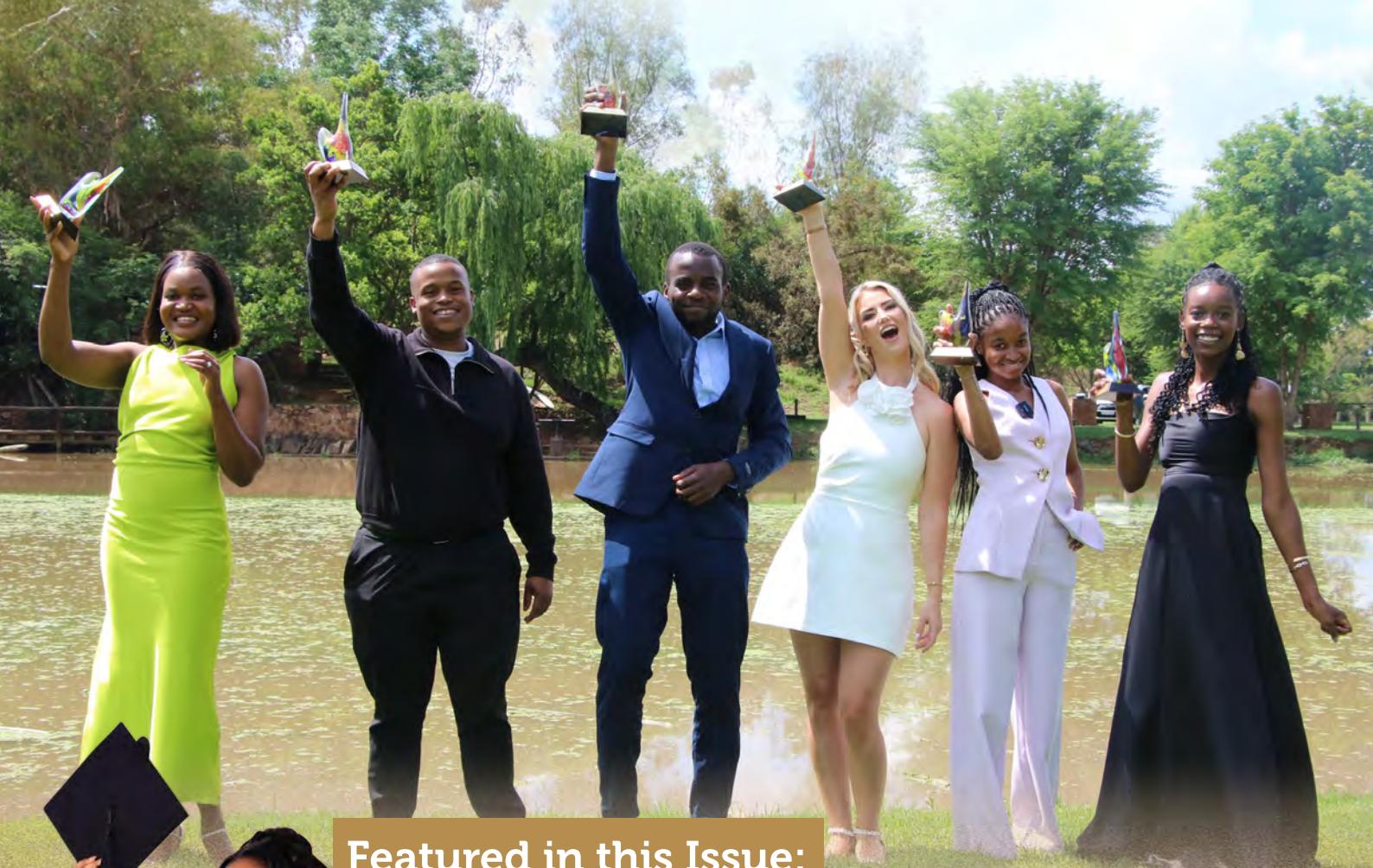


our beat

TUT Top Achievers

Prove the Bird Can Soar

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Tshwane University
of Technology
We empower people

The beat goes on...

Editor's note

Our Beat - Volume 9, Issue 4

As we reach the end of 2025, we reflect on a year filled with growth, collaboration, and meaningful impact. Thank you for your generous contributions both in cash and in-kind which have played a vital role in the university's success.

Your support has been evident throughout the year: from attending chapter launches and stakeholder engagements to participating in alumni breakfasts. We are especially grateful to those who shared their success stories, invited us to their events, and opened their doors to allow us to present our vision and strategies.

A special thank you goes to those who assisted students and alumni with internships and Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) placements, and to those who offered permanent positions. Your commitment to empowering the next generation is deeply appreciated.

We also extend our gratitude to the guests who shared their insights on **TUT FM's Ground Breaker Show (Plug-A-Graduate)** and **Tshwane FM's Alumni Talk**. Your voices have enriched our platforms and inspired many.

Looking ahead to 2026, we invite you to continue supporting Alumni Relations as we build a thriving community focused on employability, entrepreneurship, alumni giving, and in-kind support. We're excited to announce the official launch of the Alumni Fund in 2026.

Contributions to the fund will help provide essential resources to students and the university. You don't have to wait for the launch, donate now via the following link: [Alumni Fund] and stand a chance to win exciting prizes.

As we approach the festive season, please note:

- **Alumni Talk will continue airing until the end of the year.**
- **Plug-A-Graduate will go on recess in December.**

Wishing you a safe, warm, joyous, and restful festive season. May 2026 bring renewed energy and opportunities to connect and build together once again.

Let's keep the momentum going. Let the beat go on...



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Alumna Credits **Alumni Relations** and **ICT Alumni Chapter** for Career Breakthrough

By Nhlawulo Vision Chauke

Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) alumna Angelina Dyani, who recently graduated with a Diploma in Informatics, has credited the Alumni Relations Office (ARO) and the Faculty of Information and Communication Technology (FoICT) Alumni Chapter for playing a pivotal role in her academic and professional success.

Dyani shared that during her search for a Work Integrated Learning (WIL) placement in 2024, she faced significant challenges due to the limited job opportunities in South Africa.

"After completing my first semester, I needed a WIL placement to fulfil my qualification requirements. The search was stressful and discouraging because opportunities were scarce," she recalled.

Her breakthrough came after reaching out to a friend who referred her to the TUT ARO. Through the support of Keabetswe Ramantshane, Chairperson of the FoICT Alumni Chapter, and the ARO team, Dyani was placed at Rocvest, a Bryanston-based company, where she completed her WIL and gained valuable industry experience.

"Their team went above and beyond, contacting companies on my behalf and securing a placement in less than a month. I was overjoyed. Not only did they help me get in, but they also followed up to ensure I was doing well and being supported at the company. I'm incredibly grateful for their care and commitment," said Dyani.

The experience enabled her to complete her qualification on record time, and on 7 October 2025, she proudly walked the graduation stage at the TUT Soshangwe Campus a moment she describes as one of the highlights of her life.

"This milestone wouldn't have been possible without the support I received from the FoICT Alumni Chapter and Alumni Relations Office," she added.

Her story took an even more inspiring turn when Rocvest offered her permanent employment after completing her WIL.

"The individuals who helped me continue to stay in touch and track my progress, which makes me feel truly valued and supported. It's been a journey of unexpected turns, growth, and blessings and I wouldn't change a thing."

Ramantshane commended Dyani's resilience and success, noting that while the achievement is worth celebrating, more work remains to be done to ensure similar success stories for other students still seeking WIL opportunities. 



“This milestone wouldn't have been possible without the support I received from the FoICT Alumni Chapter and Alumni Relations Office”

Angelina Dyani - TUT Alumn



Chancellor's Awards celebrate TUT's magnificent seven students

By Nhlawulo Vision Chauke

Excellence took centre stage at the annual Chancellor's Awards ceremony honouring the University's top students – the Magnificent Seven – who achieved the highest academic distinctions in each of the University's seven faculties.

The ceremony, held on 8 November 2025, also marked the fifth anniversary of the Chancellor's Awards, an initiative conceptualised during the 2020/2021 Covid-19 restrictions when physical graduations were suspended. The awards – held at The Blades, north-east of Pretoria – were created to honour the University's top academic achievers alongside their families and academic leaders.

Zilke Heyns, Rose Matole, Mpho Masindi Mudau, Andile Wiseman Nkalanga, Reakantse Shila and Mpho Ndou were present to receive their accolades, while Asiphile Mabeka joined the celebrations in spirit due to prior commitments.

In her opening and welcome, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Digital Transformation Dr Emily Mabote highlighted that the awards not only recognise individual brilliance, but also underscore the collective impact of the TUT community in advancing education, research and societal development.

"The event encourages awardees to give back to the University and society through mentorship, sharing their expertise, or contributing to institutional growth, reinforcing TUT's commitment to nurturing

excellence, fostering innovation and inspiring meaningful change," she said.

TUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal Prof Tinyiko Maluleke delivered a keynote address that was as poetic as it was profound. Drawing from an age-old parable of a blind, wise woman and the fragile bird placed in her hands, he reminded the audience that the future rests with all of us.

Whether that bird symbolises education, opportunity or the aspirations carried by young people from Bethlehem to Mbuzini, Thohoyandou, Johannesburg, Pretoria and Ga-Sekororo, the message rang clear: we dare not let it die.

From this powerful metaphor, Prof Maluleke celebrated the journeys of the Magnificent Seven, whose achievements embody what becomes possible when talent, resilience and opportunity intersect. Their stories, he noted, prove that not only can the bird live it can soar.

"The event encourages awardees to give back to the University and society through mentorship, sharing their expertise, or contributing to institutional growth, reinforcing TUT's commitment to nurturing excellence, fostering innovation and inspiring meaningful change."

Dr Emily Mabote
Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Digital Transformation





TUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Tinyiko Maluleke.



Mandla Magwaza, Chief Operating Officer: ESG Sustainability Agency and a 2025 Mail & Guardian 200 Young South Africans Award Winner.



Dr Emily Mabote, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Digital Transformation.

Dr Eric Pule, Director of the Advancement and Partnerships Office, praised the award recipients for continuously raising the academic bar and inspiring the broader university community.

"As a University, we pride ourselves in having students deeply dedicated to their academic work. Let us applaud not only those who walk across the stage but also the mentors, tutors, lecturers, families, friends and neighbours who walked alongside them," he said.

Delivering the message of support, TUT alumnus Mandla Magwaza, who is the Chief Operating Officer: ESG Sustainability Agency and a 2025 Mail & Guardian 200 Young South Africans Award Winner, shared his optimism for the future, saying he saw in this cohort "a generation that will make it to the Mail & Guardian Top 200 and lead the G20. "You have carried the hopes of your families, your

communities, your mentors and yourselves, and you've delivered with excellence," he said.

Responding on behalf of the recipients, Zilke Heyns, the top achiever in the Faculty of Science, encouraged students who may be doubting themselves. "You don't need to start in a big city to have big dreams. The smallest beginnings can lead to the most extraordinary destinies. To my fellow recipients, our bird and our destinies are in our hands let's go live our purpose," said Heyns.

Closing the ceremony, Andile Wiseman Nkalanga of the Faculty of Information and Communication Technology reflected on the powerful blend of disciplines represented in the room. He emphasised the need to better harness and manage these diverse talents to drive success across all professional fields.



From left: Chancellor's Awards recipients: Reakantse Shila, Zilke Heyns, Rose Matole, Mpho Masindi Mudau, Mpho Ndou and Andile Wiseman Nkalanga.



"This milestone wouldn't have been possible without the support I received from the FoICT Alumni Chapter and Alumni Relations Office"

Angelina Dyani - TUT Alumn



From Student to Scholar:

Dr Lebogang Matholwane Mathole's Journey of Transformation

By Nhlawulo Vision Chauke

At the intersection of research, teaching, and community service stands Dr Lebogang Mathole, a scholar whose story embodies transformation.

Her journey with the institution is a story of passion, curiosity, transformation, and growth, one that began in 2008 when she first enrolled as a student and has since evolved into a career dedicated to teaching, research, and empowering others.

From the beginning, TUT became more than just a university for Dr Mathole; it was her second home. As a student, she quickly distinguished herself, not only academically but also through her leadership and sense of responsibility. She served as a class representative, tutored her peers, and by 2011, before even completing her second qualification (B-Tech), she was offered an opportunity to lecture part-time in entrepreneurship. That early recognition of her talent and impact sparked a lifelong commitment to academia.

Dr Mathole describes her diverse academic success as natural and purposeful. She was drawn to the structured, orderly environment of the university, often spending her free time in the library or secluded corners of campus, immersing herself in books. That love for learning and her ability to inspire others made her a natural fit for the lecture hall, where she has now been teaching and mentoring students for over a decade.

Her time at TUT has not only shaped her professionally but has also empowered her personally. While some may hold misconceptions about the institution, she sees herself as living proof of the strength of its brand commitment to empowering lives. "Everywhere I go, I carry TUT with me," she says, "and I am proud to represent a university that has given me so much opportunity to actualise myself."

Driven by curiosity and a desire to give back, Dr Mathole has pursued postgraduate studies, contributed to research, and authored chapters in academic books. For her, writing is not only about scholarship but also about creating pathways for others, ensuring that future students can open a book and find names that reflect their own identities and aspirations.

Earlier this year, Dr Mathole made history as the first recipient of a PhD in Economics with a specialisation in Local Economic Development (LED) at the University of Johannesburg (UJ). Her ground-breaking doctoral research explored entrepreneurial strategies to promote locally produced luxury goods, drawing on interdisciplinary insights from consumer psychology, entrepreneurship, and LED.

Her teaching experience has taken her from the vibrant, fast-paced atmosphere of Pretoria Campus to the calmer, community-centred environment of Mbombela Campus. Each space has shaped her differently, but both have reaffirmed her commitment to quality education and holistic student development. "The environment influences the kind of student we encounter," she explains, "but ultimately, both campuses offer the same quality of education that transforms lives."

Her presence at TUT Mbombela serves as a beacon for students who might doubt their potential. She reminds them that humility, service, and resilience are as important as ambition in building a meaningful career.

Though she has already achieved significant milestones, Dr Mathole believes her academic expedition is far from over. Her vision is to continue growing as a researcher, mentor, and thought leader, expanding her influence beyond the university while remaining rooted in service." she concludes with a smile of enthusiasm. ☺

"You get to decide your destiny. What is meant for you will never pass you by."



“

"It doesn't matter where you start."

Dr Lebogang Mathole

”

From Recorder to Recognition: **MODIKA.**'s childhood dream realised

By Tshifiwa Mudau and Nhlawulo Vision Chauke

Every so often, we encounter an artist whose sound feels like a conversation soulful, layered and deeply personal. **MODIKA.**, formerly known as Phonikz, is such an artist. His journey from the heart of Limpopo to international playlists has been nothing short of remarkable.

A multi-instrumentalist, producer, and creative visionary, **MODIKA.** aka Thado Modika's musical journey began at only 10 years old, based on a deep passion for house music.

Over the years, his sound has evolved, blending house with elements of neo-soul, jazz, gospel and hip-hop, creating a signature style that resonates across genres.

This passion, paired with resilience, has driven him to explore every facet of the music industry not only as a performer but also as a thinker and innovator.

Despite his early dedication to music, **MODIKA.** chose to broaden his horizons academically, enrolling for a Diploma in Visual Communication: Film and Television Production at the Tshwane University of Technology's (TUT) Faculty of Arts and Design. His decision to study outside of music was intentional.

"The idea was to expand. I had been doing music for so long. Not to say I knew everything, but I was at a place where my skill was good enough to present and I wanted to develop an additional one," he said.

During his time at TUT, **MODIKA.** remained closely connected to the music department and took full advantage of resources like the library's extensive music collection. He credits TUT for giving him lifelong friendships and professional collaboration that continue to shape his career.

"These are my best friends, working partners and lifelong connections," he added.



A multi-instrumentalist, producer, and creative visionary, **MODIKA.** real name Thado Modika.

Though seemingly unrelated to music, his studies were a strategic step, equipping him with additional skills that complement and elevate his artistry. This combination of academic insight and raw talent has become one of his greatest strengths.

A completely self-taught musician, **MODIKA.** prides himself on his instinctive and original approach to music, believing there is no single formula for creativity - what works for one artist may not work for another.

Today, he is proficient in bass, drums, piano, violin and guitar, demonstrating a level of discipline and artistic intuition rarely seen in the industry. His music is the product of passion, years of practice and relentless learning.

His efforts have not gone unnoticed. He has collaborated with some of South Africa's most celebrated artists, including Amanda Black, Samthing Soweto, Azana, and Manana, while he also counts working with Grammy-winning artist Cynthia Erivo among his proudest achievements.

Like any journey, his path has had its share of obstacles, yet he approaches every challenge with a positive mindset and an unshakable belief that "things will always happen."

More than fame, **MODIKA.** hopes to be remembered for the influence and inspiration he offers to others, just as he was inspired by those who came before him.

"That influence shaped the person I am now. I would like to keep that going for others as well."

Through passion and persistence, he has conquered his childhood dreams. A stylized portrait of MODIKA. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark shirt. He has a beard and is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a warm, golden color. Around his head are various flowers and leaves, including roses and smaller white flowers, creating a soft, ethereal effect. The overall composition is artistic and celebratory.

Abongile Dumako appointed as Channel Africa Programme Manager

By Nhlawulo Vision Chauke

Abongile Dumako, Advanced Diploma in Integrated Communication alumnus from the Tshwane University of Technology, has been appointed to one of the top positions at the South African Broadcasting Corporation's (SABC) Channel Africa.

The newly appointed Programme Manager's appointment comes as no surprise, given his 15 years of extensive experience within SABC News and Current Affairs, where he served across various regional newsrooms. Dumako later broadened his professional scope in the public sector, taking on the role of Communication and Stakeholder Management Manager at the City of Johannesburg.

Reflecting on his new role, Dumako said it is clear - the stakes are high and delivery will be key.

"There are a lot of expectations, not only from the employer but also from myself. I must ensure that the team I work with feels empowered - from pulling me aside to tell me when I do something wrong to identifying when there is room for improvement."

"I have to make sure I deliver and execute the tasks that have been entrusted to me," he said.

Recalling the moment he received the news of his appointment, Dumako described it as feeling like Christmas.

"I was excited because it meant there are things I do right that the employer recognised."

Looking ahead, Dumako aims to shift the narrative across Africa and align Channel Africa's programming with the African Union's 2030 Vision, which aims to position the continent as a leader in technological advancement.



Abongile Dumako, Advanced Diploma in Integrated Communication alumnus from TUT

"Issues like unemployment and youth development are close to my heart. I believe the path I am on is wide enough to help bridge the gap of youth unemployment in Africa - I have the tools and the support to make a difference."

Dumako holds a BA Honours Degree in Development Studies and a National Diploma in Public Relations Management from UNISA, as well as an Advanced Diploma in Integrated Communication from TUT. He is currently also pursuing a Master's Degree in Communication. 



Dr Lametse Nono Letsebe: Championing Innovation and Entrepreneurship Across Borders

By Nhlawulo Vision Chauke

In May 2025, Dr Lametse Nono Letsebe achieved a remarkable academic milestone, earning her Doctorate in Management Sciences with a specialization in Organizational Leadership from the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT). Her scholarly journey reflects not only academic excellence but also a profound commitment to bridging the worlds of academia, enterprise, and social impact.

Born and based in Botswana, Dr Letsebe's research and professional passions lie at the intersection of strategic management, entrepreneurship, and innovation. She believes in the power of higher education to shape real-world enterprise solutions and currently brings this vision to life through her work at a University of Botswana Enterprise company an initiative inspired by and rooted in her doctoral thesis recommendations.

In her current role, she is driving efforts to translate academic research into practical and sustainable business ventures, with a special emphasis on inclusive economic growth.

Dr Letsebe's academic journey at TUT was marked by diligence, vision, and strong mentorship. "It's such a blessing to complete my PhD, and I am thankful to my mentors and the support they gave me. TUT is a good institution with good supervisors. Though I'm from Botswana, they gave me all the support I needed, and I finished my PhD in less than three years," she reflects.

Her PhD experience underscored an important lesson: doctoral studies require more than intellect they demand dedication, patience,

and perseverance. "PhD is not difficult. It just needs dedication and perseverance because there are processes beyond your control, like waiting for approvals before conducting interviews. You must be patient," she advises aspiring scholars.

Her academic impact is not confined to paper. Dr Letsebe has presented at several international conferences, using global platforms to promote collaboration between government, private sector, academia, and communities particularly in the pursuit of social-impact ventures.

One of her proudest achievements has been facilitating a strategic partnership between the University of Botswana and Tshwane University of Technology, aimed at advancing knowledge and technology transfer, entrepreneurship development, innovation, and research commercialization.

Her global outlook was further enriched by her thesis defence in Spain, where she encountered potential international students with an interest in South African education. "I would like to promote TUT and ask those in Spain to sponsor their students to come here. From the experience I had, I would recommend TUT to the people of Botswana and other African countries," she says.

Beyond her institutional roles, Dr Letsebe is also a proud member of the World Women Bank, an international platform that aligns with her advocacy for inclusive entrepreneurship and financial empowerment for women. 

 **I would like to promote TUT and ask those in Spain to sponsor their students to come here. From the experience I had, I would recommend TUT to the people of Botswana and other African countries.**



Dr Tlou Cholo Legacy

Lecture Marks 100 Years of a Freedom Fighter's Enduring Lessons

By Nhlanhla Nene

The South African State Theatre was the stage for a profound evening of reflection and inspiration as leaders, scholars, alumni, and students gathered for the 4th Annual Dr Tlou Cholo Legacy Lecture and the musical performance of *The Fatherland*.

Held under the theme "Lessons of the Tlou Cholo Generation: Have They Been Betrayed?", the event marked the centenary of Dr Tlou Theophilus "TT" Cholo, a towering freedom fighter whose courage, intellect, and unwavering dedication to justice helped shape South Africa's liberation struggle.

Delivering the keynote address, Buti Manamela, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, who also serves as a member of the ANC National Executive Committee and the SACP Central Committee, reflected on Dr Cholo's enduring impact on South Africa's political and moral landscape.

He noted that Dr Cholo's generation fought not only for political freedom but for social and economic justice. "They believed in unity, discipline, and a vision of a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic society. Our duty is to ensure that the National Democratic Revolution they began is completed," said Manamela.

The Minister described Dr Cholo as "a worker, a soldier, and a teacher," whose life was a lesson in humility and service. Born in Ga-Matlala in the mid-1920s, Dr Cholo joined the African National Congress during the Defiance Campaign, co-founded the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU), and was one of the earliest members of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), serving 16 years on Robben Island. For his lifelong service, he was decorated with the Order of Luthuli in Silver and the ANC's highest honour, Isithwalandwe/Seaparankwe.

In his opening remarks, Professor Tinyiko Maluleke, Vice-Chancellor and

Principal of the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), set the tone for the evening with a moving reflection on the intersection of art, history, and memory.

He acknowledged Aubrey Sekhabi, who directed *The Fatherland* musical, alongside the cast and production team, including Siyabonga Gaza, Boitumelo Muchiwa, Malebu Kekana, Ontlametsi Masilo (Assistant Director), Princess Sechele (Producer), and Lesego Moripe (Arts and Costume Administrator).

Professor Maluleke described the musical as more than a stage performance but a living archive of memory. "It's a virtual reality on stage that transports us from Ha-Matlala via Makala to the GP hostel, to the kitchens and gardens of Germiston where Dr Cholo once worked," he said.

He lauded the production for capturing the spirit of a generation that believed in the power of service and collective struggle, reminding the audience that history is not just to be remembered, but to be relived.

Taking to the podium, Dr Gwen Ramokgopa delivered a heartfelt reflection that centred on the moral vision and selflessness of Dr Cholo's generation. "We gather today to honour a generation of selflessness the generation of Dr Cholo and his comrades who contributed immensely to the attainment of our democracy and freedom," she said.

Dr Ramokgopa noted that this generation's ideals are enshrined in the Freedom Charter and the Constitution, which call for participatory democracy and mandate us to "improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person." She reminded the audience that these founding values also charge us to "establish a society based on democratic values, social justice, and fundamental human rights."

Adding his reflections, Professor Mashupye Herbert Maserumule, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, described the Dr Tlou Cholo Legacy Lecture as an opportunity to learn what it means to be human and how to relate to each other as a nation.



Buti Manamela, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation.



Professor Tinyiko Maluleke, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Tshwane University of Technology.

Show up for yourself. You are your biggest project.

Dr Keitumetse Mashago

"Let's thank Dr Cholo and his family for giving us this moment of historical consciousness and the joy of learning from the horse's mouth," said Prof Maserumule.

"Cholo and his generation believed in the beauty of a dream for us and for future generations to live in a society free of racial and gender discrimination. They embraced this vision on our behalf."

Speaking on behalf of the TUT's Faculty of Humanities Alumni Chapter, Chairperson Khoisan Sonti echoed the Minister's message, urging alumni and youth to uphold the values that Dr Cholo's life exemplified.

"Education without justice is incomplete, and freedom without purpose is hollow," Sonti remarked. "As beneficiaries of the sacrifices made by the Tlou Cholo generation, we must ask ourselves whether we have honoured their values of sacrifice, integrity, and service."

Sonti highlighted the Chapter's efforts to preserve institutional and national memory, paying tribute to alumni such as Malesela Maubane and Shalate Davhana, who have contributed to documenting Dr Cholo's legacy through thought leadership and media commentary.

He announced key initiatives, including the upcoming Hendrik Matikweni Nkuna Lecture in 2025, dedicated to student activism and leadership, and the soon-to-be-launched TUT Alumni Fund, aimed at supporting financially needy students, mentoring programmes, and alumni engagement through the Alumni Space App.

"The Faculty of Humanities is home to over 73,000 alumni a powerful network of educators, artists, journalists, activists, and public servants," Sonti said. "Our mission is to mobilise this network not for recognition, but for meaningful, lasting impact. Every alumni contribution, no matter how small, honours the sacrifices of the generation that came before us."

The event underscored the enduring relevance of Dr Tlou Cholo's teachings and the urgent need to restore the moral and revolutionary integrity of South Africa's democratic project. ☩



Khoisan Sonti, Chairperson of Faculty of Humanities Alumni Chapter.



Professor Mashupye Herbert Maserumule,
Executive Dean of the Faculty of Humanities.

Mbombela alumni

cultivate a legacy of giving
by planting the first seed to
the alumni fund



Tebogo Sehularo, the Mbombela Campus' Operations Manager

By Mpho Manyuha

University of Technology hosted the first Special Alumni and Stakeholders' engagement for Mbombela Campus to foster connection, growth and mobilise financial resources for the university. The event set the stage for pivotal moment and where alumni, professionals, and campus leadership came together on August 22, 2025.

In a gesture that was both voluntary and heartfelt, Tebogo Sehularo, the Mbombela Campus' Operations Manager, made the inaugural seed donation toward the alumni fund. His act of generosity stands as a testament to the power of alumni and staff who believe in investing back into the future of their institution.

This self-initiated contribution is more than just a seed - it is a symbol of commitment, pride, and vision. It marks the beginning of a tradition where giving is inspired, rooted in the desire to see future generations thrive.

With this first seed donation, Mbombela Campus Alumni has sown the beginnings of a culture of generosity, connection, and legacy-building. As the saying goes,

"From one seed, many futures can grow."

The alumni fund was established to assist the Alumni Relations office to accelerate its programmes across all campuses. These include fundraising for tuition fee, mentorship and alleviate students hardships. ☩

To donate,
[Click here](#)

TUT Alumnus Giving Back by Empowering Future Leaders

By Tshifhiwa Mudau

Born and raised in the Northern Cape, Thabo (Samson) Langalebalela is a proud alumnus of the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), where he studied Information Technology (Web and Applications Development) in the early 2000s. He often acknowledges TUT as the institution that shaped his vision, built his confidence, and provided the platform for his growth as a leader.

"For me, TUT was more than just a university, it was where I discovered who I am and what I am capable of and TUT gave me the tools, the discipline, and the belief that I could compete anywhere in the world," he says.

For Thabo, TUT was indeed a space of empowerment that equipped him with technical knowledge, leadership skills, and meaningful connections that continue to influence his journey. Today, his return to the university as a Board Member in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) department marks a full circle moment from being an empowered student to helping shape policies that guide the next generation of graduates.

Beyond the boardroom, Thabo continues to embody TUT's values through his work in the community. As the founder of Thaboera IT Solutions, he actively employs and mentors students, offering them opportunities to gain hands-on experience in the IT field. "When I employ a graduate, I see myself in them. I know the struggle, the uncertainty, and that is why I want to give them a real chance to grow," he explained.

Thabo has also used public platforms such as Newzroom Afrika, Tshwane Radio, and Girls in Tech talks to motivate students and young professionals, particularly women, to pursue careers in technology and leadership. "Empowerment is not just a word; it is something you practice

daily and when you lift others, you multiply success," he says.

His passion for empowerment reflects the same spirit of inclusivity, growth, and progress that defines TUT. "Do not ever doubt yourself. Take a shot with your all. Preparation is the key to success," says Thabo, who continues to uplift, motivate, and create pathways for others.

Today, Thabo stands as a proud reflection of what TUT strives to achieve and produce graduates who not only succeed in their careers but also reach back to uplift others. His journey reminds every student that success is not just about where you start, but how you use what you have been given to make a difference. ☺



Be so focused that those who are focused, focus on you.

Thabo Langalebalela



Thank You!

TUT Annual Fundraising Golf Day 2025

On behalf of the Advancement and Partnerships Office at the Tshwane University of Technology, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to every individual, partner, sponsor, and stakeholder who contributed to the success of the 2025 TUT Fundraising Golf Day held at the Woodhill Country Club, on 13 November 2025. We extend our deepest appreciation to all sponsors of the TUT Annual Fundraising Golf Day from the university and various entities. We are especially grateful to our main sponsors ABSA, Telkom, and GVK Siya Zama Construction, whose significant contributions played a vital role in the overall success of the event.

We further acknowledge the valuable support of the organisations featured in our programme and represented at the advertising holes: PPS, Yunani Fund Managers, SGN Grant Thorton, African Bank, Ashburton Investment Managers, Za-Eng Consulting, Aluwani Capital Partners, SKX Protiviti (SekelaXabiso CA Inc.), and Construction Engineers, just to mention the few. Your partnership and commitment to our cause are sincerely appreciated. Together, we continue to make a meaningful impact on the lives of our students and the future of our institution.

Your generosity, participation, and unwavering support helped us raise valuable funds that will directly impact the lives of our missing middle students. These are young people who work hard, dream boldly, and strive for a brighter future despite financial constraints. Because of your contribution, more students will receive assistance with tuition, accommodation, and essential living expenses, enabling them to continue their academic journeys with dignity and hope.

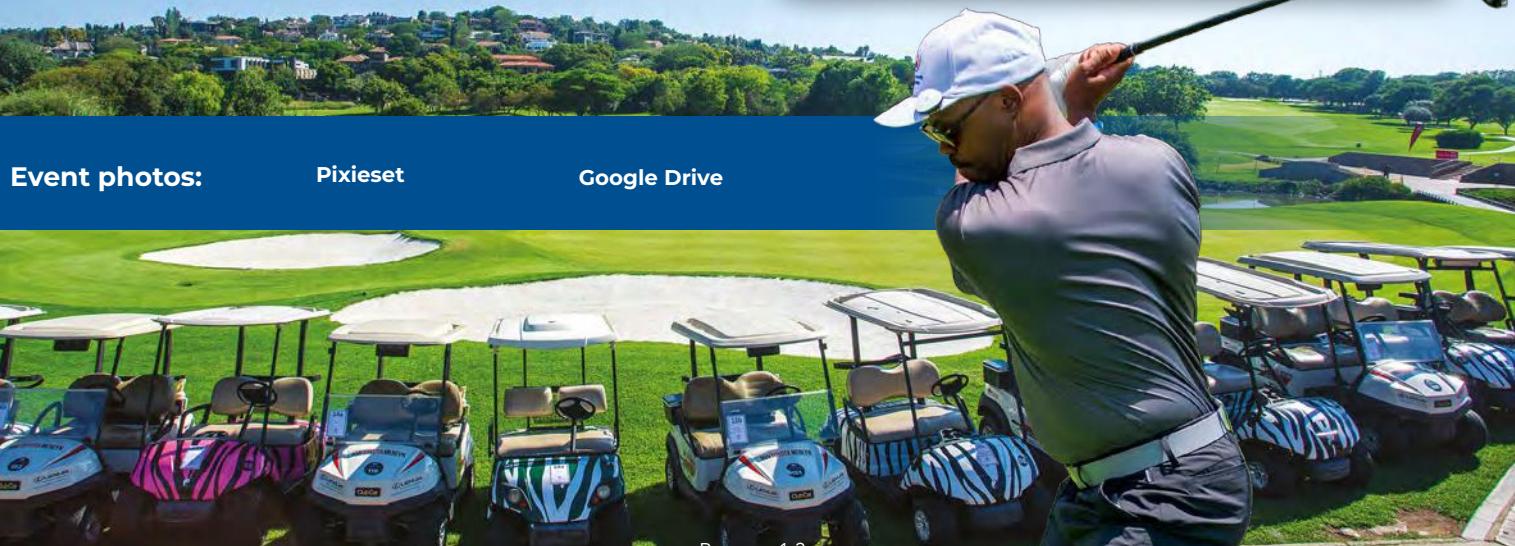
Events of this nature are only possible through the spirit of collaboration and the belief that together, we can make knowledge work. Thank you for choosing to stand with TUT, for investing in education, and for making a meaningful difference in the lives of our students.

We look forward to your continued partnership and to welcoming you again at future events as we build a legacy of opportunity, empowerment, and impact.

Thank you for making the day a resounding success.

Dr Eric Pule

Director: Advancement and Partnerships Office



Event photos:

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