

Inside this Issue...



DUT signs MoU with UESTC

2



3 Flying the DUT flag



5 Gender Forum Takes Action



German exchange students arrive at DUT

6



Nicolé scoops the 2012 Emma Smith Scholarship Award

6

DUT Dancers perform at the Dance Umbrella 2012

Sinegugu Ndlovu



Above: Noluthando Kubheka (female) and Charles Zulu (male)



Noluthando Kubheka, Zinhle April Khanyile, Lungelwa Radebe

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) Drama Studies students participated in the Dance Umbrella 2012 in Johannesburg where they shared the stage with South African, African and international artists.

“Imbokodo” is a collaboration between eight third year DUT Drama Studies students and two graduates (from DUT and the University of KwaZulu-Natal). The performance which deals with the abuse of women, specifically rape, was choreographed by DUT alumnus and Drama Studies Dance Lecturer, Mdu Mtshali. “I chose the concept because women abuse has become a norm and even a joke. It is being taken lightly, so much so that even government does not fully intervene or provide the solution. Women living in rural areas suffer the most because hospitals and police stations where they can get help, are not easily accessible,” said Mtshali.

The performance revolves around one man who portrays the role of an abuser. The story is however not for the faint hearted. It kicks off with a naked female who has just been raped. Mtshali said rape victims emerge from the nightmare with physical and emotional trauma, adding that the bold decision to show a naked woman who has just been sexually violated portrays the “reality” of rape.

“People know and hear about rape but showing a naked person, who has just endured the ordeal of rape, is more powerful. The scene shows the true state of a rape victim. It (the naked scene) is tastefully done, in the sense that lighting was smartly used so that the scene is not explicit,” he said.

The performance also features a “peeling of the skin” which symbolises how rape or abuse victims often feel that they need “cleansing” (in the African sense) or psychological treatment to help them rebuild their lives. “Imbokodo” also uses poetry and projected images and text about rape.

“The images show ‘closed door’ issues in the sense that abuse often happens behind closed doors. The images also have a potent effect on the audience,” he said.

The poem “The Silent Cocoon” is featured in Mdu Mtshali’s Dance Umbrella work “Imbokodo” This is an extract from “The Silent Cocoon” by Genbia Hyla

*The cocoon is broken.
Like a hymen screaming foul,
My voice dislocates -
As the huffing and puffing
Echoes in the gap between me and that
thing - that is him.*



Editor's Corner

This, the first edition of the ConDUIT for 2012, is jam-packed with the stellar work being done by DUT staff and students. Most notably is the appointment of Rene' Smith to the Media Development and Diversity Board by President Jacob Zuma.

A new addition to the Faculty of Arts and Design, Ms Smith (whose PhD in Media and Cultural Studies at UKZN will be conferred in April) is a shining example of what makes a university great. The success of world-class universities like Cambridge, Oxford, Harvard and Stanford has been attributed by Forbes Magazine to academic freedom and critical thinking, in part. I believe a large portion of what makes a university great is the injection of new blood. Academics, like Ms Smith, who are able to contribute not only to new knowledge, but who are able to engage society are worth their weight in gold.

This edition of the ConDUIT is emblazoned with the new DUT logo. The look and feel of this publication has changed to fit in with the design elements of the new logo. Our Marketing gurus Vasantha Govender and Alan Khan are determined to alter perceptions of the University. Alan and Vasantha, along with DUT's Workspace, have been working tirelessly on packaging the logo and the new brand image of the University. The logo, which is said to represent cultural aspects of KZN, will appear on the DUT website shortly. Watch this space...

Ciao,

Raylene Captain-Hassthibeer

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Dr Mutanda: an Emerging Researcher

Naledi Hlefane

DUT is proud to announce that academic, Dr Taurai Mutanda has been profiled as an Emerging Researcher on the National Research Foundation (NRF) website recently. With many of his projects funded by the NRF, Dr Mutanda has conducted research on various topics and has published approximately nine articles between 2009 and 2011.

Dr Mutanda said he was humbled by this recognition. "I was so excited to have been recognised this way and also for the great exposure for myself, the Institute for Water and Wastewater Technology (IWWT) and the DUT community at large."

"This acknowledgement will act as an impetus in my research activities. I will definitely keep the momentum for acquisition and contribution to knowledge through meaningful research."

He attributes his improved publication record and the progress made in his research projects to collaborative research, team work and adequate funding.

Dr Mutanda joined the institution in 2008. He is currently a Research Associate funded by the NRF, Claude Leon Foundation and DUT. He is working on the Algal Technology project under the supervision of Professor Faizal Bux (Director, IWWT). The topic focuses on the

Production of microalgal biomass and lipids for biodiesel production. They are conducting further investigation and experimentation on *Chlorella sp*, a hyper-lipid microalgal strain.

According to Professor Bux, this research can be considered novel in the South African context. "Dr Mutanda has displayed substantial passion towards his research and has the potential to develop into an expert in the field," commented Bux.

Dr Mutanda obtained his BSc (Honours) in Biological Sciences and MSc degree in Biotechnology at the University of Zimbabwe. He completed his PhD at Rhodes University in 2007.

Born in Zaka District, Masvingo Province in Zimbabwe, he is the third born in a family of three boys and six girls. Also a family man, he is married to Mary Mutanda who is currently completing her MTech at DUT.

Adding to his accolades, Dr Mutanda is contributing two chapters to a book edited by Professor Bux. He is co-supervising two DTech students and an MTech student. Independently, he is involved in the Rainwater harvesting project.



Management Sciences Dean appointed TESA President

Naledi Hlefane



Dr Rishi Balkaran, Acting Executive Dean in the Faculty of Management Sciences was recently appointed as president of Tourism Educators South Africa (TESA).

"I am pleased and excited about the opportunity to contribute to the tourism and hospitality sector," Dr Balkaran said.

"I see my role as president of TESA as part and parcel of my job as Acting Executive Dean of the Faculty of Management Sciences. Managing both positions will require much doing, however, the benefits are enormous," he added.

TESA was formed in 2008. The members of the organisation include universities of technology, FET colleges, comprehensive universities, government and the private sector. A federation of education and training providers in the greater tourism

industry in South Africa, it declares its commitment to the development and enhancement of education and training, promoting quality learning programmes or curricula within the field of its members.

In his three-year term as president of TESA, Dr Balkaran said he will ensure a smooth transition between FET colleges and higher education articulation. He plans to unite all education providers in the tourism and hospitality sector, with a view to enhance and develop tourism related policies and practices in education. "I also aim to encourage and initiate research between the governmental, private and education sectors of tourism," he said.

Other key functions of the federation include promoting career opportunities in the tourism industry as well as national and international collaboration with like-minded organisations.

Additionally, Balkaran hopes to see a development of close relations between government and the higher education sector in KwaZulu-Natal.

DUT signs MoU with UESTC

Naledi Hlefane



Picture by Keith Kenneth

DUT signed a memorandum of understanding with the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China (UESTC) on Tuesday, 7 February. The institutions were represented by Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ahmed Bawa and Rector, Professor Jinsong Wang respectively. The MoU signifies partnership in the form of curricula exchange and research between the DUT and UESTC engineering departments.

The meeting was attended by senior members of the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, the International Education and Partnerships office and delegates from UESTC.

Professor Bawa said: "When democratic change was effected in 1994, South Africa looked to build relations with Europe and the USA, overlooking Africa

and the rest of the world. Europe and the USA had been influential, even with regards to curricula. But, there is a growing interest for DUT to work with universities in China."

Professor Wang said he was pleased to learn that the institutions have similar objectives in terms of community development and research collaborations. "I wish to thank the Engineering Department for initiating this partnership and I hope this relationship will be strengthened as we move to the future," he said.

Professor Bawa also pointed out that a similar partnership between DUT and China existed last year. The partnership included a research project which saw DUT's Biotechnology lecturer, Dr Paul Mokoena and Chinese scientists conduct research on fermentation.

Five Minute Interview



Not so long ago, *Andile Dube* had the pleasure of sitting down with the charming Mr DUT 2011, **Thandumusa Innocent Bhengu** who made a colleague's heart skip a beat when he visited Corporate Affairs to chat to us about his reign as Mr DUT. Bhengu is a second year Electrical Engineering student and a house committee member at DUT's Berea Residence. Shy but confident, he was everyone's favorite on the night of the pageant. It is no wonder he was crowned Mr DUT.

Where were you born?

I was born in Isipingo, on the south coast of Kwa-Zulu Natal.

How old are you?

I was born 27 April 1991, which makes me 21.

Prior to Mr DUT, have you done any modeling?

I don't see myself as a model, but earlier last year I won Mr DUT REZ-Fresher 2011.

What made you want to enter the competition?

In the short time that I have been at DUT I have always wanted to make a difference with my peers and the university at large and I believe the Mr DUT title will provide the platform to do just that. It opens an opportunity for me to be the change that I want to see in the world. I want to positively influence and change the minds of my peers.

What is your mandate as Mr DUT?

I wasn't given any mandate or list of things to do, but I am the ambassador of the institution. Wherever I go now I will be associated with DUT, so I have to make sure that I represent the university to the best of my ability.

What have you learned from this experience?

The experience has been great and taught me a lot about myself. I have learned how to respond to people and be humble. The greatest lesson though is learning how to balance the reign with my studies.

What are the challenges that come with the role?

It saddens me that there is no recognition given to Mr and Ms DUT. So you just end up with the title and nothing else to do or contribute to the university. I would like to see that change, not only with Student Governance but with the management of the University as well.

What are your plans for the future?

I love DUT because it is very diverse, there're a lot of different races. Using my reign and my newly formed company, Mixed Culture Productions I would like to start projects that will unify all the races at the University.

Siyazama Human Orphan Tower

Sinegugu Ndlovu

The Global HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to wreak havoc across nations. In South Africa, the Dannhauser Village, outside of Dundee, in rural KwaZulu-Natal is home to 634 children who have been orphaned by AIDS.

The Siyazama project is housed in the Department of Graphic Design at DUT and led by Professor Kate Wells. This Masters course is a design leader at DUT and continues to challenge the HIV/AIDS epidemic by making challengeing statements about the huge number of AIDS orphans living in South Africa.

The Human Orphan Tower, which has 634 beaded cloth dolls made by five bead workers of the Siyazama project was recently on show at The A.R.T Show at the KZNSA Gallery. The exhibition, which is about Art and A.R.T (antiretroviral treatment) aims to highlight the HIV/AIDS pandemic in

southern Africa and how it affects the lives of ordinary people, especially when it comes to treatment.

"It is our hope that the collective image that this Tower signifies will have more human impact than the raw numbers that are routine in AIDS indicators. The current statistics for young children orphaned to AIDS in South Africa stands at 3.7 million. In order to depict the real magnitude of this human disaster, 5,835 Towers such as this would be required," said Wells.

Wells said the Siyazama team was approached by Durban's Carol Brown and Richard Gere of the Make Art/Stop Aids Foundation and a professor at the University of Los Angeles (UCLA) to make a piece for The A.R.T Show. A decision was then taken with Carol Brown and Linda Rethman to create the tower.



"The Siyazama craftswomen have created hundreds of small, beautifully beaded child figure dolls that collectively make a strong statement about statistics with regard to the AIDS orphans in South Africa. Our aim is to make sense of these statistics visually through an installation, from which it is hoped it should build awareness of the growing inhumane calamity in our part of the world. We see it as a call to action," said Wells.

It took four to six weeks for Lobolile Ximba, Sbongile Ximba, Celani Noijeza, Tholiwe Sithole and Beauty Ndlovu to make the 600 dolls for the Tower. To help minimize costs, Siyazama used donations of cloth, wool and beads from supporters Duane van Tonder at Saprotex International in the Eastern Cape and Mo Peer from G+M The Peers Company in Durban, among others.

There are plans for the exhibition to travel to the World AIDS Day Conference in Washington D.C.

Flying the DUT flag

Sinegugu Ndlovu



René Smith

The Durban University of Technology is proud to announce that one of its lecturers, Miss René Smith, has been appointed by President Jacob Zuma to sit on the Media Development and Diversity Board (MDDA).

Ms Smith's appointment was done in terms of Section 4 (1) (b) of the MDDA Act and followed a parliamentary public participatory process through the Portfolio Committee on Communications which recommended her as a board member.

Ms Smith, Senior Lecturer in the Media, Language & Communications Department at DUT is a media and development researcher, scholar and speaker. She has just completed a PhD in Media and Cultural Studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, which will be conferred in April. Ms Smith has served on a range of governing boards and committees including the Review Board of the Film and Publications Board. There, she served two terms. She has also served on Icasa's Broadcasting Monitoring and Complaints Committee (precursor to the CCC). She has worked in and consulted for civil society, public and private sectors and has lectured in media and communications at various institutions across South Africa.

Ms Smith is honored by her appointment, saying the MDDA is an important organisation mandated to, amongst others; redress exclusion and marginalisation of disadvantaged communities and persons from access to the media and the media

industry as spelt out in the MDDA Act No 14 of 2002.

Essentially, the organisation seeks to encourage access to and ownership and control of media by historically disadvantaged communities, as well as to promote indigenous languages.

"This is no small feat given the imbalances created by our past," said Ms Smith.

Ms Smith said the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Communications was rigorous in its interviewing process. Judging from the questions posed, Ms Smith said it is clear that Parliament will continue to execute oversight to ensure the MDDA delivers on its mandate.

"In 2009 the MDDA commissioned research on Media Ownership & Control. The report is accessible online. The figures show clearly there has been limited traction with respect to transformation of media ownership and control. Concentration of ownership,

especially in the print media sector is a real challenge. The print media represented by the Print Media of SA (PMSA) further confirmed in Parliament in 2011 that ownership and control remains in the hands of a few, therefore the ideals enshrined in the MDDA Act of all citizens having access to the entire value chain of media are still not achieved. Change is never easy, but it is necessary. The law is very clear on what is required. Clearly what is needed is a careful balancing act and a commitment and dedication to the Supreme law of the land, the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and MDDA mandate, with due regard to our most pressing development challenges," she said.

Ms Smith's appointment is effective from January 2012. Her appointment is for a term of office of three years. While the board has not yet met, Ms Smith says she looks forward to meeting her colleagues at the next board meeting.

Gender Forum Takes Action

Savie Naicker

DUT'S Gender Forum held a protest near the Greyville Racecourse in December 2011 to highlight the prevailing violence against women and children. The hard hitting placards had many motorists hooting in support of the event. It was well attended with messages of hope and statements of courage that put the spotlight on the dire problem facing South Africa.

As a woman in South Africa you are more likely to be raped than educated. A study conducted by Interpol shows that a woman is raped every 17 seconds in South Africa. We also carry the shame of a shockingly high number of child abuse cases.

Ranilla Pillay, the Chairperson of the Gender Forum and a counselor for the

Advice Desk for the Abused said, "We do counsel and refer victims to the relevant professional bodies as and when the need arises. Thereafter, ongoing support is provided to the victim. Abuse knows no color, creed, age, gender, race, or financial status."

The picketing was to raise awareness, and educate people about Violence against Women and Children and empower people to take a stand against this scourge in our society.

Nonhlanhla Mtshali, a lecturer from DUT's Biomedical Department said, "It is important to gain support against violence. We need to raise a healthy population who will be able to boost our economy because violence has a ripple effect. It causes serious harm in many areas of our lives."



Staff members rally against women and child abuse

Picture by Naledi Hlefane

"There shouldn't be violence of any kind - not just of women and children - and it is also important for men to partake in such events to show that we care," said Paul Bindha from DUT's Procurement Department.

Lucille August from DUT's Financial Department said, "I know of someone

who went to court after enduring abuse. She is still waiting after 3 years for the matter to be resolved. The justice system needs to act timeously against perpetrators."

gender
forum

Vote of Confidence for DUT Manager

Sinegugu Ndlovu

Durban University of Technology Library Sites Manager, Mrs Lucille Elizabeth Webster continues to fly DUT's flag high after being appointed as a member of the National Council for Library and Information Services (NCLIS) for a second term.

The NCLIS is the overarching body for the library and information profession. Mrs Webster was appointed to the Council by the Minister of Arts and Culture, Paul Mashatile. The brief of the Council is to advise the Minister of Arts and Culture and the Minister of Education on matters relating to library and information services. One of the significant functions of NCLIS also includes the development of policies, principles and criteria that should govern the allocation of public funds for library and information services.

Mrs Webster is one of three representatives from KwaZulu-Natal who will serve on the Council.

"I feel honored to be nominated for a second term in office and I guess this is a vote of confidence in me," she said.

Mrs Webster has served on various committees and associations related to libraries during her career. She is an active member of the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) which allows her to be in touch with burning issues in the profession. She has also served from 2007-2011 as a committee member on The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users.

She hopes that her second term will allow her to make greater progress with the challenge of schools lacking libraries or resource centres, a challenge she knows all too well. "As a librarian at a higher education institution, I can see the challenges faced by our students who come from schools or communities where there are no libraries. If we want to improve our matric results, then we must start at the beginning at grade R with a library in each school," she said.



Lucille Webster

Nastasia speaks on UK tour

Naledi Hlefane

DUT Chemical Engineering graduate and 2011 awardee of the prestigious Abe Bailey Travel Bursary, Nastasia Ramsamy is back on South African soil after a three week educational and cultural tour of the United Kingdom between November and December.

"I would like to believe that this experience has significantly improved my cognitive and leadership skills," Ramsamy said.

Royal treatment

The awardees toured many parts of England, including London, Cambridge and Stonehenge, and Edinburgh and Angus in Scotland, staying at various elite lodges and hotels. Highlights of the tour include visiting St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, shopping on Oxford Street, and relaxing at The Burn in Scotland.

The Bursary is awarded to suitable students or junior lecturers. Academic excellence, strong leadership skills and service to the wider communities form part of the criteria of prospective applicants.

Ramsamy is currently studying towards a Masters degree in membrane technology in the pulp and paper industry, under Professor VL Pillay's supervision.

DUT Library staff are on the move!

Mr Siza Radebe, Manager Library Sites, was selected as a participant in the prestigious Carnegie Library Leadership Academy (CLLA) at the University of Pretoria in November 2011. The aim of the project is to address development needs within the South African Library and Information Services (LIS) sector by facilitating appropriate library leadership training and development programmes. The programme focus is on best practices in library management, organisational leadership, personal leadership and styles, advocacy and communication skills, reconciliation and cultural integration in the workplace, introduction to Web 2.0 technologies, knowledge management and marketing and branding.

Mr Sagren Moodley (Library Manager IT and Innovation) and Mr David Thomas (Training Librarian) were awarded fully-funded prestigious scholarships from the Department of Information Science at the University of Pretoria to complete a specialised two year coursework degree at Masters level in Information Technology. The funding was supplied by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

The aim of the programme is :

- To empower the next generation of library and information professionals within sub-Saharan African countries with knowledge and skills to apply modern information and communication technologies (ICTs).
- To build capacity amongst middle managers involved in managing ICT or working in ICT-intensive environments in academic libraries and faculty members at Library and Information Science schools to support the next generation of academics and researchers in Africa.

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German exchange students arrive at DUT

Naledi Hlefane



German exchange students with IEP staff and Director, Dr Lavern Samuels (right) during orientation.

A group of German exchange students has arrived at the Durban University of Technology for a term of study. The forty plus students, from Ravensburg and Loerrach, were warmly welcomed by the International Education and Partnerships (IEP) department during an orientation in February.

IEP's Dr Lavern Samuels assured the students that the next three months at DUT will be a productive period. Students will be placed in their respective departments which will afford them an opportunity to experience lectures from different perspectives.

The students were excited about being in South Africa. Industrial Engineering student Mark Krugel said, "South Africa has an interesting culture and vibe. I love the food here as well. My favourite meal is the bunny chow."

Katrin Wipper, also studying International Business said, "I love the warm weather in Durban. The people here are very hospitable."

This student exchange initiative by the IEP was established in 2008. Dr Samuels said the programme started with only two international students. He was delighted to mention that the number of students who have expressed interest in the institution has increased significantly.

Solemn Oath for Anatomy Students

Sinegugu Ndlovu

First year Anatomy students studying in the Department of Basic Medical Sciences at the DUT recently took a modified Hippocratic Oath where they swore to treat with respect the mortal remains of human bodies when they conduct their studies in the dissection hall.

Basic Medical Science lecturer, Jennifer Frances Ducray conducted a reflection for the students where she compared the selfless gift of the people who had donated their remains for medical study to the planting of a seed. Each student was given a seed and was encouraged to nurture it by diligent and enthusiastic application to their Anatomy study.

"It would be in this way that the seed would give life and bring healing to those who would one day be your patients," said Ducray.

Professor Hoosen Vawda, Clinical Research Professor at UKZN Innovation told students about the laws governing

human anatomy in South Africa, adding that they are lucky to be able to dissect a human body and to have hands on experience in the study of how a human body is constructed. He said health science is a combination of science, art and spirituality.

"Behave in a manner that is conducive of a health professional, and that starts now. It applies to after hours as well. This was someone's loved one, a human being that made the supreme sacrifice to donate their body to you. Treat it with respect," said Prof Vawda.

Health Sciences Executive Dean, Professor Threethambal Puckree urged the students to fly DUT's flag high in everything they do and to carry themselves in an exemplary manner. While she advised students to work hard, she also said they must enjoy their studies. "I will follow you like this little seed you carry in order to see how you grow and are nurtured by this faculty," she said.

DUT Students Receive Bursaries

Three first year DUT students have received bursaries from the Department of Mineral Resources. The Director of Human Resources Development in the Department of Mineral Resources, Headman Mbiko awarded the recipients funding to complete four years of study at DUT. The lucky recipients of the bursaries were Themba Nhlapo for Electrical Power Engineering, Lindokuhle Ntombela for Chemical Engineering and Nomthandazo Ngcobo for Chemical Engineering.

Mbiko said there was a shortage of skilled people in the mining industry and there was a dire need for young people to be given opportunities. "South Africa has the third largest mining industry in the world and therefore there is an urgency to recruit young talent." Mbiko said.

Lindokuhle Ntombela spoke on behalf of the students and said, "It is great to receive such a prestigious bursary and thank you to government for taking the initiative to develop skills of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds."

DUT's Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Ahmed Bawa said, "The University is very pleased to have the Department of Mineral Resources award the deserving candidates bursaries. It is a reflection of the importance of building partnerships between DUT and government. This is the start of further engagements."

During their study period, government will also assist with experiential learning for the students in mines, followed by a two year internship programme.

Nicolé scoops the 2012 Emma Smith Scholarship Award

Sinegugu Ndlovu



Emma Smith Scholarship recipient, Nicolé Maurel

A sound overall body of work was what secured a victory for Fine Art student, Nicolé Maurel in the 2012 Emma Smith Scholarship Award.

Maurel's *OrangeBlangeBlou. Wie is ons dan nou* (OrangeWhiteBlue. Who are we now) earned her R40 000 during the 2012 Emma Smith Scholarship Award ceremony held at DUT's City Campus recently. "Her overall body of work was very sound. Everyone who was there decided Nicolé has a lot going for her and we decided to support that. We want to see where her future work will lead her," said Megan McFall, one of the judges.

Maurel said her work was a personal journey where she investigated her identity and heritage as an Afrikaaner. The work consisted of a series of 11 dolls with ceramic heads and embroidered dresses. The dolls, which served as metaphors, are amputated to symbolize what she said is the dysfunctional (Afrikaaner) family and community shifting from the oppressed to the oppressor. "I was investigating South Africa's past such as the Great Trek, the British Concentration Camps and the Boer War. As an Afrikaaner, I wanted to know who I am and where I come from. It's interesting how history repeats itself. Afrikaaners were oppressed (British Concentration

Camps) only to become the oppressor during apartheid. Apartheid is no more and Afrikaaners sit with an identity crisis," said Maurel.

She said she would use her prize money to fund an exhibition with a group of women from Aberdeen in the Karoo. "I went to Arbedeen in 2010 to do a ceramics workshop with a group of Coloured women. The area has 98 percent unemployment. The women are creative and that's why I want to have an exhibition workshop with them. I want to bring them here so they can see the city, art galleries and just experience this environment," she said.

Maurel received an additional R500 after Arts and Design Faculty Dean, Dr Kenneth Netshiombo announced all finalists would receive R200 pocket money while the award winner would get R500, courtesy of his Faculty. This, Dr Netshiombo said, was because of the high quality of work.

DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Ahmed C. Bawa said there is a huge convergence between art and design, adding that he hoped the nominees would do great things in the future. He also urged the students to get their Masters degrees, saying the country needs to produce 6 000 PhDs a year, but is currently managing 1 200.



Inter-Res Sports day



On Saturday, 11 February, DUT hosted an Inter-Res First year Residences Sports day. Walsingham Res won in both netball and soccer by beating Berea Res and Essenwood Res.

Industry Training Unit at DUT - Creating opportunities and tackling unemployment

Sinegugu Ndlovu

Poverty and unemployment are high in Durban in particular and South Africa in general, which is why the development of entrepreneurs must be treated with a sense of urgency in order to speed up the rate of social and economic transformation.

It is this belief that led to the establishment of a fruitful ongoing partnership between a DUT alumnus and the Industry Training Unit (ITU) within DUT's Clothing and Textile Studies Department. The partnership between the ITU and Injiya Interiors owned by Ntombi Luthuli, recently resulted in the graduation of 21 people (20 women and one man) currently on their way to forming a cooperative after successfully completing technical skills training in cabinet-making, upholstery and the manufacture of decorating items as well as an NQF level 1 Entrepreneurship Skills Programme.

ITU Coordinator, Bonnie Kaplan said the development of Medium and Micro Enterprise (SMME) forms an important element of the South African government's active strategy to ensure mobility between the first and second economies. This is to help alleviate poverty, create profitable opportunities for indigenous entrepreneurs and create wealth for previously disadvantaged people. "We thus believe that the development of entrepreneurs needs to be treated with a sense of urgency in order to speed up the rate of social and economic transformation because of the lack of employment and the high rate of poverty in Durban, South Africa," she said.

Kaplan said the ITU has also been awarded funding from the Fibre Processing & Manufacturing SETA for other training projects combined with Injiya.

iEnabler Access speeds up registration process

Naledi Hlefané

The online registration process at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) ran smoothly this year, Project Manager Mohammed Jhavary said recently. Jhavary, who is managing and overseeing the efficient functioning of the web registration process using the student iEnabler, said queues have been cut down significantly since the introduction of the system last year. "Online registration is simple and easy to understand. Once the system is fully implemented students can register from anywhere, even in the comfort of their own homes."

"This initiative positions DUT not just as a University of Technology, but an institution that embraces technology," he said. In order to qualify for online registration, students should ensure that all fees are paid and that all necessary documents are submitted. Once their

information is recorded, they are able to register either manually or online.

With assistants present in all registration venues and a guide to using the Student iEnabler placed next to all computers, the process ran smoothly and quickly. First year Electrical Engineering student Luvo Mduna said, "I am not computer savvy thus I experienced difficulties with the system initially. I was able to register successfully with the help of assistants." Keegan Chetty, also a first year Electrical Engineering student, said he found the system "very user friendly."

Online registration is a growing trend among higher education institutions as it has proven to reduce long queues at registration venues. Jhavary said the demand for manual registration is projected to decrease in future, with web registration being the preferred alternative.

New SRC President

Naledi Hlefané

Mzamo Khanyile has been elected as the President of the Student Representative Council (SRC) at DUT. His term of office began immediately after the election period in September and expires in September 2012. The inaugural ceremony on Friday, 11 November at Steve Biko campus was attended by eThekweni Speaker, Cllr Logie Naidoo and DUT Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ahmed C Bawa.

Speaking on the SRC's strategy for the forthcoming year, Khanyile said, "We will shy away from the conventional orthodox of previous SRCs. Our programme of action is to respond to students' needs. We are aware of the standing issues - accommodation and student funds. We plan to sit down with interested departments to devise a plan to alleviate the strikes. The image of the institution will be protected in this way."

Another of the council's mission is to "institutionalise services". He elaborated that the institution needs to utilise its students. For example, Khanyile said that students in the Faculty of Applied Sciences should be permitted to head cafeterias at the university.

Khanyile is familiar with leadership roles. He started as a deputy secretary in the SRC, he has also chaired in the DUT residence house committee, served as deputy president of the African National Congress Youth League and is the current secretary of the Young Communist League.

On the academic front, the 23 year old from Mooiriver is currently in his third year in Human Resources Management. He is a staunch believer in socialism. "I believe education should be used as a tool to redress the mishaps of the past."

Former Executive Dean receives African recognition

Andile Dube

Former Executive Dean of the Faculty of Management Sciences, Professor Malcolm Wallis was awarded a Gold Medal award by the African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM) for his contribution to the study of Public Administration and Management in Africa. The award was conferred at a conference held in Malawi in November last year.

The award is given to one person every two years. Wallis is the first South African to win it. "I was very excited and am grateful to be nominated, let alone actually to receive the award. It is gratifying to receive this kind of recognition by such an important organisation in Africa," he said.

Professor Wallis is a firm supporter of the African Association for Public Administration and Management. He attributes two reasons for this. "Firstly, it is an excellent forum for bringing academics and public servants together. Secondly, it has enabled me to continue playing a role in Africa as a whole, thus not being confined to this country," he added.

Professor Wallis lectured Public Administration at the University of Zambia, and was a research fellow at the University of Nairobi where he worked on the Special Rural Development Programme and on Community Development. With a wealth of knowledge and experience, he has published a number of articles on local government in Africa as well as a book on bureaucracy and development. He is currently working with Dr Lungi Bhengu on a book on government and development planning in South Africa. He is also completing a chapter on former Kenyan President, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, for a book on African presidents.

Town planning students on the right "track"

Naledi Hlefané

A group of ninety third year Town and Regional Planning students boarded a train to KwaMashu in February as part of a joint orientation exercise between the Durban University of Technology (DUT) and the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). The 45-minute long train trip was sponsored by the Municipal Institute of Learning (MILE) and Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA).

Although boarding the train was a familiar experience for a few of the Durban born students, others like 19-year-old Mfundo Dube were mesmerized.

While the trip was an adventure, it was also meant to be a learning experience. The orientation was centred on the role of public transport in the development of cities, looking at how this influences the city structure and movement of goods and people. The aim was to have students understand the local context of Durban as a "laboratory" for town and regional planning studies.

Founder of Iyer Urban Design Studio, Nathan Iyer elaborated on the topic of public transport during a presentation at the KwaMashu Community Centre. He explained that a city comprises various aspects which interlink.

"It is important to understand that a city is a product of a process, we must think of it as being part of a brain system. Public transport is a major part of this system," Iyer said.

Elizabeth Dubbeld of the eThekweni Municipality Framework Planning Development Planning department highlighted the transformation of public transport since the early 1900s. According to her, the railway system is the backbone of public transport in Durban.

The orientation exercise was enjoyed by the students. Ntando Bembe (21) said learning that "the structure of a city is shaped around the pattern of transport was vital."

PROFESSIONALISM DAY

Zanele Zondi

Heeding the call by the National Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi as well as the public at large regarding perceived low standards and attitudinal problems displayed by health care workers with special emphasis on nurses, DUT's Department of Nursing (Indumiso Site) under the leadership of Dr Nokuthula Sibiyi took a step towards revitalising and revamping the noble profession of Nursing.

Dr Nokuthula Sibiyi (HOD) delivered a dynamic and inspiring message and also painted a picture of the historical background of DUT's Department of Nursing. She reiterated the need for support by all the stakeholders concerned and explained that DUT is student-centered. She concluded her welcome by quoting Mahatma Gandhi: "Be the change you want to see in the world."

The Convenor, Mrs Zanele Zondi highlighted instances where 'bad nursing' has occurred, tarnishing the image of the

profession. She encouraged students to "build the fallen walls of the nursing profession".

Professor Busi Bhengu from the University of KwaZulu-Natal was the Guest Speaker. Professor Bhengu told the students that nursing is a profession that distinguishes itself from the rest because of its caring and compassionate attributes. She outlined the qualities needed in the profession, including:

- Caring
- Altruism
- Respect
- Honesty
- Justice
- Equality
- Responsibility and accountability
- Confidence and self-esteem
- Communication
- Knowledge and consultation

Indoor games @ Walsingham Res

Nospiho Cele

Walsingham Female Residence recently hosted indoor games for students with the aim of getting to know each other. Senele Nhlumayo, a Residence Advisor at Walsingham Residence said, 'We were trying to bridge that gap of being away from home as they were dancing, singing and showcasing their talents.' The night, sponsored by Red Bull, was rounded off with "movie night".



Photographer: Andile Cele

All residents must be treated equally



(L-R) Walsingham students Snenhlanhla Mbona, Noncebo, Simlindle Shabane, Nosipho Cele and Lungile Hadebe hosted the talk show.

Walsingham Hall Residence recently hosted a talk show on Discrimination. The topic was explored to ensure that no individual or group is directly or indirectly discriminated against. Senele Nhlumayo explained that the Residence Advisors wanted to reiterate that all residents are treated equally.

Discrimination manifests itself in a variety of ways, including:

- | | |
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| Religious discrimination | Disability discrimination |
| Sexual orientation discrimination | Sex and gender |
| Age discrimination | Racial and ethnic discrimination |
| Language discrimination | |

SRC Opening Prayer

Naledi Hlefané

"As opposed to marking the beginning of a new year with a bash, the SRC has decided to begin this year on a holy note. In so doing we hope that students will be motivated and geared up for the year ahead. We also hope all areas of the institution will run efficiently." These were the words of SRC President Mzamo Khanyile during an SRC Opening Prayer in February.

The Fred Crookes Sport Centre was crowded with students and a few members of staff. The jam-packed programme included a poetry session featuring Ndumiso Maphumulo and Phumlani Mkhulise as well as divine words by Bishop Bhekimpi Mchunu. Music was the order of

the day with choirs entertaining the crowd. However, renowned motivational speaker Pastor Zondo's presence proved to be the highlight of the event, receiving a standing ovation as he quietly entered the venue.

Second year Auditing and Taxation student Samkelisiwe Ngubane and second year Financial Accounting student Slu Madala agreed that the music and preaching were the best items of the event.

Thembelihle Bophela, second year Operations and Quality Management student, said: "I was very blessed by the music, preaching and of course the motivation by Pastor Zondo. I thought the poetry was also amazing."

Public Lectures at DUT

The Durban University of Technology hosted Professor Naresh Dadhich, a theoretical physicist and former Director and Emeritus Professor at the Inter-University Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics. Professor Dadhich delivered public lectures on 'A unified view of the four basic forces' and "Einstein for Everyone" at DUT's Hotel Conference Centre in November 2011.

The lectures were well attended by DUT's academic staff and science enthusiasts. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ahmed Bawa said, "We are honoured and privileged to have Professor Naresh Dadhich, a world-renowned physicist and a very dear friend share his thoughts and theories with us."

Professor Naresh Dadhich was born in Sarsali in Churu District Rajasthan. He studied at Pilani, Hissar Vallabh-Vidyanagar and completed his PhD in general relativity under the guidance of the highly respected mathematician and physicist, Vishnu Vasudev Narlikar in Pune.

Professor Dadhich is also an Honorary Research Professor at UKZN. His focus areas of research are gravity and relativistic astrophysics. He travels globally to conduct discussions and collaborate with colleagues. Professor Dadhich said, "I spend so much time in South Africa, I feel like an honorary citizen."

Praising Jesus through Poetry

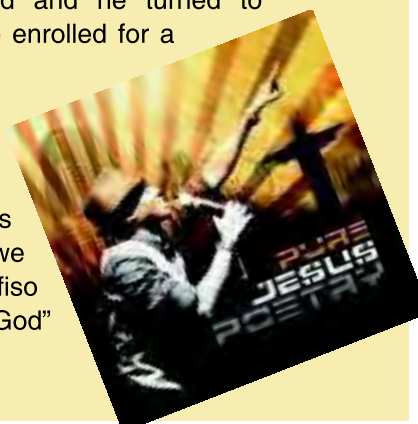
Andile Dube

The day we sit down with Tswi, born Motswitla Hlakotsa, for an interview he is busy preparing for a Gospel concert to be held at Durban's City Hall. The DUT alumnus released his first album on 17 November 2011. He tells us, "It's a Gospel poetry and Gospel Rap album inspired by God and all that He has done for me." The album has ten tracks and is titled Pure Jesus Poetry. He wrote all the songs on the album and produced it himself through his company, Kingdom Arts.

He describes his album as a worship and praise album. "I've always liked creative writing and wanted to go where no poet has gone before. That is why the album is a first of its kind in mainstream Christianity in the country." After surviving a life-threatening illness, for which he had to undergo seven major operations, he says the message of the album is that Jesus is everything.

Tswi came to Durban in 2004 to study Information Technology at DUT. It was then that his curiosity in spirituality was kindled, leading him to pursue Buddhism. While pursuing Buddhism, his spiritual hunger was still not satisfied and he turned to Rastafarianism. In 2006 he turned to Islam. In 2007 he enrolled for a National Diploma in Fine Arts and graduated in 2010.

"It was in 2007 on the 15th of June that Jesus finally found me," he explained. Tswi is currently studying towards a diploma in Theology at the International Christian Bible College. In the year that he has been ministering, he has shared a platform with the likes of Swazi Dlamini, Hlengiwe Mhlaba, Pastor Ncanda, Pastor Benjamin Dube, Sfiso Ncwane and was an opening act at the "One World One God" Tour, alongside international artist, Ken Reynolds.



DUT discuss Open Access Week

Andile Dube

The DUT's Library held a panel discussion to celebrate Open Access Week in 2011. The panel discussion featured the Vice-Chancellor of DUT, Professor Ahmed C Bawa; Dr Hussein Suleman from the University of Cape Town; Dr David Spurrett from UKZN; Mr Nico Fassen from the Publishers Association of South Africa (PASA); DUT's Delysia Timm and Professor Kevin Duffy.

Open Access Week is a global event which is now in its fourth year. It gives the academic and research community the chance to continue to learn about the potential benefits of Open Access. Information is shared with colleagues, to help inspire wider participation which assists in making Open Access a new norm in scholarship and research.

The panelists discussed Open Access to information, free and immediate online access to the results of scholarly research and the right to utilise and reuse those results.

Previously, guest lecturer Eve Gray delivered an Open Access college lecture which raised critical challenges to renew thinking on scholarship. The lecture led to a discussion paper on Open Access which is being tabled for dialogue at the Senate and an Author Publisher Addendum to ensure DUT authors retain their rights when signing publishing agreements.

DUT STAR

*Despite all the challenges that this university faces in administering Financial Aid Services, honest DUT staff and students in particular will concur with me that the presence of one **Mr Sithembiso Sigidi** makes the load a bit lighter for all concerned. This young alumnus of ours truly goes beyond the call of duty in seeing to it that deserving students receive the service that they are entitled to.*

At the height of the stressful registration period, early January to mid February, Mr Sigidi (Financial Aid Counsellor) leaves the S10 basement, the FAB Registration venue, between 18h30 and 19h00, in spite of reporting for duty at 08H00 like everyone else. His reason for this is that 'he does not want to start a new day with the previous day's students in the queue'.

Big ups Bhuti Sthe! (as he is affectionately known to students).

Our students deserve a hundred more of you, across all our service points.

David Sedumedi

DUT's 22nd Food Product Launch

Savie Naicker

The Department of Biotechnology and Food Technology hosted the much anticipated annual Food Product Launch in November 2011 at the Hotel School on Ritson Campus. The event showcased 12 new inventive products designed and produced by second year Food Technology students.

The tasty temptations on offer included Melt-proof Liquourice ice-cream, Nutri-milk stout, Rooi-bos Energy drink, Pink fantasy (ladies beer), Maltarula, Green banana paste, Gluten free bread, Nutty Protties, Alcohol ripple ice-cream, Jungle bix, Rooibrans and the Reduced kilojoule maple syrup.

Food Technology Lecturer, Mike Smith said, "It was the students' first opportunity to present their ideas to the public, they overcame many challenges and worked together as a team to reach the final product."

"We will definitely try hard this year to market and license some of the products," added Smith.

The slick presentations together with the innovative, nutritious beverages and food products provided a novel experience.

The various products had to be tested and underwent rigorous scrutiny by the judges.

The panel of judges included Daksha Nana from Tongaat Hulett Starch, Storm Shanley from Tate & Lyle, Kay Devchand from Food

and Cosmetic Technology (FACT) and Walter Vermonti from Jonti Distributors.

And the winners are:

Grand Prize and Best Overall

Rooibrans

Best Science/Technology

Melt-Proof Black Liquourice ice cream

Best Innovation/Marketable product

Rooibos Energy Drink

Best Audio/visual and Oral

Nutri-milk Stout

Best Display including Poster

Maltarula

Best Tasting Product

Pink Fantasy

The winners were awarded R1000 each with the overall winner receiving a cheque for R3000. The sponsors included Tongaat Hulett Starch, Tate & Lyle, FACT and SAAFoSt.

Second year Food Technology student, Cassandra Uys who formed part of the team that scooped the grand prize said "I am very happy to have won and it was a lot of hard work and the results were amazing."

Head of Biotechnology and Food Technology, Professor Suren Singh said, "It's really fantastic to see what the students have come up with, the range of products have tremendous market value."

City Campus Restoration project scoops award

The restored DUT City Campus Bell Tower stands majestic after winning SA Builder Excellence Awards 2011 in the Restoration Category. The Tower Bell was restored by Mouldform KZN CC. "Well done to all involved in the 2010 City Campus restoration," said Professor Graham Stewart, Faculty of Arts and Design Deputy Dean.



The "secrecy bill" vs the SA constitution

Naledi Hlefane

The DUT's Journalism Advisory Board in partnership with the Democracy Development Programme (DDP) held a robust discussion at Ritson Campus in February. Panelists included Mail & Guardian Editor, Nic Dawes; Eric Tate, of the Right2Know Campaign; Chairperson of Diakonia Council of Churches, Reverend Ian Booth and KZN Economic Development and Tourism MEC Mike Mabuyakhulu. The discussion was chaired by the Journalism Advisory Board's Mary Papaya.

Mike Mabuyakhulu maintained his stance on government's motive behind passing the bill saying the protection of state information is vital and common practice in first world states. According to the MEC, the bill clearly distinguishes that only information pertaining to state security in

sectors such as the intelligence and the police force require classification.

These words of reassurance however had little impact on those who questioned the implications of corruption and the severe penalties for whistle blowers. Reverend Booth said the bill gives government leeway to classify information and in this way "the accountability of government cannot be guaranteed". He added that the severe sentencing prescribed in the bill will "frighten citizens to silence", which then defeats democracy.

Nic Dawes argued that although the 1982 bill has been reviewed, it is "not at the level it needs to be for democracy." According to Dawes, the conditions of the "secrecy bill" infringe on press freedom, leading to a system he calls "journalism by lawyer or judge."

Wiseman blows Musho Festival audience away

Naledi Hlefane

Wiseman Mncube, a DUT Drama Studies graduate made waves at the seventh annual Musho Festival held in Durban recently. He received the Best Actor/Performer and Standing Ovation awards for his role in Samson Mlambo's one-man show "Meet Bro Six-Two", taking home the most sought-after awards of the event.

Mncube recalled the defining moment. "It was my first time performing at a professional level - I just completed my studies last year. To scoop not one, but two awards was an honour."

The play was equally popular, receiving an Audience Award. This can be attributed to the profound message of the story as it draws attention to unemployment, an underlying cause of the high crime rate in the country. It tracks the life of Bro Six-Two, his experiences and adversities and how he resorts to crime to make ends meet. Bro Six-Two's story symbolises the everyday issues facing South African youth. It also reminds the audience of one crucial element - empathy.

Even in the presence of industry veterans, 22-year old Mncube's talent shone, bringing to the fore the exceptional writing and directing skills of DUT alumnus, Samson Mlambo. Although playing multiple characters was initially challenging, Mncube admits this improved his performing capacity.

He said he was elated to share the stage with prominent actors including Andrew Buckland and Tristan Jacob, among others. Moving forward, the actor intends working even harder to better his craft.



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