

Gender is no issue

– says Ramsamy

Ashmika Chottu

A pioneer in her field of chemical engineering, Nastasia Ramsamy of Woodhurst received a prestigious award for the highest academic achievement by a woman. She obtained an award for BTech Engineering in all disciplines in South Africa, as well as the Abe Bailey Travel bursary, to tour the United Kingdom(UK).

Ramsamy's climb to success began at Kharwastan Secondary where she was first introduced to the subject chemistry. Her interest in chemistry sparked the influence to her major at tertiary level.

Ramsamy enrolled at the Durban University of Technology, obtaining her National Diploma in Chemical Engineering and thereafter her Bachelor of Technology Degree in Chemical Engineering.

"Initially, I was under the impression that since I enjoyed studying chemistry in school, chemical engineering will be the closest major. However, only to realise that it is much more interesting than just being confined to a lab," said Ramsamy.

Meticulous Ramsamy, invested a lot of hard work and determination into her studies which was responsible for her outcome of achieving an award for the most outstanding performance as well. The Institute of Engineering Technologists reviewed the students' academic record and Ramsamy received the highest aggregate.

"When I was notified about my achievement I was ecstatic. It made both my parents and I proud to know that my dedication paid off. Soon after



finding out about my award, I left to represent my university along with 17 other students from various universities across South Africa at an educational and cultural tour of the United Kingdom," said Ramsamy

Ramsamy expressed that her experience in the UK has made her more aware of the culture, history and tertiary education system abroad. It also gave her the opportunity to spread the Ubuntu spirit.

A fan of the English soccer club Liverpool, Ramsamy enjoys writing poetry and watching sport. Her advice to pupils is, "Always try to keep in touch with people that are in the same field as

the qualification you intend to study. Universities also provide potential students with course books with detail information about modules. This step is essential as it will help you gain more insight as to what is expected of you."

Ramsamy added that along with the research, a positive mind-set is required. Remaining positive is the key to obtaining success in whatever one chooses to do. Ramsamy registered for her Master's degree and hopes to see herself now lecturing students in her field 10 years from now.