possibilities. Our Vice-Chancellor, Prof Thandwa Mthembu, and team introduced a new roadmap to the University. This strategic map requires us as an institution to be more innovative, entrepreneurial, engaging, and adaptive to changes in the world. ENVISION 2030 was introduced when the institution needed to transcend the challenges of a highly competitive and ever-changing global environment.

Covid-19Virus

However, our excitement was short-lived as the world became overwhelmed by a deadly pandemic, to a depth that's never been experienced before. The unveiling of the institution's new roadmap felt like a prophecy meant to prepare the DUT people and the world for the worse as the pandemic threatened to halt every economic activity and productivity across the globe. The effects of the Covid-19 virus led to countries enforcing stringent Lockdown regimes. Businesses were

closed down, and only essential services were allowed to operate; remote working became the buzz word for keeping critical operations afloat. We lost our loved ones, and the world became even scarier. Our students in business panicked, seeing the pandemic crushing the big companies. Being in the creative space required adapting with speed, dynamic, and relevant in our interventions for this particular crisis. Our intervention had to incorporate emotional support to broaden our client's holistic experience with our interaction.

Centre operations during Lockdown

This period challenged all institutions, entrepreneurs, and communities to become more innovative, creative and to find new ways of navigating the business or work environment to stay afloat. The capacity to adapt and innovate became the yardstick to test every business and institution's survival strength. The Centre was also not spared from pursuing new, sustainable, and innovative solutions



for navigating the impact of the Covid19 virus and consequent Lockdown. As such, the Centre, with the help of the office of the DVC: RIE Prof Sibuy Moyo, moved quickly to create an enabling learning environment for both our studentpreneurs and team. We embraced remote working by also taking training programs, mentorship, and support to a 24-hour online platform to help entrepreneurs navigate the Lockdown challenges and adapt to what became known as the new normal. We further assisted our students in learning to transact digitally quickly.

What we achieved this year

It is essential to mention that regardless of the challenges, our students have done well for themselves and have also managed to

attain outstanding achievements and accolades this year. One of our studentpreneurs, Nkanyiso Dlamini, founder of Ruth Concepts and Interior Design, received a Moses Kotane Innovation Award. These awards aim to recognize and celebrate South African individuals, organizations in KwaZulu-Natal with highly innovative products and services that address specific social and economic challenges. A number of our business students continued to thrive and kept their heads above the waters; as a result, their business cash-flow showed significant growth and stability. We had companies that were established during the crisis to respond specifically to the challenges caused by the pandemic, where we saw the creativity and adaptivity of our students. As the leader of the Centre, together with my team, we're

encouraged to keep on keeping on with our 24-hour support to our students and being dynamic in our program design. It was also a great honor and humbling moment for me to be recognized by the DUT community as one of the DUT Woman of Impact for 2020. Lastly, our DUT Enactus team did us proud once again; the team was named the first runner-up in the 2020 Enactus National Championship after participating in the first Enactus South Africa Virtual competition. This was a proud moment considering the circumstances of the pandemic.

Community Engagement

The strategic objectives of the ENVISION 2030 highlight that we are to be an engaging university to our direct communities to improve our people's lives and livelihood, leverage

How Entrepreneurs survived Lockdown

During this time, we also became appreciative of our team's efforts and dedication in preparing our entrepreneurs to face every kind of storm that they might encounter in their journey. One of the most outstanding achievements has been to see our student's entrepreneurial capabilities come to the forefront and witness how they circumnavigated these difficult times.

Seeing the fruits of the positive impact and contributions that the Centre has invested towards ensuring that the studentpreneurs succeed also makes us proud. As an Entrepreneurship Centre, we've learned never to stop investing, planting, and evolving because no one knows when the rainy day will come, which will result in a rich harvest. 2020 has taught us that we are stewards of knowledge, forever sharing and gaining skills and new information. If we

are objective in our thinking, we will forever convert our shortcomings, failures, and misfortunes into lessons that will help us develop new systems that will aid in developing better risk management plans.

Despite the challenges, The Midlands Entrepreneurship Centre & Student Desk continued to use adaptable and scientifically-based models to entrepreneurially impact our students and uplift communities by providing practical, industry-specific, and tailor-made entrepreneurial support. Our business is to produce confident, knowledgeable, thriving, innovative, adaptive, problem-solving business leaders and entrepreneurs. Our entrepreneurs are well capacitated to tackle socio-economic scales by creating scalable and sustainable businesses and livelihoods that dictate trends in local, national, and global environments

new knowledge and solutions for societal impact. The Centre has a fully established community engagement office as one of its wings with a few initiatives such as 'adopt a school' where we provide entrepreneurship programs to learners and have a Train-a-trainer for the teachers. The Clean-up Campaign, One home One Garden. Also, through teaching innovation and entrepreneurship to its local community by offering them various entrepreneurial support. We thrive in productively participating in the development of our region, country, and the world.

We have also strengthened our collaboration with the local Tvet Colleges through the entrepreneurial and skills programs, which participated in the 2020 UNESCO-UNEVOC Virtual World Skills Day.

The skills celebration was such a success with its focus on producing resilient, skilled youth.

Relationships Built

Moreover, we managed to attract many valuable stakeholders and partners, established beneficial relationships, and signed a few Memorandums of Understanding (MOU).

Challenges going forward

In addition to this, internal collaborations with various academic and support departments are critical. We continue to discover more and more gaps in the entrepreneurial space; this includes paying attention to an entrepreneur's psychological well-being. We all know business is not easy and requires certain aspects of the person running the company

to be well holistically developed; this includes emotional intelligence, resilience, etc. We are also ought to develop evidence-based research and create systems that would effectively deal with such matters, emphasizing exploring how we can best assist students. This plan will require collaborative planning from all parties involved in the University, the Entrepreneurship Centres, the Government, and the Private Sector.

The Center plans to develop advanced programs and produce adaptable student-preneurs and sustainable business that tackles ongoing societal issues while contributing productively to the economy's growth and being globally recognized.

Special Thanks



I would like to pass my special thanks to the DUT Management for believing in us in collaboration with faculties and other support departments to transform the University into being entrepreneurial, the office of the DVC: RIE for all the support and guidance it has continuously provided.

To all our partners, both internally and externally for their support to our endeavours, the DUT entrepreneurial entities for continuous engagement in perfecting our craft in the creation and advancing of entrepreneurial knowledge and last but not least, my Midlands Entrepreneurship Centre team for your hard work, integrity, and excellence in your service to the people of DUT.

Siyabonga.

IN CONVERSATION WITH MS ALLEGRO DIKWANYANE

"People will discourage you along the way, some may even laugh at your dreams and tell you that they're too big and impossible to achieve but keep believing in yourself and working hard."

The DUT IGNITE had an in-depth conversation with media mogul, entrepreneur, philanthropist: Allegro Dinkwanyane, the founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Orgella Group, which currently has nine entities, including Orgella Media, Orgella Communications, Orgella Events, and more. In 2017, at age 27, Allegro was listed on the prestigious Forbes Africa "30 under 30", cementing her as a young force to be reckoned in the business world. To date, she is hailed as one of the youngest owners of a 100% black-owned media company in South Africa. In our virtual sit down with her, she noted that it is her potential that drives her and this insight is a testament that the identification

and amplification of potential, whether big or small, is enough to create a business mogul. She further takes us through her inspirations, drives and on how she has mastered balance in managing between over nine entities, family and social life.

Q. What inspired you to start your business?

A. My mother Meriam Dinkwanyane inspired me to become an entrepreneur, though she is an educator by profession today; when things were tough and money was tight she didn't sit back and do nothing. She made things that she could sell like clothing and beaded jewellery; she sold food and snacks by the side of the road, and she then opened her

tuck shop and later a supermarket. I loved helping her sell stuff and cash up at the end of the day. I was barely a teenager then but I knew that I wanted to be an entrepreneur, to be as independent as my mother and to help those around me by creating job opportunities.

Q. As a young black woman in entrepreneurship, what are some of the challenges you have encountered in your entrepreneurial journey and how did you overcome them?



A. Well, I have had my fair share of naysayers. When I started my first business I was 21 and in my final year of studies completing my BA Journalism Degree at the University of Johannesburg. I thought I needed funding to start the business so I went around submitting proposals and everyone I met with told me I was "too young" and "inexperienced" to run my own media company. It was disappointing but I didn't let that stop me. I self-funded Orgella Media which later became Orgella Group with 9 entities.

People will discourage you along the way, some may even laugh at your dreams and tell you that they're too big and impossible to achieve but keep believing in yourself and working hard. (pull quote)

Q. With almost 10 years of experience in business, what are the most important lessons you have learnt?

A. As an entrepreneur, you need to have a clear vision of what it is you are trying to build and achieve from the very start. This will make it a little easier for you to build a solid foundation from which you can grow.

1. *Teamwork makes the dream work!* No man is an island and if you want to go far in life, you will need a great team that shares the same vision as you and is willing to actively play their part towards the ultimate goal.

2. *Network! Network! Network!* – Learn how to work a room.

Get your confidence up and introduce yourself and make sure to follow up on the connections you have made by sending an email and asking for an introduction meeting etc. I've sealed some great deals at events.

3. *Know the difference between revenue and profit* and whatever you do, do not spend your revenue, invest it back into the business.

Q. How do you balance your social life and business?



A. I do not have much of social life. I am a very private person and I love spending time at home with my family and sometimes with my small circle of friends and when I do go out, I make the most of it. When I am not being an adventurous traveller, I am home spending lots of time with my son, reading and writing books.

Q. Your business has nine entities, how did you do it?

A. I launched a new entity almost every year when I was confident that the one I launched before was stable and making a profit. I also have a great team which makes it a little easier to manage all the businesses.

Q. What drives you?

A. My potential drives me. I believe that we all have the potential to be great, God has blessed us with the ability to achieve even our wildest dreams and the more time I have on earth, the more I want to achieve because I know I am destined for greatness. I also do not want to let myself and the people who believe in me down. My son Elohim is my greatest achievement and biggest cheerleader, he is part of this legacy that I'm creating.



ALUMNI INSPIRED:

**NOTHANDO TEMBE,
FOUNDER OF
NT COMMUNICATIONS**

DUT ALUMNI STRIVES IN THE DIGITAL SPACE

Durban University of Technology (DUT) alumni Nothando Tembe founder of NT Communications, a company that specializes in strategy, brand building and digital marketing is the epitome of success.

As a Public Relations graduate, Nothando ventured into the digital space when she saw the power the digital world has. With over 7 years experience working in PR, Marketing & Brand Building, Nothando has worked with several SMEs to not only guide their businesses from its early stages but to instil digital knowledge on how to reach their potential clients online.

NT Communications is a digital marketing agency that has a strong focus on design, content creation and social media management for small to medium-sized businesses. They assist businesses in branding themselves, creating digital strategies, creating content and managing their social media platforms with the focus on growing their businesses.

Nothando leads a small team at her Durban office, where they not only help SMEs to successfully brand their businesses, but also works with a global brand, Johnson & Johnson, by creating digital content for their projects. Through her brand, Nothando continues to educate and empower small



"It is important for businesses to be clued up about changes, technology and challenges within their industries."

business owners about the digital space, but also to instil entrepreneurial principles that will drive commitment and growth for their brands.

The young driven entrepreneur started her business in 2017 and is passionate about making a difference and driving change, which is the reason why she decided to venture into entrepreneurship. "I realised that my passion would require going into business where I can be able to interact with different people daily who needed help to take their businesses to the next level", said Tembe. Growing up with her grandmother who used to work full time and also ran a tuckshop, she was inspired to one

day have her own business; she also mentioned that as a mother she wanted more for her child.

Tembe started her business after resigning from a long term employment; after many unsuccessful job applications she decided to use her qualification and her unemployment insurance fund to start her digital agency. In her journey in entrepreneurship, Tembe has learnt that patience and hard work can take you far in life, she emphasized that business is not a get rich quick scheme, people have to be consistent.

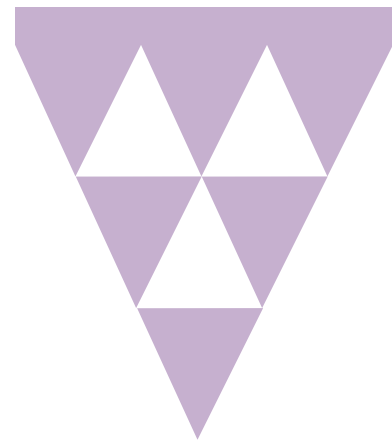
The young entrepreneur's biggest inspiration is her parents, her son and her wish to make her family proud, "I grew up seeing my family work hard to raise us with the little that they had. They have shown me that anything is possible, which makes me want to work twice as hard to give my own family that and more." Tembe added. She continued to say her customers are the people that drive her to excel, explaining that they do not only trust her with their businesses but they also refer others to her and that has grown and strengthened her business. Tembe says as a black woman in entrepreneurship, it is hard to be trusted as people question your expertise and knowledge but also

highlighted that she works well with small businesses and other women in business.

Though balancing life and work can be a difficult task at times, Tembe ensures that she spends quality time with her family. "When I'm focusing on work I make sure I don't get distracted. When I don't have deadlines I make sure my weekends are spent with family and friends. I also prioritise a few times in the year to take a break and go on holiday", said Tembe. She says as a mother and a business woman those two things come first in her life, everything else comes second.

The entrepreneur's advice to DUT students is to be proactive and to go beyond what they are taught in the classroom. "I used to spend so much time in the lab, teaching myself how to blog, design and updating my Facebook profile. Universities offer so many extra activities and resources, immerse yourself in things that will drive you forward, always be intentional," she advised.

She concluded by saying that students should be open and adapt to change, as the business world is constantly changing. "It is important for businesses to be clued up about changes, technology and challenges within their industries."



THE MIDLANDS ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTRE & STUDENT DESK



MIDLANDS ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTRE & STUDENT DESK

The Centre, is a division of the newly approved DUT Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship under the portfolio of the DVC Research, Innovation and Engagement.

The Centre was established in 2018. We offer theoretical and technical entrepreneurial learning, business support, and activities to students based in Midlands, neighbouring communities, and local entrepreneurs. We offer a

diversified portfolio of solutions and services designed to meet the needs of our diverse, innovative students, and the neighbouring community.

These include but are not limited to: Business startup training, business mentorship, seed fund, business compliance, business exchange programs (locally and internationally), engagement platforms, and technical skills training.



The Centre has four Business Incubation phases that it uses to categorize student businesses. All students in different business incubation stages receive mentorship that assists them in growing their business and elevating to the next phase. 86 student-preneurs have received mentorship in the year 2020. The phases are best explained as follows:

- **Ideation:** It comprises students that have an idea that they would like to turn into a business.
- **Pre-Incubation:** Students that have been operating informally and need support with company registration and business compliance.
- **Incubation:** Students with operational businesses that are registered and compliant.
- **Post Incubation:** Students with operational but are no longer registered DUT students and have graduated from the Centre incubation (DUT Alumni).

Amid all the challenges that came with the year 2020, particularly the COVID 19 contagion, the Centre oozes with confidence to have achieved some of the most esteemed achievements. We were able to carry out our incubation program digitally, ensuring that our students were able to receive the entrepreneurial support they needed to be innovative and

sustain their businesses. Some of the activities included in our virtual program were mentorship, business advisory, business compliance, and motivation.

In the year 2020, the Centre has incubated 86 students and trained over 800 students in collaboration with the DUT Midlands academic departments. We have awarded 24 students with the DUT seed fund and provided mentorship to 86 students. Three of our student-preneurs received external funding from organizations like the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA). We have also been able to create 47 permanent and 12 part-time employment. 2020 was a year full of uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pestilence. However, our student-preneurs were resilient and innovative, receiving awards, endorsements and signed contracts with reputable businesses.

Our entrepreneurs have worked hard to be innovative and acquire vital skills and knowledge to adapt to the post-COVID-19 world. Nkanyiso Dlamini, the founder of Ruth Concepts and Interior Design, managed to attain a Moses Kotane innovation award as Outstanding Innovation in the manufacturing category; this achievement is proof that no circumstance is above hard work and dedication.

DUT STUDENT EXCITED TO RECEIVE MOSES KOTANE INNOVATION AWARD



Durban University Of Technology 3rd year Accounting student and entrepreneur incubated under the Centre, Nkanyiso Dlamini, was ecstatic to receive the news of his achievement in the 2020 Moses Kotane Innovation Awards.

The awards are aimed at recognising and celebrating South African individuals, organisations in Kwazulu-Natal with highly innovative products and services

that address specific social and or economic challenges.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagement (RIE), Professor Sibusiso Moyo was excited to know that students are still being innovative regardless of the challenges that we are facing and also congratulated Dlamini. "It is encouraging to know that students are still being innovative despite everything that is happening worldwide. It is good



news for the university to know that it produces students that can adapt to current situations, including COVID19” she said.

Ruth Concept Interior Design products are made of recycled materials which is an innovative way of dealing with global warming while creating employment and leaving our environment clean and healthy.

The awards were held virtually on the 8th of June 2020 on Facebook and YouTube. Dlamini's company Ruth Concepts Interior Design was nominated under the Outstanding Innovation in manufacturing category along with ten others and came in third place.

Dlamini entered this Competition in November 2019 after seeing it on Facebook and hearing about it from the Centre. He highlighted that he saw these awards as an

opportunity for him to showcase his innovative products. He went on to say it was a cheerful experience and he felt honoured and humbled to have been part of this exciting competition.

Dlamini explained that this award meant a lot for his company as it shows that his business is growing and improving, moreover this award will open great opportunities for the company. Dlamini encouraged young entrepreneurs to grab every opportunity with both hands. “Don't wait until you have all the answers, whatever that you want to do, do it now. One of the things I preach a lot about is getting started early” he said.

For more info:

<https://www.dut.ac.za/dut-student-excited-to-receive-moses-kotane-innovation-award/>



Students who are interested in being part of the Centre can apply at the beginning of the year. Application links are shared on all our social media platforms; students can also obtain hard copies from our offices at Indumiso Block 7 and Riverside Block D.

SOME OF THE BRANDS PRODUCED BY THE CENTRE



NAVIGATING THROUGH THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT POST COVID-19 WITH THE BUSINESS MENTOR: MBUSO NGCOBO



Mbuso Ngcobo: Biz Acumen Director and Senior Consultant.

There is no doubt that the world, as we know it, has been changing at a rapid pace; the COVID 19, the coronavirus, has accelerated this change. The change is even more pronounced in the business world, where businesses are not only fighting to remain relevant to the needs of their customers but are also fighting to stay afloat. A research document published by 22 ON SLOANE, which promotes itself as the largest startup campus in Africa, brought home just how bad the effects of COVID 19 have been on small businesses. Some of their key findings include the following:

- Over 55 000 SMMEs will not survive the pandemic.
- At least 42 350 people working for these SMMEs will lose their jobs.
- Another 423 500+ people working for these SMMEs are also at risk of losing their jobs.

The question is, how does a startup business navigate through these tough times? While there is no one size fits all answer to that question, there are a few things that small business owners can do to lessen the impact of the virus on their businesses, including:

- In these trying times, Cash is King. Try and not spend money unnecessarily and negotiate debt repayments where possible.
- Cut costs where you can and this unfortunately also includes evaluating your company's employee structure.
- Move online; if your business is not yet online, now is the perfect opportunity to enter the virtual world. This includes everything from your marketing initiatives to even some of your company's operations.
- Be flexible and adaptable; as the world changes, some of your products/services need tweaking. You will also need to add new product lines and cut off others.
- Move fast; in the new world, things change at such a rapid pace that if you spend too much time planning, you might find yourself behind the curve if implemented too late.
- Working remotely from the office will become a way of life in the future. Some tools that can assist you with this include:

- Zoom, Google Hangouts, Microsoft Teams, or Skype to have staff and client meetings
- Slack or Basecamp for instant messaging
- Monday.com, Asana, or Clickup for productivity and project management
- Dropbox and Google Drive for file sharing
- Remo and GoToWebinar for online events
- Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram for Online networking

Finally, it is essential that businesses don't just try to survive but remain focused on their growth strategies by remaining innovative.



ZOOMING IN TO 2020 ENGAGED UNIVERSITY

ENTREPRENEURIALLY ENGAGING

One of the strategic objectives of ENVISION 2030 highlights that the Durban University of Technology (DUT) will be an engaged university, thus improving the lives and livelihood of the people.

Student-centredness is now replaced with a broader, more inclusive focus on people-centredness; being people-centred requires that our people become engaged people. The aim is to be involved and productive global citizens that establish mutually beneficial partnerships and leverage new knowledge and societal impact solutions.

The Centre has aligned itself with Envision 2030 through community engagement initiatives such as the Clean-up Campaign, One home One

Garden, and Adopt A School campaigns. Also, through inculcating innovation and entrepreneurship to students by offering them various entrepreneurial support activities.

The Centre aspires to exude excellence, by enduring it produces entrepreneurs and business leaders who build thriving and sustainable enterprises that leave an enduring legacy in our communities. This vision is aligned to the 2030 statement of intent that posits: "Our people will be creative, innovative, entrepreneurial and adaptive to changes in the world; Our people will participate productively in the development of our region, country, and the world; Our state-of-the-art infrastructure and systems will enhance an ecosystem created to achieve this vision."

The Centre aspires to be a Centre of excellence that produces entrepreneurs and business leaders who build thriving and sustainable enterprises that leave an enduring legacy in our communities.

ZOOMING IN TO 2020
ENGAGED UNIVERSITY

ONE HOME ONE GARDEN



The One Home One Garden Project intends to pledge the university's support to its immediate community and to strengthen the relationship between the institution and its people. The project themed Sustainability and Food Security is aimed at addressing food security issues. The project also aims to alleviate the impact of Covid-19 in communities with child-headed homes, elderly people, orphans, people living with disabilities, and unemployed individuals surrounding the DUT Indumiso Campus.

We donated 150 seedlings to fifty Greater Edendale homes in partnership with the Department of Environmental Affairs, Agribusiness Development Agency (ADA), the local councillor from Umsunduzi Municipality, Rural Black Industrialist, Midlands Campus Director Dr Joseph Moleté, and agribusiness students. The Centre also wants to strengthen the relationship between the institution and its people and continue supporting these communities for the vegetable gardens' long-term Sustainability.

For more:

<https://eyethunews.co.za/63599/one-home-one-garden-project-for-duts-neighbouring-community/>



ZOOMING IN TO 2020
ENGAGED UNIVERSITY

ADOPT A SCHOOL



The Centre has adopted four local schools that reside within the neighbouring communities to expose primary and high school learners to entrepreneurship at a very young age.

The focus is on:

- Educating learners about the culture of being responsible with money and that everyone has to work in exchange for the goods and services they need or want.
- Exposing them to various innovations at a young age
- Cultivating a working habit
- Transferring necessary business skills.

Adopt A School Entrepreneurship Training

The Centre held an *Adopt a School* Entrepreneurship training for neighbouring schools on the 8th of October 2020 at DUT Indumiso Campus: Innovation Hub.

The training had 20 pupils from Izwi Lesizwe & Nansindlela Primary School and Zibukezulu & Amakholwa High School.

This was the inception of the continuous *Adopt A school* program aiming to expose learners to entrepreneurship at a very young age, focusing mainly on transferring business skills, cultivating a working habit, and educating them about financial management.

In each school, the Centre will be working with the teachers who will be entrepreneurship coordinators to implement it further. The vision is to work with more schools to implement entrepreneurship programs and help them establish their businesses.

For More:

https://sites.google.com/d/19Ah4j6bCeYES765XjBm_yBzYJlh7Gatb/p/114Rzyfi9qJPfuKr6B3ZJT3h5QRXPYSC/edit

ZOOMING IN TO 2020
ENGAGED UNIVERSITY

ARBOR WEEK CELEBRATION



We also visited four local schools: two primary schools and two high schools and donated yellowwood trees to celebrate Arbor Month.

We worked in partnership with Umngeni Water and the Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Affairs Department.

We visited Nansindlela Primary School, Izwilesizwe Primary School, Makholwa secondary School, and Zibukezulu technical school.

ZOOMING IN TO 2020
ENGAGED UNIVERSITY

DUT ENACTUS NAMED FIRST RUNNER-UP IN THE 2020 ENACTUS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



The Durban University of Technology team was recently named the first runner-up in the 2020 Enactus National Championship after participating in the first Enactus South Africa Virtual National Competition.

DUT Enactus President Mthunzi Mapatwana said: “As the first runner-up, we are excited about how we have told our story and the impact we have had in different communities. For us, this was more

than just a competition but it was a national platform to expose our creativity and showcase our project to South Africa at large” he said proudly.

Every year teams showcase their projects at the national competition and the winner is crowned to represent the country at the World Cup. “The aim of the national competition is to compete, celebrate and collaborate with each other to ensure sustainable change in our communities”.



Durban University
of Technology

**Creating Socially
Responsible Entrepreneurs**

“For us, this was more than just a competition but it was a national platform to expose our creativity and showcase our project to South Africa at large.”

A total of 16 Enactus University teams made it through to advance and participate in the Enactus South Africa National Competition this year. Under the theme, “LEAD CHANGE,” Enactus transitioned this event from a contact to a virtual competition experience.

Mapatwana said the competition was very challenging at times. “First, because of the pandemic and the team not being able to be together to realise the vision, we had to work in the most unusual way to come up with a pivoting strategy to keep the project running and ready for the competition. This was not the normal we had planned for, therefore we spent most of the time to find alternative ways to work in isolation instead of scaling our projects,” he stressed.

This year, the DUT Enactus teams' presentation was about their agricultural project (Agribusiness Unit). He said that this project addresses three social issues which are plastic pollution, food insecurities and water scarcity. This

project directly impacted over 4000 people and indirectly impacted over 20 000 people in eight different communities such as (KwaMashu, Adams, Mthaleri, Mangethe, Lambothi, Cato ridge, Kraanskop, Appelsbosche, Molweni and Mtubatuba) around KwaZulu Natal,” he said.

Mapatwana also highlighted that next on the agenda for the DUT Enactus team are four projects. The first being Agribusiness, to launch our agricultural book for primary school learners and develop an App and website to teach people about home gardening. The second project is called Finiks, to create a sustainable market for our soap project by introducing a sales agent mode.

The third project is called ICT. “Enactus DUT entered this challenge with our gaming App that addresses issues in the Educational sector. In this competition, we have made it to the top 12 universities in South Africa to be funded for the prototype of this project by MTN SA Foundation,” he said elatedly.

The fourth project is called Umlilo, aimed at recycling plastic to building materials. He indicated that the Enactus Global Office has launched a competition called I Race4Oceans.

Furthermore, DUT Enactus Chapter Program Director, Lana-Ann Brady highlighted that the scaling of the project has directly impacted 4000+ people and indirectly impacted over 20 000 people in eight different communities in the eThekweni outlying areas.

For more info:

<https://www.dut.ac.za/dut-enactus-named-first-runner-up-in-the-2020-enactus-national-champions/#:~:text=The%20Durban%20University%20of%20Technology,South%20Africa%20Virtual%20National%20Competition.>

Source: www.dut.ac.za (DUT website)

COMPANIES AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY COMMISSION:

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY TRAINING

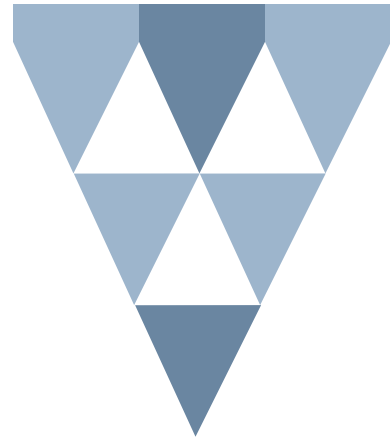


Taking into account that we have several students with new business ideas, it is important for them to know where to go for registering their entities and this is done through CIPC. However, this is not the only service CIPC provides and the only important component of new business ideas. It is just as important that they know the legalities involved in protecting their innovations, designs and written work and this is where Intellectual property rights come in.

People pay a lot of money to register their companies due to the lack of knowledge on how they can access the self-help Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) sites and register their businesses.

The Centre hosted a three (3) hour Intellectual Property training on teams for students who are looking to venture into business. The training was facilitated by Senior Education Specialist Mr Mojalefa Khoza on the 10th of September 2020.

The training aimed at providing significant knowledge on Intellectual Property products such as Patents, Trade Marks & Designs, Copyright and Company Registration and the benefits of registration to create awareness on the importance of CIPC services.



ZOOMING IN TO 2020

ACTIVITIES

WEALTH CREATION MASTERCLASS



We held our first Wealth Creation Masterclass Programme at Indumiso Campus, DUT Midlands Entrepreneurship Centre: Innovation Hub. This five-week program aimed to engage and

provide local and aspiring entrepreneurs in the Small, Medium, and Micro-enterprises (SMME) sector with innovative and practical entrepreneurial education for establishing sustainable and thriving businesses. The series of classes ran

every Thursday for five weeks. This groundbreaking program was facilitated by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ednvest: Nhlanhla Khambule.

DUT MIDLANDS ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTRE HOSTS PRESTIGIOUS GALA DINNER FOR ENTREPRENEURS



Student entrepreneurs arrived in style and glamour at the Centre's information session Gala Dinner.

The information-packed session was not only prestigious but, informational, motivational and highly inspirational. This event aimed to celebrate and encourage students as many businesses were affected by lockdown, furthermore it was to discuss issues and opportunities on how they can move on from the effects of the pandemic.

Various students shared their testimonials on the success of their businesses, Kukhanya Ndaba the founder of Dikoruhm financial

services was one of the students who shared his journey with the guests. He also shared words of gratitude to the Centre for assistance it has provided for his business in terms of compliance, mentorship and funding.

Mbali Bengu founder of K'saselihle fresh farm also shared words of encouragement with the entrepreneurs, "take the negativity and use it to fuel your greatness". Siyethemba Shezi highlighted that mentorship is vital in funding expenditure, she credited the Centre mentors for assisting her with buying decisions as well as effectively making use of her business funds.

This event was also about celebrating some of the biggest achievements in the year 2020, moreover, it was to allow students to share their experiences and useful information on how they managed to attain those accomplishments. Sphehile Zondi was one of the students who shared his success with the guest, mentioning the growth of his business, some of the contracts he has managed to attain during the national lockdown and how he achieved it all.

The event was attended by esteemed guests from various professional spaces who also shared words of wisdom with the young entrepreneurs, Zandile Khoza of the Department of Trade Industry and Competition (DTIC) encouraged students to know and understand their businesses; "If you know who you are and what you want no one will turn you down". She was supported by the DUT alumni Mandisa Jostrey from Business Doctors who commended the Centre for their hard work in teaching entrepreneurship culture, "I wish there were organisations such as the Centre in our times, these are the stories we want to hear and read about" she concluded.

For more info:

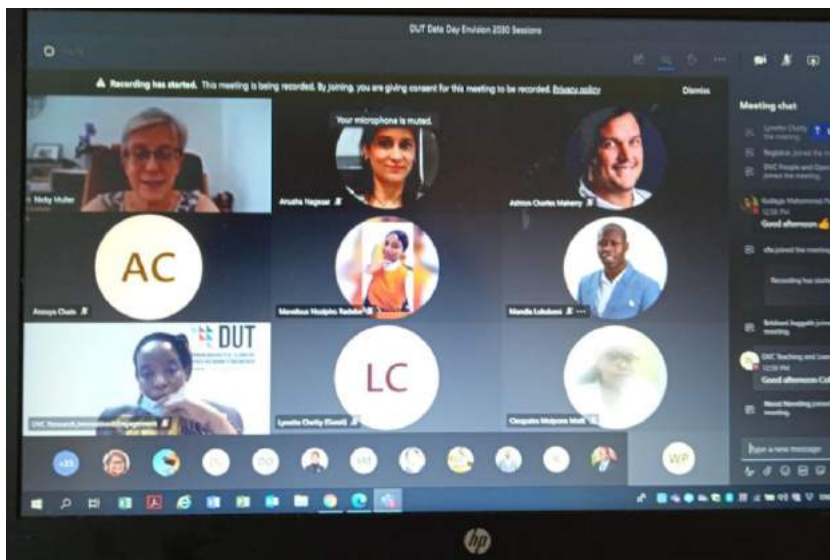
<https://www.dut.ac.za/dut-midlands-entrepreneurship-centre-hosts-prestigious-gala-dinner-for-entrepreneurs/>



ZOOMING IN TO 2020
ENGAGED UNIVERSITY
ACTIVITIES



DUT'S FIVE DAY DATA DAY A SUCCESS



The Durban University of Technology's (DUT's) five-day virtual Data Day (D3) which discussed the importance of data, data infrastructure and inspiring change-makers for a better society.

Data presentations and discussions presented were all aligned to the four perspectives of DUT's strategic plan, namely Stewardship, Systems and Processes, Sustainability and Society.

On the final day of the online event, a panel discussion was held by DUT senior executives on their evidence-

led management practices. The panel included Professor Nokuthula Sibiya: Deputy-Vice Chancellor of Teaching and Learning, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: People and Operations, Dr Isaac Machi, DUT's Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagement, Professor Sibusiso Moyo, Ms Nthanyiseni Dhumazi (Chief Financial Officer), Dr Joe Molete, (Director of the Midlands Campuses) and Dr Thiru Pillay, (Registrar).

The panellists shared their ideas and activities on data and how it can be used to inform decision-making and progress both at DUT and in

society at large. The theme of the discussion pertained around 'Using Data to Transform DUT' which was facilitated by Nicky Muller, the Director of Institutional Planning.

Questions posed to the panellists were on data compiling, data infrastructure, the purpose of data in alignment to the university's strategic plan, how data is being used to inform and improve planning, processes and policies within one's division and how each division is making data-informed decisions in the interests of overall organisational effectiveness, as well as the strategic objectives articulated in Envision 2030.

For more info:
<https://www.dut.ac.za/duts-five-day-data-day-a-success/>

Source: www.dut.ac.za (DUT website)

ZOOMING IN TO 2020 ENGAGED UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES

RESEARCH OFFICE LAUNCHES THREE NEW PROGRAMMES



The Directorate for Research and Postgraduate Support (RPS) in partnership with the Technology, Transfer and Innovation (TTI) Office under the auspices of the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation, and Engagement launched three new programmes that will be offered by the Research Office, via Microsoft Teams.

The newly introduced programmes are; DUT Social Innovation Lab (to strengthen DUT/Industry partnerships), Short Learning Program in Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Research Commercialization and Short Learning Programme focusing on Advances in Environmental Waste Management: Waste-to-Profit Project Development Strategies.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagement, Professor Sibusiso Moyo said all

these efforts are helping DUT to build an innovation ecosystem within the university and also with partners outside the university. She also said some of the graduates' attributes listed by the industry partners were: entrepreneurship, innovation, creativity and professionalism.

"This can be done through the methods that we use, either by how we design the projects. When you look at our Envision 2030, it focuses a lot on innovation and entrepreneurship. We have done a number of audits which showed us the areas we need to focus on. The first area was trying to introduce a curriculum that focuses on entrepreneurship and innovation. These programmes are aligned to Envision 2030, they are aligned very well with the perspective on Stewardship that deals with creativity. It talks about inspiring innovation and entrepreneurship around creativity," said Prof Moyo.

Dr Ferai Dziike from Research and Postgraduate Support who spoke about Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Research Commercialization course said this is a call to researchers and academics who are engaged in research work that can be interpreted into technology, into a business.

"The whole essence is to build a thriving, innovative, while we are targeting graduates in the entrepreneurial culture at DUT. The whole concept is to migrate knowledge-based research to community problem-solving research" said Dr Dziike.

For more info:
<https://www.dut.ac.za/research-office-launches-three-new-programmes/>

Source: www.dut.ac.za (DUT website)

DUT'S FLIGHT TO GREATNESS



Notions of vision, progression, growth and change were expressed by the Durban University of Technology's Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Thandwa Mthembu, during the second annual State of the University Address at Indumiso Campus.

One of the eminent themes addressed during the speech was one of Stewardship. Professor Mthembu described this quality as the collective desires, capabilities and capacities of the DUT community to advance and guard their vision.



Pictured: Seen at SOUA 2020 Indumiso Campus, Thenjiwe Mpanza from Student Services and Development- Riverside, Thembelihle Hlongwane from the Department of Ecotourism- Riverside, Professor Livingstone Makondo from Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching- Midlands, Sipiwe Bekwa from the Department of Ecotourism-Riverside and Nomfundo Zakwe from Accounting and Informatics-Riverside.

“This address is more about getting us on a flight to greatness, rather than gazing backwards and downwards where we are flying from,” said Prof Mthembu.

The Vice-Chancellor believes that acquiring this quality of Stewardship requires a true selfless value and being principle-driven custodians of equipment, facilities, infrastructure, buildings and innovations which will benefit generations to come.

“Our values and principles must be that glue that binds us together. Our institutional culture emanating from them must irradiate our values and principles,” said Prof Mthembu.

Prof Mthembu believes that the institution must hold itself to a higher standard and divulge into academic issues within the University. He brought into

question that 25% of lecturers at DUT are without a Masters' degree. Speaking to second-year Bachelor of Education student in Pietermaritzburg, Nkosivumile Msomi says that this prospective change is positive for the university. 'I am very excited about this, as it means it will be easier for us to get distinctions because we will be taught by the most qualified lecturers. They will be able to give us accurate information and show us researches that are accurate and relevant to what we are doing. This will be very positive for the university”, said Msomi.

The occasion was also as an opportunity to launch the refreshed bilingual logo, which has added an IsiZulu version of DUT's name. This translates to “Inyuvesi Yase Thekwini Yezobuchwepheshe”. This change comes in the midst of national

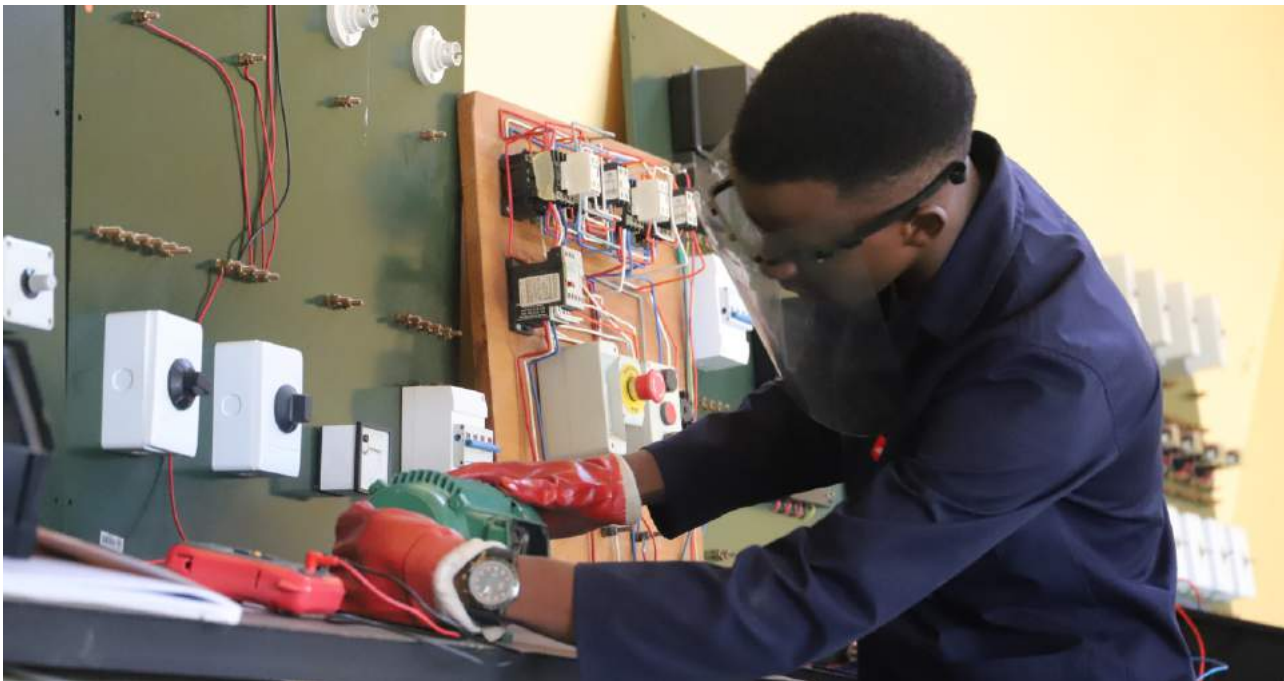
discussions regarding the decolonisation of the higher education sector in South Africa. Whilst the University acknowledges that the subject will require more than just an updated logo, they held the belief that a decolonised university in Africa should promote the primary African language of the region.

For more info:

<https://www.dut.ac.za/duts-flight-to-greatness/>

Source: www.dut.ac.za (DUT website)

DUT CELEBRATES THE 2020 WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY



The Durban University of Technology (DUT) in collaboration with five campuses of the Umngungundlovu Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College joined the entire globe in celebrating the 2020 World Youth Skills Day # (WYSD2020) under the UNESCO-UNEVOC theme “Skills for a Resilient Youth in the Era of Covid19 and Beyond” on 15 July.

The world youth skills day aims to recognize the strategic importance

of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work, and entrepreneurship and to highlight the crucial role of skilled youth in addressing current and future global challenges.

The Centre visited Umngungundlovu TVET College campuses: Northdale, Edendale and Plessislaer on the 7th-9th of July 2020 to educate and create awareness about the significance of acquiring practical and soft skills that will assist the youth in

obtaining better employment opportunities, venture into entrepreneurship and adapt to the new normal.

The Midlands Entrepreneurship Centre's, Business Development Officer and Community Engagement, Nomfundo Luthuli spoke to the students and advised them to seek opportunities that will advance their skills and use them to improve the livelihoods of both themselves and their communities.



WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY 2020

#WYSD2020



The students from Umgungundlovu TVET College were elated to be part of this insightful celebration and expressed their excitement for the opportunity to learn and be provided with knowledge that will mould them into better future leaders.

Electrical infrastructure and Construction student: Northdale Campus, Mthobisi Sosibo, said the world youth skills day is crucial for young people as it empowers them and encourages them to be more

developed in the courses they are currently doing. "I think it is imperative for young people to learn and be exposed to practical skills so they can create job opportunities for themselves," said Sosibo.

Nontokozo Ngcobo, Midlands Entrepreneurship Centre Manager, emphasized that students can turn their skills into sustainable enterprises through the Entrepreneurship Centre's business support programs. "It is

important to encourage young people to expose themselves to such opportunities to meet the new demands of changing economies, promote economic growth, and alleviate poverty," she said.

ZOOMING IN TO 2020
ENGAGED UNIVERSITY

ACTIVITIES

STUDENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK #SEW



The Student Entrepreneurship Week (SEW) is an annual national program aimed at raising awareness about entrepreneurship as a career and emphasizing the benefits of having the best of both worlds as a student and an entrepreneur.

We hosted a webinar themed Survival Skills in the Post-COVID World training facilitated by a Digital Marketing expert and DUT

alumni Shuratta Muyeni on the 3rd of August 2020. This virtual training aimed to provide students with information on how they can start online businesses, digitize their offering with the numerous technological advancements, and leverage online job opportunities.

For more:

<https://www.dut.ac.za/student-entrepreneurship-week-sew2020/>

ZOOMING IN TO 2020
ENGAGED UNIVERSITY

ACTIVITIES

GAME CHANGERS



The Centre officially launched its Game Changers program for students who are differently-abled, themed: There is an Ability in every Disability.

The purpose of the program is to expose students living with disabilities to entrepreneurship opportunities and encourage them to expose themselves to other programs that can contribute to their growth.

For More:

<https://www.dut.ac.za/dut-midlands-entrepreneurship-centre-launches-its-game-changers-programme-for-students-living-with-disabilities/>

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Design Thinking Training
- Company Profile Workshop
- Women In Leadership Training
- Business Compliance Workshop
- Elevator Pitch Competition
- Wadhvani Training
- Google Digital Skills

CONNECTING WITH BUDDING ENTREPRENEURS

NDABA IS MAKING WAVES IN THE FINANCIAL SECTOR



Kukhanya Ndaba: Founder and CEO of Dikoruhm Financial Services Provider.

"Our vision drives us; it is so big that it requires us to work hard and be consistent constantly," said the young visionary, innovative Kukhanya Ndaba, the founder of Dikoruhm Financial Services Provider.

Ndaba, fond of learning and exploring new things, is originally from Vryheid, in a small township called Mondlo. He is a 4th year Bachelor of Education student at the Durban University of Technology (DUT), specializing in mathematics and life sciences. Dikoruhm Financial Services Provider was founded in 2019 and is accredited with the National Credit Regulator (NCR) that legally permits it to provide

credit to people. The company currently operates as a micro-lender.

"Students from my residence used to borrow money from me a lot. My family has been informally running the same business for years. While I was still at home, I did not see it as a business opportunity that I could venture into. It was only when I came to DUT where I realized that I could formally start this business," he added. Ndaba raised capital for his business by selling perfumes and men's accessories such as ties, lapel pins, and pocket squares. Ndaba says to minimize the number of bad debtors; they always conduct individual affordability study and credit checks. "We have also put in

place three collection systems that systematically deduct money from the client's bank accounts and stop orders," he said.

2020 was a fantastic year for Dikoruhm Financial Service Provider; there was enormous growth. Many people needed more money to maintain their standard of living due to the COVID19 pandemic, as some lost their jobs, and some had their salaries reduced. "We continuously adjust to the industry advancements to ensure that we adapt to the new normal while preparing for the future.

The national lockdown introduced a new culture of working from home, and that culture is here to stay. Hence I believe that in a few years to come,



people will no longer go to apply for loans directly. Still, they will utilize online platforms, which is why we have an online system that allows people to apply for credits in the comfort of their homes," he continued.

During the national lockdown, Ndaba taught himself graphic design using how-to videos from YouTube. Consequently, he designed an incredibly creative logo for his company. This taught him that there is nothing that you cannot do if you are passionate and dedicated. He is grateful to his mother, students, and the Centre for their continuous support. "My mother is my support system; she is always there when I need her. Students supported me before the registration of my business

to date. The Midlands Entrepreneurship Centre played a huge role in formalizing my business through the priceless knowledge and funding that they provided me with," said Ndaba.

"In the next five years, we will be providing insurance services and investment plans. Our vision is to become a bank that specifically focuses on economically uplifting black people. Even though we are not a bank as yet, but we treat ourselves as a bank. Even my fashion etiquette represents the person I want to be in the future," excitedly said Ndaba. He emphasized that it is critical not to compromise your business over personal relationships if you want to be a successful business person. He

continued to say that it is essential to comply with the industry-relevant bodies to minimize unnecessary unforeseen circumstances and that proactiveness plays an integral role in the business's success and growth.

When addressing the question around the Fourth Industrial Revolution, he noted that "the unemployment rate is very high in South Africa, the 4th Industrial Revolution is in the picture: Artificial Intelligence. Some jobs will be created, and there will also be more jobs lost. Therefore, it is important for young people to find means of survival and create job opportunities for themselves. If you can dream it, you can achieve it". This is a testament that all emerging entrepreneurs should hold on to.

CONNECTING WITH BUDDING ENTREPRENEURS

FEMALE-PRENEUR ROCKS THE AGRICULTURAL SPACE AGAINST ALL ODDS

Life is full of uncertainty; it is therefore, significant for us to not only focus on our careers. It requires us to always be open-minded for business opportunities,” said Mbali Bengu, the founder of K'saselihle fresh Vegetables. The hardworking Bengu (28) from Umzimkhulu founded her company in 2019.

K'saselihle freshVegetables is one of the fastest-growing student-companies in the agricultural space; they specialize in growing red sugar beans, cabbages, potatoes, and green peppers. They are located in the rural area of Umzimkhulu, Mfulamhle:Esdungeni.

Bengu is currently a 4th year Bachelor of Education student at the Durban University of Technology (DUT), Indumiso Campus. The Agri-preneur, Bengu, highlighted that she developed the love and passion for agricultural farming through an opportunity that was granted to her by a local farming company. “I developed the love for farming at the age of 18 when I was working in one of the farms located near my home. It was a fun and educational experience. I observed that the farmer was making a lot of money. I then grew up having that passion of being a farmer; however, I was always



Mbali Bengu: founder of K'saselihle fresh Vegetables



wondering how I will start due to the resources required,” she said.

She was thrilled to find out that the DUT offers entrepreneurial skills to students through their entrepreneurial supporting structures. “The DUT Midlands Entrepreneurship Centre played a pivotal role in turning my business idea into reality, thus making my dream of being a farmer come true. They provided me with a variety of training, seed funding, and a mentor. They are always with me in every step of my business journey,” said Bengu.

She currently employs three permanent employees and eight part-time employees. She supplies

her produce to two local private companies and three supermarkets monthly.

“It has not been easy for me to juggle being a student, mother, wife, and businesswoman. Through God and the support that I constantly receive from my husband, who is also a businessman, I can endure. Amongst other challenges that I have encountered, the biggest one had inadequate resources to start my business. It is also difficult as a young woman to be in the agricultural space; people hardly take you seriously when you market your business,” she added.

Bengu is passionate about learning new things, coaching, and mentoring



others to become the best that they can be. Challenges also inspire her because of the feeling that one gets when overcoming the challenges. "Usuality conquers the mind" people should be mindful of their habits because that is what the mind adapts to. Normalize learning new things to grow yourself as an individual," she said.

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CONNECTING WITH BUDDING ENTREPRENEURS

STUDENT STARTS HER OWN EVENTS MANAGEMENT COMPANY



Siyethemba Shezi: Founder of Gwamanda Events

Siyethemba Shezi is one of the few young people who has started finding solutions and alternative ways to avoid being a part of the unemployment statistic by starting her own events management and décor company called Gwamanda Events. She is a final year Bachelor of Education student at the Durban University of Technology (DUT), Indumiso Campus.

Young Shezi defines herself as a resilient, passionate, and determined black woman, a go-getter, especially when it comes to achieving her dreams. "I was born into a family that did not have it all, raised by a single mother and my granny. I grew up watching them

hustle for us, my granny used to knit jerseys for me to attend crèche, and my mom sold perfume," she added.

Entrepreneurship has taught her patience as it comes with many struggles and failures, and one has to believe in their vision, "The journey has come with a lot of pressure especially when the businesses you begin with are doing well, but you are not getting any clients, or not making enough profit. You begin doubting yourself". She says she is grateful for all the mentorship and advice she received from the Centre.

Shezi says she needed a side hustle, and she decided to do the one thing she is passionate about, which is

providing décor services for intimate celebrations such as picnics, baby showers, and birthday celebrations. Gwamanda Event offers to hire tents, chairs, and tables as well. Gwamanda Events was established in 2019, and it is located in Pietermaritzburg. Shezi says what makes her business stand out is their customer service and their relationship with their customers.

Shezi has had her fair share of challenges in her entrepreneurial journey. During the inception of her business, she was struggling to get clients, and their marketing and pricing strategies were failing. As a result, they were no longer making a profit. To rectify this mistake and



overcome these challenges Shezi attended workshops at the Centre on how to market and utilize social media.

She also expressed that balancing entrepreneurship with studies was a hassle at first. Still, through the Centre's continued support, she learned strategies of balancing the two, "During the day I focus on my school work and in the evenings and during my spare time I plan and make quotations for my clients," continued Shezi.

Shezi credited her inspiration to Londiwe Zwide, owner of Andimahle Events, "I look up to her. She is also from Pietermaritzburg. She built her brand from scratch; she is innovative, Andimahle is one of the top growing event companies in South Africa," said Shezi.

She further advised all young people who wish to have their businesses start with the little they have and not waste time; Shezi wishes to see her business operate throughout KwaZulu-Natal and, in the next five

years, be amongst the top growing businesses in the province.

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CONNECTING WITH BUDDING ENTREPRENEURS

FROM A DISADVANTAGED YOUNG BOY TO A SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEUR



Mbongiseni Ngubane: Founder of Inzuzo Yokusa Enterprise

Our circumstances and backgrounds become our motivation in our pursuit of success and financial independence. That is the case in the journey of a 28-year-old Mbongiseni Ngubane, founder of Inzuzo Yokusa Enterprise, who is also a Financial Accounting final year student at the Durban University of Technology. Ngubane is from Emkhambathini, in a small village called Emvini.

Inzuzo Yokusa Enterprise provides pest control and disinfecting service and was established in 2019. Growing up in a disadvantaged home and being raised by his aunt, Ngubane wants a different life for his children and a different future

for himself. Ngubane's role model is his aunt, Sebenzile Mpungose, who has done innumerable things for him and raised him as her own even though she did not have children.

The aspiring entrepreneur says he grew up around successful entrepreneurs who inspired him to desire his own business one day. The life struggles that led him to business include losing parents and lack of funding for his studies, but after his funding application was unsuccessful, he found an alternative way to fund his studies, leading to his first business venture.

Ngubane had previously partnered on a carpentry business as he did not have the equipment to run his

own. When the Covid-19 pandemic struck the world, he saw an opportunity for innovation and started the disinfecting business with capital from his previous partnership. Ngubane wishes to expand his business to rural areas as most pest control, and disinfectant businesses are based in urban areas, "as an entrepreneur you always want to grow and expand, I want to take this business to rural areas as most homes there have pest problems as well" he said.

The aspiring entrepreneur shared words of gratitude to the Centre for their contribution in his journey, "I wouldn't be where I am without the Centre; their



entrepreneurial support, motivation, advice, and mentorship is the reason I am where I am today.” Ngubane is a student, an entrepreneur, and he is

also employed. He says he separates his time by working on his business during the day and works on his schoolwork during the night.

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CONNECTING WITH BUDDING ENTREPRENEURS

SELF-TAUGHT TAILOR INSPIRED BY HUNGER FOR SUCCESS



Andile Dladla: Founder of Lingumusa



It does not matter how difficult it is; when you want something, and you have a passion for it, you will work hard to make it a success." This is a statement made by the founder of Lingumusa, a company that specializes in designing custom-tailored dresses.

Andile Dladla is a final year Bachelor of Education student at the Durban University of Technology (DUT), Indumiso campus. She has turned her sewing passion into a successful business.

Dladla was born in Empangeni in a small village called Kwesakamthethwa. She bought her first sewing machine in

February 2019 using her pocket money; she then used YouTube to teach herself how to use the machine. In looking to advance her skills, she attained assistance from a local tailor and paid him R60 a day for sewing lessons.

She admitted that the first dress she made was a challenge, "The first dress I made took me three days to finish, but I got quicker and better with practice," she said.

With the aid of the Centre, she registered her company in 2019 and is currently operating from home. She is using digital platforms such as Facebook to aid her with marketing and connecting with her customers.

She explained that she considers her business different from other tailors. She offers quality products and services; she feels her customers are loyal to her as she always tries to go the extra mile with suggestions for designs. Furthermore, she sews dresses that are suitable for all occasions.

While her journey is relatively new in this field, she notes that she has faced quite a few challenges, especially with people not trusting her craft. "People always doubt my skills as I am very young and have no accreditation in this field," she continued. Another challenge that she battles with is customers continually changing their minds when she has already tailored the



Lingumusa's three way convertible dress

product; she says this costs her money and time.

The self-taught tailor's inspiration is her hunger for success and her passion for what she does; her biggest wish is to get a professional certification for her craft to advance her skills and possibly gain her customers' trust. She dreams of expanding her business, acquires a spacious location with all the necessary apparatus for production and distribution, and offer support services to other young upcoming tailors.

Dladla aspires to be an independent and successful entrepreneur. "My role model is Zandile Mazwi; she is an independent, hardworking, and



Lingumusa's tailor-made dresses

successful entrepreneur. That is something I also want to achieve," she said. Her determination and anticipation are that she will soon be ranked as one of the country's best fashion designers.

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CONNECTING WITH BUDDING ENTREPRENEURS

THRIVING IN THE TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS



Sphehile Zondi: Founder of ST Transport Solutions



Twenty five-year-old Sphehile Zondi is the founder of ST Transport Solutions, a company that provides transportation services to households, private companies, churches, and many other people. Zondi believes one can achieve anything they want to achieve as long as they put in the work, have the right people in the team, be consistent, and have self-confidence.

Zondi is an accounting graduate and is currently doing his Bachelor of Technology in Management. He says he chose accounting because he loved numbers and money. "I feel that accounting qualification is a basic need for everyone to have basic financial information," he said.

Zondi comes from a business-oriented family; his role model is his grandfather, who owned a tuck-shop and a successful taxi owner. He comes from a taxi business family, but his vision was always to take the family business to greater heights; therefore, he established a transport and logistics company specializing in logistics and transportation services.

He was raised by a single mother after his father's passing when he was only four years old; he says this made him realize that he has to be responsible for his family, especially his mother. This pushed him to be committed and goal-driven.

"I conceptualized my business idea

in 2016; however, procrastination was in the picture as well. So my business only started operating in 2017," continued Zondi. He is passionate about new ideas, creativity, and learning new things. One of his biggest highlights for the year 2020 was to secure a contract with the biggest companies in South Africa, Hulamini.

He is also passionate about business consultation, which he is currently doing on the side; he already has four clients who he consults continuously for free. This is very beneficial for him as he also has to research different industries. He wishes to have a group of companies that provides a variety of solutions.

"Knowing that I have a business makes me look forward to another day because every day is an opportunity for me to be one step closer towards achieving my vision."



Zondi bought his first car in 2017, and he used it to transport children to school. Since then, his business has boomed, and he now has four vehicles. "Before joining the Midlands Entrepreneurship Centre incubation program, I had only one car; currently, I own four cars with four permanent employees," he said.

"For someone in business, I would recommend that they read books a lot to get a different perspective from seasoned people in the industry. Books play an integral role in providing one with different perspectives on business; they also

aid in understanding a variety of business aspects that may include operations, human resources, public relations, and finances," he said.

The young entrepreneur shared words of appreciation to the Centre for their support. "The Centre played a big role in assisting me with formalizing my business through their training and consultations. They provided me with helpful business information. Through them, I was able to expand the pool of my networks, and I have also grown as an individual," said Zondi.

His advice to other entrepreneurs is to separate themselves from their businesses by not letting their personal life affect their business, "Anything that has affected you personally, shouldn't affect your business. Separate your finances and relationships from the business," he advised. He went on to say that to ensure the growth and success of the business; one should have the ability to unlearn and learn things.

He explains that what distinguishes him from the rest is that they are customer-oriented; they ensure that they provide a service beyond the customers' expectations. "Knowing that I have a business makes me look forward to another day because every day is an opportunity for me to be one step closer towards achieving my vision", he concluded.

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BUSINESS WISE

WITH THE MIDLANDS ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTRE'S BUSINESS ADVISORS

In this section, we receive guidance from the Centre Business Advisors on how to be business-wise as an emerging entrepreneur. Nosipho Majola unpacks a few strategies to adopt to grow your business. Sandile Shabalala shares a few tips on things to consider to ensure business growth and sustainability. Thobani Thusi gives us a few things to learn and take into account as an entrepreneur.



NOSIPHO MAJOLA: **OPERATIONS OFFICER**

I. Grow your business!!!

There are several strategies that one can adopt to grow his or her business; I will just give five examples that I feel must be at the top of every entrepreneurs' list:

- Get to know your customer so you can customize your product or service to suit their needs. Encourage your customers to give you constant feedback on your product and service.
- Give excellent customer service, go the extra mile to exceed your customers' expectations; a happy customer will bring you referrals.
- Look for new opportunities to get more work and build your customer base.
- Use social media to identify current trends and see what customers are saying about particular products and services.



- Invest in networking to build relationships and encourage your networks to give your business referrals through word of mouth.

2. Things to consider to ensure business growth and sustainability

- Create a powerful brand that is visible, vibrant, and unforgettable in the minds of your customers.
- Build partnerships and collaborations that will create long-term business relations.
- Create Customer retention strategies that will attract loyal customers into the business.
- Place emphasis on repeatable sales and retainers.
- Have a brilliant team.
- Keep analyzing and revising your business strategies to close any gaps that may occur over time and cater to changes in innovation and new technologies.

THE SIGNIFICANCE AND USE OF ONLINE PLATFORMS IN A BUSINESS FOR GROWTH PURPOSES

SANDILE SHABALALA:
BUSINESS
ADVISOR/STUDENT
LIAISON OFFICER

Online platforms are vital for any business, especially at this time and age. They can be used to communicate with stakeholders, promote services and products, and gain customer credibility that the business is legit and can deliver. It is critical to utilize reliable platforms that already have a market such as Shopify, Takealot, Amazon, and Alibaba to advertise the business's products and services. Furthermore, companies can use credit facility platforms such as Mobicred that will enable customers to buy online using credit and pay on a monthly instalment. Businesses can use online platforms such as Eventbrite to create, advertise, and sell events tickets.

When choosing social media platforms, one needs to choose those that speak directly to their market and business needs. Social media can be used to create the desired brand image to influence perceptions that customers hold about the company; it can also be used as a feedback tool through the analysis of social media engagement. Businesses should use online platforms for advertising their services such as Bark, Classified Ads groups, and Facebook Ads; this will



allow them to minimize costs while reaching a wider audience. Companies can also use online influencers to grow their brand; however, they should have a good reputation and many followers. The world is changing at a rapid pace; what was relevant before is no longer relevant today. Entrepreneurs need to unlearn and learn a few things to adapt to the new normal and prepare themselves for the future.

BUSINESS WISE

WITH THE MIDLANDS ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTRE'S BUSINESS ADVISORS



THOBANI THUSI: BUSINESS ADVISOR/ STUDENT LIAISON INTERN

Things to unlearn:

1. Unlearn: Blaming others or Complaining:

Most start-up entrepreneurs believe that someone is obligated to assist them when they venture into business; this is not the right approach. Start-up business owners hardly take full responsibility for some of their businesses' failures. They are too quick to complain about the government and other external factors. This mindset attracts many problems, and it needs to be unlearned, urgently. No one owes you anything; you are on your own. Yes, for a business to be successful, it needs a start-up capital but do not make anyone feel guilty for not funding your business.

2. Unlearn: Being busy while being ineffective:

It does not matter how much time you spend on your business; it is more about the value you put on that time. Many entrepreneurs are all over the show because they are trying to maintain working hard and being busy. It is not wrong to be busy but try to be effective and have a clear plan that will assist you in achieving the countless result.

Things to Learn:

1. Learn: Proactiveness:

In the new world, the skill to be ahead and research all the time is a commodity. In other words, one has to speed up their mind and get things done to survive the world we live in. You need to visualize your business in the next 30 years and align with the future.

2. Learn: Remind yourself that you will be successful:

A lively conversation with yourself all the time is a blueprint for success. You are the engine of your business; if you are not motivated, you will not add value to your business.

3. Learn: Sales Skills:

For all entrepreneurs, the skill of selling is essential. Sales skills are not only for salespeople. If you cannot sell your invention, you won't survive in business.

3. Learn: Digital Skills:

My recommendation to entrepreneurs, consider equipping yourselves with digital skills. Everything has moved from paperwork to the digital world. I am not saying entrepreneurs must start digital-based businesses, but the skill is vital for one to understand and adapt to the new world. There are some great online courses that you can use, such as Google Digital Skills For Africa and Udemy.

MAJOR SOCIAL ISSUES

SAY NO TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a national crisis that has been a significant concern to South Africans. According to Statistics SA GBV increased drastically, especially during the lockdown period, as many victims had no choice but to cohabitate with their abusers. Within the first three weeks of lockdown, the government's Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Command Centre alone recorded more than 120,000 victims. The call center recorded between 500 and 1000 calls per day. The Midlands Entrepreneurship Centre and Student Desk (Centre) condemned GBV and committed itself to create more awareness of this scourge. As a Centre, one of our roles is to positively impact the community by grooming entrepreneurs who respect and value women and children. The DUT IGNITE conversed with the Midlands Student Services & Development Acting Director: Mr. Sihle Mbanjwa, to gain more insight into gender-based violence (GBV).

Q. In your perspective, as a psychologist, what is gender-based violence?

A. Gender-based violence is a social ill that is perpetuated by broken

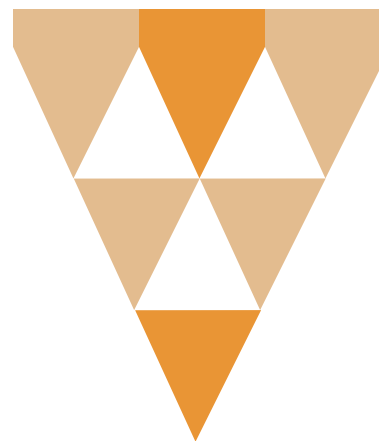
human values. Beyond the general definition of GBV, GBV stems from a place of unresolved psychological turmoil of the perpetrator leading them to commit violence on a victim based on their biological sex or gender identity.

Q. What are the courses of gender-based violence?

A. There are several social factors that may predispose men to become perpetrators of gender-based violence. Some of these social factors are not limited to poverty, fragmented cultural values and distortions, unemployment, past social injustices, substance abuse, exposure to violence, and personal trauma. These social factors further suggest that there are internalized distortions in our everyday human experience. Such experiences perpetuate the subjugation of women and, as a result, leads to toxic masculinity.

Q. What role can society play in fighting this national crisis?

A. Collaborative efforts and actions become essential and further implementation of policies aimed at addressing gender-based violence becomes critical. This can be achieved by means of becoming a



*Sihle Mbanjwa:
Midlands Student Services &
Development Acting Director*

voice for someone who feels trapped in a toxic and abusive relationship because often cases of GBV happen under our watch. Thus, GBV is not only a government issue; as a society, we need to work closely with activists, become activists ourselves, and work closely with organizations that fight against GBV issues to address and combat this pestilence.

Q. What can be your advice to Gender-Based Violence victims and perpetrators?

A. To come forward and seek help before it is too late. By coming out, you might be saving another victim or potential victim's life. Perpetrators need first to acknowledge that their actions are inflicting pain and suffering; it could be psychological, physical, and sexual and seek adaptive ways of addressing their internal conflicts that lead to exerting such trauma to their victims.

SAY NO TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Q. What steps can gender-based violence victims take to get assistance?

A. They must seek for help by telling someone close to them. Should this be difficult, especially when there are threats involved, victims are encouraged to report such matters to the police? It is of importance not to suffer in silence.

Q. We celebrated Women's month (August) with the theme "We Matter" what would be your advice in line with the theme?

A. Often Gender-Based Violence happens in intimate relationships; women need to break the silence. I believe that Gender-Based Violence is an aggravating experience where women are first emotionally victimized and later aggravates to be physical. Breaking the silence is not always easy, and in its self presents a lot of fear, but this is the first step a person can take, and it can lead someone towards getting the help and escape they need.

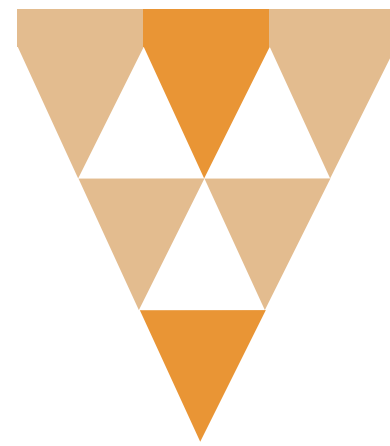
Q. How does DUT assist students and community members who are victims of Gender-Based Violence?

A. The Student Counselling and Health, in particular, has embarked on several projects aimed at sensitizing women and those who are already victims of GBV to break the silence. Over the years, it has

actively been involved in campaigns that speak to issues of GBV. As a way to curb the surge of this social ill, the Department continuously engages students and the community through the problems of GBV violence, not only in social media platforms but also through active engagements and open dialogues. Moreover, Student Counselling and Health provides services to victims by providing confidential psychological services to assist victims.

Q. How can DUT students get hold of campus counseling services?

A. The Durban University of Technology offers free and confidential counseling services through its Student Counselling and Health Centres. Students can be reassured that services are offered by qualified registered professionals who will treat each case with a high level of confidentiality and professionalism. Should students experience any form of GBV, they are advised to contact the Student Counselling and Health Services in their respective campuses at DUT.



Below are some of the Non-Governmental Organisations that victims and survivors can reach out to for help. These NGO's advocate against GBV and are safe havens for victims.

POWA

(People Opposing Women Abuse)

counselling@powa.co.za

<http://www.powa.co.za/>

011 591 6803

SMS or send please call:

+27 67 618 8467 or

+27 67 115 8905 to be contacted.

ADAPT

(Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention And Training)

<http://www.adapt.org.za/>

011 786 6608

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE COMMAND CENTRE

<http://www.gbv.org.za/>

0800 428 428

Send a please call me to

*120*7867#

SMS Help to 31531

DUT COVID-19 SOLIDARITY FUND

"COMMITTED, COMPASSIONATE"



www.dut.ac.za

The Covid-19 is still rife, especially with the second wave of infections currently being experienced in the United State of America, Europe and the United Kingdom. Therefore, our fellow South Africans, specifically the DUT Community must remain vigilant in practising social distancing, wearing their masks all the time, washing and sanitising their hands to keep themselves and their families safe from this virus.

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, DUT has established the OUT Covid-19 Solidarity Fund which intends to assist those members of the DUT Community who have been adversely affected. The fund will offer care and support as outlined here:

CARE

- Provision of care (including compassionate care) for those in hospital and medical care as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic;
- Assisting with medical costs related to the treatment of Covid-19, especially students, whose medical aid may not fully cover costs.

SUPPORT

In supporting those whose lives have been disrupted by the pandemic, the DUT Solidarity Fund will support individuals, initiatives and projects pertaining to the following:

- Devices and data to access online learning for students. Deserving first-year students, in

particular, will be prioritized given the need to get them online confidently as part of their first-year experience as they would not have had sufficient time to familiarize themselves with the OUT Learning Management System(LMS). In addition, financially constrained (non-NSFAS) students would also be prioritized as they would not have access to an allowance that they could draw on, e.g. the Advanced Diploma students;

- Provision of meal vouchers to augment the existing Food Programme.

TO DONATE:

Visit the DUT website on www.dut.ac.za and click on the DUT Solidarity Fund link or go directly to the Advancement and Alumni Relations donation page <https://www.dutalumni.com/dutcovid-19>

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact the Advancement and Alumni Relations office on 031 3 73 3018 or alumni@dut.ac.za

Source:

DUT CONNECT, Autumn 2020



DUT
DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INVUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE

**MIDLANDS
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
CENTRE &
STUDENT DESK**



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