



STUDENT EMPLOYABILITY 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating the Transformative Impact of Honoris Alumni



HONORIS @ A GLANCE

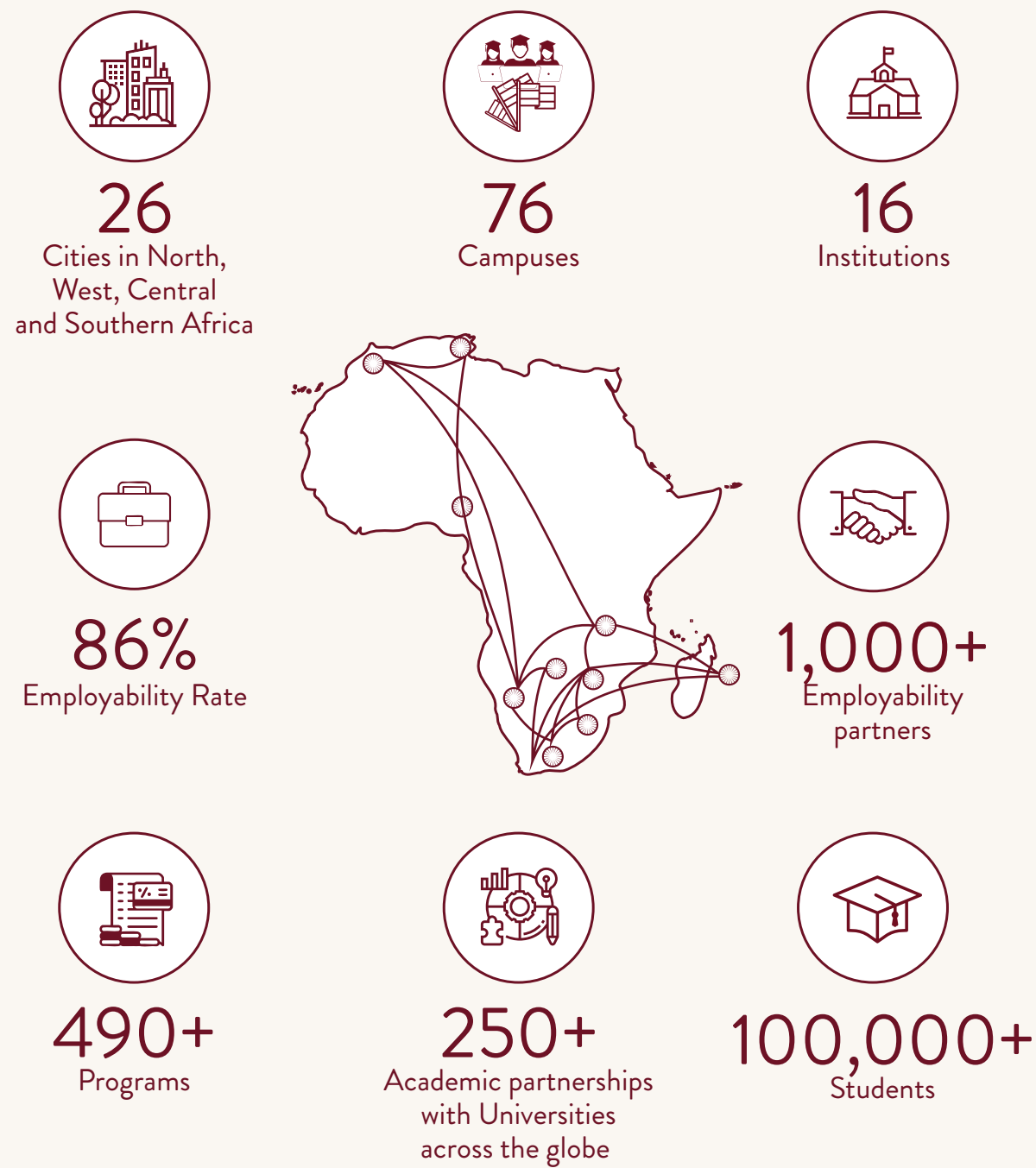


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Foreword by
Dr. Jonathan Louw
Group CEO at Honoris United Universities

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Our 2024 Student Employability Report is an appreciation for the exceptional accomplishments of our alumni. These outstanding individuals embody the transformative effect of an education at an Honoris institution. This year's report highlights the employability of our graduates but also honors the extraordinary influence of our alumni as role models, change makers, entrepreneurs and leaders who are shaping the future of their industries.

Our alumni serve as the co-creators and ambassadors for our institutions, spearheading innovation and excellence across diverse fields such as healthcare, information technology, engineering, and finance.

This year, we are delighted to spotlight the Honoris 40 Under 40, an exceptional group of young leaders who exemplify the profound impact of education at an Honoris institution. These individuals have not only excelled in their respective fields but have also become catalysts for change, leveraging their expertise to tackle some of today's most pressing challenges. From pioneering healthcare solutions to revolutionizing financial technologies, their accomplishments underscore the relevance and rigor of the education they received.

The stories of our alumni inspire current and future students, demonstrating that an education at an Honoris institution is not merely a pathway to a career but a launchpad for leadership and lifetime success. They remind us that our mission extends far beyond the classroom—it is about empowering individuals to become agents of change in their communities and industries.

To our alumni, I extend my congratulations for your success and appreciation to you for serving as ambassadors of your institutions. Your achievements inspire us to push boundaries and continue delivering education that transforms lives.

Thank you for being inspiring role models for the next generation of Honoris graduates.

”



Our Commitment to
Transparency and Excellence
Laura Kakon
Group Chief Growth and Strategy Officer
Honoris United Universities

“

In 2024, we took steps to challenge ourselves and assure several impact KPIs, initiating a rigorous process alongside Deloitte. This guarantees that students and employers can trust the accuracy and reliability of our performance metrics, reinforcing our commitment to transparency and accountability in demonstrating our impact.

This data celebrates the achievements of our graduates, whose success stories are a testament to the transformative power of an education from an Honoris Institution.

I extend my gratitude to the People of Honoris for their tireless efforts and support, and to our career center services teams and data & analytics teams for their dedication to excellence. Together, we are building a future where data-driven insights fuel growth, innovation, and positive change.

”

For employability, two key performance metrics were assured which are:

Employability Rate: 86%

- Employability rates are derived from a graduate survey conducted six months after graduation. Graduates are asked to indicate their employment status by selecting the option that best reflects their situation at the time of the survey. Employment statuses include paid or unpaid work, further education, secured employment yet to commence, or being unavailable for work due to obligations like military service. For employability rate calculations, only those classified as “Unemployed but actively seeking employment” are considered unemployed.

Value for Money: 85%

- The value for money metric is assessed through a survey question asking alumni to rate their study program's overall value for money. Only responses categorized as “Excellent” or “Somewhat value for money” are included in the global value for money rate.

The independent limited assurance review of institutional performance indicators was completed in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3000. The assurance conclusion^(*): “Based on our procedures described in this report, and evidence we have obtained, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the Selected Information for the year ended 31 August 2024, and as listed below has not been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Applicable Criteria defined by the directors as set out in the following table. We do not express any assurance with respect to information relating to other information contained in the employability report which are not explicitly cited as being the subject of the engagement.”

Deloitte.

*Independent Limited Assurance Report from Deloitte to the Directors of Honoris United Universities - April 2025.



Acknowledgments by Dr. Grace Nkansa

Senior Director of Employability and Partnerships
Honoris United Universities

“

At Honoris United Universities, we believe that employability is not just a measure of individual success but a reflection of a collective endeavor. Employers, educators, policymakers, families, and students themselves all play pivotal roles in this dynamic ecosystem. This report highlights the remarkable progress made in 2024, showcasing the tangible outcomes of our shared efforts. It is a testament to the power of collaboration and the impact of sustained investment in relevant education. As we celebrate these achievements, we also recognize the challenges that lie ahead. The rapidly evolving global landscape demands continuous adaptation and innovation. Together, we must remain steadfast in our mission to empower graduates with the skills, mindset, and networks needed to navigate an ever-changing world.

To our stakeholders, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for your ongoing support. Your dedication inspires us to strive for excellence and to continue building an employability ecosystem that transforms lives and communities. Let us move forward with renewed purpose, united in our commitment to shaping a brighter future for all.

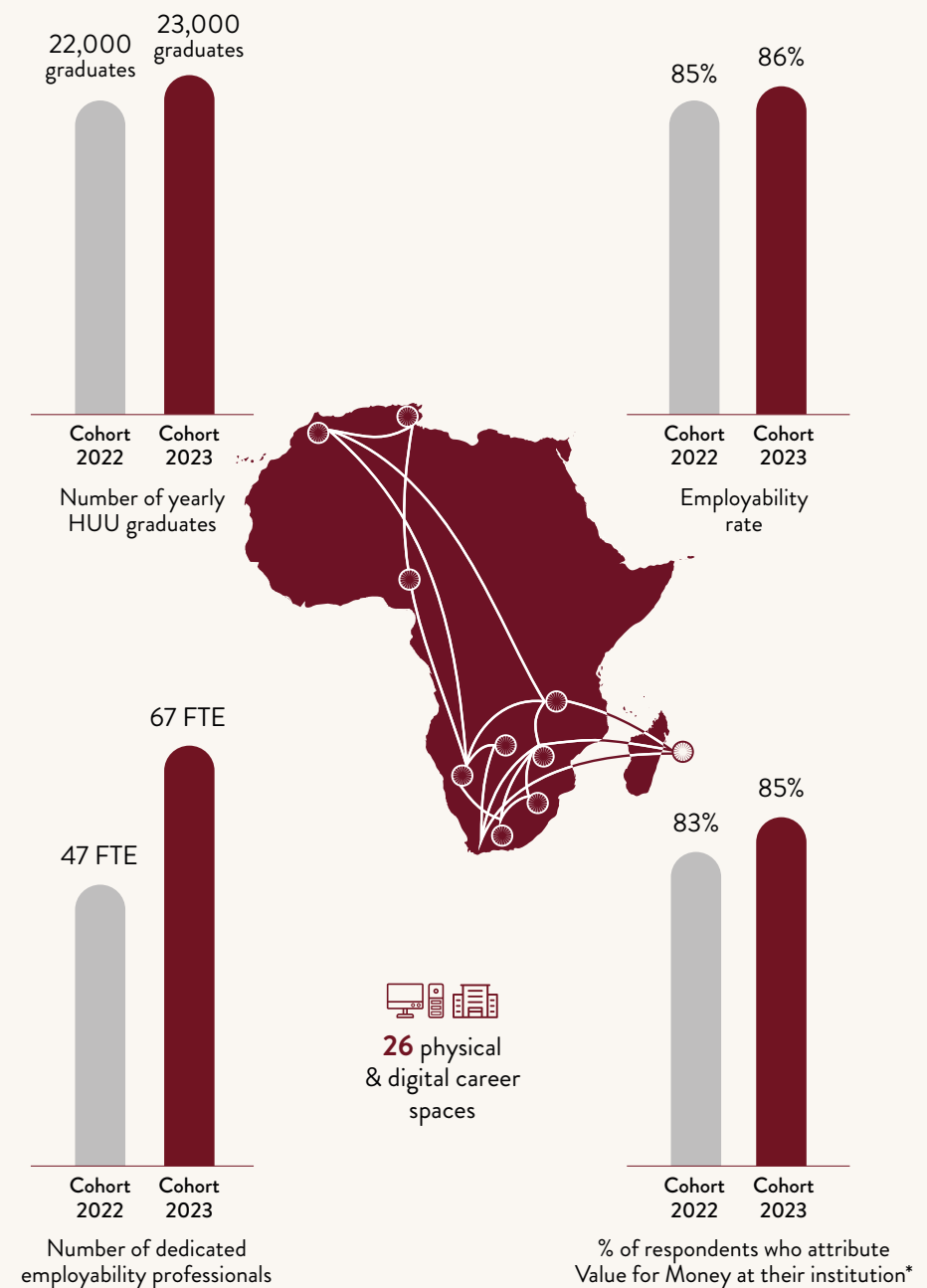
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GRADUATE EMPLOYABILITY OUTCOMES

Our 2024 Student Employability Report provides essential employability metrics: employability rates, time-to-employment, salary gains, value for money, dedicated staff numbers, and progress in closing the gender gap in job access, pay equity, and leadership roles for our 2023 graduates.

HONORIS SUCCESS FACTORS

*Source: Honoris Alumni Surveys 2022 : 3k + 2023 : 4.2k



40 UNDER 40

UNVEILING THE HONORIS 40 UNDER 40

We believe that the true measure of our success lies in the achievements of our alumni. This year, we proudly spotlight 40 exceptional individuals under the age of 40 from our network of institutions across Africa, representing not just individual success but the collective strength of the entire network. These remarkable alumni embody the spirit of innovation, leadership, and service that defines each of our institutions. Their stories are testament to the transformative power of education and a celebration of the enduring impact our institutions have on their lives and communities.



KAOUTAR CHRAIBI



FOUAD JEBROUN



MAHMOUD ZAKARIA



KARIM AMGUIR



HAJAR EL MANSOURY



HICHAM OUISSAFANE



AMINE BENCHEQROUN



DR. AISHA KABIR



KABIR ABISO KABIR



DR. RAKIYA ABUBAKAR TANKO



RIDWAN ADENIYI ABDULLATEEF



MUZI MXOLISI NDLAZI



SIFISO NKOSI



SIPHUXOLO MAZWI



SIMPHIWE ARTWELL MALAZA



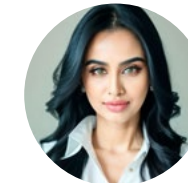
CHARLEEN JACKSON



DR. RYAN MOODLEY



DR. IGNITIUS BOTSEWE MOLEPO



SHERANIQUEUE HASSEN



BRENDAN HOFFMANN



LEXI BIRD



OUMAYMA HAOUET



OUMAIMA MAAROUFI



WASSIM DERBEL



SALAH SAMMARI



FAYCEL BEJAOU



MERIEM CHEBIL



SAFA BEN NASR



SANA AL HABIB



AMANI SLAMA



ONS LAHOUMEL



RANIA HICHRI



HAMZA HARRAZI



DR ISMAEL ADAM ESSACKJEE



LWAZI MSIPHA



ZWELIHLE NXUMALO



WIEM BEN-MAHMOUD



HAJARA ABDULFATAH



DR. ISMAILA LUKMAN



VARISH SINGH



MOROCCO

Morocco, a country known for its rich cultural heritage and dynamic economic growth, is home to three prestigious institutions within the Honoris United Universities network: EMSI (*École Marocaine des Sciences de l'Ingénieur*), Université Mundiapolis, and EAC (*École d'Architecture de Casablanca*). These institutions are dedicated to providing high-quality education and have produced alumni who excel in various fields such as engineering, business, healthcare, and architecture. Their graduates are recognized for their professionalism, innovation, and ability to drive positive change in their industries.



ÉCOLE MAROCAINE DES SCIENCES DE L'INGÉNIEUR (EMSI)

EMSI is the leading engineering school in Morocco, with 14,500 students and 18 urban campuses spread across Casablanca, Rabat, Marrakech, Tangiers, and Fez. EMSI is regularly ranked as the top private engineering school by employers, boasting four research laboratories dedicated to academic and scientific research, innovation, and invention. EMSI employs over 200 research faculty who have contributed to more than 360 publications and scientific contributions. EMSI's commitment to excellence in engineering education is reflected in its comprehensive curriculum, membership of the CDIO initiative launched at MIT, and the success of its 20,000 graduates in various engineering fields.

UNIVERSITÉ MUNDIAPOLIS DE CASABLANCA

Université Mundiapolis is the leading private multi-disciplinary university in Morocco, with 29 years of experience and over 6,000 graduates. It operates across three campuses: a residential campus and two urban campuses in Casablanca. The university offers programs in Business, Political Science & Law, Engineering, Health, and Executive Education. Committed to a "learning by doing" approach, Université Mundiapolis integrates project-based learning and fosters an entrepreneurial mindset from the first year. It also places a strong emphasis on soft skills development, ensuring that students are well-prepared for the demands of the modern workforce. Université Mundiapolis prides itself on its diverse international student community, representing 24 different nationalities, and maintains over 100 partnerships with leading employers, including Attijariwafa Bank, Segula, Orange, Capgemini, Huawei, and H&S.

ÉCOLE D'ARCHITECTURE DE CASABLANCA (EAC)

EAC is Morocco's first state-recognized private architecture school, located on a 4,000 sqm covered campus in Casablanca. The school offers four programs in Architecture, Landscape, and Urban Planning. EAC has national and international academic partnerships. EAC's students and alumni have achieved significant recognition, winning several prizes in international and national competitions such as the Pittsburgh Platform Competition 2020, International Holcim Awards, and Young Moroccan Architecture Awards. The school's emphasis on innovation and excellence in architectural education has made it a leader in the field.



ASSOCIATION DES LAURÉATS
EMSI RABAT
HONORIS UNITED UNIVERSITIES

**CÉRÉMONIE DE LANCEMENT
DE L'ASSOCIATION DES LAURÉATS
EMSI RABAT**



“Don’t be afraid of failure.
Every obstacle is an opportunity
to grow.”

**PROJECT DIRECTOR,
CGI**

Industry:
Software Engineering



Class of 2005
**Master of Science,
Engineering**

KAOUTAR CHRAÏBI

Kaoutar attended EMSI Rabat, where she pursued a degree in software development. Following her graduation, she began her professional journey at Unilog Sofrecom as a Software Development Engineer. Over the years, Kaoutar progressed through various roles, including development, support, testing, business analysis, and eventually moved into project management. The MIAGE program provided her with a dual expertise in engineering and information systems management, along with a thorough grasp of technological and strategic business challenges.

Biggest Career Achievement

One of Kaoutar’s significant professional milestones is being elected President of the EMSI Rabat alumni association. This role not only recognizes her leadership and dedication but also allows her to give back to the institution that played a crucial role in her career development.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Kaoutar believes that the biggest challenge in Africa is access to quality education for all children. Many children are deprived of this opportunity due to factors such as poverty and inadequate infrastructure. Kaoutar envisions a solution that involves significant investment in educational infrastructure.

Advice to Younger Self

If Kaoutar could offer advice to her younger self, she would say: “Don’t be afraid of failure. Every obstacle is an opportunity to grow.” She encourages young people to embrace challenges and view them as learning experiences. She believes that these qualities are essential for achieving one’s goals and making a positive impact in the world.



“Before setting
your goals,
know yourself well.”

FOUAD JEBROUN

Fouad’s journey is a testament to resilience and determination. Despite several personal setbacks, Fouad remained focused on his goals of completing his education and securing his future. Fouad’s perseverance paid off when he was accepted into Rabat’s School of Applied Technology’s Information Systems diploma program. After earning his Specialized Technician diploma, he was immediately hired by Maroc Télécom as an engineer. Fouad’s ambition drove him to continue his studies at EMSI Rabat while working, a pivotal decision that allowed him to complete his Engineering degree while acquiring critical technical skills with prominent employers based in Morocco.

Biggest Career Achievement

Fouad’s most significant career achievement is the founding of Betterways, a company specializing in training, digital tech support, consulting, and coaching. His diverse experiences with employers like Logica (now CGI), Sopra-Stéria, Cegedim, BDSI, and Capgemini enriched his expertise and solidified his entrepreneurial spirit. Betterways has become a beacon of innovation and excellence, providing top-tier coaching and mentoring to business directors and managers in Morocco. Fouad’s journey from an engineer to a successful entrepreneur exemplifies his dedication to continuous growth and learning.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Fouad believes that Africa’s most pressing issue is the need to find relevant solutions to its unique problems. He advocates for Africa to chart its own development path, leveraging local knowledge and resources. Fouad’s solution involves fostering a culture of innovation and self-reliance, encouraging young Africans to dream big and think creatively. By investing in education, technology, and entrepreneurship, he envisions a future where Africa can solve its challenges from within, leading to sustainable development and prosperity.

Advice to Younger Self

Fouad’s advice to his younger self is simple yet profound: “Dream without thinking about constraints. Listen to those who sincerely advise you, even if they repeat their advice many times.” This mindset has guided him through various challenges and successes, reminding him to remain open to learning and growth. The quote by which he lives encapsulates his philosophy: “Before setting your goals, know yourself well.”

**FOUNDER AND CEO
BETTERWAYS**

Industry:
**Corporate education
and Training**



Class of 2004
**Master of Science,
Engineering**



“Believe in your dreams, even when obstacles seem insurmountable. Every challenge is a disguised opportunity to learn and grow.”

**DIRECTOR,
CONSULTING
DELIVERY,
CGI**
Industry: IT



Class of 2003
Master of Science,
Computer Science



MAHMOUD ZAKARIA

Mahmoud's journey began in Morocco, where a passion for learning was ignited by an older brother who was a computer scientist. This led Mahmoud to also study Computer Science, at EMSI where he joined the Moroccan School of Engineering Sciences, specializing in MIAGE. After graduating, Mahmoud was hired by Canadian multinational company CGI as an Information Technology Engineer where he climbed the ranks, holding various positions from developer to project manager. Today, as a Consulting Delivery Director at CGI, Mahmoud works on high-impact and innovative projects, leading large teams of engineers. Outside of work, Mahmoud is passionate about sports and philanthropy, regularly participating in local competitions and supporting causes close to the heart.

Biggest Career Achievement

While Mahmoud's journey at EMSI was transformative, his work experiences were key in honing his project management, problem-solving, and teamwork skills. As a Consulting Delivery Director at CGI, Mahmoud contributes to innovative projects and mentors young professionals. One of Mahmoud's big career achievements was improving operational efficiency at CGI which led to company recognition of his excellent project management and leadership.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa

Mahmoud wants to address the issue of limited access to quality education for children in rural and underprivileged areas. Many children in Africa, and specifically in Morocco lack access to well-equipped schools, qualified teachers, and adequate educational resources. At CGI Morocco, Mahmoud supports several initiatives that have been launched to improve school infrastructure, including renovating schools and providing modern educational materials. Mahmoud dreams of an Africa with strong and accessible healthcare infrastructure, where every citizen receives the care, they need. He envisions an Africa where young entrepreneurs and innovators are supported and encouraged, and where conflicts are resolved through dialogue and cooperation. The vision is for an educated, healthy, innovative, and peaceful Africa, where every individual can contribute to a better future.

Advice to Younger Self

Mahmoud's advice to his younger self is: *"Believe in yourself and your dreams, even when obstacles seem insurmountable. Every challenge is a disguised opportunity to learn and grow."* He encourages himself to be brave in the face of adversity; and not to be afraid to take risks and step out of his comfort zone, because that's where the greatest opportunities lie. Mahmoud surrounds himself with positive and inspiring people. He recommends looking for a role model who can guide and motivate you to achieve your goals.

“Believe in yourself; with perseverance, you will succeed.”

KARIM AMGUIR

Karim embarked on his academic journey at EMSI, enrolling in the Methods of Computer Science Applied to Business Management (MIAGE) program. This unique blend of engineering and business management focuses on software development, systems analysis, and IT project management. Upon completing his studies, Karim began his professional career as a Java developer. He then transitioned to web application development and back-end development, steadily building his technical expertise. Driven by his passion for software development, Karim specialized in creating business solutions by combining his software development and project management skills. One of the companies where Karim honed his project management skills was Orca Group, a French company in Morocco specializing in digital transformation solutions. During his tenure at Orca Group, Karim oversaw the development and deployment of innovative solutions for clients across different industries. Over the course of his career, Karim has led cross-functional teams to successfully deliver various IT projects.

Biggest Career Achievement

In 2021, Karim launched Zaim Digital to develop custom software for clients and offer his expertise in building back-office applications. Under the Zaim brand, Karim manages large-scale projects in the automotive and construction sectors, securing contracts with international clients such as Renault Maroc, Mobilize Financial Services, and major construction analysis laboratories like LGTP (*Laboratoire de Geotechnique et Travaux Publics*), LMG (Laboratoire des Matériaux et Génie Civil), and LSTP (*Laboratoire Special des Sravaux Publics*). One of his most notable achievements is the complete digitalization of a construction analysis laboratory through Zaim's proprietary application, LabCorp BTP. This project involved establishing data security and regulatory compliance for Zaim clients and led to the establishment of Zaim Digital as a subsidiary of Zaim.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Karim's solution, the LabCorp BTP application, supports full digitization of laboratory services, automates report generation, secures data transfers, and ensures compliance with industry standards. This solution reduces workload, improves accuracy, and speeds up the delivery of critical construction reports. Karim aims to expand this digital transformation across Africa, starting with Côte d'Ivoire. Karim's vision for Africa is one of growth, unity, and innovation. He believes in the continent's immense potential across various sectors, from technology to infrastructure, and sees digital transformation and collaboration as key to unlocking this potential. Karim envisions a future where African countries work together to create a unified economic zone, sharing resources, knowledge, and technology freely across borders.

Advice to Younger Self

Karim's advice to his younger self is simple yet profound: *"Believe in yourself; with perseverance, you will succeed."*



**CO-FOUNDER,
DIRECTOR GENERAL,
ZAIM DIGITAL**
Industry: IT



Class of 2011
Master of Science,
Engineering







“Don’t fear challenges,
they are your greatest teacher.”

TRANSFER
COORDINATOR,
COLLINS AEROSPACE,
Industry: Aerospace



Class of 2023
Bachelor of Science,
Systems Engineering



HAJAR EL MANSOURY

Hajar currently holds the position of Manager at Collins Aerospace, a leader in cockpit and cabin equipment assembly for aircraft. Her responsibilities involve managing the transfer of shipments from France to a Moroccan subsidiary in Nouaceur. She also works on strategic objectives to expand services, add new service lines, and recruitment. Hajar credits UMC with playing a key role in her professional success. This allowed her to acquire a solid foundation in project management, risk analysis, and operational coordination, which are essential to her field. Thanks to these skills, Hajar was able to quickly adapt to the challenges of her work, which involves a lot of risk in the movement of goods to different clients.

Biggest Career Achievement

Hajar welcomes new clients who she says offer her an opportunity to learn, innovate, and adapt to the evolving market and their needs. She especially enjoys building and strengthening client relationships as they help in managing expectations, quality control, and enforcing standardized work processes. Hajar’s greatest joy is delivering quality and reliable services to clients and strengthening the trust that clients have in Collins products and services.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

According to Hajar, the main challenges to overcome in Africa are skills development and industrialization. Hajar believes that Africa is rich in talent and resources, but local transformation of raw materials, improvement of infrastructure, and the development of technical expertise remain crucial issues. Many development projects still rely on foreign expertise. Therefore, it is essential to encourage the transfer of know-how, encourage innovation, and investment in training to achieve true industrial and technological independence. Hajar envisions Africa positioning itself as a key player in the global economy, leveraging its vast human potential and resources. The future lies in strengthening local skills, developing industry, and improving infrastructure to ensure competitive local production. She hopes to see Africa become an aerospace industrial and technological hub, where we don’t just supply raw materials, but where we develop, transform, and innovate.

Advice to Younger Self

If Hajar could speak to her younger self, she would say: “Don’t fear challenges, they are your greatest teacher.” She believes that every obstacle is an opportunity to learn, and it’s by stepping out of your comfort zone that you grow the most. Hajar’s advice to young people is to be curious, to always seek to understand the “why” behind every process, and most importantly, to build strong relationships in their field. She believes that technical skills are essential, but building relationships is just as important.



“Without passion
and fulfillment, success is
impossible—both professionally
and personally.”

HICHAM OUISSAFANE

Hicham’s journey into the world of finance began with little knowledge of the field, but his professional life soon aligned perfectly with his education. He completed a rigorous five-year program in Financial Engineering, which included two years of integrated preparatory classes, two years of core finance studies, and one year of specialization in Financial Markets. His education was marked by team-based research projects, an individual final-year thesis, and practical internships. After earning his degree, Hicham joined Crédit du Maroc’s Trading Floor as an FX Sales (*Foreign Exchange Dealer*), where he thrived for 10 years. He then transitioned to the FX Trading Desk as a Senior Trader and now serves as Head of FX Trading, managing a team of two experienced traders. Hicham credits his studies at UMC for sparking his passion for financial markets and guiding him towards a successful career in financial services.

Biggest Career Achievement

One of Hicham’s standout career moments came just two years into his role at Crédit du Maroc. He played a key role in one of the most strategic transactions in the Moroccan market—the sale of Lesieur to one of the largest international groups. This experience allowed him to meet with executives and negotiate the terms of the deal, showcasing his skills and potential early in his career. Today, as Head of FX Trading, Hicham handles foreign exchange transactions for Moroccan importing and exporting companies, managing large volumes of currency with expertise and precision.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Hicham envisions a future where Africa fully realizes its vast potential, leveraging its rich natural resources and the aspirations of its people for growth and fulfillment. He believes that Africa can become one of the wealthiest continents by fostering self-reliance and sustainable development. To achieve this, Hicham advocates for reducing external influences on Africa’s wealth and addressing internal challenges such as corruption. He encourages young Africans to harness their resources and talents to drive progress and prosperity.

Advice to Younger Self

Hicham’s advice to his younger self is to truly engage with what you study—not just to get good grades or earn a diploma, but to enrich yourself intellectually. He believes that pursuing a path that genuinely interests you is crucial for both professional and personal success. The quote by which Hicham lives is: “Without passion and fulfillment, success is impossible—both professionally and personally.”

MANAGER, FX TRADING,
CRÉDIT DU MAROC,
Industry: Financial Services



Class of 2008
Master of Science,
Financial Engineering





“Embrace courage, strength, and ambition—they are the keys to success.”



AMINE BENCHEQROUN

Amine’s education at EAC was rooted in community-based learning, with architecture workshops serving as the cornerstone of his training. This approach shaped Amine’s professional perspective on architecture, emphasizing the importance of exchange and collaboration. His experiences at EAC instilled in him a deep appreciation for the role of community in architectural design and development.

Biggest Career Achievement

Amine has achieved significant professional milestones, including winning architectural competitions for the Fès Theater and the Sidi Othmane Cultural Complex. His work on Villa Mégalithe has been featured in numerous prestigious magazines such as Déco Actuelle and A+E. These accomplishments highlight Amine’s talent and dedication to innovative architectural design.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Amine believes that Africa’s biggest challenge is providing decent housing for everyone. He advocates for a rethinking of traditional social housing to address this issue. Amine envisions an Africa with equal opportunities for all and complete transparency across all sectors. He believes that by focusing on innovative housing solutions and fostering collaboration, Africa can overcome this challenge and improve the quality of life for its people.

Advice to Your Younger Self and a Quote by Which You Live

If Amine could offer advice to his younger self, he would say: “Embrace courage, strength, and ambition—they are the keys to success.” He encourages young people to be bold in their pursuits and to always strive for excellence. He believes that these qualities are essential for achieving one’s goals and making a positive impact in the world.

FOUNDER,
AMINE BENCHEQROUN
ARCHITECTE & ASSOCIÉS,
LECTURER,
COLLÈGE DE PARIS
Industry: Architecture



Class of 2003
Diploma of Architecture





NIGERIA



NILE UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA

Situated on a 113-hectare residential campus in Abuja, Nile University of Nigeria offers a multidisciplinary education with a wide array of NUC-accredited programs. Nile University provides over 90 undergraduate and postgraduate programs across eight faculties: Medical & Health Sciences, Arts & Social Sciences, Engineering, Environmental Sciences, Management Sciences, Science, Computing Studies, and Law. The university's medical school stands out with academic partnerships with four hospitals. The campus features state-of-the-art learning spaces, secure hostels, and excellent sports facilities. Nile University has forged over 120 partnerships with prominent Nigerian and international organizations, such as the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), Multichoice/Showmax, PWC, China Harbour, and the Nigerian Capital Market Institute (NCMI). In the AD Scientific Index Ranking 2024, Nile University was ranked as the best private university in Northern Nigeria.





“Be intentional about building relationships but also remember to build your competency. Be known for something other than who you know.”

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT OF NIGERIA, CENTRAL RESULTS DELIVERY AND COORDINATION UNIT (CRDCU).

Industry: Government



Class of 2024
Doctor of Philosophy, Economics



DR. AISHA KABIR

Dr. Aisha Kabir's contributions to governance are profound. At 27 years of age, Aisha's career milestones are remarkable. She has worked at two “Big 4” consulting firms, served as a Special Assistant to a Minister, earned a PhD in Economics from Nile University in 2024, and successfully balanced her professional achievements with motherhood. Aisha's inspiring journey is a testament to her resilience and ambition. In her own words, Aisha's biggest takeaway from Nile University was the motto: “Actualize Your Dreams.” Aisha currently serves as a Special Assistant to the President of Nigeria. In her current role, she plays a critical part in tracking and enhancing the Federal Government's priority projects, ensuring efficient execution, and resolving implementation bottlenecks.

Biggest Career Achievement

Aisha has been instrumental in developing key national policies, including Trade, Dairy, and Investment policies, and the Automotive Industry Development Plan—all of which are now actively shaping Nigeria's economic landscape. Aisha's work directly influences high-level government decisions, focusing on policy harmonization, youth development, and climate finance.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Aisha is a natural advocate for girls' education which she believes is one of the biggest challenges that Africa needs to tackle. Aisha believes that the limited educational opportunities for girls who cannot realize their true potential is due to issues of affordability. She envisions an Africa where every child, regardless of background or gender, has access to quality education. She supports a continent where education is not a privilege but a right, equipping young people with the knowledge and skills to drive Africa's growth. Aisha's wish is for a stronger, more prosperous future for Africa.

Advice to her younger self

Aisha believes that relationships are very important and some of the best relationships are the ones built from childhood, but she cautions that relationships can only help you if you have value to add. Aisha's advice to her younger self is: “Be intentional about building relationships but also remember to build your competency. Be known for something other than who you know.”



“Start where you are, use what you have, and never stop learning. Your vision is possible if you take action today.”

KABIR ABISO KABIR

Kabir's journey began with a deep passion for entrepreneurship and agriculture. While studying Business Administration at Nile University of Nigeria, he recognized the potential of agriculture in Nigeria and launched Jiwe Integrated Concept, a company focused on sustainable farming and agribusiness. Balancing his studies and business was challenging, but it helped him develop leadership, financial management, and problem-solving skills. Nile University played a significant role in Kabir's success by providing a solid foundation in business strategy, leadership, and networking. The university environment encouraged innovation and entrepreneurship, helping him refine his business model and connect with mentors who supported his journey.

Biggest Career Achievement

Kabir has made significant contributions to the agricultural sector by modernizing traditional farming methods, improving rice production in Nigeria, and creating employment opportunities for young farmers. Through Jiwe Integrated Concept, he empowers local farmers with training, market access, and financial support. His notable achievements include winning a \$5,000 grant from Founders Factory Africa Academy to expand Jiwe Integrated Concept, securing a \$45,000 investment to scale operations, and expanding farming operations from 35 hectares to 60, and producing 100 metric tons of rice and other crops.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Kabir identifies food insecurity as a major problem in Africa. He aims to increase local food production, reduce dependence on imports, and empower farmers with technology-driven solutions. Kabir envisions a self-sufficient Africa where agriculture is a thriving industry, young entrepreneurs drive innovation, and food scarcity is a thing of the past. Through sustainable farming, he believes Africa can feed itself and become a global leader in agribusiness.

Advice to Younger Self

If Kabir could offer advice to his younger self, he would say: “Just start developing your idea. You will thank yourself for choosing to start early.” He believes in the power of taking initiative and the importance of early action in achieving one's goals. Kabir lives by the mantra: “Start where you are, use what you have, and never stop learning. Your vision is possible if you take action today.” He encourages young people to embrace continuous learning and take proactive steps towards their dreams.

CEO & FOUNDER, JIWE INTEGRATED CONCEPT

Industry: Agritech



Class of 2024
Bachelor of Arts, Business Administration





“Never give up on your dreams, no matter how impossible they may seem. Surround yourself with people who believe in you, work hard, pray hard, and stay focused.”

**CEO
KONTRYCHARM
LIMITED**
Industry: Fashion



2019 & 2023
Master of Science,
International Relations,
Doctor of Philosophy,
Political Science



DR. RAKIYA ABUBAKAR TANKO

Dr. Rakiya Tanko exemplifies the pursuit of passion. After earning an M.Sc. in International Relations and a Ph.D. in Political Science, both from Nile University, Nigeria, Rakiya her passion into the fashion industry. As the CEO of a burgeoning fashion brand Kontrycharm, Rakiya has overcome numerous challenges with determination. Her brand, which highlights the beauty and richness of African culture, has become a household name in Nigeria and beyond, dressing celebrities, dignitaries, legislators, top business executives, and fashion enthusiasts.

Biggest Career Achievement

Rakiya's success extends beyond personal accolades. She has inspired countless women and young girls, empowered artisans and craftsmen, and promoted African culture and heritage. Kontrycharm, exports to the USA, UK, Australia, Germany, Mali, Senegal, Tanzania, and other countries. They have also expanded their social media presence and launched a male brand. Rakiya's contributions to African fashion, cultural preservation, and innovation aim to leave a lasting legacy and empower women and youth in the industry.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Rakiya identifies the scaling of SMEs while maintaining cultural identity and sustainability as Africa's biggest challenge. At Kontrycharm, their vision for Africa is one of vibrant cultures, resilience, and creativity. They envision fashion as a catalyst for economic growth, women empowerment, and cultural preservation. Rakiya invites Africans, fashion enthusiasts, and global partners to join in redefining African fashion, promoting sustainable development, and celebrating the continent's diversity.

Advice to Younger Self

Rakiya credits her designs with building confidence through fashion, empowering women to own their style, voice, and place in the world. Her advice to the next generation of female entrepreneurs is: "Never give up on your dreams, no matter how impossible they may seem. Surround yourself with people who believe in you, work hard, pray hard, and stay focused." Rakiya credits knowing why she started – which is to make a difference, and leave a mark, as her inspirations.



“If you cannot do it with what you have now, you won't be able to do it when you have more.”

RIDWAN ADENIYI ABDULLATEEF

Ridwan Abdullateef is a distinguished graduate of Business Administration from Nile University of Nigeria. During his university days, Ridwan ran a YouTube channel, creating and sharing content that resonated with a growing audience. The supportive environment at Nile University allowed him to explore his creativity and share his work with the world. Eventually, his love for storytelling led him back to media, where he discovered a deeper purpose in amplifying African voices through film.

Biggest Career Achievement

Ridwan's diverse filmography includes two dance films, three science fiction films, and one experimental film, showcasing his versatility and innovative approach to storytelling. In 2022, he gained significant recognition for his work on "Ogun Ola: War is Coming," a film that cemented his reputation as a talented filmmaker. The following year, he contributed to "From Phone to Hollywood: The Young Filmmakers' Odyssey," a project documenting the journeys of emerging filmmakers. Determined to nurture the next generation of African storytellers, Ridwan founded Ragari Film School, an initiative dedicated to equipping young filmmakers with the skills to tell authentic African stories with technical and artistic excellence. Through hands-on training and mentorship, he empowers aspiring creatives to bring their visions to life. His commitment to storytelling and film production was further recognized in 2024 when he won the AFRIFF x NEWF Producers Lab, a prestigious program supporting emerging producers in African cinema. Ridwan continues to push the boundaries of storytelling, blending culture, innovation, and social impact through film.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Ridwan believes that Africa's biggest challenge is changing the negative narratives based on stereotypes and misinformation. His vision for Africa is to see a continent where authentic African stories are told by Africans, for Africans, and the world. Through Ragari Film School, Ridwan actively empowers the next generation of African storytellers. The school serves as a creative hub where young filmmakers, especially those from Northern Nigeria, gain hands-on training, mentorship, and the technical skills needed to tell authentic African stories. By providing an accessible and inclusive learning environment, Ragari Film School helps bridge the gap between aspiring creatives and the global film industry.

Advice to Younger Self

If Ridwan could offer advice to his younger self, he would say: "If you cannot do it with what you have now, you won't be able to do it when you have more." He believes in the importance of making the most of current resources and opportunities, emphasizing that success comes from taking action and continuously learning your craft.

**FOUNDER & CREATIVE
DIRECTOR
RAGARI FILM SCHOOL**
Industry: Film



Class of 2013
Bachelor of Arts,
Business Administration





SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa, the largest advanced economy in Africa, boasts a robust higher education system. It is home to five distinguished institutions within the Honoris United Universities network, dedicated to providing high-quality education and preparing graduates for successful careers in various fields.



MANCOSA

MANCOSA, a leader in distance education across Southern Africa, operates campuses in Durban, Johannesburg, Pretoria, and Cape Town. With 30 years of experience, it delivers 57 accredited programs, including a highly rated MBA. MANCOSA's Business, IT, Education, and Healthcare Management schools ensure students are equipped for dynamic careers, powered by cutting-edge labs for student teachers and innovation hubs, where bold thinkers bring groundbreaking ideas to life. Its self-paced, career-driven Executive Education via MANCOSA skillME enables professionals to upskill on demand. MANCOSA's Million Books Project is reigniting a love for reading among South African children, while green initiatives—from school gardens to campus recycling programs—promote sustainability and social responsibility. MANCOSA continues to not only educate—we inspire, innovate, and create pathways to success.

REGENT BUSINESS SCHOOL

REGENT Business School, located in major South African cities, offers over 35 accredited programs, including DBA and MBA degrees, and qualifications in business administration, commerce, management, finance, entrepreneurship, local government, and educational management. REGENT is committed to developing forward-thinking leaders for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

RED & YELLOW CREATIVE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Red & Yellow Creative School of Business, headquartered in Cape Town, is a leading institution specialising in digital innovation, creative arts, marketing, design, and content creation. Renowned for its progressive curriculum, the school offers sought after degrees, a diverse range of online short courses and certificates. In 2024, it was honored as the top creative business school in the MENA region by The One Club for Creativity a distinguished US organization. Red & Yellow consistently produces award-winning students who secure accolades at both local and international competitions. Notably, students have achieved the highest of accolades, for creativity and innovation, in Africa and the Middle East, at the prestigious Loerie Awards. Additionally, the school is the proud publisher of eMarketing: The Essential Guide to Marketing in a Digital World, the most downloaded textbook in its field, further establishing its authority as a thought leader in digital marketing.

FEDISA FASHION SCHOOL

Cape Town's FEDISA Fashion School is Africa's leading provider of fashion and fashion retail education, offering premium qualifications in fashion, design, retail, and fashion research. With state-of-the-art learning environments and strong industry affiliations through collaborations with companies like Woolworths, Adidas, FILA, Markham, The Foschini Group, and Truworths, FEDISA's industry-aligned qualifications produce work-ready graduates who excel in employability, securing opportunities in both local and international markets.

THE ANIMATION SCHOOL

Established in 2000, The Animation School (TAS) has become a cornerstone of South Africa's animation landscape, with vibrant campuses in Cape Town and Johannesburg. TAS is dedicated to cultivating the next generation of animation talent and enhancing the global presence of authentic African storytelling. Proudly ranked among the top ten animation schools worldwide by the Animation Career Review, TAS offers a robust three-year Diploma in Digital Animation, along with intensive short courses. These programs are meticulously designed to equip students with cutting-edge skills and provide a strong foundation in digital arts. TAS enjoys robust industry support both within Africa and internationally. Its esteemed collaborations with renowned entities like Gobelins, Triggerfish, and Netflix enrich our curriculum and offer our students invaluable exposure to industry standards and practices. Its alumni are a testament to its success, working across the globe and contributing to major box office hits. They have earned prestigious awards, including an Emmy, which was recently awarded to alumna Sara Scrimgeour for her exceptional work on BBC show earlier in 2025. Through its innovative educational approach and commitment to excellence, The Animation School continues to champion the future of animation, sharing Africa's diverse and compelling stories with the world.





“You can start from beyond and still go further.”

**OPTOMETRIST,
SPEC SAVERS**

Industry: Health



Class of 2024
Master of Business
Administration (MBA)



MUZI MXOLISI NDLAZI

Muzi is a leader in the field of optometry. Born and raised in Umkhanyakude, South Africa, he pursued a career in optometry and quickly made significant strides in the profession. After working for seven years as an optometrist, Muzi realized that his role required more than just technical medical knowledge; it also demanded managerial skills for critical decision-making. This realization led him to enroll in an MBA program at MANCOSA in 2022.

Biggest Career Achievement

One of Muzi's notable milestones is serving as the Deputy Chairperson and Chairperson of the Kwazulu Natal Department of Health Optometry Forum. The forum aims to improve the optometry profession, enhance the quality of life for uninsured patients, and uphold vision as a human right. Empowered by his MBA, Muzi became a Specs-Savers franchisee in Eshowe, Kwazulu Natal, South Africa. Through his franchise, he extends healthcare services via the “The Kids Right to Good Sight” program, offering free comprehensive eye examinations and spectacles to children aged 6 to 12. Becoming a franchisee is one of his prime career achievements.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Muzi believes that one of the major challenges facing optometry professionals in Africa is the lack of recognition and appropriate resources. He envisions raising the visibility of optometry in both public and private sectors, seeing it as a job-creating industry across the continent. Muzi supports initiatives like the “Phelopepa Healthcare Train” and “Doctors Without Borders” and advocates for government encouragement of private investors and companies to embark on such progressive initiatives. He believes these efforts will improve youth employment and health services across Africa.

Advice to Younger Self

Muzi's journey is a testament to the power of education, leadership, and dedication. His work not only advances the field of optometry but also inspires the next generation to pursue their dreams and make a positive impact in the world. Muzi's advice to his younger self is: “You can start from beyond and still go further.” He emphasizes the importance of perseverance and the belief that one can achieve great things regardless of their starting point.



“Start before you feel ready; growth comes from action, not just planning. The world is evolving fast, and Africa needs bold thinkers and problem solvers. Be part of the change!”

SIFISO NKOSI

While serving as the Assistant Director of Student Support Services at Ekurhuleni East TVET College in 2021, Sifiso decided to pursue an MBA with MANCOSA to complement his degree in Educational Psychology. This MBA enhanced his professional profile and led to his election as Chairperson of the Student Support Services in the Gauteng-Free State Region, overseeing 12 TVET Colleges.

Biggest Career Achievement

Sifiso's professional recognitions include being appointed by the Mayor of Ekurhuleni as the Deputy Chairperson of the Local Drug Action Committee in 2023. That same year, he was honored by the Ekurhuleni East TVET College principal with an award for coordinating the best sports, arts, and culture programs. Sifiso believes his MBA from MANCOSA expanded his understanding of geopolitical influences on the education sector, challenging him to redefine student services at Ekurhuleni East TVET College and the Free State DHET region. He has created innovative and sustainable systems, developed policy frameworks aligned with the digital era, and introduced initiatives promoting the Africa 2063 Agenda and SDGs.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Sifiso identifies the lack of quality education in many regions of Africa as a critical issue. He emphasizes that basic literacy and numeracy are essential for navigating today's globalized and competitive world. Providing children with quality education opens doors to better opportunities, impacting their job prospects, earnings, and physical and mental health. Addressing this issue will help resolve many social ills within the continent. Sifiso envisions an Africa that achieves the 2063 Agenda goals, with an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful continent driven by its citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena. He wishes to see a link between the 2063 Agenda and the 2030 SDGs in achieving sustainable and innovative goals for Africa, addressing the continent's social, economic, and political challenges.

Advice to Younger Self

Sifiso's advice to his younger self is: “Not everything has to be figured out in your 20s. Keep working hard and trust the process.” He encourages the youth to leverage the opportunities presented by the digital age, break away from traditional methods, and develop innovative and sustainable solutions to contribute positively to the economy. Sifiso's journey is a testament to the transformative power of education, leadership, and resilience. His work not only advances the field of student support services in higher education and training but also inspires the next generation to pursue their dreams and make a positive impact on the world.

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,
STUDENT SUPPORT
SERVICES,
EKURHULENI EAST
TVET COLLEGE**

Industry: Higher Education



Class of 2025
Master of Business
Administration (MBA)





“Have clear goals and be intentional about achieving them. Work hard and respect others. Treat people well and with dignity, as they will mention your name in rooms full of opportunities based on how you treated them. People are key assets in this journey of life.”

SENIOR MANAGER MARKETING AND TOURISM

Industry: Tourism



Class of 2020
Master of Business
Administration (MBA)



SIPHUXOLO MAZWI

Siphuxolo, affectionately known as Siphu, is a visionary leader born and raised in Mount Frere (KwaBhaca), Eastern Cape. She earned an honors degree in Marketing Management and an MBA from MANCOSA. Siphu worked at South African National Biodiversity Institute where she was part of the team that represented South Africa at the Chelsea Flower Show in London. Currently, she serves as the Head of Marketing and Tourism at Robben Island Museum, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Biggest Career Achievement

Siphu has achieved significant milestones in her career. She was a speaker on Sustainable Tourism Development at the UNESCO conference “Cultural Heritage in the 21st Century” in Naples, Italy, in November 2023. She also participated as an expert panelist at a UNESCO seminar on visitor and stakeholder management for the Royal Commission of Alula in Saudi Arabia in February 2024. At Robben Island Museum, Siphu developed and implemented a turnaround marketing and business development strategy that significantly boosted revenue and economic recovery post-COVID-19. She has fostered strong relationships with the travel trade industry, significantly boosting visitor footfall to the site. Her leadership and strategic thinking have been instrumental in the museum’s success.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Siphu sees branding as one of Africa’s challenges. She believes that branding has an impact in attracting foreign investments for economic development and poverty alleviation. She aspires to serve within the United Nations, advocating for Africa’s growth.

Advice to Younger Self

Siphu’s advice to her younger self is “Have clear goals and be intentional about achieving them. Work hard and respect others. Treat people well and with dignity, as they will mention your name in rooms full of opportunities based on how you treated them. People are key assets in this journey of life.”



“Fail as much as you can and embrace the journey—the wisdom gained from failure is worth more than a PhD.”

SIMPHIWE ARTWELL MALAZA

Simphiwe is an accomplished academic and entrepreneur with a background in management and accounting. His experience in accounting broadened his perspective, particularly in strategic management, which he has applied in practice. Currently, he runs Rilascan while working part-time as a lecturer at UNISA and a postgraduate research supervisor at MANCOSA. Through his research while pursuing a Postgraduate Diploma with MANCOSA, Simphiwe discovered that South Africa has the highest entrepreneurship failure rate in Africa, with SMEs struggling to survive beyond five years. This motivated him to integrate entrepreneurship with academia, bridging the gap between theory and practice. As a result, he is now pursuing a PhD in Accounting Science at the University of South Africa, which he is close to completing.

Biggest Career Achievement

Under Simphiwe’s leadership at Rilascan, the company has secured several major contracts. One focuses on providing financial support to SMEs as part of ongoing training and development efforts in South Africa. The other contract aims to provide professional development learning opportunities to bridge the skills gap for South African professionals. Simphiwe was recently honored with Golden Key membership by Golden Key South Africa, recognizing his academic and professional excellence. Another contract that Simphiwe recently secured with his team is focused on reducing tax evasion in South Africa.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

As part of his PhD program, Simphiwe is conducting research on mobile money and aims to develop solutions for South Africa’s unbanked population. He believes that a bank account provides individuals with access to credit, enabling them to grow businesses and improve their lives. However, many people hesitate to open bank accounts due to barriers such as documentation requirements and distance. His research seeks to create a framework for financial inclusion, ultimately contributing to reduced unemployment, inequality, and poverty, while driving economic growth. Simphiwe envisions an Africa where intra-trade is encouraged, transcending race, tribe, and national divisions. He sees a continent free from hunger, supported by strong financial institutions that reduce dependency on foreign aid, aligned with Africa’s Agenda 2063.

Advice to Younger Self

Simphiwe’s advice to his younger self is: “Fail as much as you can and embrace the journey—the wisdom gained from failure is worth more than a PhD.” He encourages young people to use their failures as a learning opportunity and to persist in their endeavors.

DIRECTOR,
RILASCAN
Industry: Finance



Class of 2019
Postgraduate Diploma
in Business Management



GRADUATION CEREMONY

REGENT
BUSINESS SCHOOL
HONORIS UNITED UNIVERSITIES
DISRUPT. RETHINK. INNOVATE.

REGENT
BUSINESS SCHOOL
HONORIS UNITED UNIVERSITIES
DISRUPT. RETHINK. INNOVATE.

HONORIS
UNITED UNIVERSITIES

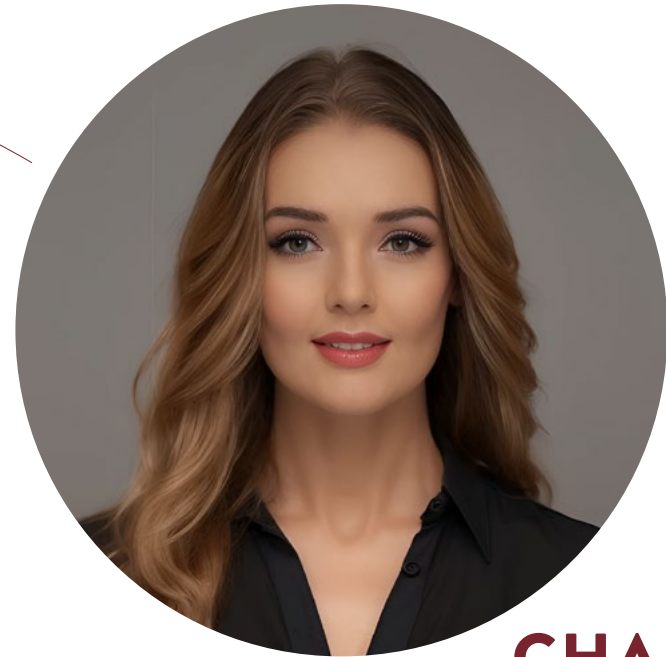
REGENT
BUSINESS SCHOOL
HONORIS UNITED UNIVERSITIES
DISRUPT. RETHINK. INNOVATE.

HONORIS
UNITED UNIVERSITIES

REGENT
BUSINESS SCHOOL
HONORIS UNITED UNIVERSITIES
DISRUPT. RETHINK. INNOVATE.

HONORIS
UNITED UNIVERSITIES





“This is about self-motivation and being accountable for one’s contribution to society instead of merely taking notes.”

CHARLEEN JACKSON

CHIEF OPERATION OFFICER, SKINFLOW INTERNATIONAL

Industry: Health and Wellness



Class of 2024
Master of Business Administration (MBA)



Charleen’s career started at Huawei South Africa as an ICT Talent Development Manager. In this role, she focused on integrating Huawei’s cutting-edge technologies into educational establishments, successfully onboarding 11 tertiary institutions within her first year. She was later invited to lead the planning of Huawei’s ICT Global Competition, where she set a remarkable benchmark by recruiting over 20,000 participants.

Biggest Career Achievement

In her former role at Huawei, Charleen introduced the first 5G training sessions at South Africa’s top universities and managed over 100 Vodacom stores as Regional Channel Sales Manager at Huawei. Her success earned her multiple awards. After leaving Huawei Charleen joined Skinfoflow International, a wholesale distributor for The Recovery Pen, an advanced biotechnology tool designed for pain relief, and stimulating the body’s natural healing processes as Chief Operations Officer (COO). Skinfoflow’s primary clients are professional and Olympic athletes, and coaches. In her COO role, Charleen not only manages an impressive portfolio of over 50 accounts, she is also leading the charge in a corporate social responsibility initiative for disadvantaged rural women to whom returned Recovery Pens are donated for use in their communities. The initiative is being implemented in Zimbabwe where the co-Founder and chairman of Skinfoflow is based.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Charleen believes sustainable economic growth is Africa’s biggest challenge. She advocates for investing in education and vocational training to create a skilled workforce, attracting local and international investments. Her vision is to achieve holistic economic development, enhancing the quality of life and establishing Africa as a global player. She believes that investing in education and vocational training will equip the workforce with the skills necessary to thrive in a rapidly evolving global market. By prioritizing education linked to market demands, Africa can build a dynamic labor market that attracts both local and international investments.

Advice to Younger Self

“Be accountable and take action, because one voice can be heard. I often doubted myself or felt inadequate, as if my observations, moral compass, and intuitions couldn’t hold weight for someone so young. Throughout my life, I have been an observer, a reader, and a feeler. This is about self-motivation and being accountable for one’s contribution to society instead of merely taking notes.”



“From The Art of War by Sun Tzu: In the midst of chaos, there is also opportunity. Never give up on your dreams, dream big!”

DR. RYAN MOODLEY

Ryan’s journey in technology began with a deep passion for IT service management and digital transformation. Ryan has been driven by a desire to bridge the gap between technology and business strategy. His career has spanned various leadership roles in major global organizations, including Microsoft, Accenture, and KPMG. Over the years, Ryan has led modernization initiatives, partnered with C-suite executives, and driven impactful digital transformation programs that shape the future of enterprises.

Biggest Career Achievement

Ryan’s education at Regent Business School played a significant role in shaping his strategic thinking and leadership abilities. The rigorous academic curriculum of the PhD in Business Administration which he completed in 2024, combined with real-world applications, allowed him to develop a deep understanding of business transformation, governance, and change management. This knowledge has been instrumental in his ability to drive large-scale digital initiatives and create lasting impact in the technology industry. In his current role, Ryan is responsible for developing strategies for cloud adoption and digital modernization, overseeing governance frameworks, and fostering strategic partnerships that accelerate business growth and customer success.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

One of the most pressing issues Ryan aims to address in Africa is transforming governance and service delivery across the continent. Many African countries struggle with inefficiencies, corruption, and bureaucratic barriers that hinder the effective delivery of public services. These challenges prevent millions from accessing quality healthcare, education, infrastructure, and justice. By improving government transparency, digitizing public services, and fostering accountability, Ryan believes we can ensure that resources are used effectively and equitably, improving the lives of all Africans. Leveraging technology to streamline service delivery and empower citizens with better access to government services is key to unlocking a more prosperous and stable Africa.

Advice to Younger Self

“From The Art of War by Sun Tzu: In the midst of chaos, there is also opportunity. Never give up on your dreams, dream big!” Ryan’s journey embodies resilience, leadership, and a passion for making a difference. His commitment to social responsibility and community engagement has positively impacted local communities, promoting sustainable growth and economic empowerment.

STRATEGIC ARCHITECT, MICROSOFT

Industry:
Information Technology



Class of 2024
Doctor of Business Administration





“Don’t be afraid to take risks. Embrace opportunities that push you out of your comfort zone.”

DR. IGNITIUS BOTSWELE MOLEPO

SENIOR IP NETWORK DEFENSE MANAGER, MTN GROUP

Industry: Telecommunication



Class of 2025
Doctor of Business Administration



Ignitius Molepo is a seasoned cybersecurity and network security expert with extensive experience in the telecommunications industry. Currently serving as the Senior IP Network Defense Manager at MTN Group, he plays a critical role in network security architecture, cybersecurity governance, risk management, compliance, and data protection across MTN’s 22 Operating Companies (OPCOs).

Biggest Career Achievement

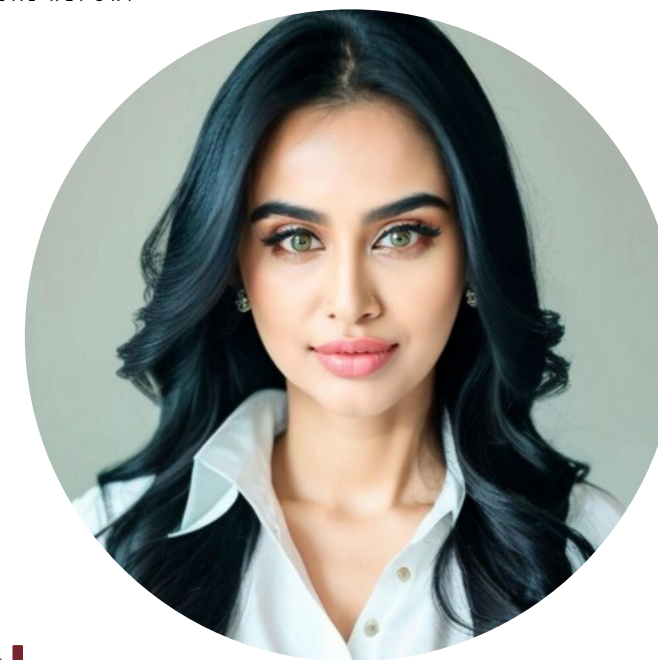
Throughout his career, Ignitius has led high-impact security projects, most notably the Marshall Plan project, a \$1.2 billion initiative aimed at standardizing firewall deployments across all operating companies using FortiGate technology. His leadership ensured the successful implementation of Minimum-Security Standards, driving compliance across the organization’s diverse markets. Additionally, he has been instrumental in shaping MTN’s cybersecurity strategy. As a Technical Lead for Streams in ASPIRE+, he contributed to the deployment of Secure Web Gateway. Currently, as the Stream Lead for enhancing Web Application Firewall in Fintech. His ability to influence executive decision-making has helped secure strategic investments in cutting-edge security technologies and enforce compliance with regulatory security standards.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

One of the most pressing challenges in Africa is the lack of cybersecurity resilience among Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Despite SMEs being the backbone of Africa’s economy, contributing over 60% of employment and GDP, they remain highly vulnerable to cyber threats, data breaches, and digital fraud. Ignitius envisions empowering African SMEs with the tools, knowledge, and frameworks needed to enhance their cybersecurity posture. His goals include leveraging AI and automation to provide low-cost security monitoring tools for SMEs, developing a practical, cost-effective cybersecurity framework tailored for SMEs in Africa, launching cybersecurity awareness and capacity-building programs to upskill SME owners and employees, and encouraging public-private partnerships to make cybersecurity solutions more accessible and affordable.

Advice to Younger Self

Ignitius’ advice to his younger self is: “Take risks, but smart ones. Don’t be afraid to take risks—whether it’s in your career, education, or personal growth. But take calculated risks. Embrace opportunities that push you out of your comfort zone but also stay grounded in your values and goals. Never stop learning. The world is constantly evolving, and the skills and knowledge you have today will only take you so far. Embrace new technologies, new ideas, and new ways of thinking.”



“Invest in yourself relentlessly—your skills, your knowledge, your health, and your mindset.”

SHERANIQUE HASSEN

Sheranique’s remarkable career journey began as a call center agent, where she quickly developed a deep understanding of customer engagement and business operations. At just 22 years old, she became the first black female shareholder in her group of companies. Despite financial constraints, Sheranique worked tirelessly while studying, gaining the skills and expertise necessary to advance her career. Through perseverance and strategic vision, she climbed the corporate ladder from an agent to a board member and ultimately became the CEO of a group of companies. Sheranique is now pursuing a Doctor of Business Administration at Regent.

Biggest Career Achievement

As the CEO of GoRhino and Bluetrino, Sheranique has overseen the strategic direction and growth of the both companies, driving innovation in product development and digital engagement solutions. Under her leadership, GoRhino has grown into a powerhouse that serves over 1 billion users and has saved South Africans more than R3.5 billion through innovative rewards and loyalty tech products and solutions. She has pioneered the adoption of digital loyalty solutions and technologies, such as AI, blockchain, and IoT, to drive business transformation, improve customer experience, and create new revenue streams. Additionally, Sheranique launched a gamification product that registered 4.2 million participants and secured ZAR 77 million (USD 4.1 million) worth of savings to customers within seven weeks.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Sheranique is passionate about addressing financial exclusion, particularly for marginalized communities. Millions of Africans lack access to formal banking, affordable credit, and secure cross-border remittance systems, limiting economic growth, entrepreneurship, and social mobility. By leveraging digital currencies, fintech solutions, and inclusive financial frameworks, Sheranique believes Africa can create accessible, low-cost financial services that empower individuals, small businesses, and entire communities. Bridging this gap will unlock economic potential, reduce poverty, and drive sustainable development across the continent.

Advice to Younger Self

“Invest in yourself relentlessly—your skills, your knowledge, your health, and your mindset. The best returns come from the effort you put into growing. Take risks, embrace failures as lessons, and never let fear stop you from chasing your dreams. Time moves fast—make every moment count.” Sheranique’s journey embodies resilience, leadership, and a passion for making a difference. Her commitment to social responsibility and community engagement has positively impacted local communities, promoting sustainable growth and economic empowerment.

CEO, GORHINO AND BLUETRINO
Industry: Fintech



Class of 2023
Master of Business Administration (MBA)



YELLOW
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
UNIVERSITIES

Light up
DUATION
The room

Welcome
Red & Yellow
Graduate
Class of 2024





“embrace intelligence without embarrassment and travel while young.”

EXECUTIVE CREATIVE DIRECTOR, FOUNDER, JOE PUBLIC

Industry: Marketing and Advertising



Class of 2002
Diploma in Advertising, Art Direction



BRENDAN HOFFMANN

It all began after graduating from Red and Yellow with a Diploma in Advertising. Brendan Hoffmann started his career as a Junior Art Director at Sonnekus-Williams GPL in 2003. He progressed through various roles, including Art Director at Joe Public (2005-2008), Senior Art Director at DDB South Africa (2008-2011), Lowe and Partners SA (2011-2012), and FoxP2 (2012-2014). In 2014, he joined Publicis Machine as Group Creative Director, a position he held until 2019.

Biggest Career Achievement

In 2019, Brendan launched Joe Public in Cape Town, aiming to extend the agency's creative reach into the Cape Town market. Under his leadership, the agency has worked with prominent clients such as Uber, Uber Eats, Engen, and Hansa Pilsener. The team has grown to 15 employees, driven by a strong creative product and a close connection with their Johannesburg office. Brendan takes pride in nurturing talent, including several Red & Yellow alumni, and has enjoyed significant success, including numerous awards at prestigious events like Cannes Lions, D&AD, Clios, One Show, and the Loerie Awards. His proudest moment was watching his new creative team receive a Gold Loerie for a Hansa Pilsener radio campaign.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Brendan identifies the growth of creative talent as the biggest challenge for the marketing industry in Africa. He believes the industry is underinvested and sees immense potential in developing the creative sector in South Africa. Brendan envisions a society where all South Africans can prosper and fully share in the country's opportunities.

Advice to Younger Self

Brendan's advice to his younger self is to Embrace intelligence without embarrassment and to travel while young. He emphasizes the importance of playing sports in one's 20s, choosing a career based on daily satisfaction rather than financial gain, and trusting authority more.



“Play the long game.”

LEXI BIRD

Attending the Red & Yellow Creative School of Business provided Lexi with more than just a foundation in design; it equipped her with the skills to build a business from scratch. Lexi founded Ma Mère Confections, a visually striking and delicious confectionery brand. Every aspect of her business, from the product to its packaging and branding, reflects the creativity and expertise she honed during her time at Red & Yellow.

Biggest Career Achievement

Lexi's greatest achievement at Ma Mere Confections which she founded after completing her education and Red & Yellow Creative School of Business was growing the business from a one-person operation into a thriving enterprise employing 18 dedicated team members. By handling all packaging and design in-house, she has maintained complete creative control and saved significant costs. Lexi's design background has been instrumental in developing a brand that stands out and tells a story, making every treat an experience. Her proudest accomplishment is the impact on her team, watching unskilled confectioners grow into masters of their craft through in-house training.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Lexi envisions an Africa where entrepreneurship, creativity, and craftsmanship thrive. She believes in empowering small businesses to grow and providing people with the skills and opportunities to build sustainable futures. Lexi's greatest wish is for a stronger, more connected ecosystem of small businesses, where entrepreneurs uplift each other, local suppliers are prioritized, and skilled artisans have access to the training and resources they need to succeed. She believes that focusing on sustainability, ethical practices, and community development creates a ripple effect that benefits entire industries and economies.

Advice to Younger Self

Lexi's advice to her younger self is: “Play the long game”. Success is about consistency, resilience, and staying true to one's values, even when things get tough. She encourages young entrepreneurs to start small but think big, learn their craft properly, build real relationships, and create something that adds value. Mistakes are inevitable but are also the greatest teachers. Lexi emphasizes the importance of adaptability, surrounding oneself with good people, and never stopping learning. Success is not just about financial gain but about building something meaningful and lasting.

FOUNDER/CEO, MA MÈRE CONFECTIONS

Industry:
Food and Beverage



Class of 2007
Diploma in Graphic Design & Art Direction





“There is no could’ve or would’ve anymore; what’s done is done, and it’s your choice on how to deal with challenges.”



ZWELIHLE NXUMALO

In 2019, Zweli Nxumalo made a bold move from Pretoria to Cape Town to pursue his passion for fashion at FEDISA. Armed with determination and ambition, he immersed himself in his studies. After graduation, he worked as a sales assistant and manager at Lagos Street, a prominent South African fashion brand. However, Zweli’s aspirations extended beyond retail. He envisioned transforming one of his school fashion projects from FEDISA into a thriving business. After three years of meticulous planning and leveraging every available resource, he launched EyeSeek, a luxury garment rental store in Cape Town. Today, Zweli travels the globe sourcing exquisite garments, continuously contributing to the South African fashion scene and demonstrating that persistence and passion are key to success.

Biggest Career Achievement

EyeSeek, Zweli’s fashion-brand brainchild, has collaborated with esteemed brands such as Backyard and Puma at the Cape Town Art Fair, an annual event that attracts a diverse audience passionate about art, fashion, music, and creativity. Launching EyeSeek was a significant professional milestone for Zweli, showcasing his deep understanding of the fashion industry and his ability to curate for discerning fashion enthusiasts. As a well-known fashion influencer, Zweli commands inventory from high-end designer brands like Rick Owens, Maison Margiela, Balenciaga, Diesel, Givenchy, Louis Vuitton, Comme des Garçons, Y-Project, Martine Rose, and Raf Simons. With a dedicated team of two employees, Zweli engages with clients through personalized consultations and walk-ins. Zweli plans to collaborate with FEDISA, mentoring students interested in the fashion business and contributing to their education.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Zweli identifies sustainability as the most pressing challenge for the fashion industry in Africa. By launching a fashion outsourcing brand, he aims to bridge the gap of accessibility and sustainability in luxury fashion. EyeSeek’s approach involves localizing distribution, offering rental luxury items, and creating a sustainable supply chain. This strategy not only makes high-end fashion more affordable and accessible but also supports the circular economy, reduces waste, and promotes eco-friendly production practices. Zweli envisions EyeSeek driving cultural and behavioral change, fostering a more sustainable and inclusive luxury fashion market in Africa.

Advice to Younger Self

Zweli’s advice to his younger self is: “There is no could’ve or would’ve anymore; what’s done is done, and it’s your choice on how to deal with challenges.” Zweli believes that one should face problems head-on because failure is not an excuse. Confronting problems takes away the fear of failure. Zweli is emphatic that he would not rewind time because all his failures and shortcomings have become lessons that have made him stronger as a founder.

**CEO/FOUNDER,
EYEESEEK**

Industry: Fashion

fedisa FASHION SCHOOL
HONORIS UNITED UNIVERSITIES
Cape Town

Class of 2020

Diploma in Fashion Media





“Your dreams are valid, but they won’t work unless you do. Stay consistent, embrace failure as part of the journey, and create your own opportunities because no one else will.”



LWAZI MSIPHA

Lwazi’s journey into animation began with a childhood passion for storytelling and a fascination with animated series like Dragon Ball Z. Growing up in South Africa, he pursued his passion by studying animation at The Animation School in Johannesburg, where he honed his technical skills and industry knowledge. After graduating, he directed “The Boy and the Mask,” a short film that won Best Student Film at a festival in Jamaica in 2018, marking his first major milestone as an animator and storyteller.

Biggest Career Achievement

Lwazi’s biggest career achievement is launching his own animation company, Old Fashioned Youngin, which focuses on creating unique African stories with global appeal. One of his major breakthroughs came with “My Cartoon Friend,” a 13-episode hybrid animated series that aired on Cartoon Network Africa in 2021. The show, which blended live-action with animation, earned him a SAFTA nomination for Best Kids Program and the SAFTA Youth Achiever Award. Another highlight is the success of Nurse Thandi, a digital animated character who gained immense popularity on TikTok, amassing nearly 360k followers and leading to brand collaborations and the development of an animated series.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Lwazi aims to address the lack of representation and access to opportunities in the animation industry. He believes that animation is an expensive and exclusive field, making it difficult for young, talented African creatives, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to break in. Through Old Fashioned Youngin, Lwazi seeks to bridge this gap by creating African stories that showcase the continent’s culture authentically while mentoring and training emerging animators, providing them with the skills and opportunities needed to thrive in the global animation industry. He envisions an Africa where animation stands alongside the biggest names in the industry, empowering African talent and shifting outdated narratives.

Advice to Younger Self

Lwazi’s advice to his younger self is: “Your dreams are valid, but they won’t work unless you do. Stay consistent, embrace failure as part of the journey, and create your own opportunities because no one else will.” He emphasizes the importance of hard work, resilience, and seizing opportunities to achieve success. Lwazi supports fair representation in the animation industry. His vision is for a thriving creative economy in Africa.

CEO/FOUNDER,
OLD FASHIONED
YOUNGIN

Industry: Animation



Class of 2017

Diploma in Digital Animation
The Animation School





TUNISIA

Tunisia, with its rich historical heritage and strategic North African location, hosts five prominent institutions within the Honoris United Universities network. These institutions are committed to delivering top-quality education and equipping graduates with the skills needed for successful careers across diverse fields.



ESPRIT GROUP

ESPRIT is one of the largest engineering schools in Francophone Africa, based in Tunisia, with over 20 years of expertise in higher education and innovation. It offers programs in Engineering, IT, Telecommunications, Civil Engineering, and Electromechanics, with 16 specializations such as AI, Data Science, IoT, and Gamix. Its engineering programs are EUR-ACE certified by the French accreditation agency “Commission des Titres d’Ingénieurs” (CTI). ESPRIT is also part of the prestigious Conférence des Grandes Écoles and a member of the CDIO initiative launched at MIT. Recognized by the UN as a center for excellence in project-based learning, it has eight applied research labs, including one dedicated to Artificial Intelligence. With a strong network of over 120 corporate and academic partnerships, including more than 20 double-degree agreements, ESPRIT cultivates collaboration across all its programs. In addition to its engineering curriculum, ESPRIT also has a Business School that offers 3 Bachelor’s and 6 Master’s degrees. As a member of the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), ESPRIT reinforces its commitment to academic collaboration within the Francophone world.

UNIVERSITÉ CENTRALE

Université Centrale, the largest private multidisciplinary university in Tunisia, offers programs across seven disciplines, including Health, engineering & architecture, IT, business, law, Communication; Cinema & Design. A pioneer in global education, it was the first institution to join Honoris United Universities and now boasts 49 cutting-edge and specialized practice labs. With 15% of its students coming from over 25 countries, it fosters a rich cultural diversity. According to the 2024 IFC benchmarking study, Université Centrale has achieved the highest level of maturity in employability practices among the universities assessed in Tunisia, and its Engineering programs were accredited by EurACE in September 2024.

UPSAT

Founded in 1993, IMSET is a multidisciplinary institution that operates across Business, IT, Technical fields, Design, and Health Sciences. With a strong focus on real-life practice, it has built strategic partnerships on two levels: international degree programs with renowned universities such as CNAM, Université de Lorraine, and ESTIA, and collaborations with industry leaders like SwissContact to integrate their models and tools into teaching. With over 2,800 students and 75 practice labs across five campuses and two annexes in Tunis, Gabes, Sousse, Nabeul, and Sfax, IMSET ensures nationwide access to quality technical and vocational education. The 2024 IFC study on Employability in Tunisia ranked IMSET as the most advanced institution in Employability’s strategy & results.

INSTITUT MAGHRÉBIN DES SCIENCES ÉCONOMIQUES ET DE TECHNOLOGIE (IMSET)

Founded in 1993, IMSET is a multidisciplinary institution that operates across Business, IT, Technical fields, Design, and Health Sciences. With a strong focus on real-life practice, it has built strategic partnerships on two levels: international degree programs with renowned universities such as CNAM, Université de Lorraine, and ESTIA, and collaborations with industry leaders like SwissContact to integrate their models and tools into teaching. With over 2,800 students and 75 practice labs across five campuses and two annexes in Tunis, Gabes, Sousse, Nabeul, and Sfax, IMSET ensures nationwide access to quality technical and vocational education. The 2024 IFC study on Employability in Tunisia ranked IMSET as the most advanced institution in Employability’s strategy & results.

ACADÉMIE D’ART DE CARTHAGE (AAC)

Founded in 2008, AAC is a leading Arts and Design vocational school under the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training. Blending artistic expression with professional readiness, it offers specialized programs in Audiovisual & Photography, Computer Graphics & Multimedia, Architecture & Design, and Journalism & Animation. With a strong focus on real-world experience and international artistic exchange, AAC equips students with the skills and industry exposure needed to thrive in creative professions and welcomes 23 practice labs across its campuses in Tunis and Nabeul.





“Don’t be afraid to fail.
Every failure is a lesson.
Believe in yourself, step out
of your comfort zone, and keep
moving forward toward
your dreams.”

**IT MANAGER,
PLUXEE**

Industry: IT



Class of 2021
Master of Science, Applied
Mathematics & Master
of Science, Computer Science
in Finance and Insurance



OUMAYMA HAOUET

Oumayma’s passion for mathematics and technology led her to pursue a degree in computer science with a focus on finance at ESPRIT. Her education provided a strong foundation, combining theoretical knowledge with practical applications. The hands-on projects and support from professors helped her build a solid skill set, directly contributing to her success in managing IT projects in the finance sector. Her Master’s in Applied Math and Computer Science further enhanced her ability to combine mathematical models with financial and insurance applications, skills highly sought after by private sector employers.

Biggest Career Achievement

One of Oumayma’s proudest achievements was managing a large-scale IT project that revolutionized internal processes and improved customer interactions at Pluxee, where she currently works as an IT Project Manager. Pluxee is an employee benefits and gift card solutions company based in Tunisia. At Pluxee, Oumayma manages teams and resources to optimize IT processes to meet business needs. She contributes to the industry by driving digital transformation in finance, optimizing business processes, and promoting the use of AI and data analytics to enhance operational efficiency and customer experience. Oumayma has demonstrated her ability to deliver complex projects successfully.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Oumayma is determined to address the limited access to technology and digital education in some African regions. She aims to develop online education programs that provide digital tools and resources, empowering youth and opening doors to new opportunities. She envisions Africa as a continent where digital technology and education are accessible to all, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. Oumayma believes these areas can unlock immense potential and drive sustainable growth.

Advice to Her Younger Self

Oumayma’s advice to her younger self is: “Don’t be afraid to fail. Every failure is a lesson. Believe in yourself, step out of your comfort zone, and keep moving forward toward your dreams.”



“Focus on health,
your physical and mental
well-being should always
be a priority.”

OUMAIMA MAAROUFI

Oumaima Maaroufi transformed her degree in Electromechanical Engineering into a thriving career in Fashiontech. She currently works for La Maison Simons as an Inventory Optimization Analyst, where she uses advanced data analysis and algorithms to predict demand and manage stock levels. By analyzing sales data, customer trends, and inventory turnover rates, she ensures that products are available in the right quantities at the right time. This strategic approach minimizes costs, reduces stock outages, and enhances customer satisfaction, ultimately boosting sales performance.

Biggest Career Achievement

One of Oumaima’s most notable achievements was managing to increase sales at La Maison Simons by 42% during the 2023 Christmas holiday season, achieving a stock coverage rate of 99% across all 17 stores managed under her company brand. This accomplishment highlights her expertise in inventory management and her ability to drive significant business results.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Oumaima identifies transportation infrastructure as a major challenge impacting economic growth in Africa. Many African countries struggle with inadequate road networks, inefficient ports, and limited railway systems, which hinder the movement of goods and people. This results in high transportation costs, delays, and inefficiencies that affect trade, economic growth, and market access.

Oumaima advocates for improving transportation infrastructure by building better roads, expanding railways, upgrading ports, and enhancing air and road connectivity. These improvements would boost regional trade, reduce costs for businesses, and improve access to essential goods and services, thereby stimulating economic development across the continent. Since completing her degree at ESPRIT, Oumaima has also earned a Master’s in Logistics and Analytics from an institution in Canada.

Advice to Younger Self

Oumaima’s advice to her younger self is to prioritize health. She advises “Focus on health, your physical and mental well-being should always be a priority.”

**INVENTORY
OPTIMIZATION ANALYST,
LA MAISON SIMONS**

Industry: Fashion Retail
and Technology



Class of 2018
Master of Science,
Electromechanical
Engineering





“Don’t fear change.
Every opportunity,
even the unexpected ones,
can lead to something bigger
than you ever imagined.”

**PROJECT MANAGER,
ERICSSON**

Industry: IT



Class of 2022

Master of Science,
Engineering



WASSIM DERBEL

Wassim’s journey into the world of IT was marked by his enthusiasm for technology and problem-solving. Studying at Esprit proved to be a pivotal moment, enabling him to refine his skills in software engineering and explore various fields. Specializing in Data Science, he was honored with a double diploma opportunity at both Esprit and Université Gustave Eiffel in France, where he pursued a Master of Science in Intelligent Systems and Applications Research.

Biggest Career Achievement

After completing his studies, Wassim interned at Ericsson, where he successfully automated a complex 5G feature setup using AI. This achievement led to a job offer, marking the beginning of his professional career. Wassim continued to work at Ericsson’s Research and Development Center in Paris after his internship where he progressed from a developer to Scrum Master, then Operative Product Owner, and now serves as a Project Manager. In this role, Wassim leads 5G research and development projects that enhance global connectivity. He oversees the entire project lifecycle, ensuring alignment with customer needs and organizational goals, coordinating teams, managing resources, tracking progress, and mitigating risks.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

One of the biggest challenges in Africa is internet accessibility and digital inclusion. Many regions still lack affordable, high-speed internet, limiting opportunities in education, business, and innovation. With his experience in 5G and telecom infrastructure, Wassim aims to bridge the digital divide by creating tools that will enable better connectivity for underserved areas. He envisions an Africa where technology and education empower youth to create their own opportunities, driving economic growth, fostering entrepreneurship, and creating new job markets.

Advice to Younger Self

Wassim’s advice to his younger self is to Master the fundamentals, embrace challenges, and always stay adaptable. Success comes to those who continuously learn, take initiative, and seize opportunities. He explains that his advice to his 20-year-old self would be: “Don’t fear change. Every opportunity, even the unexpected ones, can lead to something bigger than you ever imagined.”



“Start before you feel ready;
growth comes from action,
not just planning. The world is
evolving fast, and Africa needs
bold thinkers and problem solvers.
Be part of the change!”

SALAH SAMMARI

Salah Sammari’s journey exemplifies how passion, curiosity, and education qualifications can drive career success. With a strong foundation in physics and mathematics, he enrolled at École Supérieure Privée d’ingénieurs de Monastir (a branch of ESPRIT) to study engineering and software development. His career took a pivotal turn during a summer fellowship in Greece, where he discovered the world of artificial intelligence (AI) and data science. This newfound curiosity inspired him to self-learn and pursue AI.

Biggest Career Achievement

Salah’s career took a significant turn when he landed his first job right after graduation as an AI developer at an American company, eventually leading the AI development team. He spent several years developing AI strategies, creating software, and improving learning models, particularly in tenders and stock market analysis. His experience working with international clients from America, Canada, China, and other countries motivated him to build his own AI company. He founded Tradrly, based in Al-Mahdia, Tunisia, which now works with clients from the US, Europe, Asia, and the Gulf, helping businesses integrate AI into web and mobile applications.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Salah believes that one of the biggest challenges in Africa is the lack of access to AI technology and education. Many businesses still rely on traditional methods, and AI is seen as complex or inaccessible. However, Africa has talented youth, growing industries, and real-world challenges that AI can help solve. Salah aims to make AI education more accessible through training programs and mentorship, creating job opportunities in AI to retain talent in Africa. He envisions Africa as a leader in artificial intelligence and innovation, not just a consumer of technology. With its young talent, growing tech ecosystem, and real-world challenges, Africa has the potential to develop AI solutions that address both local and global problems.

Advice to Younger Self

Salah’s advice to his younger self is success is not about where you start, but how much you’re willing to learn, adapt, and persist. Salah believes that the key is to stay curious, take risks, and never stop growing. He encourages that young people take every opportunity to learn, even outside their comfort zone, noting that failure is just a lesson, not the end. “Start before you feel ready; growth comes from action, not just planning. The world is evolving fast, and Africa needs bold thinkers and problem solvers. Be part of the change!”

**FOUNDER
& CEO/FOUNDER
TRADRLY**

Industry:

Information Technology
(Artificial Intelligence)



Class of 2021

Bachelor of Science,
Engineering,
Information Technology





ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE
UNIVERSITÉ CENTRALE
HONORIS UNITED UNIVERSITIES

ÉCOLE CENTRALE SUPÉRIEURE
POLYTECHNIQUE PRIVÉE DE TUNIS





“Always stay curious and persistent. The challenges of today are the opportunities of tomorrow.”

PRODUCTION MANAGER, CEM TUNISIE

Industry:
Electrical equipment manufacturing



Class of 2022
Bachelor of Science,
Electromechanical Engineering



FAYCEL BEJAOU

Faycel has been passionate about engineering and technology from an early age. He obtained his degree in electromechanical engineering in 2022. His professional journey began at SACEM Industrie as a design engineer, where he gained extensive technical knowledge and underwent multiple training programs. Later, he joined CEM Tunisie, a company specializing in the manufacturing of motors and distribution transformers. This role allowed him to expand his expertise in optimizing production processes and continuously improving industrial equipment. Today, as Production Manager at CEM Tunisia, Faycel tackles energy challenges with an innovative and strategic vision.

Biggest Career Achievement

In his current role, Faycel enhances the efficiency of equipment and manufacturing processes to optimize transformer production and introduce innovative solutions to the energy sector. He is actively involved in researching new approaches to improve the reliability and performance of electrical distribution systems. His education in electromechanical engineering provided him with a strong technical foundation and the ability to analyze and solve complex problems, enabling him to progress quickly in his field and significantly contribute to improving industrial processes within his company.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Faycel believes that one of Africa's biggest challenges is energy distribution. He envisions an energy-independent Africa, powered by renewable energy and modern, reliable infrastructure. By leveraging expertise and collective intelligence, Faycel believes we can develop efficient and sustainable solutions to improve electricity access across the continent. A well-functioning electricity distribution network would foster economic and social development, creating a more prosperous future for all.

Advice to his younger self

“Always stay curious and persistent. The challenges of today are the opportunities of tomorrow.”



“Be driven by curiosity, determination, and the constant drive to make an impact.”

MERIEM CHEBIL

Meriem has always been fascinated by how things work—whether it was technology, processes, or systems—so it was no surprise that she pursued Industrial Engineering at University Centrale. During her studies, she became particularly interested in risk management and safety, areas that are both challenging and essential, especially in high-stakes industries. After graduating in 2021, Meriem worked as a Quality Health, Safety and Environment Inspector at Technique Inspection et Contrôle, a leading oil and gas company. It was there that she discovered the importance of quality, risk management, and audits in ensuring not just the safety of employees, but also the overall operational success of an organization.

Biggest Career Achievement

Now based in the United Arab Emirates, Meriem works as a Health, Safety and Environment Officer at Fujairah International Airport. Her responsibilities include monitoring and enforcing safety regulations, conducting risk assessments, and ensuring that all safety measures are implemented and followed throughout the airport. She collaborates with various teams to ensure compliance with international safety standards, promote environmental sustainability, and handle emergency response planning. Meriem has led sustainability projects at Fujairah International Airport, driving significant improvements in environmental practices and energy efficiency. Her professionalism was recognized with the General Civil Aviation Authority Award for excellence in sustainability and environmental responsibility. Meriem played a key role in establishing the airport as a leader in sustainability within the aviation industry.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Meriem is deeply interested in the production of Sustainable Aviation Fuel on the African continent. As the aviation industry continues to grow, it is crucial for Africa to adopt sustainable solutions that reduce environmental impact. By focusing on SAF production and exploring other green technologies, Meriem aims to contribute to making the aviation industry more sustainable. Her vision is to help Africa lead the way in environmentally conscious aviation practices, ensuring a greener future for the continent.

Advice to Younger Self

Meriem's career journey is one of curiosity, determination, and the constant drive to make an impact. Her commitment to safety, sustainability, and innovation has positively influenced the aviation industry and beyond. *“Be the change that you wish to see in the world,”* Mahatma Gandhi.

HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENT OFFICER, FUJAIRAH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Industry: Aviation



Class of 2022
Bachelor of Science,
Industrial Engineering





“We must face our fears and do what scares us most, then change will begin, and we will evolve.”

CLAIMS
ADMINISTRATOR,
MSH INTERNATIONAL

Industry: Health Insurance



Class of 2022
Master of Science,
Healthcare Management



SAFA BEN NASR

Safa's journey began in 2020 when she obtained her bachelor's degree in obstetrics. Driven by a passion for healthcare, she transitioned to a professional master's degree in healthcare management. Throughout her academic journey, Safa was inspired by the administration and faculty, who provided invaluable support and learning opportunities. Her master's program at University Centrale equipped her with a profound understanding of healthcare systems and strategic planning. The institution's support, coupled with networking opportunities and training courses, enabled Safa to build essential connections and enhance her professional and personal skills.

Biggest Career Achievement

As a claims administrator at MSH International, Safa has excelled in ensuring accurate and efficient reimbursement processing. Her role is pivotal in balancing cost control with customer satisfaction, ensuring policyholders receive their benefits promptly and fairly. This achievement highlights her dedication to improving operational efficiency and customer service within the insurance sector.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Safa identifies two critical challenges in Africa: access to healthcare and youth unemployment. She observes that many countries lack adequate medical infrastructure, qualified personnel, and essential resources. Additionally, the continent's young population faces limited job opportunities and access to quality education, hindering socio-economic development. Safa envisions a future where universal access to healthcare is achieved through stronger healthcare systems, good governance, and transparency. She advocates for promoting democratic institutions, the rule of law, combating corruption, and ensuring peace and security to create a conducive environment for growth and development.

Advice to Younger Self

Safa's advice to her younger self is to embrace change and remain open to new opportunities. She emphasizes the importance of building strong networks and continuously improving both professional and personal skills. Safa encourages her younger self to stay resilient in the face of challenges and to always strive for excellence in every endeavor. Her inspirational quote is: "We must face our fears and do what scares us most, then change will begin, and we will evolve."



“Every setback holds the seed of growth. Keep moving forward, even when the road is shrouded in mist.”

SANA AL HABIB

Sana's fascination with movies began in childhood, sparked by the magic of her first big-screen experience with "The Lion King." Her mother, an artist, nurtured this interest through various forms of art, including ballet, theater, encouraging Sana to explore her creativity. A pivotal moment came when she visited the Doha Film Institute and participated in a film production, igniting her passion for the film industry. This journey led her to Université Centrale, where she earned a bachelor's degree in filmmaking. Despite the challenges, Sana's path has been one of self-discovery, skill development, and overcoming limitations.

Biggest Career Achievement

Sana's career is marked by numerous accolades and recognitions. Her filmography includes selections for prestigious festivals such as the Afrika Film Festival 2024 in Belgium and the Malmö Arab Film Festival 2023. She has received awards like the Audience Choice Award from Mentor Arabia 2024 and Le Prix de l'Alliance at Cinemana Film Festival 2023. Notably, she was honored with the "Best New Female Talent" award for her debut in the series "El Maestro" and the "Best Young Female Talent" award for her performance in the series "Harga."

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

The creative industries in Africa face significant financial challenges, with limited funding and resources hindering sustainable production and job opportunities for young talent. Additionally, the lack of access to quality education and resources exacerbates these issues. Sana envisions a thriving film ecosystem that fosters creativity and empowers young people across the continent. She advocates for stronger infrastructure and resources to enable African artists to create, innovate, and collaborate on a larger scale. Her goal is to see Africa's diverse cultural narratives celebrated and honored worldwide, contributing to a more inclusive and interconnected world.

Advice to Younger Self

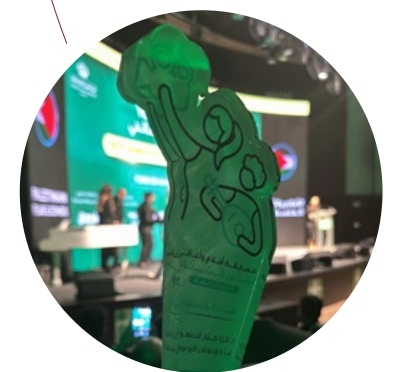
To her younger self, Sana would say, "Every setback holds the seed of growth. Keep moving forward, even when the road is shrouded in mist." Sana explains that her own journey has shown that you don't need all the answers right now; things will fall into place." She believes that chance and good fortune are forged through continuous learning and preparation, ensuring readiness to seize opportunities as they arise.

INDEPENDENT
FILMMAKER, ACTOR

Industry: Film



Class of 2023
Bachelor of Arts, Film





FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES
DE LA SANTÉ
SOUSSE · TUNIS · SFAX
HONORIS UNITED UNIVERSITIES

ANESTHÉSIE - RÉANIMATION





“Do what you love,
and you’ll never work a day
in your life.”

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR
FOR AFRICA AT
SIMULEAD,
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

Industry: Health



**Class of 2014
Bachelor of Science,
Anesthesia and Resuscitation**



AMANI SLAMA

Amani’s journey in the medical field began during her studies as an anesthesia and resuscitation technician. Her passion for medical simulation was ignited in late 2013 when she attended a conference at the ATTAR congress in Tabarka, where she first encountered medical simulation technology. Determined to pursue this interest, Amani earned a degree at UPSAT and embarked on a career in medical simulation technology. Her dedication and persistence led her to become the Regional Director for Africa at Simulead, a Dubai-based company representing several medical simulation equipment brands across Africa and the Middle East. In this role, she manages sales, oversees equipment installations, provides training, and coordinates after-sales services.

Biggest Career Achievement

Amani has made significant contributions to the growth of the medical simulation industry in Africa. Her company Simulead has introduced healthcare simulation to underserved areas, organized product demonstrations, and secured funding for simulation programs. Amani’s efforts have improved the training of healthcare professionals by integrating hands-on experiences and standardizing practices. Amani’s work has modernized medical and paramedical training programs, ultimately enhancing the quality of care and patient safety.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Amani aims to address the lack of access to quality healthcare simulation in Africa, particularly in underserved regions. She envisions a future where all African healthcare workers have access to advanced training with simulation tools. By promoting the importance of simulation and providing both technical and pedagogical training, Amani is working to ensure that simulation becomes an integral part of medical education across the continent. Her goal is to create a strong healthcare system with well-trained professionals capable of delivering excellent care and saving lives.

Advice to Younger Self

To her younger self, Amani would say, “Do what you love, and you’ll never work a day in your life”. Amani believes this is what makes work feel effortless and fulfilling.



“Every challenge
is an opportunity to grow,
and every setback is just a lesson.
Trust the process, be patient
with yourself, and know
that persistence will always lead
you to success.”

ONS LAHOUMEL

After graduating from UPSAT in 2011 with a Bachelor’s degree in Orthoptics, Ons began her career by championing the working conditions of Tunisian orthoptists. In 2012, she founded the Tunisian Orthoptic Association (ATO), the first organization dedicated to orthoptics in the Arab world and Africa. The ATO plays a significant role both nationally and internationally in developing and promoting orthoptics through conferences, continuous training, and eye screening campaigns to combat visual impairments and low vision. Since 2013, the ATO has participated in ophthalmology summits in Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, and the UAE, becoming a thought leader in the industry.

Biggest Career Achievement

Ons has achieved numerous professional milestones. She was the first international speaker in orthoptics and a trainer for orthoptists and ophthalmology residents in Sub-Saharan Africa. As a member of the International Orthoptic Association (IOA) Council Management, she represents Tunisia within the IOA. In 2017, she organized the first Tunisian Orthoptic Summit, which quickly gained international attention. Ons is also a member of the Orthoptic Scientific Committee of the Emirates Society of Ophthalmology (ESO) and played a key role in organizing the first UAE ESO Summit. Additionally, she has served as a contributing editor for the Journal Francophone d’Orthoptie.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

A major issue Ons aims to address in Africa is the lack of access to quality eye care and vision rehabilitation services, particularly in underserved regions. She envisions a future where quality healthcare, including eye care, is accessible to all. Her goal is for every African child, adult, and senior to have access to the eye care they need, ensuring a brighter, healthier, and more productive future for all.

Advice to Younger Self

Ons advises younger professionals to believe in their potential, work hard, and never be afraid to take risks. To her younger self, she would say, “Every challenge is an opportunity to grow, and every setback is just a lesson. Trust the process, be patient with yourself, and know that persistence will always lead you to success.”

**SENIOR ORTHOPTIST,
DUBAI HOSPITAL,
DUBAI, UNITED
ARAB EMIRATES**

Industry: Health



**Class of 2011
Bachelor of Science,
Orthoptics**





“Believe in your potential-
even in highly technical fields
full of challenges.”



RANIA HICHRI

Rania Hichri's relentless pursuit of knowledge has been the cornerstone of her successful career in biology. Her journey began with a Brevet de Technicien Supérieur (BTS) in Bioanalysis and Quality Control at IMSET, where Rania developed solid expertise in analytical techniques, compliance control, and industrial process management. Her academic journey bridged biology, chemistry, and manufacturing processes—preparing her to quickly thrive in a highly technical and evolving sector. Practical projects, career workshops, and strong networking opportunities at IMSET enriched her professional perspective and boosted the soft skills essential for industrial leadership.

Biggest Career Achievement

One of Rania's proudest milestones is her appointment as Product Quality Manager at Ad Plast Tunisia, a leading company in plastic transformation. In this role, she leads the design, implementation, and evaluation of industrial projects, ensuring compliance with the highest product quality standards. Her attention to detail, analytical mindset, and collaborative approach have played a key role in driving continuous improvement in production.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Rania views the sustainable management of resources and industrial waste, particularly plastics, as a critical challenge for Africa. Her vision includes implementing localized recycling and waste sorting systems, raising awareness among industries and consumers about environmental responsibility, supporting innovation in biodegradable or recyclable plastic alternatives, and creating partnerships between manufacturers, green startups, NGOs, and government bodies. She envisions an Africa where responsible plastic processing becomes a cornerstone of ecological and industrial transformation. Rania envisions a future where sustainable innovations in biotechnology and agriculture empower local communities, improve health and food safety, and preserve biodiversity. She envisions an Africa where responsible plastic processing becomes a pillar of ecological and industrial transformation.

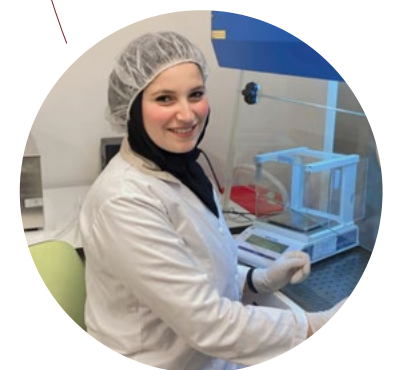
Advice to Younger Self

To younger professionals preparing for the workforce, Rania advises, “Believe in your potential- even in highly technical fields full of challenges.” Every obstacle is an opportunity to innovate. Surround yourself with mentors, stay curious, and don't be afraid to break the mold. The industrial world needs young, passionate, and visionary leaders.

**PRODUCT QUALITY
MANAGER,**
Ad Plast TN
Industry: Plastics



Class of 2023
**BTS, Bioanalysis
and Quality Control**





“Every failure is an opportunity to learn and grow. Cultivate your passion for design and never hesitate to explore new ideas. Surround yourself with inspiring and kind people, as they will support you on your journey.”

HAMZA HARRAZI

Hamza's technical mastery of software programs such as AutoCAD, 3DS Max, SketchUp, Lumion, D5, Revit, and Photoshop have been instrumental in his success working in the Real Estate and Interior Design industries. Hamza's professional journey began as a 3D Kitchen Designer and Technical-Commercial Manager at Cuisine & Co, where he developed luxurious kitchen designs. Transitioning to architecture, Hamza worked as an Interior Designer at TK Design. Hamza then joined Diar Alaeddine, a real estate development company, as a Space Designer, further expanding his expertise. His career continued to flourish at Evasion Furniture Company, where he contributed to unique and functional furniture and interior spaces as a Space and 3D Designer.

Biggest Career Achievement

A significant milestone for Hamza came in January 2023 when Hamza founded his own interior design and 3D conception agency, Z'heus Design, reflecting his entrepreneurial spirit and unique vision. Being fluent in French, English, and Arabic, has also been an advantage for working with diverse clientele. Establishing his own firm was the culmination of years of hard work and passion for interior design. This milestone represents a true recognition of his expertise and commitment to excellence. Every project completed by Z'heus Design demonstrates Hamza's ability to transform ideas into tangible realities and add value to the interior design industry.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Hamza is particularly sensitive to the issue of precarious and inadequate housing affecting many communities in Africa. His goal is to improve living conditions by proposing innovative, sustainable, and affordable design solutions. Hamza aims to create functional, aesthetic, and environmentally friendly living spaces that meet the specific needs of local populations. By using local materials and traditional construction techniques combined with contemporary design approaches, he believes it is possible to transform precarious housing into dignified and inspiring habitats. Hamza's ambition is to collaborate with local organizations and communities to implement pilot projects and share his knowledge, creating a positive and lasting impact on the quality of life in Africa.

Advice to Younger Self

If Hamza could give his 20-year-old self advice, it would be to not be afraid to take risks and step out of his comfort zone. *“Every failure is an opportunity to learn and grow. Cultivate your passion for design and never hesitate to explore new ideas. Surround yourself with inspiring and kind people, as they will support you on your journey.”* Hamza advises cultivating a passion for design and never hesitating to explore new ideas. Patience and persistence are key, as success takes time and effort. Most importantly, Hamza reminds his younger self to believe in his potential, as every stage of life is precious, and we have the power to create our own path.



**FOUNDER,
Z'HEUS DESIGN**

**Industry: Real Estate,
Interior Design**

AAC ACADÉMIE D'ART DE CARTHAGE
HONORIS UNITED UNIVERSITIES

Class of 2018

**Higher Technician
Certificate in Interior Design
and Decoration**





MAURITIUS

HONORIS EDUCATIONAL NETWORK (HEN)

Founded in 2002, HEN delivers supported distance learning undergraduate and postgraduate programs from REGENT Business School and MANCOSA. Specialised online courses from Red & Yellow Creative School of Business to equip learners with market-relevant skills. Cutting-edge coding bootcamps in web development, data science, and data analytics from Le Wagon, the most acclaimed bootcamp in the world. Winner of prestigious awards and recognitions including being voted the Best Educational Establishment in 2020 at the Mauritius Business Awards, and winner in the People's Choice Awards from 2021 to 2024 in the category of Tertiary Education.



“Leave no stone unturned to become the better version of yourself.”

DR ISMAEL ADAM ESSACKJEE

Dr. Ishmael Essackjee began his career in the power utility industry as an engineer. Recognizing the importance of leadership, strategy, and management skills for reliable energy delivery, he pursued an MBA at MANCOSA, which he completed in April 2011. Over the years, he has gained extensive experience in transmission and distribution, working in various capacities within power utilities. Currently, he serves as the Acting Manager (Transmission) at the Central Electricity Board of Mauritius, leading a team of engineers, technical officers, and technicians in planning, constructing, operating, and maintaining the country's transmission infrastructure.

Biggest Career Achievement

Dr. Essackjee's most significant career achievement is leading the transformation of Mauritius' transmission and distribution infrastructure to create a modern, sustainable, and resilient energy grid. His role includes ensuring grid reliability, integrating renewable energy sources, and managing a team of 30 professionals. His efforts have minimized losses, improved system efficiency, and supported Mauritius' transition to cleaner energy. In addition to his technical and managerial expertise, Dr. Essackjee holds an MBA from the Management College of Southern Africa and is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP). He earned a PhD in Renewable Energy Integration from the University of Mauritius in 2021. He is a member of IEEE, IET, IEM, and CI Arb, and a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute of the UK. Dr. Essackjee is also a Maxwell Certified Leadership Development Coach, Speaker, and Trainer. He completed Daniel Goleman's Emotional Intelligence (EI) training program in 2023 and was recognized with Asia's Best Coaching & Development Leadership Award for 2020/21. In 2024, he earned the Certified Artificial Intelligence Consultant (CAIC) credentials from the United States Artificial Intelligence Institute (USAII). Beyond his professional achievements, Dr. Essackjee mentors young engineers and lectures part-time in engineering and management at various universities, contributing to the development of future power utility professionals.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Dr. Essackjee identifies the lack of electricity access for millions in Africa as a critical challenge. As an expert in renewable energy, he believes the solution lies in harnessing Africa's abundant natural resources—solar, wind, hydro, and biomass. By galvanizing engineers, policymakers, and stakeholders, he envisions a collective effort to innovate, invest, and implement sustainable energy solutions. This approach will light up Africa, unlock its full potential, and ensure no one is left in the dark. He envisions an Africa where energy security drives economic transformation, supporting industries, education, and innovation.

Advice to Younger Self

Dr. Essackjee's advice to his younger self is to “Leave no stone unturned to become the better version of yourself.” He encourages young professionals to embrace challenges, build strong foundations in skills and ethics, and remain adaptable.



**ACTING MANAGER
(TRANSMISSION),
CENTRAL ELECTRICITY
BOARD (CEB)
OF MAURITIUS**

Industry: Energy

HONORIS

EDUCATIONAL NETWORK

Class of 2011

Master of Business
Administration (MBA)





LEADING WITH PURPOSE: ENTREPRENEURSHIP, EQUALITY, SUSTAINABILITY AND ETHICAL LEADERSHIP

Honoris United Universities demonstrates leadership in entrepreneurship, gender empowerment, sustainability, and ethical leadership. Our 11 innovation labs, including Collective Lab in Tunisia, Collective Lab in Nigeria, iLead Lab in South Africa, Smartilab and LPRI Lab in Morocco, foster entrepreneurial skills and innovation. Significant gender initiatives reinforce our commitment to gender equality. Our dedication to sustainability and ethical leadership aligns with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and our commitment to the UN Global Compact, ensuring our graduates are equipped to drive positive change globally.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP: THE JOB CREATORS OF TOMORROW

We believe entrepreneurship is a powerful driver of empowerment, innovation, and economic growth. It enables our students and alumni to transform bold ideas into impactful ventures, creating jobs and solving real-world challenges. We proudly celebrate the entrepreneurial spirit within our network—exemplified by the success stories of alumni who have evolved from visionaries into accomplished business leaders.

“Fail fast, learn faster,
and trust that a unique
perspective can change the world.
The biggest risk
is not taking one.”



WIEM BEN-MAHMOUD

For a graduate just starting her career, Wiem Ben-Mahmoud is already creating big waves as an entrepreneur. Wiem is a dynamic and visionary leader in the field of education technology. Her journey began with a profound interest in how education shapes individuals and societies. After earning her bachelor's degree, she entered the digital finance sector at Vermeg, where she led high-level negotiations with central banks across Europe and Asia. However, her true passion lay in education. Following her heart, Wiem resigned from her job and enrolled at Université Centrale for the Global MBA in Impact Entrepreneurship.

Biggest Career Achievement

In 2023, Wiem took a bold step to found KidzRise, an AI-powered EdTech startup dedicated to detecting and nurturing children's talents. KidzRise has garnered recognition from prestigious institutions such as MIT and MIT Solve in the USA as part of the Global Learning Challenge 2024. KidzRise is also part of the UK EdTech Accelerator Go Together. Wiem was named “Most Promising Entrepreneur of 2024” by Africarena and was featured on the cover of the women's entrepreneurship journal, Lionesses of Africa as a change-making Tunisian EdTech entrepreneur. She has been a speaker at international education and innovation forums and has been featured in multiple national and international media articles. Under Wiem's leadership, KidzRise is on a mission to impact millions of children worldwide.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Wiem identifies the biggest challenge in Africa's education system as the high number of out-of-school children, poor teacher quality, lack of learning resources, and rigid pedagogical approaches that do not foster creative thinking. She believes that if these issues are not addressed, the next generation of innovators, leaders, and changemakers will be lost. Her solution is to revolutionize education by developing skilled individuals with diverse talents—creators, innovators, and problem-solvers who know their strengths and how to use them to benefit both themselves and society.

Advice to Younger Self

Wiem's advice to her younger self is not to overthink your ideas. “Fail fast, learn faster, and trust that a unique perspective can change the world. The biggest risk is not taking one.”

FOUNDER,
KIDZRISE

Industry: EdTech,
Artificial Intelligence &
Early Childhood Development



Class of 2024

Global Master Business
Administration (MBA)
in Impact Entrepreneurship



GENDER: EMPOWERING FEMALE GRADUATES

Gender equity is essential to building inclusive, innovative, and resilient societies. Empowering women through education and opportunity is a powerful catalyst for social and economic progress. Across our network, we are committed to breaking down barriers and creating environments where women can lead, thrive, and drive change. By fostering inclusive campuses, advancing female leadership, and supporting career pathways for women across disciplines, we are shaping a future where talent and ambition know no gender.

“Embrace every challenge as an opportunity to grow, and never underestimate the power of your voice. Your passion for sustainability and innovation can inspire change.”

HAJARA ABDULFATAH

An exceptional female alumna, Hajara Abdulfatah has excelled in her career at the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) where she works with the Energy Sustainability and Carbon Management team to build capacity in energy management, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to a low-carbon future. Hajara's journey began with a keen interest in engineering and a desire to break stereotypes in STEM, particularly within the Oil and Gas industry. She graduated with first-class honors, ranking in the top 2% of her class at Nile University of Nigeria. Her academic excellence and passion for energy-related issues earned her the prestigious Chevening Scholarship in 2021/2022. This trailblazing woman has become an influential role model, inspiring the next generation of female leaders. Her outstanding achievements highlight the critical importance of empowering women and fostering an inclusive and equitable workforce. We celebrate her inspiring journey and the significant strides she has made as we continue to promote gender equality.

Biggest Career Achievement

Hajara plays a vital role in shaping policies and regulations that drive sustainable practices in the Nigerian energy sector. Her dedication, expertise, and vision make her a valuable asset in driving positive change and innovation within the energy sector, paving the way for a more sustainable future. Beyond her professional endeavors, Hajara founded the “Girl in STEM” initiative to challenge educational disenfranchisement among northern females. Her unwavering dedication to STEM advocacy has earned her international and local recognition, including the Global STEM Ambassador title and various awards such as the Girl in STEM Leadership Award by SPE Nigeria, STEM Ambassador for Coder in Africa (Coderina), Distinguished Merit Award by the Voice of Northern Nigerian Students (VONNIS), and the Price of Peace Award in S.T.E.A.M and the Environment by the Federation of International Gender and Human Rights (FIGHR) New York, USA.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Hajara believes that Africa's greatest challenge is achieving energy security and sustainability. She envisions a continent powered by diverse, renewable energy sources that provide reliable access to electricity for all, fostering economic growth and social equity. Through innovative policies, community engagement, and a commitment to environmental stewardship, Africa can become a beacon of sustainable development, leading the charge toward a resilient, low-carbon future that empowers its people and protects its rich natural heritage.

Advice to Younger Self

If Hajara could speak to her 20-year-old self, she would say: “Embrace every challenge as an opportunity to grow, and never underestimate the power of your voice. Your passion for sustainability and innovation can inspire change.” Change doesn't just affect your life, it also impacts the world around you. Hajara pursues her dreams relentlessly, remembering that every small step taken today contributes to the larger journey of making a difference.



**NIGERIAN
UPSTREAM PETROLEUM
REGULATORY
COMMISSION (NUPRC)**

Industry:
Petroleum and Gas



Class of 2019
**Bachelor of Science,
Engineering**



ETHICAL LEADERSHIP: LEADING WITH INTEGRITY AND SHAPING ETHICAL FUTURES

Honoris United Universities fully supports the next generation of ethical leaders. We embed ethical principles into the Honoris Certificate on Sustainability, Work Ethics, and Gender Equity—curricula to nurture a culture of integrity. We prepare our graduates to navigate the complexities of the modern workforce with a strong moral compass. Through experiential learning opportunities, mentorship programs, and community engagement, we provide our students with real-world experiences that reinforce the importance of ethical leadership. Honoris graduates are not only equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in their careers but are also instilled with a deep sense of responsibility to act ethically and contribute positively to society. By nurturing ethical leaders, we are committed to shaping a future where principles of fairness, accountability, and respect guide businesses and organizations. Our graduates are poised to lead with integrity, inspire trust, and drive sustainable growth in their industries, creating a better world for generations to come.

“Success is not just about talent or luck; it is the relentless pursuit of excellence, the courage to push beyond limits, and the resilience to rise after every fall.”

DR. ISMAILA LUKMAN

Dr. Lukman Enegi Ismaila was awarded a scholarship to study computer science at Nile University of Nigeria (NUN), where he graduated with first-class honors in his undergraduate program. His academic excellence earned him multiple scholarships to further pursue a Master's degree at NUN, also in Computer Science. After completing his Master's degree, Lukman became an assistant lecturer at NUN and also served as an Alumni Relations Officer. During this time, Lukman contributed to several research projects, including one on the eVoting System, led by Professor Steve Adeshina (*the Chair of the School of Engineering*). The e-voting system was successfully launched for the Student Representative Council Election, earning Lukman the NUN “Vice Chancellor Award of Excellence.” Following his Master's degree, Lukman received a prestigious scholarship from the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) to pursue his doctoral studies at Université d'Angers, France, focusing on Machine Learning Applications in Neuroscience for Pre-Surgical Brain Tumor Removal Procedures. His innovative work during his doctoral research earned him media highlights, including an interview with The Guardian.

Biggest Career Achievement

Following the completion of his studies at Nile University Nigeria, Dr. Lukman served in a postdoctoral position at the prestigious Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where he contributed his expertise in medical research. His work focused on improving targeted interventions for chronic spinal cord injury patients using computational analysis to observe brain connectivity reorganization. This research was awarded an educational stipend for an oral presentation at the International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine (ISMRM) 2024 conference in Singapore and published in the Journal of Neurotrauma. With all his academic achievements, Dr. Lukman serves as Lead Machine Learning Engineer and Product Manager at Omdena, a platform dedicated to building innovative and ethical AI solutions to real-world problems. He has led impactful projects such as “Credit Scoring for Making Food Affordable to the Millions of Underserved in Africa” and “Improving Food Security and Crop Yield in Senegal Through Machine Learning.”

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Dr. Lukman believes that one of Africa's greatest challenges is access to health data. He is currently advocating for the establishment of the AfriBioBank system, a pan-African medical imagery biobank designed to provide standardized and equitable data storage for scientific research. His preliminary work on this project has already garnered attention from top news media like Vanguard, which featured an article titled “Breaking Barriers to Science in Africa: Dr. Lukman Enegi Ismaila's Innovative AfriBioBank.” Additionally, he has presented his preliminary findings, “AfriBioBank: Empowering Africa's Medical Imaging Research and Practice Through Data Sharing and Governance,” at the prestigious International Conference on Medical Image Computing and Computer-Assisted Intervention (MICCAI) 2024.

Advice to Younger Self

If Dr. Lukman could offer advice to his younger self, he would say: “Success is not just about talent or luck; it is the relentless pursuit of excellence, the courage to push beyond limits, and the resilience to rise after every fall.” He believes that young people should keep striving, keep learning, and keep breaking boundaries because change is made by those who refuse to stand still. Dr. Lukman lives by the mantra of St. Francis of Assisi: “Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and soon, you will be doing the impossible.” He encourages young people to embrace challenges and view them as opportunities for growth and learning.



**LEAD MACHINE
LEARNING ENGINEER,
OMDENA**

Industry:
Health, Technology (AI)



Class of 2015 & 2017
Bachelor of Science, Computer
Science; Master of Science,
Computer Science



SUSTAINABILITY: INNOVATORS FOR A GREENER FUTURE

Sustainability has become a global imperative as we confront mounting challenges such as climate change, and social inequalities. It is more critical than ever to ensure that economic growth, environmental stewardship, and social progress are balanced and mutually supportive. Leaders who champion sustainability are essential in navigating these complex issues. Those who inspire and drive the adoption of practices that protect our planet, promote fair and inclusive societies, and secure a thriving future for generations are critical change agents dedicated to their mission of promoting sustainable practices and driving positive environmental impact.

“Failure is not a detour or a setback—it’s part of the path. Keep moving, keep evolving, and trust yourself to face challenges by building your mind up however it needs to be. What may seem like the end of the world may in time lead to a whole new one.”

VARISH SINGH

Varish’s journey began with a passion for Pure and Applied Chemistry and a pivotal meeting with Prof. Karodia, Founder of MANCOSA that changed everything. At age 23, Varish was given the opportunity to pursue his MBA, a decision that reshaped his future. During his studies at Mancosa, an economics assignment became his defining “Aha!” moment. He uncovered the deep-rooted food and water challenges in South Africa, sparking a shift in his perspective. This newfound awareness propelled him toward process engineering, software customization, and large-scale implementation projects aimed at addressing these critical issues. Varish dedicated his time to finding ways to deliver water and sanitation solutions to underserved communities, contributing significantly to initiatives like the War on Leaks campaign. The confidence MANCOSA instilled in him was transformative.

Biggest Career Achievement

As the founder of Africend SA, Varish specializes in AI-driven business efficiency consulting, helping companies optimize operations and drive growth. His consulting work spans multiple sectors, including finance, SaaS, education, and marketing, where he leverages technology to drive sustainable business practices. His career has been marked by numerous achievements, including managing PR for the World Youth Chess Championship in 2014 and earning recognition for his efficiency projects. Varish is also passionate about empowering young professionals and is launching the Next Leader book series in 2025. From managing PR and media for the WYCC 2014 to winning a 2nd place award for Efficiency Project of the Year at AUW 2016, Varish’s journey has been defined by impactful milestones. The South African CHESSA President recognized Varish for his services. Founding Africend SA has been a transformative experience, allowing him to refine his consulting approach while empowering businesses.

One Burning Problem to Solve in Africa and the Solution

Varish believes that Africa’s biggest challenge is that education must go beyond theory—it should equip young people with practical, real-world skills. Additionally, Africa’s water, sanitation, and food security crises require urgent, innovative solutions. His goal is to bridge these gaps through knowledge, exposure, and empowerment. Varish envisions an Africa driven by collaboration in science, sustainability, and education. When knowledge, innovation, and strategic partnerships come together, the continent will not just survive but thrive.

Advice to Younger Self

Varish’s advice to his younger self: “Failure is not a detour or a setback—it’s part of the path. Keep moving, keep evolving, and trust yourself to face challenges by building your mind up however it needs to be. What may seem like the end of the world may in time lead to a whole new one.”



**FOUNDER AND CEO
AFRICEND**

Industry:
Management Consulting



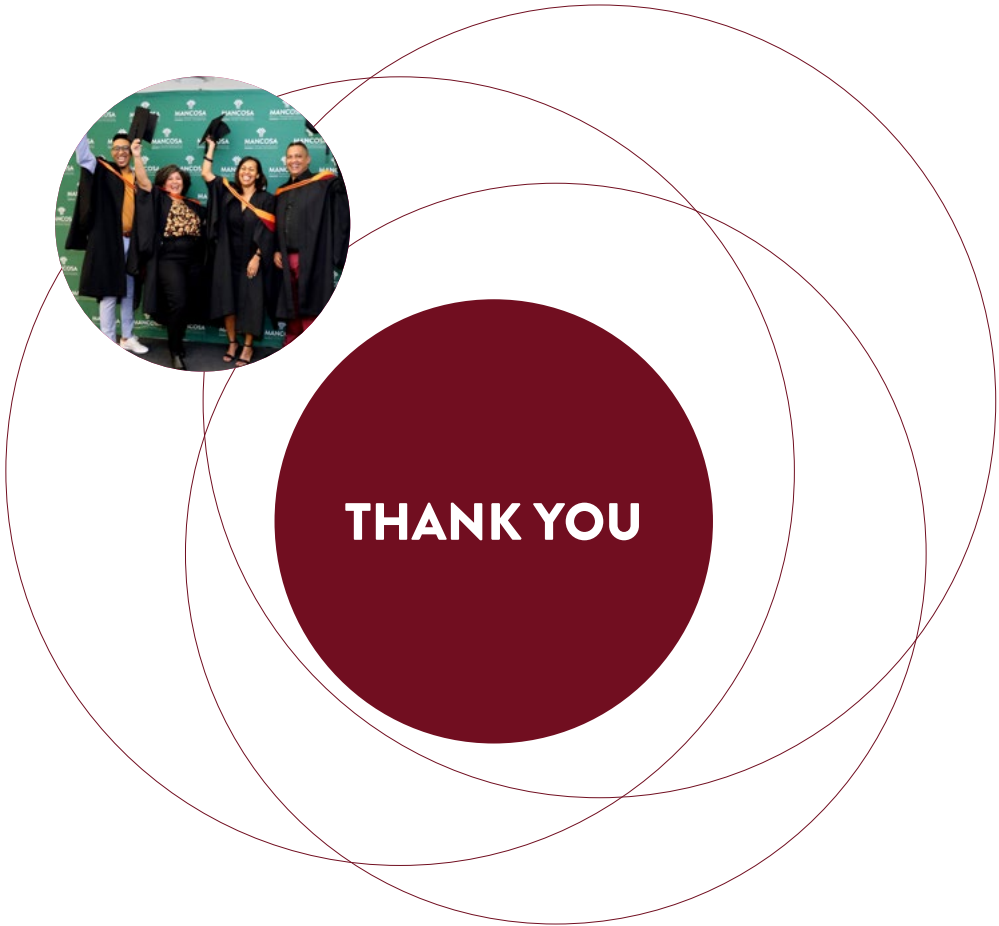
Class of 2012
**Master of Business
Administration (MBA)**



**CONCLUSION
RECOGNIZING
THE MOVERS
AND SHAKERS**

Africa stands at the cusp of a transformative era, driven by its dynamic and youthful population. As the continent's workforce grows and evolves, the next five years, from 2025 to 2030, will be pivotal in harnessing this potential. The 2025 World Economic Forum Future of Work report highlights critical drivers such as technological advancements, sustainable practices, and the demand for specialized skills that will shape the job market. Our alumni, as trailblazers in their industries, are making significant contributions to this evolution and driving development forward. Their accomplishments emphasize the vital need to nurture talent and foster innovation to keep pace with the rapidly changing world of work. We extend our deepest gratitude to our alumni for their outstanding contributions, which bring immense pride to Honoris and our institutions. Their success stories not only inspire current and future students but also demonstrate that with dedication, resilience, and the right support, they too can leave a lasting impact. Thank you for being an integral part of the Honoris narrative and for leading the charge toward a brighter, more sustainable future for Africa's workforce.

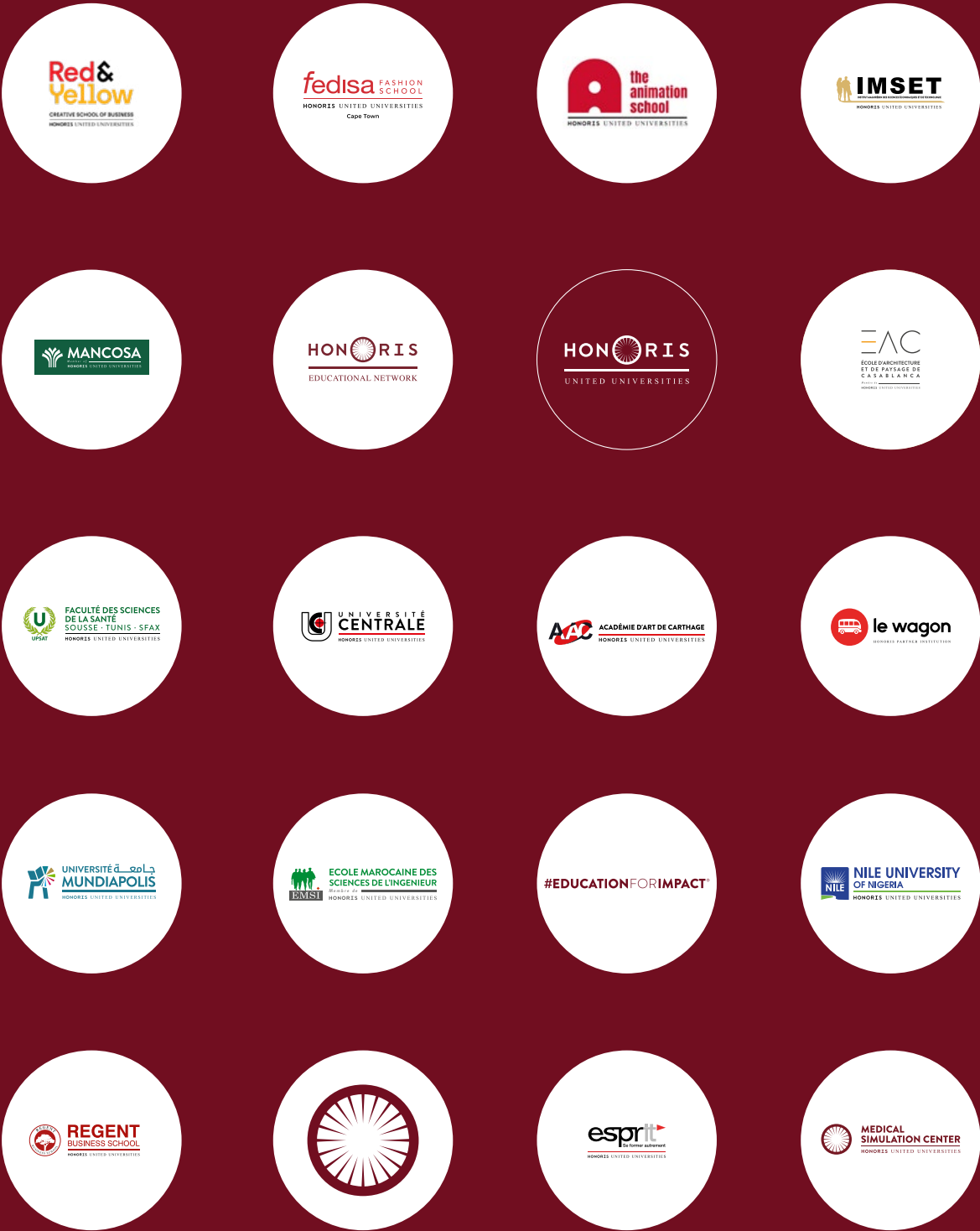
Honoris would like to thank its many partners and collaborators for their commitment to Education for Impact in Africa. We look forward to building a community of practice for graduate employability, to further our shared success in the development of the continent and its communities.



To learn more about the Honoris impact across Africa, visit the student employability annual report 2024



Contact for more information:
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