

My experience as a proud alumnus of the University of Mauritius.

I joined the University of Mauritius in 1997 and was among the first batch of students of the B.Eng(Hons.) Mechatronics Programme and graduated in 2001.

The course structure taught me the basics of the major fields of Mechanical, Electrical and Electronics and Civil engineering; which were valuable tools in my career progression. Additionally, during my time spent at the University, I was exposed to various extra-curricular activities; including mainly various sports and elected as vice-president of the Student Union. These activities were also keys to my ability to join the work force as a mature individual and provided me with a foundation to progress rapidly into management.

After I graduated, I was readily accepted into the MENG Industrial Engineering degree offered by the 'Industrial Research Institute of Swinburne University of Technology' (IRIS), Melbourne, Australia. My class comprised of 20 students from around the world; including India, Denmark, China, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Belgium.

As part of my studies, I was offered a full time position as Manufacturing Engineer in an agricultural machinery manufacturing company in Australia. There I developed a lean manufacturing system which forecasted 500% increase in cash flow and 35% increase in productivity. Part of the system was implemented with tremendous results achieved (Poligadu 2004). As a result of this achievement, I was nominated by the Institute of Industrial Engineering and was one of 12 finalists of the prestigious 'New Faces of Engineering' International Engineering Award¹, 2004 and also graduated top of my class.

In 2005, I joined DIAB Engineering a (\$40M, 300 employees) Mining Contracting Business in Western Australia and was promoted to General Manager in 2007. I was then offered a Divisional Manager position with Savcor Group, a \$72M public listed business where I currently still work.

I consider myself very lucky to be an Alumnus of the University of Mauritius and believe that the teaching quality, academic level as well as extra curricular support provide efficient tools for success anywhere in the world for any individual who is willing to work hard and follow their dream. The road to success was not easy as I had 5 jobs while studying full time; however the perseverance I learnt during my undergraduate degree opened doors and proved to others that I was a mature and hard working individual.

I take this opportunity to thank you and all my other lecturers and professors from the University of Mauritius for making me both the engineer and individual that I am.

I would gladly recommend any student to study engineering at the University of Mauritius.

Steeve Poligadu
Refinery Services Manager
Savcor Finn Pty Ltd
11 Juna Drive
Malaga WA 6090
Australia

¹ <http://www.eweek.org/site/engineers/newfaces2005/IIE.shtml>