

Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists
of the
Province of Manitoba

Professional-in-Training Award

Presented to

MPHOENTLE OTUKILE

B.Sc.(Comp)., M.Sc., E.I.T.

Mpho Otukile was born in Bostwana in southern Africa. Through hard work, intelligence, and curiosity, she obtained an academic achievement scholarship to pursue an engineering degree at the University of Manitoba, where she completed her B.Sc. in Computer Engineering in 2001.

Mpho demonstrated particular interest and skill in research and applications of engineering in business. As an example, she designed a wireless identification system that will efficiently and effectively assist a university to manage final exams. Mpho utilized beta wi-fi technology and collaborated with her thesis advisor, a local company named CDS Technologies, and TRILabs to develop the application. In those days, wi-fi was not a household technology. It was still considered a technology in research labs looking for applications. Mpho's system was demonstrated to CDS Technologies and they were especially impressed with her work.

Mpho then obtained a scholarship to pursue her M.Sc. in Computer Engineering and once again demonstrated aptitude for research and engineering applications and her capacity to collaborate with industry. This time Mpho focused on medical informatics. She commuted between the St. Boniface General Hospital Research Centre, TRILabs, and the University of Manitoba campus during her M.Sc. As part of her thesis project, she worked closely with Nortel and attended strategic research meetings in Boston. As a scientist, Mpho's contributions have been published in journals.

Mpho is now a designer of video electronic products at Linear Systems Ltd, and an up-and-coming entrepreneur. In addition to working full-time, she recently founded Emsoft Systems, where she develops and delivers content through portable devices.

In her spare time, Mpho is an energetic volunteer at the IEEE Winnipeg Women in Engineering group. In the past year, she spearheaded the organization of two noteworthy events. The first event was a meeting with Nicole Williams, best selling author who flew from New York to spend one evening talking to the group and other members of the community. The second event was a Manitoba Creativity Day discussion panel to celebrate World Creativity Day. It was Mpho's efforts that helped lead to the group's world wide prestige when the IEEE awarded the group with the WIE Affinity Groups of the Year Award (2004) for outstanding leadership and initiative in organizing activities. Mpho has also been recruited by Womenspace, a national organization which promotes women's participation in information and communication technology, to serve on their national committee for an upcoming project.

Mpho exemplifies the qualities of a visionary leader with her organizational skills, her ability to evoke commitment and enthusiasm in others, and by inspiring and guiding others towards a shared vision.

The Association is pleased to present its 2006 Professional-in-Training Award to Mpho Otukile.