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Preserving Warwick Junction's Rich History

Sinegugu Ndlovu

The Warwick Junction Precinct, which includes the Curries Fountain Stadium and the Grey Street area, boasts a rich history and heritage, particularly with regard to South Africa's anti-apartheid struggle and resistance.

This precinct, in which four DUT campuses are just a stone thrown away, has a history which has largely remained ignored, putting it in danger of being lost. Many will however be pleased to know that the ROCS Research projects at DUT launched two books that have extensively documented the precinct's history.

The two books which are now available: *The Making of Place. The Warwick Junction Precinct, 1870s-1980s* and the *Curries Fountain. Sports, Politics and Identity* were written as part of the ROCS research project (Research Of Curries and Surrounds) and have document the precinct's history of people, places and events. The books were launched on Tuesday March 4, 2014 at the DUT Art Gallery, Steve Biko Campus. The book launch was paired with an exhibition titled: *Dirty Linen. Durban's inner city forced removals*, also at the DUT Art Gallery.

The ROCS Project is a heritage research initiative based at DUT and was funded by the University and the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund in 2010.

Research for the two books included soliciting the public's participation, with some of the information derived orally from people's memories, family albums and memorabilia.

Len Rosenberg, DUT Campus Planner, said one of the aspects largely absent in publications about Durban's history are references to the Warwick Junction Precinct, parts of which have been referred to as the "Imperial Ghetto", "Duchene", "Casbah" or simply "town" by the many people who have frequented its places which include markets, bus ranks, schools, shops, churches and mosques. "Publications on the history of Durban rarely allude to this part of the city, other than focusing on the Indian character of the Grey (now Yusuf Dadoo) Street area, Grey Street Mosque and the Victoria Street Market which are all seen as attractions for foreign tourists. Previous research on this area has focused on specific aspects in isolated parts and does not present a coherent collective history and the richness and diversity of a place however marginalised and now well over a century old," said Rosenberg.

Shaped by racial discrimination, the Warwick Junction Precinct was neglected by the apartheid government. While the city of Durban is working towards improving this area, that legacy is visible to this day.

Indian indentured labourers initially began trading here. With the area steadily experiencing the influx of African traders, it was transformed into a hub of commerce and trading activity that it is today.

Curries Fountain Stadium, which is intertwined with Warwick Junction, is one of the major protest sites in Durban. The Stadium is arguably one of the most historic sites in Durban, not only with regards to the role it played in Durban's early development history, but also in terms of non-racial sports, entertainment and religious and political events in the city and region. With DUT being surrounded by all this history and heritage, it was only fitting that it, as an academic institution, carried out this research project.



Pictured: Len Rosenberg, ROCS research team founder signs one of the DUT books which seek to preserve Warwick Junction Precinct's rich history. The signing was during the launch of the books which coincided with an exhibition titled 'Dirty Linen', which refers to the secrets and silences of the old government and the Durban City Council (of the National Government) around the question of forced removals of people who lived in the Warwick Junction Precinct.

Rosenberg said *The Making of Place. The Warwick Junction Precinct, 1870s-1980s* book focuses on this old part of the City which was shaped by colonial, segregationist and apartheid policies and planning from the 1870s to the 1980s. It traces the establishment and growth of this "invisible" precinct from the time of the earliest settlement of Indians in Durban in the 1870s through to the 1980s when the apartheid ideology and its structures started to implode.

"Although restricted to a relatively small area, the Warwick Junction Precinct has all the elements that comprise a city, such as commercial and residential areas, worship sites, a burial site, educational institutions and libraries, markets,

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editor's note

This being the first issue of the ConDUiT in 2014, I think it's safe to express my greetings for the year and wish you a happy and prosperous year.

The University experienced a tough start to the year, losing about 13 days in its academic calendar. Steps are being taken to make up for this lost time, and I believe I share everyone's sentiments within our community (at DUT) when I say that I hope that these efforts bear fruit.

Despite the tough start to the year, there have been stories of success which not only showcased our great efforts as one of the leading universities of technology in the country, but also our concern for the local community in which we are embedded. Our page 1 lead about the books on the Warwick Junction Precinct and the Curries Fountain Stadium showcase just how rooted we are in our locality. These books, written and researched by the DUT based ROCS research project, offer insight into a rich yet sad history of the Precinct, especially for the people who lived here.

Another story in this issue that played on my heartstrings was that of the Durban grandmother who sacrificed her bed, opting to sleep on the cold, hard floor so her grandson, a first year student at DUT, could register for his course (see page 5). This is a heartwarming story. It offers a real glimpse into the desperation of many impoverished people who see education as the only way of getting out of the clutches of poverty. We could all learn from this selfless woman.

On another positive note, we welcomed two new permanent members in our editorial team this year. Noxolo Memela serves as our Media Officer and Waheeda Peters as our Communications Officer. Naledi Hlefané is no longer with the team.

I look forward to the team delivering great ConDUiTs that you will enjoy reading.

Sincerely,
Sinegugu Ndlovu
Communications Manager

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Prestigious Award for DUT Lecturer

Noxolo Memela



Pictured: Cassim Vanker; Information Technology Lecturer within the Faculty of Accounting and Informatics at DUT. Vanker is the latest academic at the University to be awarded a commendation by HELTASA.

The world we live in is in a continual state of change, and one of the complexities in teaching Information Technology is the fluid nature of technology.

This is according to Cassim Vanker, IT Lecturer at DUT who is the latest recipient of a commendation by the HELTASA/CHE National Excellence in Teaching and Learning for 2013. Twenty two candidates from traditional universities and universities of technology around South Africa applied for this prestigious award.

Vanker, has been involved in IT from a young age. As a boy, his first lesson in this field was to take apart and put back together his first remote controlled car. Thereafter, he quickly evolved to assembling and supporting computer equipment. "One of the most important lessons I learnt from my experiences while growing up is the power of curiosity and passion, and so they have become my driving forces," he said.

Putting Aircraft Safety First

Sinegugu Ndlovu

A group from the DUT Mechanical Engineering Department is conducting research which could contribute to the enhancement of small aircraft safety.

Titled: *Crashworthiness analysis of a composite light fixed-wing aircraft including occupants using numerical modelling*, the research - which is a collaborative effort between Mechanical Engineering Master of Technology (MTech) students Wade Evans and Moeletsi Moletsane - could also have huge implications for small companies that manufacture this type of aircraft.

The research is being supervised by Professor David Johnson, Associate Professor in the University's Mechanical Engineering Department.

Crashworthiness is the ability of a structure to protect its occupants during an impact. This is commonly tested when investigating the safety of aircraft and vehicles. Composite light-fixed wing aircraft are typically small aircraft such as four or eight seater airplanes manufactured from composite materials such as fibre glass and carbon fibre.

"The research is looking at the methodology used to simulate a crash event but does not focus on a quantitative measure of crashworthiness at this stage," said Evans who spoke to the ConDUiT. "The research however does aim to provide a method that will allow for the assessment on the crashworthiness of the aircraft in terms of the structural integrity of the airframe to ensure a minimum safe occupant volume and the tolerance of humans to abrupt accelerations," he said.

The research was presented at the *First International Conference on Composites, Biocomposites and Nanocomposites (ICCBN)* which was held at the DUT Ritson Campus in December 2013. The conference was organised by Professor Mervyn Kanny who heads the Composite Research Group (CRG) in the Mechanical Engineering Department at DUT. Delegates from 12 countries, including engineers, scientists and industrialists attended the conference.

Speaking about the research methodology, Evans said the group used a building block approach to develop and validate accurate modelling methodologies at sub-component levels prior to implementation in a full-scale crash simulation. The group used this approach in order to acquire understanding of the complexities involved in the different aspects of a crash event.

"The research involves fairly sophisticated numerical modelling methods and the impact problem is technically complex with regards to the modelling of the crash event; however we also make use of advanced software to assist with the research. The challenge we faced was getting to know the intricacies of the (simulation) software and how best to use it to represent a highly dynamic event such as an aircraft crash," he said.

He added that while he is not aware of any work performed in this area locally, this research has been an area of interest for some time internationally and is ongoing. Speaking of the benefits of the research, Evans said small companies that manufacture this type of aircraft could benefit from being able to have more marketable aircraft due to increased safety.

"The implications of this research are safer aircraft designs, reduced experimental costs and faster time to market. Small companies could benefit due to reduced experimental costs and safer aircraft," he said.

He thanked Prof Johnson for being supportive, saying he provides "invaluable guidance supported by a wealth of knowledge and experience". The research is expected to finish in April 2014.

Vanker, who is not new to being honored for his hard work and dedication, also feels that technology is a powerful catalyst for pedagogical change. He believes as learners use technology to take a more active role in personalising their education, academics will take on new roles as facilitators of knowledge.

In 2012, Vanker received the DUT Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence. The HELTASA/CHE National Excellence in Teaching and Learning awards were established in 2009 and are conferred to deserving higher education professionals who have shown consistent dedication and determination in their field while also impacting the lives of their students. The awards were also established to generate a cadre of academics who are identifiable and able to provide inspiration and leadership in teaching in their disciplines, institutions and regions as well as to generate debate and public awareness about what constitutes teaching excellence in higher education.

To pay homage to these exceptional individuals, the Council on Higher Education (CHE) and the Higher Education Learning and Teaching Association of Southern Africa (HELTASA) have thus held these awards annually.

"I also believe in being a 'servant-leader', a term coined by Robert K Greenleaf. The idea of serving people first and then aspiring to lead has been an important part of my ethos," said Vanker.

Vanker has always been a passionate information technologist who really loves his toys. "I'm an early adopter of gadgets and cool software and really love building proof of concept projects. Simply because I am one of the few people who is certified in more IT acronyms than can fit on a business card," said Vanker.

Renowned Figures to Receive Honorary Doctorates from DUT

Sinegugu Ndlovu

The Durban University of Technology will confer honorary doctorates to three individuals who have demonstrated excellence in their fields during the University's 2014 April Graduation Ceremonies.

Feminist writer, literary figure and activist; Laretta Ngcobo, distinguished playwright; Ronnie Govender and renowned environmental justice activist; Bobby Peek will receive honorary doctorates during the April graduation ceremonies.

The University will confer an Honorary Doctor of Technology in Arts and Design to Ngcobo in recognition of her contribution as a literary figure, her exceptional involvement during her political tenure, her leadership involving major enterprises as well as her significant ongoing community engagement efforts focussing on education, literacy and rural development.

Govender will also receive an Honorary Doctor of Technology in Arts and Design for his contribution to literature and the arts in general as well as his contribution to democracy, peace and justice in South Africa through theatre.

An Honorary Doctor of Technology in Health Sciences will be conferred to Peek for his demonstration of exemplary leadership over the years in bringing to the fore environmental justice issues and its associated public health impacts at both local, national and international levels.

Peek is the Director of environmental justice NGO groundWork (gW) which works primarily in South Africa and increasingly Southern Africa. The organisation was co-founded by Peek in June 1999 and has become a respected, effective and high-functioning organisation which also assists communities to understand health impacts of environmental pollution.

A recipient of the prestigious Goldman Foundation Environmental Prize, Peek has been invited to present papers in local, government and international forums. He holds a BA Honors in Geography from the then University of Durban Westville (1993) and a BA in Geography and Anthropology, also from the former University of Durban Westville (1992). He also serves on the Southern African Global Green Grants Board.



Bobby Peek

Govender has written and directed more than 16 plays, including box-office hits *Swami*, *Beyond Calvary*, *At the Edge*, *Off-Side* and *The Lahnee's Pleasure* which held the record for the most number of performances by a South African play in the seventies. The critically acclaimed *Beyond Calvary* was written during Govender's eleven-year teaching career.

In 1991, Govender was appointed marketing manager of the Baxter Theatre and two years later became director of Durban's Playhouse Theatre.

In 2000, he was awarded a medal by the SA English Academy for his contribution to English literature. He received the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for his collection of stories *At the Edge* in 1997 and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Department of Arts and Culture in 2006.



Ronnie Govender

A teacher by training, Ngcobo holds a BA degree from the University of Fort Hare.

She has taught locally, including at the Chesterville Secondary School, Durban. While living in London, she taught at several primary schools and also served as deputy principal.

Cross of Gold was her first novel which was set against the backdrop of Sharpeville in 1960. This was followed by *And They Didn't Die* which depicts the lives of rural African women who lived under apartheid rule in KZN in the 1950s and 1960s. She also wrote many academic papers and attended writers' conferences in Europe and the United States.

She was involved in politics throughout her adult life. In 1963, she left SA with her husband and family for political reasons, living as exiles in countries such as Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and England. She returned to South Africa in 1994, later serving as a member of the KZN Legislature. Between 2000 and 2009, she served as Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) and Chairperson of the Women's Parliament Caucus in the KZN Legislature, to name a few. She retired as member of the KZN Legislature in 2009, resuming her writing activities.

In 2006, Ngcobo was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Literary Award. In 2008, she was awarded the National Order of Ikhamanga from the presidency for excelling in the field of literature and for her work in championing gender equality in SA.

"DUT recognises these individuals for the outstanding contribution they have made to society through their respective accomplishments. We are indeed honoured that they have accepted the award from the University and look forward to continued involvement by these distinguished individuals in the work of the DUT," said Dr Thiru Pillay, DUT Registrar (Acting).



Laurette Ngcobo

Embracing Digital Technology

As part of an important drive to produce active learning at DUT, the University is on an e-Learning trajectory, with 50 percent of its academic programmes set to be on an e-Learning platform by January 2015. At present, 23 percent of the courses offered at DUT have some level of e-Learning incorporated into them.

With the issue being so interesting, Waheeda Peters chatted to DUT lecturers and students about their opinions on this and this is what they had to say.

Cassim Vanker, IT lecturer at the Department of Information Technology. "e-Learning is a catalyst that is changing the learning model in this century and it's wonderful to see DUT embrace this model. Through the use of e-Learning, the academic has the ability to create a powerful and enduring learning experience, not only with interactive content but also through the use of online networks and communities. It's fostering learning, thought, reflection and discussion. e-Learning has also opened up a more flexible and accessible world for the learner that was previously closed, by giving them access to courses and resources on any device and on any platform from any geographical location."



Bongakonke Steven Mzimela, BTech IT student

"e-Learning and its components are important in improving the way of learning because I can go home, log on to the online classroom and get the notes that I need. Also, students who are connected can make comments. For example, if I don't understand a piece of code, I can just copy and paste it online and other IT students will start commenting on it. It's a good thing that DUT has embraced digital technology. I'm using e-blackboard this year and it has made my life so much easier."

Professor Renitha Rampersad, Associate Professor in the Public Relations Department "We've just started with online classrooms and are still finding our feet. Students are now able to upload their assignments and I can access them, mark them and return them (to students). In terms of teaching in classrooms, we have interactive boards, although our floor is not equipped with wifi, so that's the challenge of moving forward slowly. e-Learning is a great way forward for the students and they have embraced it. Our department sees it as a wonderful way forward and I know in time, the e-Learning programme will be a real asset."



Cathy Le Roux – Second Year Tourism Management Student

"We don't have a library at Ritson Campus, so we have to go to Steve Biko or ML Sultan to work on our assignments and do research. Also, the internet at Ritson Campus is not very good and there are a few WiFi hotspots. Our lecture room does have WiFi, but it's not strong enough for us to search for anything. It would be nice if we could have some kind of computer lab at the Ritson Campus. I'm happy that DUT is making strides to improve technology, as it's the way forward."

Lethabo Masakanya - Second Year Tourism Management Student

"This year I was able to register online. It really saved me a lot of time and money. e-Learning hasn't yet impacted on our lectures, but I do think it has revved us up to want to study more, but it hasn't really made a difference in terms of lectures at present. The wifi at Steve Biko campus is brilliant as I can Google and do my assignments on my phone during lunch. I'm looking forward to having online classrooms as well. It would be great to access notes from home or anywhere on campus."



Full Steam Ahead For Drama Studies

Sinegugu Ndlovu

Despite its building being under renovation, it's full steam ahead for the DUT Drama Studies Department.

The roof replacement project, which is expected to finish in April (2014), will result in the entire building being refurbished. This includes ceilings, Courtyard Theatre, light fittings and ablutions. "The building's roof was in a poor state," said Len Rosenberg, Campus Planner. "The timber was rotten because of borer infestation," he said.

The Department will, in the meantime, operate from interim spaces over four campus sites, namely Ritson, ML Sultan, Steve Biko and City campuses. Head of Department, Professor Debbie Lutge said this has demanded some "very clever timetabling to ensure that predominantly lecturers, rather than students, travel".

"Finding rehearsal space is a lot more difficult so we are asking support departments and other (academic) departments with larger venues to be as understanding as possible in regard to our requests. We have even asked the Sports Centre if squash courts could be made available as student director rehearsal spaces. The April deadline will impact on the directing projects so I've sent a proposal to the Stable Theatre, asking whether they can accommodate us otherwise we will need to transform Cane Growers into an appropriate space for the student final projects. As productions are a formal part of our programme, appropriate venues are imperative to our Conservatoire training," said Prof Lutge.

The Drama Studies roof replacement project will cost R20 million and is funded by DUT completely. The University is embarking on two other constructions, the biggest being two blocks of student residences on the Steve Biko Campus at a cost of R120 million. The residences will have 800 beds. The anticipated date of occupation at both residences is January or February 2015.

The third construction project is the S-Block Extension project which is expected to be completed in November (2014). This project serves to replace temporary lecture venues currently located at the Alan Pittendrigh Library basement through the construction of six lecture venues and seven computer laboratories, to be accommodated on a four storey building for the faculties of Engineering and Applied Science. The extension will also make space for the Co-operative Education Department on the ground floor. This project will cost R90 million and is being jointly funded by DUT and the Department of Higher Education and Training.

The Drama Studies Department's 2014 production schedule commenced on 14 February 2014 with the first year concert in Cane Growers sans lights. Prof Lutge said the industrial theatre piece was very different without the normal lighting design but proved effective.

"Obviously 2014 will offer up compromises in working conditions which will be less than ideal, and large productions such as our annual musical are on hold for now but we are planning to match previous years in caliber and already Grahamstown and Dance Umbrella have been scheduled as well as our highly lauded Children's Theatre Festival, Dance Drama and isiZulu Production. Additionally the Department, under Dr Pamela Tancsik, will partner with Top Gear and the Department of Transport on a Road Safety Road Show with Educational Theatre Specialists and a new experimental site specific project earmarked for November will commence lead by Roel Twijnstra from the Netherlands and Jerry Pooe from Eager Artists, also members of The Twist Theatre Developmental Project. The New Scriptwriter's Festival will once again profile new indigenous plays by new young writers in an exciting kaleidoscopic forum," she said.



Pictured: It's full steam ahead for the Drama Studies Department despite its building being under renovations.

DUT Students Getting World-Class Computer Training in Thailand

Naledi Hlefané

Four DUT Electronic Engineering students are getting a once-in-a-lifetime experience in Thailand this year (2014) as part of their work-integrated learning (WIL).

Third-year students Nkosikhona Wiseman Mkhize, Tyrone Francis, Travis Duck and Christian Hangi all secured a six-month internship at Western Digital in Thailand, the largest manufacturer of hard-drives in the world.

The students flew to Thailand on 4 January 2014, funded by Co-operative Education at DUT. At Western Digital, the students have each been allocated mentors to ensure that they get hands-on experience on the kind of processes involved in the manufacturing of hard-drives. The day after their arrival, all four students went to Western Digital for orientation. Here, they were registered, given an overview of the company and enlightened on Thai culture. They were also taken to open bank accounts as they will receive a stipend.

According to Shakeel Ori, the Director of Co-operative Education at DUT, "South Africa does not have any hard-drive manufacturer, so the experience that these students will get is invaluable."

They are each hosted by one of four Thai universities who have committed themselves to help ensure that the foreign students have a pleasant stay in the country. The institutions are Suranaree University of Technology (SUT), Bangkok University (BU), Walailak University and Rajamangala University of Technology Rattanakosin (RMUTR). The institutions will also pay towards each of the students' accommodation.

Ori said that it was "an unexpected bonus" that the four host universities offered to pay for the students' accommodation, on top of hosting them and assisting with the application process for visas.

According to Ori, this internship would not have been possible were it not for Co-operative Education External Engagement Manager, Themba Msukwini who communicated, on a number of occasions, with Sampan Silapanad, the Vice-President and Managing Director of Western Digital Thailand about the provision of an internship for DUT students.

When Silapanad attended the 2013 WACE Conference in Durban in June, Co-operative Education arranged a meeting between him and DUT students who were interested in participating in this internship. The students had to then send applications to Western Digital and go through an interview process via SKYPE before the four candidates were selected.

During the visit to Thailand, with the assistance of the Thai universities, Ori was also able to secure WIL placements for DUT students with other multinational companies.



Pictured from left: Travis Duck; Saowanee Sae-Tang; Director of Co-operative Education at Bangkok University, Tyrone Francis, Nkosikhona Wiseman Mkhize and Christian Hangi.

Preserving Warwick Junction's Rich History ...

bus, train and taxi transport nodes and recreational and struggle sites. Although scarred and reconfigured in parts, the area has remained largely intact and is still the "other" or "dual city". It is still predominantly "non-European" in character and use and has a substantial part which can be viewed as a living museum of apartheid city planning" he said.

The *Curries Fountain. Sports, Politics and Identity* book is solely dedicated to the history of the iconic sports ground, illustrated by hundreds of photographs collected over a period of seven years. "Curries" is what spawned the ROCS Project, with this book giving a glimpse to the amazing and passionate stories

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DUT to Host Four Inaugural Lectures In 2014

Noxolo Memela

DUT will host four inaugural lectures this year, first in line being Professor Kevin Duffy's *Science: seeking mysteries and magic in nature*, which was held on Wednesday 12 March 2014 at the DUT Hotel School, Ritson Campus.

Professor Duffy heads the Institute of Systems Science at the University. In his lecture, he tried to explain how nature is both beautiful and mysterious, doing this by using examples from his own "meagre" findings as a scientist to attempt to show an excitement for the subject. Most people find science difficult to understand but Prof Duffy defines it as a "systematic method to develop knowledge of the universe by testing logical explanations".

"The methods of science can be dry and formal but the underlying findings can be mysterious and filled with paradox. Nature is not straight forward to understand," he said. Prof Duffy started his academic career at the University of Natal (now UKZN), where he studied Mathematics, later doing a research Master's under UKZN's Prof Sarp Adali on the optimal design of fibre reinforced composite laminates using mathematical and computer models. He then went to the United States to do a PhD at the University of Virginia in Biophysics.



Professor Kevin Duffy

In the study, Prof Duffy developed models to understand bacterial migration behaviours. On his return to SA, his work led on to studies of elephant patterns of movement. Other research has evolved with the recurring theme of his interest in the inter-connection between the apparently random and not so random patterns in nature.

Prof Krishnan Kanny, a seasoned engineer and scientist with over fifteen years experience in management leadership and human resources development, will host his inaugural lecture on 1 May 2014. Prof Kanny has a PhD in Materials and Engineering, an MSc in Mechanical Engineering, Master of Technology in Engineering, Mechanical Engineer's COC (Factories) and is a registered professional Technologist (Pr. Tech. ENG) with the Engineering Council of South Africa, 1988.

Prof Kanny's research group is focused on the development and processing of Nano composites, Bio composites and Fiber Reinforced composites for the aerospace, automotive and structural applications.

The third inaugural lecture to take place will be Prof Bharti Odhav's *Plants – Bioweapons against diseases*. Her inaugural lecture will take place on 20 August 2014. Prof Odhav is from the Plant Biotechnology Group in the Department of Biotechnology and Food Technology at DUT. She has been with the University since 1996 at the former M L Sultan Technikon. She started research when it was non-existent. Through her own initiatives, she has attracted funds of over R20 million for research infrastructure and post graduate bursaries. She was the first researcher to receive funding at the former technikon, creating a springboard for research in the University. Currently, Prof Odhav's research focus is on medicinal plants with the aim of developing new drugs for old diseases. Her studies involve researching selected plants with known ethno-botanical properties for anti-oxidative potential, immune-modulating properties as well as anti-bacterial, anti-fungal, anti-oxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-malarial anti-diabetic activities and anti HIV activities.

Prof Faizal Bux will deliver his inaugural lecture on November 19, 2014. He is the Director of the Institute for Water and Wastewater Technology at DUT. His inaugural lecture will focus on developments in the field of water and wastewater treatment technology.

Prof Bux's areas of expertise are water and wastewater treatment, environmental biotechnology, bioremediation technology and biodiesel production using microalgae. He has been instrumental in establishing the research niche area of Wastewater Technology and further turning this into a centre of excellence known as the Institute for Water and Wastewater Technology. He has more than 20 years experience at higher education institutes and has received numerous institutional awards including the University's Top Senior Researcher award. The University was recently awarded with a National Research Foundation Research Chair (Sarchi) in wastewater treatment technology mainly due to the efforts of Prof Bux. He has served as an invited Member of the Management Committee of the International Water Association (IWA) specialist group Microbial Ecology and Water Engineering (MEWE) and was actively involved in coordinating activities of MEWE globally. Prof Bux has published extensively and serves as editor of reputable journals and books.

A Gift of Education, Thanks To DUT Intervention

Waheeda Peters

"Bringing joy to her eyes," was the best way Mrs Khanyile Sibiyi could describe the moment when Mahmood Mall, Trinco Brand Manager, recently donated a R10 000 cheque towards buying groceries for the year for herself and her grandson, *Hlangabeza Jili, a first year IT student at DUT.

The donation came after Durban businessman Param Joseph, owner of Mattress King, committed himself to paying 18-year-old Jili's tuition fees for 2014 after a moving story about how his grandmother, Mrs Sibiyi, sold her bed so that he (Jili) could register for his chosen field of study. On top of pledging a donation of R10 000 towards groceries for Jili and his grandmother, Trinco is also financially helping another student, Andile Hlatshwayo, who required funding but could not attend varsity this year because his marks obtained in matric were not satisfactory.

Andile also received R10 000 from Trinco to 'upgrade' and improve his Maths and Science percentages so that he can get into DUT next year (2015). Andile, Jili and Mrs Sibiyi are all from Kenneth Gardens, a low-income community where DUT is currently involved in a community-engagement project.

"Thank you very much to Trinco for what you have done for us. Without the company's help, we don't know what we would have done. I also give thanks to God, as he gave me this mind to think about what to do for my grandson. I didn't want him to be out and about in the wrong company. I wanted him to get the education he deserves and give him a chance to secure his future. My grandson is also very happy to be able to study at DUT now," said Mrs Sibiyi while speaking at the cheque hand-over event.

For Andile's father, Phumlani Hlatshwayo, it was also a very great moment for him. "It is a very proud moment for me, I am so grateful to Trinco for helping my son and I will definitely keep an eye on him and make sure he keeps to his studies," he said excitedly.

Humbled by their gratitude, Mall said Trinco, which is part of Entyce Beverages; a tea and coffee company, was very proud to play a part in shaping the lives of these families. He also personally thanked Mrs Sibiyi for sacrificing for her grandchild. "I would like to thank you (Mrs Sibiyi) for what you have done. It was a huge sacrifice and not many people would have done it. We at Trinco are humbled by what you have done for your grandchild and we know how important education is and how important it is for you to educate him and secure his future for him," he said.

*Hlangabeza Jili is not his real name. The student's real name has with withheld to protect his identity.



Pictured: Andile Hlatshwayo (recipient of the R10 000 bursary from Trinco), Tamlynn Fleetwood from the Kenneth Gardens Project, Mahmood Mall, Trinco Brand Manager and Phumlani Hlatshwayo.

Preserving Warwick Junction's Rich History ...

about numerous events that occurred at the Stadium and in the surrounding neighbourhoods by countless people who were interviewed by researchers. It's known for and embodies many different memories for many people over the many decades of its existence. This publication provides an overview of the history of this site from the 1870s to the 1990s. It does not purport to cover every event and aspect of this varied history. It traces the origins of the name and a site that started as a sports field dedicated to the Indian community in colonial Durban," he said.

The Making of Place book costs R150 and *The Curries Fountain* book costs R200. The books can be obtained at the DUT Physical Planning Department, Steve Biko Campus. Call (031) 373 2708/2286 to reach the Department. The books will also be available at Adams Book stores and Ike's Bookshop.



DUT All Set For the Airwaves

Philiswa Xulu

Plans are in place to open RadioDUT, the University's first online radio station which will operate under the helm of Student Services and Development at DUT.

The radio station will be headed by Sibusiso Nxumalo who is currently working towards his Master of Technology degree in Public Relations Management at DUT. "RadioDUT is a new, diverse, vibrant and well-informed radio station that seeks to empower students throughout their academic life. It's all about the student from start to finish," said Nxumalo.

He said Amar Singh, the Dean of Students at DUT is playing a vital role in helping to build and form the brand of the radio station as well as making it happen.

"Conceptualising this radio station took six gruelling months. Many people believe that they can start a radio station just like that but it's hard work. I worked very diligently to achieve my goal of seeing it (the radio station) start off and am so excited that everything is coming together," said Nxumalo.

The key values of RadioDUT are:

- respect, recognition, opportunity and access
- loyalty, dignity and trust
- transparency, openness, honesty and shared governance
- responsibility, accountability, collegiality and professionalism.

The radio station will be situated on the fifth floor of the DUT Open House building, Steve Biko Road, Durban, and is expected to be operational eight hours a day excluding weekends. In the meantime, people who are interested in being part of the radio station are urged to submit their demo tapes at the fifth floor of the Open House building as no auditions will be held.

"This is a chance to showcase talent in KwaZulu-Natal and hopefully see it become one of the greatest online stations locally and internationally," said Nxumalo.



Pictured: DUT Radio station manager Sibusiso Nxumalo (left) shares a light moment with Amar Singh, DUT Dean of Students.

DUT Collaborates With JSE Listed Entity to Address Maths, Science and English Education

Sinegugu Ndlovu

South African pupils, especially those at underprivileged schools, have been found to perform poorly in Mathematics, Science and English which are critical subjects.

In April last year (2013), the Mail & Guardian reported that a World Economic Forum report ranked South Africa second last in the world for its Maths and Science education.

In an attempt to do its bit in addressing the country's ailing performance in these three subjects, the Metropolitan Momentum Institute approached DUT's KZN e-Skills Colab at the beginning of last year (2013) to partner on an e-learning programme which sought to create A and B aggregate pupils in matric.

The first group of 44 Grade 11 pupils from KwaZulu-Natal's Ilembe education district was admitted into the programme at the beginning of 2013. So successful was the programme that 15 pupils scored over 70 percent on all three subjects. That group is now in matric and is continuing with the programme while the second group of 25 Grade 11 pupils started the programme on Saturday February 8, 2014 when the programme was formally launched.

Explaining the project, Colin Thakur; Director of KZN e-Skills Colab said the classes are held on Saturdays at the University's Ritson Campus. Each pupil is given a laptop to work with. The laptops are kept by DUT on the pupils' behalf as constant incentives. Before lessons start, pupils eat breakfast. This is part of a realisation that food forms an important element in learning. Lunch is also provided.

"The pupils arrive at 9am in full uniform for their lessons. After breakfast, they log onto a website on which lessons on these three subjects are conducted. Unbeknown to them (pupils), their efforts are being monitored by the system as they submit answers online. This helps us in finding out areas of weakness so that facilitators can intervene when necessary and teach only where needed. The unambiguous intention of the programme is to produce A and B aggregate pupils in matric exams while the focus of the programme is to mentor pupils in Maths, Physics and English," said Thakur.

He said the collaboration between DUT and MMI was wonderful, given the commitment by Prof Ahmed Bawa, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, to have 50 percent of all courses at DUT on an e-Learning platform by January 2015. Already, 23 percent of the courses offered at the University have some level of e-Learning incorporated in them.

Thakur said because e-learning allows for self-pace learning, brighter pupils are not bored and can progress at whichever speed they are capable of.

"Each of the 15 pupils who performed well last year received tablet devices as an incentive of doing well. All students (who were enrolled in the programme last year) got t-shirts and tracksuits at the end of the year. This programme is about making better best. We want to make poor, deserving, hardworking and talented pupils to do better and mitigate digital divides. Some of these pupils can't afford university, so if they achieve an A aggregate (in matric), they progress to higher education for free. This programme is also about addressing the economic divide as well as giving poor, deserving, hardworking and talented pupils access to digital support," said Thakur.



Fusion- roots and routes

Art connoisseurs enjoyed a visual feast of formats that are both beautiful and quirky to the eye during the *Fusion- roots and routes* art exhibition by Lee Scott Hempson, a Lecturer in Fashion and Textiles Department at DUT. The exhibition took place at Durban's artSpace Gallery. Scott Hempson teaches drawing and illustration as well as printing technologies, also supervising post graduate students in the University's Fashion and Textiles Department. Speaking about this exhibition, she said it represented the fusion of her various personas; that of the fine artist, lecturer, social and eco-sensitive being which make her craft rich in imagery. Scott Hempson's latest body of work, mainly done on wood, mostly consists of a series of silhouettes or cut-outs that are linked by a deliberate palette reminiscent of the dusty tones of the lowveld bush and bloody sunsets. The cut-outs reflect Scott Hempson's fashion drawing and illustration interests, her appreciation of textile details, eco-sensibilities and bush 'roots' having grown up on a farm.



South Africans Urged To “Google” Themselves Out Of Poverty

Waheeda Peters

The need to enable more users access to internet services through a wide range of speeds is what prompted the launch of the Ikamva National e-Skills Institute (iNeSI) at the DUT Ritson Campus later last month.

Also launched as part of implementing *South Africa Connect*, the country's broadband policy, plan and strategy, iNeSI brings together government, businesses, schools, FET Colleges, universities, civil society and global development partners to advance the development of local ICT skills that will contribute towards the country's economic growth and allow it to become globally competitive.

iNeSI was officially launched by Communications Minister; Yunus Carrim, Minister in the Presidency; Trevor Manuel and Communications Deputy Minister; Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams.

The Institute is as a result of the realignment of three institutions, namely the National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa (NEMISA), e-Skills Institute as well as the Institute of Satellite Software Applications (ISSA).

Welcoming dignitaries to the event, Professor Ahmed Bawa, DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal, said technology was central to the country meeting its developmental challenges. “The launch of the National e-Skills Institute provides us with the opportunity of a step up,” he said.

Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams said ICTs enabled everyone to do their jobs efficiently, saying that without information, a country would rarely be able to progress. She has urged South Africans to use ICTs to improve their lives.

Communications Minister Yunus Carrim reiterated the fact that South Africa could not afford to be left behind in ICT development. He said SA needs to deepen and advance e-skills in the country. “We need to become a far more effective knowledge economy and information society. ICT has huge potential to reduce the gaps between the poor and the rich. It also has just as much potential to increase the divides between the haves and the have-nots, the connected and the unconnected. We need to move and move fast. Part of this motion is to give full life to the Ikamva Institute and to do everything we can to deepen and advance e-skills in our society. We formally launch the Ikamva National e-Skills Institute as a new state owned company to more effectively harness the range of capacities across government, business, education, civil society and global development partners,” he said.

Minister Carrim added that access to communication also means access to information as the creation of knowledge and innovation. “We need to ensure that there is alignment across and within key government departments including the Department of Science and Technology, the Department of Public Service and Administration and the Department of Rural Affairs amongst others. I am very pleased that the heads of these aligned departments understand this matter and have expressed a keenness to collaborate with the Institute in this very important work,” he added.

Minister Manuel said part of the establishment and expansion of the Inkamva National e-Skills Institute is to make appropriate investment opportunities for the next generation. “The iPhone has the same ICT level as the super computer in 1965. That's the level of change we are experiencing,” he said.



Pictured from left: Minister in the Presidency; Trevor Manuel, DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal; Professor Ahmed Bawa and Communications Minister; Yunus Carrim have a discussion after the launch of the Ikamva National e-Skills Institute (iNeSI).

A Fitting Farewell For South Africa's Navy Chief

Sinegugu Ndlovu

DUT recently held a dinner to bid farewell to Vice Admiral Johannes Mudimu, Chief of the SA Navy, who has supported the University for a number of years.

V Adm Mudimu retires as SA Navy Chief on March 31, 2014. He first began engaging with DUT in 2008, promoting the University within the SA Navy as well other wings of the country's Defense Force. He has publicly spoken about the Navy's strong relationship with DUT, also committing himself to strengthening the University's Maritime programmes by facilitating linkages with other navies including the Indian Navy.



Pictured from left: eThekweni Mayor; James Nxumalo, Vice Admiral Mudimu and DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal; Professor Ahmed during a handover of a painting to V Adm Mudimu during his farewell dinner organised and hosted by DUT at the Elangeni Hotel, Golden Mile, Durban.

The dinner was held at the Elangeni Hotel, Golden Mile, Durban. High profile guests at the dinner included Professor Ahmed Bawa; DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Chief of the SA Air Force; Lieutenant General Fabian Msimang, Ela Gandhi; former DUT Chancellor, eThekweni Mayor; James Nxumalo, ANC KZN Secretary Sihle Zikalala, KZN businessman; Don Khwanazi, Mangosuthu University of Technology Vice-Chancellor; Professor Mashupye Kgaphola and eThekweni Speaker; Councilor Logie Naidoo.

V Adm Mudimu was awarded an honorary Doctor of Technology Degree in Maritime Studies by the University in honor of his exceptional role in transforming the SA Navy, his commitment to peace and community welfare as well as his support to DUT.

“We're in the process of starting an Aviation Academy at our PMB Centre and are proud to count you as one of us,” said Prof Bawa. “We treasure our relationship with the SA Navy; it distinguishes us from other institutions. We hope the impetus we had with the Navy while Vice Admiral Mudimu was head (of the SA Navy) will continue to grow,” said Prof Bawa.

V Adm Mudimu gave a moving speech and addressed a number of issues including piracy. “The gesture given to us by DUT is a gesture from an institution that tells us that the keys and answers that we require to build our society can only be found within the confines of an institution of academic learning. This is the mission that must haunt our consciousness,” he said.

V Adm Mudimu spoke about the “burden” of piracy in the East Coast of Africa, saying it undermines the nation's will to trade freely. He spoke about strategies that are currently being employed to deal with this situation. “Under our government, I had an opportunity to represent the country in many conferences the world over. We are the founding fathers of the Sea Power for Africa Symposium, a construct that was conceptualised from the realisation that the burden and issues of Africa must be resolved by Africans themselves. Together with the Indian Navy, we are the founders of the Indian Ocean Sea Powers Symposium because we realised that the burden of piracy in the East Coast of our continent undermines the nation's will to trade freely. Today, we can proudly report that the dream we shared with the Indian Navy and all the navies that use the Indian Ocean has been realised. That's why today the pirates have shifted from the East Coast to the West Coast. Our ships are in Mozambique as we speak ensuring that the sea lines of communication in the East Coast are protected,” he said, adding that another vehicle that will help ensure that Africa is not robbed of its marine resources from the West Coast will be created.

“Durban has been the centre of our activities in the last two years. Because we realised that in order to fight maritime crime and piracy effectively in the East Coast, the Navy must come back to Durban and re-establish the Naval Base in Durban. Currently, we are hard at work together with the Department of Public Works, Transnet and Portnet; giving character and shape to this initiative,” he said.

Mind Control Earns Benazeer The 2013 Emma Smith Art Scholarship Award

Noxolo Memela

Third-year Durban University of Technology Fashion Design student Benazeer Mulla scooped the 2013 Emma Smith Art Scholarship Award.

Mulla was one of nine talented nominees from DUT's Faculty of Arts and Design who were in contention for the R40 000 scholarship prize.

Her *Mind Control* male fashion range - which was showcased during last year's DUT Fashion Show, earning her the Most Innovative Range award and now the 2013 Emma Smith Art Scholarship Award - was inspired by underground Soviet street style. Mulla says her dark cyber punk interpretation explores noisy gritty textures, interrupted utilitarian design (Industrial Evolution, 2013) and a rebellious approach to anti-fashion- reminiscent of a futuristic post-apocalyptic Industrial evolution (Hack-tive: Cyber, 2012).

Her range featured backpacks designed using x-rays of the brain which she then incorporated with lighting. The backpacks fascinated many at the exhibition. Asked why the brain, Mulla said, "My choice of the brain stems from the fashion show's theme *i-aesthete*, which was defined as a representation of one's individual concept of beauty and how the way we receive and process information affects our aesthetic eye." This led her to explore what influences or controls human beings and how they in turn consume this information, which then naturally led her to the brain.

Mulla's other designs consisted of a mood board which she says she chose in order to illustrate her concept by creating a hologram using the pepper ghost effect. This special effect technique was popularised in the 1800's by creator John Pepper and was used to project a ghost like figure in theatre productions (Smith, 2013). It can be achieved by using light to reflect an image off a sheer of Perspex set at a 45 degree angle. This angle enables the background to remain clearly visible while reflecting a partial 'ghost' image on the other side.

"I had not expected to win; I was the only third year student in this competition. I'm ecstatic," she said.

After attaining her BTech Degree, Mulla plans to do a summer study abroad course in fashion communication.

Congratulating Mulla, DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Ahmed Bawa wished her well in her future endeavours. "Regardless of who the winner is, all finalists have done exceptionally well and we wish them success and good fortune in all that they do," he said.



Pictured: Winner of the 2013 Emma Smith Art Scholarship Award; Benazeer Mulla with models showcasing her award winning range.

Exciting Future Ahead for DUT Alumnus

Naledi Hlefané

A bright future lies ahead for DUT Graphic Design granduand Tanya Shunmugam who had a string of victories last year (2013).

Shunmugam won two awards at the Student Gold Pack Awards, an annual competition for graphic design students run by the Institute of Packaging South Africa (IPSA) in October last year. She then received one of three highly-coveted awards in the World Packaging Organising (WPO) WorldStar Student Awards.

Apart from making a big name for herself and putting DUT on the map, Shunmugam also managed to secure a position as a packaging designer at a reputable packaging company in Durban after her triumph.



Pictured: DUT alumnus Tanya Shunmugam (centre) with two other awardees at the Student Gold Pack Awards.

According to the 21-year-old from Montclair in Durban, winning all these awards was overwhelming yet it was a great experience. "It was a great experience for me, especially getting insight into the packaging industry and meeting important people who specialise in packaging. It definitely influenced my career path as a graphic designer, also influencing me to learn more about packaging not just from a graphic design perspective," she said.

Shunmugam studied her third year in Graphic Design at DUT last year when entering the Student Gold Pack Awards which was open to all student at her level. But due to the limited number of entries accepted per university, lecturers in the third year Graphic Design class had to shortlist only the best designs to be entered into the competition. Amongst these was Shunmugam's entry.

Tasked with designing the packaging of either bread, bubblegum or a new South African wine, Shunmugam outshined other entrants with her Charles Dickens inspired design: a new South African wine named 'A Tale of Three Cities'. The packaging incorporated three white wine bottles, each bottle telling a story through the design about South Africa and three of its 11 cities, Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban. "I was inspired by the book, 'A tale of Two Cities' written by Charles Dickens," she said.

For her design, Shunmugam took first place in the new South African wine category as well as in the overall competition. She received a cash prize of R8 500 and a Golden Egg Trophy.

Her wine packaging design was also entered into the WorldStar Student Awards, a prestigious international packaging competition which sees entrants from all over the world competing for three top awards. Here too, Shunmugam's talent shone as she was among the three WorldStar Student Award recipients. She said winning this international award gives her immense confidence in her work adding that it made her realise her true passion: specialising in package design.

She is currently studying towards a one-year packaging diploma this year in order to expand her knowledge in the field. She says her goal is to become a Creative Director, specialising in package design.



Pictured here is Tanya Shunmugam's award-winning design for the packaging of a hypothetical new wine brand called "A Tale of Three Cities".