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New DUT Chancellor Wants to Ensure That DUT Runs Smoothly

Sinegugu Ndlovu

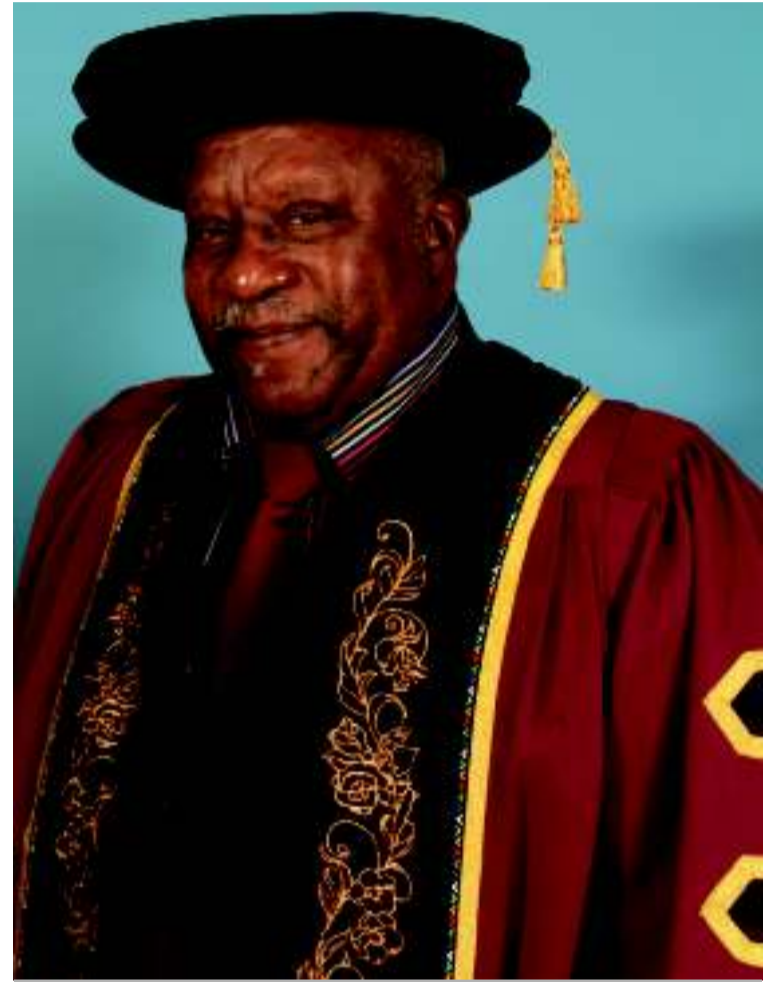
Newly inaugurated DUT Chancellor, Judge Vuka Tshabalala unveiled his vision for the Durban University of Technology during his inauguration ceremony on Tuesday 3 April.

The Chancellor was inaugurated at the Ritson Campus Exam Hall. The dignitaries included eThekweni Municipality Speaker, Logie Naidoo; Mangosuthu University of Technology Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mashupye Kgaphola and Brigalia Bam, the Secretary General of the South African Council of Churches (former IEC chairwoman). Chancellor Tshabalala said he was humbled when approached to consider his nomination as Chancellor. He said he has always taken a keen interest in DUT since the merger; which presented it with new possibilities to better deliver on its mandate and to transform itself into a true South African university, a challenge Chancellor Tshabalala felt the institution embraced gracefully.

"I was quite pleased to read about the appointment of Prof Ahmed Bawa as the new Vice-Chancellor. My particular interest in your stewardship Prof Bawa, is in the wealth of knowledge that you bring particularly in the area of community engagement and partnerships. I believe that universities must play a critical role in investing resources and energies to the practical solutions of the communities we come from. I look forward to this responsibility (as Chancellor)," he said.

Chancellor Tshabalala he said he knows about challenges facing DUT, in particular student unrest. While he still has to consult with DUT stakeholders and study relevant legislation before forming a solid vision, his "broader vision" for DUT is to ensure that the University runs smoothly. "I want to ensure that DUT functions properly, students learn, academics teach and everything runs smoothly," he said.

Professor Bawa described Chancellor Tshabalala as a man of the highest reaches of ethical behavior.



Judge Vuka Tshabalala

"He comes into DUT to lead it in its quest of becoming one of the leading universities in South Africa. We look forward to his guidance and ethos he brings into DUT," said Prof Bawa.

DUT Graduate Laughed in The Face of Adversity

Sinegugu Ndlovu



Bonginkosi Hilton

He slept at a petrol station when he arrived in Durban to pursue his dreams of becoming an Auditor; but little did he know that he would graduate with high honours despite facing many challenges.

Bonginkosi Hilton graduated Cum Laude and received a Dean's Merit Award when he received his National Diploma in Internal Auditing on Wednesday (18 April).

"I had no accommodation or money to pay my fees when I came to study in Durban. The taxi I took from Ladysmith offloaded us at the petrol station behind DUT. I had travelled on my own and knew no one in

Durban. I slept while sitting down in front of the garage shop," he said.

The next day, he met a student who offered him a place, where he stayed for a week.

Luckily for him, a relative based in Durban offered him shelter for a month while he looked for accommodation. The relative owned an office near DUT which had a room at the back. "He (the relative) just phoned out of the blue and offered me a place to stay. I bought food using NSFAS funding. My family also sent me some money if they had any," he said.

Hilton's struggle to access NSFAS funding almost led him to give up. "I was frustrated and I decided to go back home. But I realised that giving up is not an option and came back to Durban after a week," he said.

Thinking back, Hilton said courage saw him through the night that he slept at the garage.

Financial aid paid for his registration and tuition fees. Because of his academic excellence, he received a remission of fees in third year. He received 29 distinctions out of 30 modules during his three year study.

"In life, the biggest problem is money. But a lack of money shouldn't prevent you from pursuing or realising your dreams," he said.

Hilton is doing his BTech in Internal Auditing at DUT. He plans to become a businessman.



Editor's Corner

Last month we bid farewell to Raylene Captain-Hasthibeer who had become a familiar face on the ConDUiT for five years. I have replaced her in an acting capacity.

The month of April was exciting for DUT. We welcomed our new Chancellor, Judge Vuka Tshabalala, a respected man who broke through several barriers of apartheid to eventually become Judge President of KwaZulu-Natal. We also celebrated our graduates, many of whom rose through adversity to emerge triumphant.

This issue of the ConDUiT pays tribute to our graduates. I was inspired by Bonginkosi Hilton (on page 1), our Internal Auditing alumnus who graduated Cum Laude and received a Dean's Merit Award. I was amazed when I heard his story about how he slept at a petrol station the first day that he arrived in Durban, all in the name of education. This young man's story reminds us of the desperation of many poor people to escape from poverty. Education is increasingly seen as a way out. His experience also teaches about the value of courage and perseverance. He is an inspiration and we can all learn from his example.

Sinegugu Ndlovu

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Images: Audio Visual and DUT staff

DUT Journalism Commemorates World Press Freedom Day

Nosipho S Mngoma



The DUT Journalism Programme commemorated World Press Freedom Day with a panel discussion on Media Freedom in South Africa.

Facilitated by Faculty of Arts Dean, Dr Kenneth Netshombo, the discussion was aligned to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) theme: New Voices: Media Freedom Helping to Transform Societies.

Speakers included Ruth Teer-Tomaseli; the UNESCO Communication Chair at UKZN. She made reference to Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states that the establishment, maintenance and fostering of an independent, pluralistic and free press is essential to the development and maintenance of democracy in a nation, and for economic development. She said press freedom is "an issue in the making, not anywhere close to being achieved." Awakening journalism students to their

right to know, she said the more informed the public is, the more it is empowered.

Fear of intimidation, harassment, arrest and even death threats take away this power; causing self censorship. This, said DUT Journalism Programme Coordinator Dr Rene Smith, "is the single greatest threat to media freedom". She urged journalists not to be afraid to stand up for the truth, saying they should know their rights. Dr Smith called for the students to use their new voices to help transform society and make media freedom a human right.

Dr Smith's call was also echoed by Right2Know National Coordinator Murray Hunter who praised the work of the Press Freedom Commission which, in its recommendations, abandoned the idea of statutory regulation of the media.

"Media are a public good; a constitutional right that is the key to the realisation and defence of other rights" he said.

DUT Staff and Students Test For HIV

Naledi Hlelane



Staff and students at the 'First Things First' Campaign.

For over three decades, scores of people have been infected with and lost to HIV/AIDS.

The pandemic remains a global crisis requiring perpetual attention regardless of the widespread educational information and precautionary measures available.

South Africa has seen a rise in tertiary students' infection rates. To counter this, the "First Things First" campaign, endorsed by Health Minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, was launched in 2011. Part of government's HIV Counseling and Testing (HCT) programme, the initiative involves 23 Higher Education institutions and seeks to encourage first year students to know their status and live responsibly.

The Durban University of Technology is actively partaking in the campaign. To meet government's target to test 35 000 students nationally, the institution's HIV/AIDS Centre dedicated eight days to the campaign and visited all DUT campuses from 7 to 16 March.

Attended by DUT Vice-Chancellor Professor Ahmed Bawa, musician Musa Njoko and SRC Gender Officer Tamie Qwabe among others, the formal event

took place at the Ritson Campus on 12 March. In his address, Professor Bawa advised students to be responsible and to know their status. "The key to good health is responsibility. The onus is upon you to protect yourself," he said.

Students and staff came in their numbers during and after the event keeping HIV Counselors on their toes. "The target remains first years," Centre Manager Thobile Zulu said, "but staff and other students are also allowed to test this year." Participants are then given informative HIV/AIDS DVDs or USBs.

The Pietermaritzburg campuses had an overwhelming turnover of over 200 participants. The centre hopes the Durban campuses will exceed this number.

But, both Thobile and Student Counseling and Health Director Naseem Haniff acknowledged that receiving counseling and testing is futile if that knowledge is not translated into an individual's behaviour and lifestyle. Very often gender dynamics hinder the practice of safe sex. This is why participants sign a pledge after testing. It is hoped that this will aid in changing mindsets and behaviour.

Young Women's Empowerment Workshop

Naledi Hlelane

Westmead Secondary School Grade 11 female pupils were invited to a Young Women's Empowerment Workshop held at ML Sultan on Friday 9 March.

DUT and Pinetown Police Gender forums joined forces to organise the workshop. Gender Forum Chairman, Ranilla Pillay and Captain Jay Govender from the SAPS agreed to work together on other similar events.

Themed "connecting girls and inspiring futures", the event was held in recognition of International Women's Day. It focused on further education and safety of women. Guest speakers pursuing careers or working in previously male-dominated fields such as law and quantity surveying spoke to the girls.

Constable Nozipho Khuzwayo educated the girls on gender issues including rape and domestic violence and enlightened them on how to protect themselves in such situations.

DUT Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ahmed Bawa encouraged the pupils to obtain qualifications and to be safe at all times.

Exciting New Book for the Siyazama Project

Sinegugu Ndlovu

SIYAZAMA Art, AIDS, Education in South Africa, an exciting new book on the Siyazama Project, was launched at DUT's Hotel School.

The book was launched on Tuesday, 13 March. Housed at the Department of Graphic Design at DUT and led by Professor Kate Wells, an Associate Professor and Senior Lecturer in the department, the Siyazama Project communicates and spreads HIV/AIDS awareness through art, creative workshops, publications and ongoing research activities. The project has exhibited at numerous South African art galleries as well as abroad.

The Siyazama beadwork collection was on view at the Michigan State University museum where Prof Wells conducted several on-site presentations to Faculty, medical students and museum staff during 2007 and 2008. This exhibition generated a wide range of interest and has resulted in subsequent requests to 'travel' the exhibits to other museums in the USA.

"It was at this point that a book was deemed urgent in order to cascade the correct information about the project. The book is intended to travel with the beadwork collection," said Prof Wells. Together with Professors Marsha MacDowell, C. Kurt Dewhurst and Marit Dewhurst of Michigan State University Museum, the book started to take shape over many emails and Skype sessions.

The voices in the book are people who have contributed to the project in a substantial manner over the years of the project.

"The new book contains information about other arts in health activities in South Africa and this includes The African Art Centre, Hillcrest AIDS Centre, Umcebo Trust, Artists for Humanity, and others. With all the new projects going on in Siyazama, it seems likely that a further book edition is imminent," said Prof Wells.



"DUTechies" (From left): DUT Students Lehlohonolo Letoana and Siphephelo Gcabhashe pose with other students who attended the recent Nokia Lumia Student Hackathon which was held at Durban's Moses Mabhida Stadium. The competition saw the "DUTechies" (DUT IT students club) walk away with three of the four prizes including an Xbox and Nokia Lumia Phones.

King Shaka Zulu's Assassination Tale Told By DUT Students

Sinegugu Ndlovu



The Durban University of Technology Drama Studies Department recently told the story of the assassination of King Shaka Zulu, the great Zulu king and conqueror – and they did not disappoint.

The IsiZulu production; *Nawe Mbopha kaSithayi* (*You Too Mbopha, Son of Sithayi*) directed by DUT Drama Studies isiZulu lecturer, Siza kaMnisi Mthembu, showed at the DUT Courtyard Theatre from May 2 to May 4 2012.

King Shaka was killed by his brothers Dingane and Mhlangana, with the assistance of Shaka's right hand man, Mbopha. The plot was masterminded by the persuasive Queen Mkabayi kaJama; the main protagonist, a shrewd and cunning woman. Ironically, Mbopha suffers the same fate as King Shaka at the hands of a Zulu warrior sent by Mkabayi.

The stage is set in a Zulu village with background trees, *iqhugwane* (hut) and a kraal as part of the set. The opening scene is dramatic and took the audience to an authentic Zulu village with the lingering smell of the burning impepho (African incense). The lights dim as the haunting dance of the sangoma and her apprentices and the melodic traditional music take centre stage.

Mayenziwe Zuma, a powerful Mkabayi did justice to the role. Queen Mkabayi is perceived throughout history as a strong and powerful queen who loathed weakness, especially in men. She feared no man and regarded herself as an equal. The performance left little doubt in the minds of the audience that had Mkabayi been a man, she would have been a ruthless ruler who would have let nothing stand in her way.



Pieter Dirk Uys Chats To DUT Drama Students

Naledi Hlefané

DUT's Department of Drama and Production Studies was privileged to have renowned comedian, actor, satirist and philanthropist Pieter Dirk Uys grace the department with his presence in the month of March.

Uys is best known for playing Evita Bezuidenhout, his alter ego. He touches on social issues that impact us all, and which has earned him worldwide acclaim.

The purpose of Uys' visit was to interact with drama students, sharing his experiences as an artist as well as imparting his expertise to

the students. Indeed, this was achieved.

Professor Debbie Lutge, HOD: Drama and Production Studies said, "The student body was enraptured and their response extended to an engaging question and answer session at the conclusion of Pieter Dirk Uys' visit. A visit, incidentally, that had us all in stitches".

The session was invaluable and deeply appreciated by the department, added Prof Lutge. Important points raised by Uys included entrepreneurship and creating individual pathways. He said one of the

industry's cons is the lack of support benefits for the artistic community from independent contractors. Artists therefore need to make provisions for their future.

Uys also warned against substance abuse, saying students should learn to appreciate their unique artistic presence as a means to propel one forward in business. "There is no overnight success. The most important thing is discipline. Remember, always to be your severest critic, no one is as interested in your work as you are, so don't depend on others to lead you. Now go out there and enjoy life," said Uys.

Fashion Design Has Always Been In Her Blood

Sinegugu Ndlovu

Hard work definitely pays off in the end and it is up to you to achieve your goals. This is the sound advice from Bianca Van Rooyen who graduated Cum Laude earning herself a National Diploma in Fashion Design on Monday 16 April.

While achieving Cum Laude was “hard”, her passion for Fashion Design made up for that. “There was simply no other career for me... I enjoyed all the work involved,” she said.

Van Rooyen's biggest challenge was adjusting to university as a lot more was expected from her as a student and the work load was heavier. She, however, added that her lecturers were always helpful and made her studies at the university “very enjoyable”. Van Rooyen is currently pursuing her BTech in Fashion at DUT. She is also a part-time lecturer at DUT.



Eight Year Wait To Academic Success

Sinegugu Ndlovu



Bonisiwe Dube, 30, graduated Cum Laude on her National Diploma in Cost Management and received the Dean's Merit Award for her outstanding academic performance and it took her eight years to get there.

Dube's journey was littered with many challenges. Because she had no information about NSFAS and her family could not afford to pay her university fees, she gave up on her dreams of becoming an Accountant. She worked as a petrol attendant after finishing matric. Another challenge was that she had failed Maths. She rewrote the subject but failed twice. In 2008, she decided to have another go at passing the subject and succeeded.

She enrolled at DUT and never looked back. “Never give up; that's life's biggest secret. A path with no obstacles leads to nowhere. And have a dream because without it, you won't get anywhere,” she said.

The Pain of Cancer Stricken Grandmother Ignited her Passion in Radiography

Naledi Hlefane

DUT graduate Channelle Coetzee, 23, witnessed her grandmother's agonising pain when she was diagnosed with cancer. Although it was tough, Coetzee discovered her passion through her grandmother's painful experience. Her pain was however not in vain because on Thursday 19 April, she graduated Cum Laude in Radiography and received the Dean's Merit Award.

“My grandma was diagnosed with cancer around 2008 and was going for radiation during that time. It was hard but through that, I was able to discover my passion. I came back to South Africa and enrolled for a course in Radiography,” she said.

Losing her grandmother to cancer in 2010 left Coetzee “disheartened” but the tragedy did not sway her focus. Coetzee is currently doing community service at Maternity Hospital in Umfolozi, eMpangeni.



He Was Happiest With His Head Stuck In His Books

Sinegugu Ndlovu



Trevoulin Govender had no social life and instead chose to spend his time studying. On Monday 16 April, the 20 year old graduated Cum Laude, earning himself a National Diploma in Video Technology. “I'm overwhelmed; I didn't expect this,” he said.

Govender sacrificed a lot to graduate with high honors, saying, “I had little time to socialise. The workload was hectic”, he said.

Govender said coming to DUT was a “different experience” and he found it hard to relate to his peers. “I didn't enjoy being on campus for the first and second year of study. There were a lot of people who wanted to party and go out which didn't excite me,” he said.

Govender is doing his BTech in Video Technology at DUT. He plans to establish a web design business in the future.

Passion and Perseverance Saw Him Through

Naledi Hlefane



Passion and perseverance are essential when one aspires to acquire a high qualification, said DUT graduate Clinton Pillay who graduated Cum Laude and received a Dean's Merit Award for his BTech in Operations Management on Tuesday, 17 April.

The journey to this point was however not smooth sailing. After completing an NDip in Mechanical Engineering, Pillay was employed by Transnet in 2007. He worked in Operations, a different field altogether. He then enrolled for an undergraduate course in Operations Management. The workload from both tertiary and his job at Transnet took its toll but his passion got him through. He spent nights buried in his books.

He advises undergraduates to enjoy their courses and not look at them as a “final destination”. “Knowledge really is power. They must engage in their studies and come out better people”.

Don't Let Your Dreams Become Day Dreams

Sinegugu Ndlovu



His mother wanted him to study Engineering but he was honest with himself and chose Journalism.

On Monday 16 April, Mazwamahle Mgobhozi, 22, proved to his mother - and made her proud in the process - that he made the right decision as he graduated Cum Laude and earned himself a National Diploma in Journalism.

Mgobhozi completed his matric in 2007 and took a gap year in 2008 to decide between Journalism and Engineering. In 2009, he chose news reporting and has not looked back since.

“Choosing Journalism wasn't a defiance against my mother. She wasn't dictating to me. It was about being honest with myself. As much as I would have loved a job title as an Engineer, it's not for me. I am a people's person,” he said.

He advised other young people and students to follow their dreams.

She Juggled Studies and Work and Came Out On Top

Sinegugu Ndlovu

Zothile Khawula, 23, juggled her Human Resources Management BTech as well as in-service training. With her hands full because of her internship, her studies took a back seat and she almost dropped out. But Khawula's determination would not allow her to take the easy way out and because of that, she was rewarded as she graduated Cum Laude on Tuesday 17 April.

"I had to study after hours. I had a lot of sleepless nights. I hardly attended class and I got to a point where I wanted to deregister," she said.

However, Khawula's willpower and friends, who were fellow students, would have nothing of the sort. Her friends assisted her with notes when she missed class and her lecturers were also supportive.

The 23 year old is now setting her sights on Psychology.



Deaf Student Beats The Odds

Sinegugu Ndlovu



Born with a hearing impediment, Durban University of Technology IT graduate Talisa Lalthapersad saw her challenge as no reason for failure.

Lalthapersad, 22, defied her deafness and received a Special Achievement Award from the IT Department when she graduated with a National Diploma on Wednesday 18 April 2012.

Lalthapersad was diagnosed with no hearing at 14 months of age. Her parents sent her for intensive speech therapy and guidance. She completed her matric at DSHI in Amanzimtoti, where she matriculated with five distinctions and was placed among the top 10 candidates in the Special Education Sector in KwaZulu-Natal in 2007.

Mrs Lalthapersad, Talisa's mother said her daughter's high school principal introduced her to Mrs Nayantra Kanaye, Deaf Programme Co-ordinator at DUT who would mentor her daughter throughout her studies at the university.

Talisa plans to do a B.Com in IT.

Sweet Taste of Victory After A Five Year Wait

Sinegugu Ndlovu



For five years, she tried desperately to get into university. Despite several negative replies from universities, she persisted. On Wednesday 18 April 2012, an elated Nomalungelo Ngcobo, 26, savoured the sweet fruits of her perseverance and hard work when she graduated Cum Laude and received a Dean's Merit Award on her National Diploma in Library and Information Studies.

Ngcobo finished her matric in the year 2004. For five years, she struggled to get into university. She spent the entire five years at home. In 2007, she went back to school and upgraded her Maths, Business Economics and Biology. In 2009, she finally enrolled at DUT after being accepted.

Ngcobo said she plans to promote her field of study which is often "looked down upon". She will pursue a BTech in Library Information Studies soon.

Top South Africans Honoured by DUT

Sinegugu Ndlovu



The Durban University of Technology conferred Honorary Doctorates to four leading South Africans who were recognised for their outstanding contribution in their respective fields.

The four are University of Johannesburg Chancellor and co-founder of the first company controlled by women to be listed on the JSE, Wendy Luhabe; "intellectual giant" Professor Njabulo Ndebele; SA Navy Chief, Vice-Admiral Johannes Mudimu who transformed the navy into a "people's Navy" and the late Professor Lewis Nkosi, who was a prolific writer and essayist.

Luhabe received her honorary degree on Thursday April 12 2012 at the DUT Midlands Campus. She received an honorary Doctor of Technology Degree in Management Sciences in recognition of her pioneering endeavours among South African women entrepreneurs as well as her role as a true activist in creating social capital for development and progress in South Africa.

Vice-Admiral Mudimu received his honorary Doctor of Technology Degree in Maritime Studies on Thursday April 19 for his exceptional role in transforming the South African Navy, his commitment to peace and community welfare, as well as his support to DUT.

Professor Ndebele was honoured for his outstanding contributions to education, literature and public service with an honorary Doctor of Technology Degree in Arts and Design on Monday 16 April. Professor Nkosi was awarded a posthumous honorary Doctor of Technology Degree in Arts and Design in recognition of his significant contributions as a prolific and profound South African writer and essayist, on Thursday April 12. Professor Lewis Nkosi, Professor Ndebele and Vice-Admiral Mudimu received their Honorary Doctorates in Durban. Professor Nkosi's award was accepted by Professor Astrid Starck-Adler, his Literary Executor.



Top left to right: Wendy Luhabe and Vice-Admiral Johannes Mudimu
Bottom left to right: Professor Njabulo Ndebele and the late Professor Lewis Nkosi

DUT Student Leads DUT Food for Life Chapter

Naledi Hlefane



Food For Life volunteer Laxminath Das dishes up a plate of vegetable breyani for DUT First Year Maritime Studies student Bonginkosi Mthembu. Insert: Prantosh Moonasar.

Determined to help in making a difference, a DUT Public Relations third year student is doing his part in hunger alleviation by heading the Food For Life chapter at the University.

Prantosh Moonasar, a third year Public Relations student currently doing his internship at DUT, is part of the Food for Life KwaZulu-Natal organisation. The organisation is affiliated to Food For Life Global; the world's largest vegan/vegetarian food relief programme serving over a million plates of cooked meals a day. The organisation is mainly funded by public donations and corporate grants. In KwaZulu-Natal, the organisation distributes approximately 5000 plates of nutritious food and juice per day to the poverty stricken people of Durban and surrounding areas.

The organisation also serves meals at Durban based universities. At DUT, meals are served only on Tuesdays because of a lack of funding.

"We are the largest vegetarian society in the world. We distribute millions of plates around the world. In Durban, the organisation distributes more than 1000 plates per day to schools, universities and rural areas," he said.

Moonasar, who also helps serve the food to DUT students, said he joined the organisation because he wanted to help his fellow students.

"We (at Food for Life) don't want students to go hungry during lectures. The food is free for everyone. You don't pay, it's philanthropic work," he said.

Moonasar said he loves being part of the organisation, saying it is his passion. "If I don't do it, I feel unhappy. At school level, we mainly focus on children who don't bring lunch to school. I urge the public to donate to the cause. Service to God is service to people," he said.

DUT launches Saturday Matric School

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) is proud to announce the launch of its Saturday Matric School.

Classes will be held every Saturday from 08h00 until 15h00 on campus. For this year, the school will offer 2 hour lessons in Mathematics, Physical Science and Afrikaans. Lessons will be conducted by facilitators who have about 90 years collective experience in their subject matter.

DUT Senior Director of Corporate Affairs, Mr. Alan Khan says that he is especially excited about the affordability of the classes, making it a programme that is widely accessible for Grade 12 learners. He says that pupils must not miss out on this fantastic opportunity to achieve the best results in their most important year of study. The Saturday Matric School initiative forms part of the Community Development Programme of the Enterprise Development Unit (EDU) of DUT.

Shelley and Kyra-Moon To Design for Foschini

Naledi Hlefane

DUT fashion design students, Shelley Botha and Kyra-Moon Halfpenny are shooting for the stars. Along with two other AFI Fastrack 2012 finalists, the pair has secured an eight-week internship with Foschini in Cape Town.

A prize giving ceremony, also attended by Graham Stewart, the Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Design was held at the DUT Fashion and Textile Department recently. The students were each awarded R10 000 by AFI Business Development Manager Bella Cebekhulu, a DUT Alumnus and Greg Wallis; the Chairman of KZN Fashion Council.

Having come straight out of university, Botha said she counts herself really lucky and is "undoubtedly excited about this good opportunity".

Halfpenny attributed her achievement to hard work and dedication. AFI Fastrack is a partnership between Africa Fashion International and Foschini that aims to nurture and develop South Africa's young and dynamic designers. The designers are offered an opportunity to fast track their careers through intensive mentorship, business development coaching and mentorship for future success.

Upon completion of the internship with Foschini, the finalists will get a chance to develop and launch their capsule collection at Africa Fashion week in October this year.

Before, AFI Fastrack catered only for Johannesburg and Cape Town designers. However, through Cebekhulu's persistence, the competition was nationalised. "Their (Botha and Halfpenny) ranges showed innovation, creativity and workmanship", said Cebekhulu.



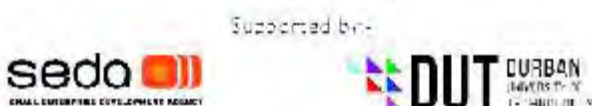
Kyra-Moon Halfpenny and Shelley Botha



InvoTech supports start up and existing businesses to develop and commercialise new innovations.

A CALL FOR INNOVATIONS AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Interested entrepreneurs contact:
Email: invotech@dut.ac.za Tel: 031 373 6792
Durban University of Technology, Durban 4001.



Innovation Technology Business Incubator @ DUT

Invo Tech is a newly established Business Incubator based at the Durban University of Technology and is supported by Seda (Small Enterprise Development Agency). Invo Tech's focus is on supporting new and emerging innovation and technology companies. The business incubation model seeks to accelerate the successful development of new and emerging firms by providing entrepreneurs with an array of targeted resources and services. The goal of business incubation is to produce successful firms that will leave the incubation program financially viable and freestanding. Invo Tech can accommodate 10 firms to incubate within the University. Invo Tech also boasts a centre which provides business solutions ranging from fully equipped operational office premises, with internet access, air-conditioning and shared administration facilities at minimal cost.

Invo Tech looks to attract clients that have novel business ideas which can be converted into new patents or intellectual property that can be protected. Over the past few months, the incubator has attracted a number of exciting projects; many of which have secured the novelty of the business idea. Invo Tech has strategic relations with government agencies, funders and international partners. We look forward to helping develop entrepreneurs.

Interested businesses can contact our offices on 031 373 6792 or invotech@dut.ac.za or www.invotech.dut.ac.za

Become Chemical Engineers To Be Reckoned With

Naledi Hlefané



Left to right: Megashnee Munsamy (top academic achiever – MTech: Chem Eng); Simphiwe Mazibuko (Production Manager – SAPREF); Indhrasen Govender (top academic achiever – BTech: Chem Eng); Savania Gounden (top academic achiever – ND: Chem Eng); Manimagalay Chetty (HOD: Chem Eng). The three students received DUT gifts and R2000 pavilion gift vouchers, courtesy of SAPREF.

Strive for excellence in the industry of Chemical Engineering and you will become a force to be reckoned with.

This was the advice to DUT Chemical Engineering and Pulp and Paper Technology Department students by Simphiwe Mazibuko, the Production Unit Manager at SAPREF.

Mazibuko was invited as the guest speaker at the Department's second annual awards ceremony held at the DUT Hotel School Conference Centre on Wednesday, 2 May. It was at this event that the highest performing third year and BTech students of the class of 2011 were acknowledged. Students and parents came in their numbers to share in this prestigious occasion and were obviously excited.

The field of Chemical Engineering has evolved along the years, Mazibuko said. And because of this, he said the young professionals should understand the context of this field to grasp the ins and outs of it at present. "You've not chosen wrongly; there is a bright future in this field," Mazibuko assured the students, adding that passion goes a long way. "Be an employee (that) a boss would never let go of," he said.

Mazibuko commended the Department for having fulfilled its goal to become a school of excellence. He acknowledged the efforts of the students too. "Your efforts are appreciated and they will inspire your peers to aim to attain excellent results as well," he concluded.

DUT Alumnus Embraces the Brutal World of Politics

Sinegugu Ndlovu

Young and outspoken, Durban University of Technology alumnus Troy Martens is the new Spokesman of the ANC Women's League.

Martens received her Journalism NDip from DUT in 2008.

"It's an exciting opportunity," she said.

Martens started her journalism career at Independent Newspapers and later worked for etv as a news reporter. She changed direction because she felt she could make a bigger impact working in the political environment.

"I was exposed to party politics at DUT. I contested SRC elections as an independent candidate at second year. I was the only non SASCO candidate who made it into the executive. I joined SASCO after I was elected and served my term as the SRC Deputy President. Later, I became a journalist and shied away from politics in a bid to be an independent news reporter," said Martens who later found herself at Luthuli House.

The ANCWL takes up women's issues, violence against women being one of its main priorities. "The league does amazing work but the public won't know this without an effective voice. I plan to elevate its name and brand by giving it a relevant voice", said Martens.



Troy Martens

There Is Still Hard Work Ahead For DUT In Order To Reach Complete Harmony

writes Alvin Naidoo As He Reflects On The Ten Years Since The Merger Of The University.

It has been ten years since the merger took place.

Let us examine how much has changed, and how this event has affected all of us.

Disparities still exist in the manner that staff is treated at DUT. The US and THEM attitude still exists. People are still divided and many are still reeling from all these changes that have affected their lives. No one will admit to it, but people are treated according to which institution they came from.



The nature of people is interesting to look at when faced with change. Some are oblivious to it, they are here to earn a living, others are rebellious or stubborn, and feel, ten years on, that the merger was wrong. Then you will find individuals who have embraced that change is inevitable and are committed to making this work.

We are privileged to have many long serving staff members who have given many decades of their lives to this institution. It is interesting to note that we have seen the likes of Prof. J Jansen, Prof. B C Goba, Prof. D Ncayiyana, Prof. L Du Preez, and now Prof. A Bawa during this decade. Each individual came with their own Mission and Vision, and staff had to adjust accordingly. It is not desirable to the stability of our institution to be constantly changing Management when they do not reflect popular opinion - we need continuity.

A few glaring and very sore issues come to mind regarding the unfair treatment of staff, harmonisation of grades and post-retirement medical aid. Why do such serious matters take so long to resolve and why do we as an institution perpetuate unfair and unequal treatment of its most valuable asset - staff? These are critical questions that need to be answered before we can celebrate ten years of being one institution.

It is true that we still have a huge mountain to climb to reach our goal of complete harmony, but if people in positions of influence are committed to achieving this - IT CAN BE DONE.

I thought I might start a conversation regarding our ten years of merger and would be very interested to hear your thoughts and ideas regarding your experience.

Thank you.

Alvin Naidoo is the Logistics Department HOD at DUT.

* The views expressed here are solely those of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Durban University of Technology or the Corporate Affairs Division.

DUT Art Gallery Celebrates Human Rights Week

The DUT Art Gallery screened Zanele Muholi's award-winning documentary *Difficult Love* as well as the emotionally moving play *High Heels With Balls* during Human Rights Week.

Difficult Love has shown at various international film festivals, among others, the InsideOUT film festival, Toronto; CinemAfrica Film Festival, Sweden; the 26th Gay/Lesbian Film Festival, Torino, Italy; Afrykamera film festival, Poland; the Stockholm Pride festival, Sweden; the film festival of Douarnenez, France; Africa in the Picture film festival, Amsterdam; and Side by Side film festival, St Petersburg, Russia.

The film has since won four international awards, among them Best Documentary at the Durban Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. Muholi has contributed her photography to many publications and academic journals.

Written and directed by Thabiso Radebe, *High Heels With Balls* is a play surrounding homosexuality which questions Human Rights and acceptance. Asiphe, a young gay prostitute, is trapped in the struggle of his identity and sexuality. He tells his story through poetry and dance and questions why homosexuals are treated as sexual objects and why their rights are not acknowledged?

DUT Collaborates on Exhibition

Sinegugu Ndlovu

The Durban University of Technology and the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Pietermaritzburg recently collaborated on an exhibition created to kindle public interest in ceramics.

Titled *All Fired Up*, the exhibition took place at the Durban Art Gallery (DAG). Having long outgrown the title "pottery", contemporary ceramic art is a fusion of art and science as its practitioners devise ever more innovative ways to formulate new clays and ways of forming them. DAG Curator, Jenny Stretton said that the exhibition is a conversation between kiln and collection.

"We've created a dialogue between the DAG's extensive ceramics collection and working artists. This exhibition came about from working in the storerooms and remembering how a space dedicated to the then European ceramic collections was set aside. I decided it would be really beneficial to local artists working in the medium of clay to showcase contemporary cross cultural approaches," she said.

Stretton said the exhibition is also about unearthing the DAG collection and starting a dialogue about what is being made by contemporary artists who use clay, what is in the collection and how concepts collide and connect.



Anthony Starkey, Fine Art Director at DUT's Fine Art and Jewellery Design Department said the exhibition would make known the rich history of ceramics at DUT. "The origins of ceramics at the Durban University of Technology date to 1914 when John Adams was appointed Head of the School of Art at Natal Technical College where he set up a pottery department and taught. Adams

proceeded to create in the Art School, the department of ceramics which he made famous throughout South Africa," he said.

Each of the invited artists, who are lecturers and recent MA graduates from the ceramic departments of both DUT and UKZN in Pietermaritzburg, made a selection of work - from the DAG collection that has inspired them - to sit alongside their own pieces.

Poetry Session at Mansfield Hall

Naledi Hlefané

Izinkondlo zamaciko (poetry by the poetic), a Pneumarella Society of Arts monthly event aimed at showcasing talented artists was held at the Durban University of Technology Mansfield Hall, on Saturday 31 March. The four-hour programme featured Durban's poetry greats, with a number being regulars at the DUT weekly poetry sessions.

"Izinkondlo zamaciko was started early this year to give professional artists a platform to showcase their talents," said Simiso Sokhela, Pneumarella Society of Arts Managing Director and Information Technology student.

Pneumarella partnered with DUT's SRC to host the event in a student orientated environment as poetry and other arts are very popular with students. "We would like to alter the common mentality that DUT is about strikes and parties and show the institution as a centre for education and growth," he said.

That is why this particular show incorporated poetry as a form of "edutainment" for the students.

Pneumarella is owned by Sokhela and DUT alumni S'thakaselo Mchunu and Nontobeko Mahlangu. It caters for and is a hub of artists in all forms with elements of poetry, drama, music, dance, fine arts and photography.

A Triad of Perspect; A Spectrum of Truth

Naledi Hlefané



Back row (left to right): Ms Delysia Timm; Professor Gerhard Prinsloo; Dr Corne Hall; Dr David Naude.
Front row (left to right): Professor Joan Conolly; Dr Ashley Ross; Ms Ulrike Striebich (from Heel Biologische Heilmittel, Baden-Baden, Germany); Dr Madhu Maharaj.

Dr Ashley Ross, Head of the Homeopathy Department at DUT recently delivered the first of a series of Faculty of Health Sciences public lectures on the Ritson Campus entitled "A Triad of Perspect; A Spectrum of Truth".

The lecture arose from a particular interest in homeopathic proving and describes Dr Ross' recent doctoral

research investigating the relationship of homeopathic proving methodology to the scientific and traditional African understandings of medicinal plants.

Dr Ross' research explores both traditional and scientific uses of *umqalothi* (*Strychnos henningsii*) traditionally used in the treatment of headaches, abdominal pain, snake bites and other conditions.

Traditional healers have also found it effective in the treatment of symptoms associated with HIV.

To find out more about *umqalothi*, Dr Ross travelled to Melmoth, Weenen, Harding and Durban. There, he interviewed eight traditional healers on aspects such as how traditional medicines are identified, tested, prepared and how the need to use *muthi* in patients was identified. He was interested to learn that the bitterness of the medicine was linked to its effectiveness - a direct link to strychnine, a toxic chemical known to be in the bark.

Dr Ross also conducted a chemical analysis of the plant to explain its effects in terms of chemistry and pharmacology and also approached 32 subjects to test for the subjective and objective effects of consuming *umqalothi* as a homeopathic medicine. There were a broad range of effects that were consistent and related across the three medical systems. Dr Ross' lecture made these relationships fascinatingly clear.

"I would like to see more collaborative research with traditional healers. We need to cross paradigms and start understanding each other's views and methods. We can no longer afford to sit in our little boxes, believing our own version of 'the truth'".

DUT Printing Department Explores Third Stream Revenue

The DUT Printing Department is piloting a project to explore third stream revenue opportunities.

Therefore, starting 1 June 2012 and ending 30 September 2012, the Department will be accepting private printing jobs for individuals, organisations and companies. The idea is to make efficient use of our machinery during low production times. Please note that we will quote individually on these printing requests. We will not compromise our core-function of delivering on our objectives for the departments at DUT; that will always take priority. The Department will make a formal assessment of the opportunity in October and we will notify you of the outcome. As always, thank you for your continued support.

Bonga Twala,

DUT Printing Department Head



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