

edition of our departmental newsletter, Power Digest, a vibrant window into the heartbeat of our Department of Electrical Power Engineering! Here, we celebrate not only our achievements but also the spirit of innovation, collaboration, and excellence that defines us.

t gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this exciting

generation of leaders in power and energy systems.

The past few months have been filled with remarkable activities that speak volumes about who we are. From the As you flip through these pages, I urge you to relive these energetic orientation sessions that ushered in our first year and returning students, to the glittering 2024 Staff and Student Awards honouring outstanding performance and commitment, our corridors have truly been alive with purpose. The IEEE Student Chapter Lunch sparked inspiring conversations and growing legacy of excellence. new ideas amongst budding engineers to shape the next together!

STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENT

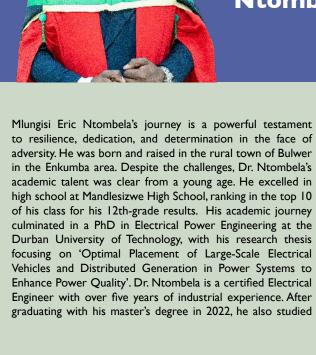
memorable moments and draw inspiration from the shared passion and dedication that drives our department forward. Let this newsletter be a reminder that each lecture, research breakthrough, award, or social gathering contributes to our Here's to many more milestones, innovations, and celebrations

Triumph Of Dedication: A

Journey Of Resilience And Academic

Excellence: Dr Mlungisi Eric

Ntombela



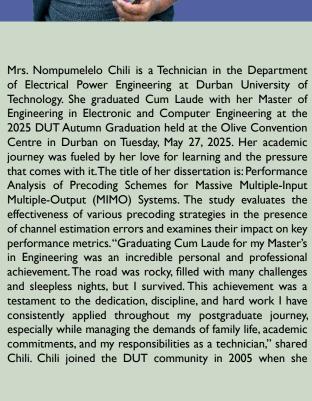
for the Government Certificate of Competency (GCC) for factories. Advising students on the same path he took, he remarked, "I wish to highlight that I obtained my PhD in merely one year, necessitating a minimum of two registrations and the submission of my thesis. I had to wait. It is achievable," he said. Looking ahead, Dr. Ntombela's short-term goal is to continue publishing journal articles, conference papers, and book chapters. His long-term goal is to further his studies by pursuing a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree. Dr. Ntombela appreciates the support of his loved ones and is grateful for the opportunities he's had as he reflects on his journey. He faces the future with humility and resolve, ready to make a lasting impact on education, industry, and society.

And Hard Work Graduating With

in engineering settings. In 2011, I furthered my studies by

pursuing a Bachelor of Technology (BTech) degree in Electrical

the foundation of trust, whether with students, colleagues, or external partners. Chili feels that integrity, respect, and



Engineering, specializing in Telecommunications. A few years later, in 2018, I returned to DUT to pursue a Master of Engineering degree in Electrical Engineering, specializing in Wireless Communications," explained Chili. During her Master's in 2023, she was appointed as a technician, where she now supports the academic team through laboratory setup, maintenance of electrical and renewable energy equipment, assisting during practicals, and ensuring health and safety compliance. Among DUT's values and principles, Chili resonates most with integrity because she believes that being honest, accountable, and ethical in all her actions forms

professionalism tend to align naturally.

From Technician To Trailblazer:

Mr. Lindelani Mkhize's Journey In

Electrical Power Engineering

work, maintains technical equipment, and assists students during practical sessions. His work covers key areas such as electrical projects, fundamental principles, and renewable energy technologies. However, his contribution to the department goes far beyond his job description. "I've always been passionate about hands-on learning and innovation," says **Empowering Future Engineers:** The Journey Of Mr Sifiso Bongani

Zikhali

Lindelani Mkhize, a Technician in the Department of Electrical

Power Engineering at Durban University of Technology (DUT),

has turned his passion for innovation and education into an

inspiring story of growth. Originally from the Dumisa area

of Umzinto in KwaZulu-Natal, Mkhize supports laboratory

Mkhize. "One of my favorite parts of the job is contributing to student projects and departmental exhibitions, especially during events like Open Week." After completing his BTech in Electrical Engineering, Mkhize felt a strong desire to expand his knowledge. While his technical experience provided practical insight, he recognized the importance of deeper theoretical understanding and analytical skills. Now registered for a master's in electrical Power Engineering, Mkhize is aiming even higher. He is especially focused on renewable energy and power systems and is passionate about conducting research that can make a real impact.

gap between theoretical education and practical industry experience. "Education is about more than just theory; it's

about preparing students to solve the complex problems they'll face in the workplace," he says. Currently at DUT, he

plays a vital role in facilitating laboratory-based teaching and learning within the Electrical Power Engineering department.

He collaborates closely with both students and lecturers to ensure that lab sessions are conducted safely, efficiently, and

effectively. "I believe my contribution lies in helping students

understand not just how things work, but why they work.

That's where true learning happens," he shares. Graduating

with an Honours degree is a moment of pride and reflection

for Sifiso. "It's more than a certificate; it's proof that dedication

and perseverance lead to success. It inspires me to keep



reaching higher levels and to use what I've learned to make a difference in the world." He added.

2025 FIRST YEAR STUDENT ORIENTATION

ELECTRICAL POWER ENGINEERING

ACCOMPLISHMENT



& IEEE

∲IEEE

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) recently hosted the pre-launch of its IEEE Student Branch, an initiative set to connect students with global networks in engineering, technology, and innovation. This exciting milestone was the result of a collaborative effort between various Engineering departments. Among the proud members of the new branch is Nompumelelo Chili, whose involvement reflects the commitment of DUT's staff to mentor and inspire future innovators. The IEEE DUT Student Branch will serve as a hub where students can share ideas, build technical skills, and engage in industry-linked opportunities. Through workshops, conferences, and outreach programs, members will have the chance to develop leadership qualities, gain hands-on experience, and contribute to real-world solutions. The branch

STAFF AWARDS

The IEEE DUT Student Branch marks the beginning of an exciting chapter for the university. Together, we will innovate, lead, and inspire. POWER

also opens the door to collaborations between students, Young

Professionals (YPs), and industry partners, ensuring exposure

This initiative is more than a student group. It is a platform

that equips DUT's emerging engineers and technologists with tools for global competitiveness. With access to IEEE's

vast resources, mentorship programs, and project funding opportunities, members will be empowered to shape their

to cutting-edge trends in engineering and technology.

academic and professional journeys.

LECTURER OF THE YEAR Gold: Dr Kabulo Loji

Bronze: Dr Mbulelo Ngongoma

RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR

Silver: Prof Kayode Akindeji

Bronze: Prof Musasa Kabeya

SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR

Gold: Mrs Regina Naidoo

Silver: Ms Musa Mbonambi Bronze: Mr Sifiso Zikhali

Gold: Prof Katleho Moloi

Silver: Prof Ojo

Several staff members were recognized for their outstanding work across various categories, including teaching innovation and student engagement. These awards reflect the dedication and passion our staff bring to the department each day, and their unwavering support in shaping the success of our students. We congratulate all our staff awardees and thank them for their continued commitment to excellence. Your efforts have made a lasting impact on our department and the broader academic community. Some of the categories and awardees were:

STUDENTS' AWARDS

As part of our ongoing commitment to fostering excellence in

teaching, research, and service, our department held a special Staff Awards Ceremony to celebrate the valuable contributions

of our academic and support staff.

We hosted the Student Awards Ceremony, where we

recognized the hard work, perseverance, and academic

excellence of our students over the past year. Several students

were acknowledged for their outstanding performance across

exceptional accomplishment that highlights his consistency and academic strength. His achievement is an inspiration to his peers and reflects the high caliber of students within the department. We extend our sincere congratulations to all the award recipients. Your achievements reflect your hard work and the

support of our academic staff. Keep striving for excellence.

the trees. It was a successful and memorable outing, and we

look forward to more moments like this in the future.

Aside from the fun and games, the event served as a reminder of the importance of teamwork in achieving our departmental goals. It was inspiring to see colleagues working together and celebrating each other's strengths. The teambuilding day concluded with a relaxed picnic lunch under

various modules. Their dedication and commitment to their studies have set a high standard and serve as a source of pride for the department. Among the awardees, Mr. Kershan Moodley stood out by receiving awards for 10 modules, a truly

TEAMBUILDING

We held our first team-building event of the year on June 27,

wonderful opportunity for staff members to step away from

their desks, enjoy the outdoors, and strengthen connections

DEPARTMENT RESEARCH

2025, at the beautiful Botanical Gardens. This was a

with colleagues in a relaxed and friendly environment.

The day kicked off with a warm welcome and was

followed by a series of engaging team games and challenges designed to promote collaboration, communication, and a bit of healthy competition.

CENTRE EVENTS

GUEST LECTURE

The Department of Electrical Power Engineering, together with the Energy Centre, recently hosted an insightful guest

lecture titled "Predictive Management of Energy Systems with

Solar Energy Forecasting." It was a great privilege to have Mr.

Mathieu David from the University of La Reunion, Reunion Island as our guest speaker. His expertise and engaging

presentation highlighted the integration of advanced forecasting

SPACE SCIENCE AND

CNS SYMPOSIUM

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technology. The symposium will cover the following areas:

Satellite Communications, CNS, Radio and Telecommunication

Engineering: Pure Navigation; Surveying and GIS Science;

Monitoring and tracking, Electronics, Electrical and Mechanical

Engineering; Physics and Chemical Sciences, Maritime, Road, Rail, and Aeronautical Science; Computer Science and ICT;

Management, Marketing, and many more. A call for abstracts

will be released soon for this symposium through various

platforms. Please be on the lookout.

techniques to enhance the performance and reliability of solar

energy systems, which is crucial for developing sustainable and

resilient power grids. The department sincerely thanked Mr.

Mathieu David for sharing his knowledge and inspiring our students, researchers, and faculty to innovate in the field of

renewable energy.

SPACE AGENCY

In collaboration with the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI), South African National Science Agency (SANSA), Air Traffic Navigation Services (ATNS), and the South African Space Technology Foundation, The Space Science & CNS Research Centre will be hosting the 4th Space Science and CNS Symposium on the 30th of October

2025 in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. This event

aims to facilitate the collaboration of researchers, various

stakeholders, professionals, and practitioners from different institutions and departments involved in space science and

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ACTING

- **CONTRIBUTORS: PICTURES BY:** I.AYANDA MHLONGO ZAMANI MATHE 2.SINETHEMBA NGCOBO **EDITOR**
- Ms Ayanda Mhlongo Ayandam20@dut.ac.za 3.NOMPUMELELO CHILI ENVISION 2030 transparency • honesty • integrity • respect • accountability fairness • professionalism • commitment • compassion • excellence
- **CREATIVE. DISTINCTIVE. IMPACTFUL.**

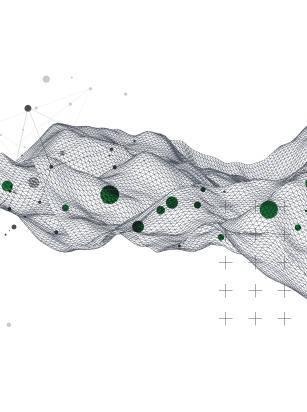
Message From WRITER: PROF. KAYODE AKINDEJI

SAUPEC

thinking in the renewable energy space. To crown it all, our departmental teambuilding event brought together staff in a relaxed atmosphere, strengthening the unity that underpins our collective success.

We were privileged to host a distinguished guest lecture on Predictive Management of Energy Systems with Solar Energy Forecasting, positioning us at the forefront of cutting-edge





A Testament To Commitment Cum Laude Master's Graduate Mrs. Nompumelelo Chili Mrs. Nompumelelo Chili is a Technician in the Department enrolled in the National Diploma in Electronic and Computer Engineering (Light Current). "The program gave me a solid foundation in electronics, digital and analog circuits, as well as technical troubleshooting. It was during this time that I developed a passion for hands-on work and problem-solving

