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LOTS OF INSPIRATION DURING AUTUMN GRADUATION

A total of 4938 students graduated at the Durban University of Technology during the autumn graduation season which saw a number of students graduating cum laude and respected industry leaders delivering inspiring talks to students and parents who attended the ceremonies.

Graduation, which kicked off on Thursday April 11, 2013, also saw the University honouring South African motor industry icon Brand Pretorius with an honorary Doctor of Technology Degree in Marketing in recognition of his excellent standing in the country's motor industry as well as in the marketing and manufacturing sectors. The honorary doctorate, conferred on Tuesday April 16, 2013, was also in recognition of Pretorius's longstanding record and ongoing significant commitment to education and literacy development in South Africa. The University hosted a celebratory dinner for Pretorius at the Coastlands Hotel on the Ridge, Musgrave, after his graduation where he thanked the University for honouring him.

"I'm looking forward to discussions about my role in this institution (DUT). I'm ready to talk to you about leadership. If I can make a difference, I'm volunteering my services," said Pretorius during his dinner.

In Durban, 2312 female students graduated while 1976 male students graduated. In Pietermaritzburg, 402 female students graduated with 248 male students graduating. In total, 22 disabled students graduated at the University.

Guest speakers included internationally renowned Durban artist, Andries Botha; Xoliswa Kakana, ICT Works Founder and Managing Director as well as Dr Ramneek Ahluwalia, the Head of Higher Education HIV/AIDS Programme (HEAIDS).

"Now you have been provided with many opportunities in our democracy. It is now your responsibility to contribute to the growth of our economy and create jobs for others. Don't be afraid to take risks, don't be afraid to fail. Failures in my life have made me learn and discover who I am. When you do not fail that means you are not trying. There is a song that says 'uzoyithola kanjani uhlel' ekhoneni', meaning 'how will you make it while sitting in a corner'," said Kekana.

Noxolo Mthembu, Rashmika Ramroop, Joshua Dhanapalan, identical twins Thakane and Takhanyane Sehloho as well as 48 year-old Bernice Wiles were some of the inspirational stories to come out this graduation season. Ramroop, a BTech Human Resources Management graduated cum laude, also receiving the Dean's Award for Academic Excellence. Mthembu, a Bachelor of Technology Tourism Management student graduated cum laude and received the Deans Merit Award for Academic Excellence. Joshua Dhanapalan also graduated cum laude and was awarded the Deans Merit Award for Academic Excellence on his Information Technology diploma, while Wiles's story was a bitter sweet one. Wiles, who passed some of her subjects with distinction, had always dreamed of becoming a teacher.



Pictured: Brand Pretorius, SA motor industry icon, after receiving his Honorary Doctorate in Marketing in recognition of his excellent standing in the country's motor industry as well as in the marketing and manufacturing sectors.



Pictured: Rashmika Ramroop, one of the DUT graduates who performed exceptionally well. Ramroop completed her BTech in Human Resources Management last year where she achieved top marks.

She enrolled for her Bachelor of Education Degree at the age of 48, finished it on record time, but suffered a huge loss in March last year when her husband died after being diagnosed with brain cancer.

"We (had) planned to have a big celebration but I won't be able to have

that anymore," Wiles said shortly before graduating. A firm believer in God, Wiles however believes the passing of her loving husband was God's plan. She is currently seeking employment in underprivileged schools as she is passionate about helping with the development of such schools.

EDITOR'S CORNER

I recently attended a breakfast session about labour related constraints faced by people living with disabilities. The keynote address was delivered by Dr Anton van Staden, Chief Director of Social Organisation and Youth Development in the Department of Rural Development. The seminar, hosted by DUT, IPM and SASCE, was based on Dr van Staden's PhD thesis titled "A Strategy for the Employment of Persons with Disability" and was largely about solutions to the afore mentioned problem. It was a real eye-opener.

Both private and public sectors are failing to meet government's minimum target of 2 percent employment for persons with disabilities. A progress report delivered in March last year (2012) by the Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities in this area revealed that just seven out of 47 national government departments had met targets for employing disabled people. It remains to be seen how much progress, if any, has been made.

According to Dr van Staden's thesis, negative employer perceptions, such as that physically disabled employees are more difficult to manage, hiring such persons is more expensive and that they are unable to complete some tasks are some of the many challenges faced by disabled people in the labour market. Other barriers are difficulties in accessing and moving around in the workplace as well as the lack of commitment to issues of disability by key people in organisations such as top, senior and middle management.

While it may be safe to say that it remains unclear how this situation will be solved, Dr van Staden offers a number of solutions which could improve the employment situation of disabled people. His action plan includes solutions such as the development of a human resource management framework to employ persons with disabilities by individual organisations and the development of focused reasonable accommodation policies that would address identified constraints, which, among others, focus on mental and physical attributions of a task.

It is everyone's business to ensure that transformation happens in the country, not only for black people and women, but for disabled people as well. Also, the Employment Equity Act (of 1998) also expects every employer with more than 50 employees to plan its workforce according to race, gender and disability and surely, it is unsustainable for us a country to economically overlook 13 percent of our population, many of whom are able to actively participate in the economy. Perhaps more discussions and even research is needed in solving this problem. Read the full story on page 6.

SINEGUGU NDLOVU

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TOP DUT SPORT MANAGEMENT STUDENTS AWARDED FOR THEIR HARD WORK

NKOSINATHI WANDA



Pictured: DUT Sports Studies 2012 Awardees with their trophies which were received in honour of their hard work in 2012.

The Department of Sport Studies at DUT recently held their annual awards ceremony where the best performing students were awarded for their hard work and dedication.

Held at the Rendezvous Restaurant, DUT Steve Biko Campus, on Wednesday March 20, 2013, the event was also held to bid farewell to the Department's third-year students. The ceremony honoured first, second and third-year students who had performed well in their studies in 2012. Students who got first position each received R500, while those in second place received R300 with R200 being given to those in third place.

Acting Sport Studies Head of Department, Bongani Yengwa, said it was important to honour students who had excelled in their academic studies.

Satchidanandan Krishnasamy Reddy, bursary sponsor and Natal Primary School Board Trust Fund Chairman was the guest speaker at the event. He awarded a bursary to second-year student Oscar Mthembu who, while performing well in his studies, is struggling financially. Reddy urged students to show leadership everywhere they go. "You don't have to be a dean to lead or be in a department. You can lead wherever you are," he said.

Reddy's sentiments were echoed by Gary Boshoff, Chairman of the Comrades Marathon. Boshoff said awardees will have to be open to new ideas, change and innovative ways. "As a sports future leader, work hard, act responsibly and behave ethically. As a leader, you will experience resistance but make sure you make a mark where you are. Don't be mediocre," he said.

DENIS HURLEY CENTRE LAUNCHED AT DUT

SINEGUGU NDLOVU



Pictured from left: Denis Hurley Centre Project Manager Costas Criticos, Catholic Archbishop of Durban, Cardinal Wilfrid Napier and Ben Potgieter, Co-ordinator of the Development Team for the Denis Hurley Centre look at an architectural model of the Denis Hurley Centre.

The Denis Hurley Centre was recently launched at the Durban University of Technology, during which the man that the Centre is named after was remembered for his work in the fight against apartheid.

The late Archbishop Denis Hurley was the most significant Catholic leader in South Africa in the second half of the twentieth century. During this time, he was totally committed to promoting freedom, justice and peace in South Africa as well as church renewal through the implementation of Vatican II. He wrote numerous articles and gave addresses on a wide range of issues as well as engaging in countless initiatives to promote these causes. His prophetic witness made him a significant contributor to the downfall of apartheid.

The breakfast launch of the Denis Hurley Centre was held at the DUT Hotel School, DUT Ritson Campus. High profile guests including the Catholic Archbishop of Durban, Cardinal Wilfrid Napier; DUT Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ahmed Bawa; Monsignor James Cronin, Missio National Director; Father Stephen Tully, Durban's Emanuel Cathedral Administrator as well as DUT Chancellor Judge Vuka Tshabalala attended the event.

A donation of \$145 000 was made by Monsignor Cronin on behalf of Missio, the Catholic Church's foremost mission support charity.

The Denis Hurley Centre aims to provide an enabling environment to expand activities related to care, education, training and social cohesion. The Centre will have a primary healthcare clinic which will provide HIV and TB screening, projects that will assist the homeless, unemployed as well as refugees and a centre that will offer job readiness and skills training.

The Centre, to be constructed in the Warwick Junction precinct, has been nominated as a Heritage Liberation Site. For the next two years, it will be based at

the Surat Hindu Association Building on Dr Goonam (formerly Prince Edward) Street. The Building is a five minute walk from the Emanuel Cathedral.

"This nomination (of the Denis Hurley Centre as a Heritage Liberation Site) is endorsed by the City (of Durban) and the province (KwaZulu-Natal)," said Denis Hurley Centre project manager Costas Criticos. "The area around the centre is rich in culture and is very important in the anti-apartheid struggle," said Criticos, who added that R23.3 million had been committed towards the project and the last 20 percent of the required funding was expected to be raised in April 2013.

Eric Apelgren, eThekweni Municipality International and Government Relations Head of Department said the City is proud of what Archbishop Hurley achieved in his lifetime. He said the Centre was about serving humanity. "The centre will make a huge difference for the communities it will be serving," said Apelgren.

Prof Bawa remembered Archbishop Hurley as a man who was deeply involved in the world of knowledge. Prof Bawa was still based at the University of KwaZulu-Natal when Archbishop Hurley was Chancellor of the university (UKZN). "The centre has to help us imagine the future; it shouldn't be about the past. There's a range of ways that DUT can contribute to the centre," he said.

Other positive news that came out during the launch was that Monsignor Paul Nadal who is based at the Our Lady of The Assumption Catholic Parish in Umbilo, Durban, would walk 300km to try and raise funds for the Centre. The 80 year-old will walk with a group of about 20 people from Portugal to San Diego from around late May or early June this year (2013). "The most important thing is that it's for a good cause where a community cares for humanity, the poor, dispossessed and marginalised irrespective of race, colour or creed," he said.

DUT TO BECOME FIRST INSTITUTION IN KZN TO OFFER MANDARIN

SINEGUGU NDLOVU



Plans to establish the Confucius Institute at the Durban University of Technology are well on track with the University (DUT) having signed an agreement towards the establishment of the Institute with the Fujian Agriculture and Forest University (FAFU) recently.

The agreement, signed by DUT Vice-Chancellor Professor Ahmed Bawa and Professor Ye Huiling, Chairman of FAFU's Council at the DUT Hotel School Conference Centre, will lead to DUT becoming the first institution in KwaZulu-Natal to offer Mandarin courses to staff, students as well as the local business community. The agreement will also see the eThekweni Municipality's International Relations Office using the services of DUT trained Chinese language professionals for language translation and interpretation services during business meetings or cultural events hosted by the City. The DUT Confucius Institute will also serve as a vital academic, intellectual and cultural bridge between South Africa and China as well as promote strong links between the two countries as well as amongst the culturally diverse communities living in Durban and KZN.

Prof Bawa said the DUT CI would act as a "bridge" between South Africa and China that would allow for the flow of different traffic including research, scholars, students, music and art. He said the two universities needed to make this "bridge" vibrant for the movement of people, culture and research to happen. "The Confucius Institute (at DUT) also provides an important link with the Fujian Agriculture and Forest University. There'll

be many opportunities for us to collaborate in a range of areas. I'm positive that this will be a partnership between equals," said Prof Bawa.

Eric Apelgren, eThekweni Municipality International and Government Relations Head of Department said the DUT CI is an important building block in the BRICS relationship. Because there are many Chinese nationals residing in the City, the DUT CI would not only empower South African locals in becoming more efficient in conducting business with the Chinese nationals, it will also improve integration.

Madam Xu Lin, Chief Executive of the Confucius Institute Headquarters in Beijing, China, said the CI is very popular around the world, with the Institute existing in over 100 countries. "The mission of the Confucius Institute is the promotion of the Chinese language. We are not looking at this relationship as a one way street. We want to collaborate and learn from you so that it's an exchange and we learn from each other," said Madam Lin.

FAFU's qualified and experienced Chinese language research and teaching faculty members will provide the necessary administration and management assistance to DUT's CI Board of Advisers to serve under the direction of Dr Kenneth Netshiombo, DUT Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Design and Dr Samuels, Director of the International Education and Partnerships office at DUT. It is envisaged that the DUT CI will be located on the Miriam Bee building on the ML Sultan Campus.

CITY CAMPUS PUBLIC SPACES BOAST NEW, MORE COLOURFUL LOOK

NKOSINATHI WANDA



Pictured: The refurbished public spaces of the DUT City Campus which were renovated by Interior Design students under the My Campus Project which targeted the staff and student courtyard as well as canteen area on the Campus.

The My Campus Project, an initiative aimed at designing and refurbishing public spaces of the DUT City Campus recently came to an end, breathing new life into the Campus's public spaces.

The project was the brainchild of Faculty of Arts and Design Executive Dean Dr Kenneth Netshiombo and involved second and third-year students who had been tasked with thinking of creative ways to improve the appearance of the staff and student courtyards as well as the canteen area.

Speaking about the project, Interior Design Lecturer Michelle Hankinson said she was very happy with the refurbishment.

"This was a learning experience for the students to improve the appearance of their campus. When we started the project, there was scepticism from other departments and students about the success of the project. The response has been amazing. Students are enjoying the beauty of the spaces," she said.

Before being refurbished, the targeted spaces looked plain, lifeless and dull, and in no way reflected the dynamic and artistic personalities that make the Faculty what it is. First-year Fine Art student Kirsty Meek complimented the new look of the public

spaces, saying the result was "fantastic".

"The environment is now pleasing. You feel comfortable when you are sitting here. It (the environment) now represents the Faculty unlike before when they (the targeted public spaces) were not appealing," she said.

Third-year journalism student Sphelele Ngubane said the refurbished spaces will promote relaxation. "The new look brings vibrancy which is good for interaction (among students)," he said.

The Interior Design third-year students Sifiso Shange, Ndabenhle Ncube and Nkululeko Nzuza, who were the leaders of the project, could not hold their excitement about the success of the project despite challenges they had faced.

"The issue of equipment was a big challenge, but with the help of the South African Institute of Interior Design Professions KwaZulu-Natal Chapter representative Craig Bennet, Welcome Ngcobo from the DUT Maintenance Department on the City Campus and other sponsors, we were able to overcome them. I'm honoured; it feels good to have contributed something of value to the campus. This is history for me," said Shange.

STUDYING AT DUT WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE, STUDENTS SAY

NKOSINATHI WANDA

Local and international students of the Durban University of Technology had only good experiences to share about their time in the University during a recent student seminar held at the institution's ML Sultan Campus.

The seminar was organised by DUT's International Education and Partnerships (IEP) office together with the office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic. It was aimed at discovering the different kinds of experiences both international and local students had at DUT.

"We want to hear how your experiences were while you were at DUT, including

our hospitality to you as students. We need you to share these so that we can learn and see where we can improve on the courses we offer and those you believe should be offered," said Dr Delysia Timm, Advisor: Special Projects in the office of the DVC: Academic. She added that this will contribute towards the institution's curriculum renewal project as well as the development of general modules.

The seminar was attended by third-year students from the DUT Dental Science Department as well as exchange students from Germany and France. The students were unanimous in their sentiments,

saying that although there were challenges at the campuses, the University had afforded them beneficial experiences.

Julian Remmert, a Marketing Retail student from Baden Württemberg Co-Operative State University (DHBW) in Germany said, "We enjoyed studying here, it was a wonderful experience. The lecturers were so friendly and accessible and so were the students. I would recommend DUT to anyone because of the great time we had."

Students from Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts et Industries Textiles (ENSAIT) in France echoed Remmert's

sentiments, adding that the University helped them improve their English language skills. During their period here, the French students said they also learnt about the history and culture of South Africa.

Third-year Dental Science students Signey Ngema and Nkosinamandla Mnyaliti praised the institution for its state of the art facilities.

Dr Timm said these seminars will continue to be held in order to find new ideas on how to improve the University's curriculum.

INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS PARTICIPATE IN WORKSHOP SHOWCASING SA'S TROUBLED PAST

NIKITA SMITH-MORGAN



Pictured: One of the designs made with brown paper by DUT Drama Studies students and Tomas Zizka, an artist from the Czech Republic, who was responsible for the Set Design leg of a workshop held at DUT last month (April).

First, second and third-year students of the DUT Drama Studies Department had an exciting start to their month in April.

Internationally renowned artists showcased a number of techniques and skills during a programme which took place over a two day period in the beginning of April, involving representatives from France, Slovak, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

Titled Hopes and Memories, the initiative - funded by a number of European sponsors - was created around a forbidden opera written by Jan Meyerowitz, a German Jew who was exiled by the Nazis. His second opera, *The Barrier* (1949), was based on racial tensions which he witnessed while living in the Southern United States after he had moved there. He used the arts to portray racial tensions that existed during his time.

Similarly, this project which was held at the DUT Drama Studies Department was aimed at using the arts and traditional South African song and dance to showcase and raise awareness about the country's troubled past.

The programme was divided into five areas, these being Media Art, Set Design, Video Technology, Dance and Choreography as well as Physical Theatre.

Laurent Festas, an actor who was responsible for informing students about Physical Theatre, used his experience to illustrate techniques that he has used in Europe. Laurent believes that using song and dance is a good way to raise awareness about racial difficulties. "Arts and culture play a major role in transformation. It also helps point out the root of difficulties and forces one to question society," said Festas. He also believes that the title Hopes and

Memories is fitting since "society always has to hold on to memories of the past but it is important to know that hope comes first and is more significant than memories."

Gyula Berger, an artist from Hungary responsible for interpreting European dance and choreography, demonstrated to students how to use detailed body work to articulate movement from the spine and how to be conscious of the use of the central axis. Berger enjoyed watching the traditional African Gumboot Dance and added that it is very similar to the Hungarian folk dance which also involves dancers wearing boots. "I really admire African dance and appreciate the enthusiasm and knowledge of the students. It is always good to share and exchange tradition. I was also very impressed by the performance of the students. They are very talented," said Berger.

Students present at the Set Design class received invaluable knowledge from Tomas Zizka, a sonographer at Theatre University in Prague, Czech Republic. Zizka was responsible for demonstrating how to use physical movements to enhance imagination of space and your own body. Zizka and the students also made beautiful costumes using brown paper, displaying installation with natural material.

Dr Pamela Tancsik, a senior lecturer in the Drama Studies Department at DUT, said it is beneficial for students to get input from Europe. "The exchange is certainly an advantage to students and to the European representatives who watched performances by our directing projects and talented students. Now, the students are highly motivated and some raised requests to study dance in Hungary and other parts of Europe," said Dr Tancsik.

DURBAN WELL PREPARED FOR 2013 WACE CONFERENCE

NALEDI HLEFANE



Pictured: Dr Paul Stonely, WACE Chief Executive Officer during his recent visit at DUT.

The city of Durban is well prepared to host the 18th WACE World Conference on Co-operative and Work-Integrated Education next month (June 2013), Dr Paul Stonely, Chief Executive Officer of the World Council and Assembly on Co-operative Education (WACE) confirmed during his recent visit at DUT.

The conference will take place from June 24-27, 2013. A biennial event, the conference attracts individuals from various sectors including academic, government as well as corporate. Delegates from different parts of the world meet here to share and exchange research, practices and ideas on co-operative and work-integrated education. They also network and build relationships with other attendees.

Dr Stonely said "co-operative and work-integrated education has been proven to be the best way to prepare young professionals for the workplace. South Africa is one of the world leaders in this regard and it is for this reason that the country was chosen as the host for the upcoming conference."

Preparations for the conference have been underway for the past two years. With the conference only a few months away, Dr Stonely flew to Durban to see

the host city's progress in terms of preparing for this event.

During his visit, Dr Stonely had several meetings with the conference's operations committee. He also visited the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre (ICC) in Durban and DUT where the main proceedings and conference workshops will be held respectively.

Dr Stonely said he was very pleased with how preparations for the conference were going. "The city is well prepared," he said.

He was also satisfied with DUT's preparations, saying the Director of Co-operative Education at DUT, Shakeel Ori, did commendable work in the past two years. As an institution that has been a global partner with WACE for years and which offers such a well-known work-integrated learning programme, Dr Stonely said it was only befitting for DUT to host the conference workshops.

He said he hopes that apart from being a platform for robust discussions and knowledge exchange, the upcoming conference will afford all attendees the opportunity to experience South Africa's rich culture and heritage.

PROF LEWIS NKOSI'S "THE BLACK PSYCHIATRIST" SHOWCASED AT DUT

NALEDI HLEFANE

DUT, in arrangement with the Dramatic, Artistic and Literary Rights Organisation (DALRO), recently presented *The Black Psychiatrist*, an exciting play which explored a complex love story of an interracial couple.

Staged at the DUT City Campus, the production was directed by DUT Drama and Production Studies Department HoD, Professor Deborah Lutge and was an adaptation of SA literary great Prof Lewis Nkosi's 1983 play of the same name. "The work is a flirtation filled with sexual tension, awkward embarrassments, squirming excitement, knowing mirth and impactful ironies - all polarised by gender, race and culture. It's as if Nkosi looked at the country in order to capture both our history and our present in one act, an act or action made analogous through the balance of power that shifts between race

and gender with ingenious charm, grace and a few shocking secrets," said Prof Lutge.

The late Prof Nkosi became distinguished in the 1950s for his outstanding writing in *Drum*. A prolific writer, he authored three books, including *Mating Birds* which, although banned by the apartheid government, received worldwide acclaim.

In April 2012, DUT conferred a posthumous honorary doctorate on Prof Nkosi in recognition of his immense contribution to South African literature.

Staging *The Black Psychiatrist* at DUT was the brainchild of DUT Faculty of Arts and Design Deputy Dean; Prof Graham Stewart in consultation with Prof Nkosi's widow Prof Astrid Starck-Adler, who opened the South African premiere of the play.

DUT CONTINUES TO FORGE RELATIONSHIPS WITH INTERNATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

NALEDI HLEFANE



Pictured: Seated (L-R): Dr H.Vinod Bhat, Manipal University Pro Vice-Chancellor and Prof Ahmed Bawa, DUT Vice-Chancellor. Standing (L-R): Mahendren Moodley, First Rand Bank India CEO; Harrikrishna Narismulu, Hire Intelligence Director and Rajen Padukone, Manipal Hospital Group Managing Director.

The Durban University of Technology continues to make its mark internationally, constantly forming partnerships with national and international institutions and organisations.

Recently, the University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Manipal University, India, which is set to boost teaching and learning as well as training at both institutions. Signed at the DUT Vice-Chancellor's office, Milena Court, DUT Steve Biko Campus, the two universities were represented by DUT Vice-Chancellor Professor Ahmed Bawa and Manipal University Pro Vice-Chancellor Dr. H.Vinod Bhat.

One of the primary goals of the MoU is to help expand DUT's Health Sciences Faculty in order to help increase the insufficient human capital in South Africa's health sector. The MoU also has a number of academic provisions which involve developing collaborative teaching and research links between the two universities by prompting their employees to work together on topics of common interest that can benefit from complementary expertise in both universities.

The universities will also work towards promoting the exchange of research personnel (faculty members, graduate students, post doctoral fellows and research assistants) to carry out collaborative research and to engage in seminars and short courses.

Prof Bawa said there are many possibilities for collaborations and joint offering of qualifications between the two universities, adding that these would definitely be explored. "I think this (the signing of the MoU) is a possibility of a large number of possible collaborations. We had detailed meetings to allow us to go forward. A task team (which will ensure the progress of the goals of the partnership) will also be appointed. There is so much to learn from Manipal," said Prof Bawa.

Once appointed, the task team would then work towards attracting funding from different sources including the Ministry of External Affairs (India), National Research Foundation (NRF) and other funding agencies from India and South Africa to assist in carrying out the said collaborative research projects.

Explaining the motive behind this venture, Dr Bhat said Manipal University has been in all continents except Africa. As a continent that holds the future for the world in terms of growth, and with South Africa as a driving force of the continent, Dr Bhat said Africa can no longer be ignored.

There are also discussions around establishing online education at DUT. This idea coincides with DUT's plan to offer 50 percent of its courses online in the next two years. Manipal University's experience with online education will therefore be useful in launching this form of education at DUT.

DUT CELEBRATES HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

NIKITA SMITH-MORGAN



Pictured: Some of the festivities at the Human Rights Day event held at the DUT Steve Biko Campus on Thursday, March 21, 2013.

As part of the national celebration of human rights, DUT hosted its first ever on-campus Human Rights Day event at the Steve Biko Campus on Thursday, 21 March 2013.

Themed "Human Rights, Culture, Education and Social Transformation", the event was made possible by DUT in collaboration with Arts for Humanity, the South African Human Rights Commission and Democracy Development Programme (DDP). Together, the organisations worked incessantly since January this year to ensure that the event was a success.

Jan Jordaan, a Fine Art lecturer at DUT who is also the founder of Arts for Humanity, an NGO that advocates human rights through art, believes that educating students about human rights is "more important than anything else". "If you look at institutions around the country that embrace values involved in human rights, you will see that they are all top institutions. It is important that DUT embraces human rights so that the University can be on par with other top universities in the country," said Jordaan.

The event had two sessions. During the day, the programme was jam packed

including several performances by South African band Espresso, which stirred up the crowd, and a traditional Zulu dance act to outline the theme of human rights. South African guitarist Steve Fataar, who was among the guests, also performed a special number at the event. Jordaan said inviting celebrities to such events is not a norm for the University as it is believed that "all individuals are special".

Nontobeko Mbatha, DDP Projects Co-ordinator, said despite it being a public holiday, the turnout was good thus making it a successful inaugural event. "This (the idea and success of the event) laid a good foundation for future events," she said.

In the evening, a seminar was held where certain human rights issues were delved into. The speakers included Prof Steve Pete, Prof David Mcquoid-Mason and Devina Perumal of the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). Also speaking at the seminar and representing DUT was Prof Brian Pearce, Senior Lecturer and Associate Professor at the Drama and Production Studies Department as well as Prof Sibusiso Moyo, Director of the Centre for Research Management and Development.



Pictured: Zandile Msomi (right), Medical Representative of Bayer Health Care, informs students about the two-month-injection contraception.

DUT ANNUAL WELLNESS FAIR

NIKITA SMITH-MORGAN

Healthcare was, as usual, the buzz word at the Annual Health and Wellness Fair for Campus Health Services, recently held at DUT's Ritson Campus.

An initiative of the DUT Isolempilo Campus Health Clinic, the event promoted health and wellbeing among DUT staff and students.

It attracted established organisations such as Alpine Foods, Rose Clinic and Kharwastan Pharmacy who were among the event sponsors. As part of the programme, the campus clinic approached a few service providers who helped promote healthy living. These were Froggies, Access Marketing, Durban Coastal Mental Health, the South African

National Blood Services (SANBS) and DUT's Department of Homeopathy.

Access Marketing tested volunteers' blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol levels free of charge. The aim was to encourage the DUT community to regularly check for the aforementioned illnesses.

Zandile Msomi, Medical Representative for Bayer Health Care, informed students about two-month injection, a contraceptive which many students are said to be misinformed about.

From the Department of Homeopathy, fifth-year student Kerusha Naidoo enlightened attendees about the benefits of homeopathy. A profession which promotes the use of alternative methods of medication, Naidoo said, "It is a safer way of living which has no side effects. Lots of people are turning to holistic methods however we still encourage scientific medication in conjunction with the natural methods."

SANBS promoted blood donation since many South Africans are in dire need of it.

EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

SINEGUGU NDLOVU



Pictured: Nic Williamson, IPM KZN Chairman; Dr Anton van Staden, the Chief Director of Social Organisation and Youth Development in the Department of Rural Development and Shakeek Ori; the Director of Co-operative Education at DUT at the breakfast session hosted by DUT, IPM and SASCE at the Hilton Hotel.

Fewer people with disabilities are employed in South Africa while the employment situation of other designated groups, such as blacks and women, is improving.

This is according to research conducted by Dr Anton van Staden, who delivered a keynote address at a breakfast session hosted by the Durban University of Technology, Institute of People Management (IPM) and SASCE (Southern African Society for Co-operative Education) at the Hilton Hotel on Tuesday April 23, 2013.

Dr van Staden is the Chief Director of Social Organisation and Youth Development in the Department of Rural Development, Pretoria. His presentation -

based on his PhD thesis titled "A Strategy for the Employment of Persons with Disability" which he completed in 2011 - focused on the constraints to the employment of persons with disabilities and the human resource management strategy he has developed to enhance the employment of more persons with disabilities.

While the South African government has set a 2 percent employment target for persons with disabilities, this had not been met by both government and the private sector.

This, according to van Staden's research, can be attributed to the following factors, among others:

- The employment of disabled people is not a strategic focus for organisations.
- Key people in organisations such as top, senior and middle management are not sufficiently committed to disability management. Middle management, subordinates, peers and other employees are even less committed to this matter.
- Organisations lack clear written guidelines and policies on the employment of persons with disabilities.
- Performance management practice is inadequate in respect to persons with disabilities.
- Negative perceptions exist around the employment of disabled people, such as that persons with disabilities cannot perform physically strenuous work, it is more expensive to hire physically disabled people and that managing such persons is difficult.

"In this chase for profitability, disability is seen as an issue that won't make money for us. That's not a correct perception. Disabled people say there's nothing wrong with them, but that it's about the environment in which they live that prevents them from participating on a more level footing in the workplace. Some of the basic things that can be done aren't expensive. Government has done everything. Legislative and policy frameworks are there but it's up to us as employers to use them," said Dr van Staden.

His research also found that great confusion still exists around the legal definition of persons living with disability. There is however research, especially in

France, looking into the definition.

"The reasons why disabled employees are leaving (the workplace) are known but little is being done to correct it resulting in persons with disabilities not being retained. Not one organisation responded positively to say that disability is an issue in their bargaining agenda," said Dr van Staden.

Presenting his solutions, Dr van Staden said a definition of disability that is understandable and one that everyone is comfortable with needs to be recorded. He also said guidelines to the accessibility requirements and reasonable accommodation for persons with disability need to be developed. "Awareness needs to be created around the legislative and policy framework (of persons living with disability) and implementation (of these frameworks) needs to be enforced by top management. Organisations must also set fair and equitable employment targets for persons living with disability. Rather than unions buying into this agenda, let us as employers bring it to the table. If we implement these strategies, they can work, but firstly, we must agree that managers and human resource managers must ensure that policies are implemented. The South African constitution prioritises disability. We should find out what the law says. Business owners will tell you that the economy is tough. We understand that. We must start slowly and do this cleverly and wisely. Employers should understand the external factors which persons with disabilities face on a daily basis. We need to consider these as employers," said Dr van Staden.

BRICS THINK TANKS COUNCIL ESTABLISHED AT DUT

NALEDI HLEFANE



Pictured: The BRICS Brazilian delegates who attended the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Academic Forum.

Monday, March 11, 2013 marked the official signing of a declaration of intent to establish the BRICS Think Tanks Council (BTTC).

Signed during the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Academic Forum which was held at the DUT Ritson Campus as part of the Fifth BRICS Summit, the declaration serves to indicate the common intention of BRICS academia to enhance co-operation in research, knowledge sharing, capacity building as well as policy advice.

Elaborating on the motive behind the signing of this declaration, Gwebinkundla Qonde, Higher Education and Training Department Director General, said this declaration encourages collaborations amongst academics to help all five countries to develop good policies in terms of the developmental agenda.

BTTC comprises of five research centres representing each of the BRICS states. The Council will form a platform for the exchange of ideas among researchers, academia and think tanks while also bearing the responsibility of convening the BRICS Academic Forum. South Africa is currently represented by the Human Sciences and Research Council (HSRC) which, according to the Department of Higher Education and Training Acting Deputy Director General, Dr Diane Parker, might be replaced by another research organisation.

The policy recommendations and guidance provided by the council were presented to BRICS leaders for further consideration. More details on the role of co-operation will be elaborated at another meeting scheduled to take place in October 2013.

ELECTRONIC VOTING IN SA COULD SOON BE POSSIBLE, THANKS TO RESEARCH BY DUT EXPERT

SINEGUGU NDLOVU



Pictured from left: Shri Veeravalli Sundaram, Chief Election Commissioner of India; Surendra Thakur, e-voting expert at DUT and Lance Gough, Executive Director Chicago Board of Election Commissioners during the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) seminar on electronic voting (e-voting) and counting technologies in Cape Town in March 2013.

New research undertaken by a DUT based ICT expert could soon make voting using paper ballots a thing of the past in South Africa.

Colin Thakur, the Director of the e-Skills CoLab at DUT recently provided the keynote address at a two-day seminar organised by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) on electronic voting (e-voting) and counting technologies in Cape Town. The conference was aimed at stimulating debate on e-voting and counting.

Thakur was commissioned to do research on e-voting by the IEC in 2010. The study looked at all 152 countries and took 18 months to complete. An international study of countries that had adopted, piloted, trialed, abandoned e-voting, as

well as those with an expressed intention to look at e-voting were reviewed in the study to determine what impact e-voting could have in South Africa. "Voting in South Africa is peaceful, transparent and fair. The findings of the study were that e-voting is a useful technology to enable democracy," said Thakur. E-voting is the use of electronics to capture and count a vote. This is provided by computers with a touch screen interface, keyboard, jelly buttons and paper ballots which are optically scanned. Thakur says the technology can be used comfortably by the elderly because it also incorporates features such as large fonts, bright colours and audio output. It also relates to the youth with their penchant for technology.

While Thakur thinks this technology is useful, he admits that disadvantages do

however exist. "E-voting removes the auditability of an election by taking away the paper ballot which makes it impossible to have a recount. This has a huge impact on transparency. In addition, e-voting machines are susceptible to hacks that a typical computer can go through. This (hacking) includes the illegal monitoring of votes and simulated attacks. Other reasons why we shouldn't adopt e-voting are that voters are satisfied with the current voting mechanisms in place (in South Africa) and the initial start-up costs are high. We would need over R1 billion to initiate e-voting while South Africa has other competing priorities such as housing, healthcare, education, infrastructure, etc. Sustained research is however being currently undertaken to counter disadvantages (of e-voting)," said Thakur.

Although many machines have been hacked, these have occurred in simulated, laboratory, or experimental situations. An important observation here is that no evidence of prosecutable fraud was found to have occurred during any legal electoral process.

Two types of e-voting exist. These are controlled and uncontrolled e-voting. Controlled e-voting happens when a voter casts their ballot in a booth controlled by an electoral commission whereas uncontrolled e-voting happens when a vote is cast remotely through the internet, smart phone, fax, etc. "India, with 714 million voters; Brazil, with 240 million voters and the Philippines, with 94 million voters are some of the 12 countries currently using controlled e-voting. India uses 1.4 million e-voting machines, while Brazil uses 440 000 machines and the Philippines uses 82 000 machines," explained Thakur, adding that elections in

these countries (using this technology) have been perceived to be free and fair. "Interestingly, India used 12 000 metric tonnes (12 million kilograms) of paper for its 1998 elections which is a whole forest," said Thakur.

He added, "Six countries currently use internet voting. This positive news should however be balanced with the reality that five countries have stopped (using) e-voting," said Thakur. These countries are Netherlands, which stopped using e-voting in 2007 after it was proved that the machines could be monitored; Ireland which – after purchasing the machines for €51 million - stopped using e-voting in 2004 because of voter dissent; Germany after they believed that e-voting was not transparent and that fraud could occur; while England and Australia stopped using e-voting in 2007 because of the high cost involved. Thakur said he believes in e-voting. He said not only does it make elections quicker; it also ensures "direct democracy" where government can frequently defer to the electorate on contentious issues such as coal or nuclear plants, dams and rivers or tolling of roads. "South Africa used 460 tons of paper in the last elections. It is possible that the use of voting machines will be a green solution. The IEC has not made a decision to adopt it (e-voting) or not. For e-voting to even be considered, there would have to be legislative changes. I am hopeful that the IEC will recommend such changes in order to begin the process of trialing and piloting to see what works in South Africa. They have not made such a call, although we must salute their reactivity in impartially examining this issue. It's only at this point that the adoption question can be asked," said Thakur.

A GOOD TURNOUT FOR MALE CIRCUMCISION AT DUT

NIKITA SMITH-MORGAN

DUT recently became the first higher education institution in KwaZulu-Natal to perform Medical Male Circumcision (MMC) when 25 male students went under the knife at the Isolempilo Campus Health Clinic, DUT Steve Biko Campus in March this year.

DUT collaborated with MatCH (Maternal, Adolescent and Child Health) and St Aiden's Hospital in carrying out this initiative. Before students could undergo the procedure, nurses at the Clinic performed routine medical checks on the students and tested their blood pressure, blood sugar, temperature and haemoglobin levels. HIV/AIDS testing as well as TB screening were also conducted.

Msizi Ngwane, a first-year Civil Engineering student who bravely underwent the procedure said the idea of circumcision was introduced to him by someone close to him. "I was very nervous before the circumcision but it turned out to be less painful than what I had expected. It's good to protect yourself and keep yourself safe. Now I have one

less thing to worry about," said Ngwane.

Levy Meyer, Programme Manager of KZN MatCH who performed the procedure on the male students said that she was impressed with the turnout. "This (MMC) is part of the HIV/AIDS Prevention Programme in which we help people in the prevention process. We all know that prevention is better than cure and it is ultimately cheaper to prevent by MMC than to purchase ARVs," said Meyer. The idea behind the programme is to get as many men circumcised and educated about MMC. Although the after effects of MMC include mild pain, bleeding and sensitivity of the head of the penis, the advantages are far greater, Meyer said.

The Isolempilo Campus Health Clinic plays a big role in the post-circumcision process. "We assess the wounds and check for any adverse effects. We also make sure that students are informed about how to take care of the wound," said Soori Wardthen, Chief Professional Nurse at the DUT Student Counseling and Health Department.



Pictured: Sister Lynette Chetty, a Senior Professional Nurse at the DUT Isolempilo Campus Health Clinic performs a routine medical check before the student is circumcised. A total of 25 male students underwent the procedure in April this year (2013).

CAMPUS VOX POP



Josh Philander

Andile Khambule

Thembeke Tshabalala

Munnir Shaw

Professor Deborah Lutge

Kerika Suchitananund

DUT will soon offer Mandarin courses to staff, students and the business community under the recently launched Confucius Institute (CI). The institute will serve as a vital academic, intellectual and cultural bridge between South Africa and China, while promoting strong links between the two countries and amongst the culturally diverse communities living in Durban and KZN.

We asked our staff and students about their thoughts regarding the initiative and this is what they had to say.

Professor Deborah Lutge: DUT Drama and Production Studies Head of Department

The collaborate promise of the DUT CI, potentially invokes through cultural exchange, the positioning of new knowledge created by mounting cross cultural fusion productions exploring dance, music and performance styles. Chinese culture, among the oldest and most advanced in the world, signifies exciting possibilities for synergies with African performance styles through theatre. South African multi-cultural history emanates from an all-embracing and inclusive cradle of humanity notion and fans out into a rainbow diversity centred on the notion of 'ubuntu'. Ubuntu initiates a wonderful point for global exchange from which to derive shared experiences, rich histories, new fusions, and the re-evaluation or unpacking of fresh social perspectives. The Drama and Performance Studies Department is very excited at the prospect this global exchange offers and the educational benefits proposed.

Andile Khambule: Communications Department Administrative Assistant (Acting)

I'm happy to hear about it since South Africa has a business relationship with China. The agreement will allow our students to exchange ideas with those from Fujian Agriculture and Forest University. I would also like to learn more languages beside than the ones I already know.

Thembeke Tshabalala: Public Relations BTech Student

I see this as a way of making us to try and accept Chinese people into our economy. I see no reason why we should be learning Chinese languages, this is South Africa. People can't even learn their 11 official languages, but we have to learn Chinese.

Josh Philander: First-year Drama Studies Student

I believe the connection between South African and Chinese students could help with the academic growth within the country. It will also enable us to understand each other better and possibly help us to learn and communicate in new languages and vice versa for them. I think this opportunity will also provide promotion for South African students hoping to make it somewhere someday.

Kerika Suchitananund: First-year Clinical Technology Student

It will be a good opportunity for students and staff. DUT will also be internationally recognised. I think it would also be great in terms of cultural interaction.

Munnir Shaw: Hospitality and Tourism Lecturer

The definite need for proficiency in the language is obvious from the very observable increase in Chinese inbound tourism arrivals numbers. As a host destination, our people in Durban and KZN will be well placed to better meet the service requirement and quality of service to this market.

DUT GIVES YOUTH OF AMAOTI CAREER GUIDANCE

NKOSINATHI WANDA



Pictured: The youth of Amaoti receive career guidance during the Rotary Road World of Work recently held in the area (Amaoti).

The Durban University of Technology's Department of Co-operative Education recently visited Victoria Mtshali Hall in Amaoti, Durban where an entire day was dedicated to offering career guidance to the youth of Amaoti.

The event was hosted as part of the Rotary Road World of Work, an initiative organised by Rotary District 9270's Economic and Community Development Committee aimed at empowering the unemployed youth of Amaoti with information on both careers and entrepreneurial opportunities. DUT's Co-Operative Education Department participated in the event after an invitation by the Rotary Club.

Speaking about the visit to the area, Co-operative Education and External Engagement Manager Themba Msukwini said it was important for the Department to honour the Rotary Club's invitation. "We had to explain to the youth of Amaoti how to get to university and tell them about faculties and courses offered and financial assistance available from NSFAS. This is the unemployed youth that are school leavers; they don't have access to information. It was important to go out there and tell them what our

university does to shape (one) to be ready for the industry, because if we don't go to them, they will not know about us," he said.

Rotary District 9270 Economic and Community Committee Chairwoman Monique Labat said it was essential to invite DUT to assist with information. "Access to learning creates a better and more educated society that can be able to make good decisions in every aspect of its life. The youth of Amaoti is now better informed; we thank DUT's Co-operative Education for its participation in our Rotary World of Work all day seminar. Many of the young people were delighted to receive DUT caps and lanyards," she said.

Labat said the Rotary District Economic and Community Committee had created a blueprint manual on how to run future workshops which would be made available to all Rotary clubs.

She said the committee was eager to collaborate with DUT in the future towards the creation of sustainable economic initiatives within urban, peri-urban and rural communities.