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## DUT students make toys for rural school in Pietermaritzburg

Bhekani Dlamini



Pictured: Thomas Cloete (judge) inspects the toys on show.

These students are enrolled for a B Tech Degree in Architectural Technology at the Durban University of Technology (DUT). The toy project, which took a week to complete, seeks to help students understand early childhood development. Students will also be assessed and marks will be allocated for their toys.

The present school, which is partly constructed of mud and sheets of metal, has no toys for children to play with and these toys will later be handed over to the school. This initial project will lead to a proposed design solution for a new set of buildings and outdoor play-area for the existing school.

Mr Derrick Potgieter, an expert on early childhood development, was invited by Prof Rodney Harber, to give a presentation to the students on the key aspects of early childhood development and the importance of providing good pre-school facilities. Prof Rodney Harber, lecturer and leader of the toy project says that this assisted the students to understand the creativity of small children. He added that the students understood that children like colourful objects and are stimulated by sound. All toys were made from recycled material.

Thomas, the son of Mrs Magda Cloete a lecturer in the Department, was impressed with a colourful toy made by Kamesh Maharaj. The toy is a 30 cm pole with a metal round dish on top and at the base. It has a metal passage way running around the pole to the base. The top has a hole through which one throws a marble or Astros sweet. The marble or sweet rolls down the passage way to the base. When asked why he chose that particular toy, Thomas said: "I like it when it runs around down the pole."

Mr Wouter Gildenhuys, Head of the Department, is very supportive of this project since it aligns with the ethos of his department, and has a developmental focus and involves interaction with rural communities. He pointed out that part of the project will be funded by the Holcim Foundation near Pietermaritzburg.

## A clean campus is a happy campus

Raylene Captain-Hasthbeer

Armed with plastic gloves, billowing dirt bags and a penchant for clean living, a group of students and staff from the Durban University of Technology recently descended on the Steve Biko, M L Sultan, Ritson and Mansfield campuses. Spearheaded by Environmental Health students, the Clean-up campaign was geared at ridding the campus of litter, and educating staff and students.

FK Mapanga, Education officer with Durban Solid Waste (DSW), addressed the students on the importance of taking care of the environment. "Always remember the three R's, reduce, reuse and recycle." Mapanga later explained that sustainable initiatives, like Adopt a Spot, allows communities to beautify their environment.

HOD, Moeti Kgware, put in a surprise appearance when he donned the bin costume, and helped create a festive atmosphere. Lecturers and staff from the department motivated the students to clean up the surroundings, and educate their fellow students.

Prizes for the most dirt collected were sponsored by Everfresh Market, Honeydew, DUT Corporate Affairs, City Health (eThekweni Municipality) and DSW, with the Steve Biko cleaning crew scooping first prize. The organisers would also like to extend gratitude to Mary Jane Khanyile (DUT - HR) for assisting with transport.



Photos: Bhekani Dlamini



# Editor's Corner

Your graduation ceremony is one of the most important days of your life. It's the culmination of years of cramming for tests, pouring over vast volumes of text on just about anything from alpha particles to zooplankton and, of course it's recognition of the fact that you have made it.

But, like a wedding ceremony is just the beginning of a lifetime commitment, you are just starting out on the journey of your life. You will spend the next 40 years or so working, paying taxes, and hopefully making a difference in the world.

As an alumnus of our sister institution, the University of KwaZulu-Natal, I am dedicated to my alma mater, and serve on the University's Convocation Executive. I strongly advise that you maintain links with DUT's Convocation, and attend the Homecoming at the end of June.

This edition of the ConDUiT is dedicated to you, our graduates. With profiles on some of our outstanding graduates (see page 4), and the blossoming career of one of the Journalism graduates, SABC's Antoinette Lazarus (see page 6), this ConDUiT has a little bit of everything.

Ciao,  
Raylene Captain-Hasthbeer  
Communications Manager

## Message from Convocation

Graduating Class of 2008, congratulations on your achievement and welcome to Convocation. The Convocation Office is a direct link between DUT and its graduates, as well as other relevant stakeholders. Its aim is to cultivate and nurture a lifelong relationship between students and their alma mater.

Alumni have an important role to play in the development of an institution. The office arranges events which provide a platform for alumni to network with one another and facilitates a medium to keep alumni updated on current developments at DUT. The focus is on activities that are of relevance to alumni, such as mentorship programmes and entrepreneurial seminars.

A major event being planned is the Alumni Homecoming weekend taking place from 27-29 June 2008 at the Ritson Road Campus. This is the first event of its kind being held at DUT and we encourage you to attend the Homecoming. Events include exhibitions

by companies and alumni, presentations and promotions. Convocation looks forward to hosting many of its alumni and for many of you, this will be your first time back at your alma mater. Indulge in some nostalgia, renew friendships or forge new ones.

If you are able to, I urge you to contribute to the Alumni Bursary Fund. The fund was established to assist academically and financially needy students attain a tertiary qualification. There are many students who are unable to pursue their dreams of obtaining a tertiary qualification, due to financial constraints and Convocation attempts, in some small measure, to remedy this.

Keep us informed of any change in your details so you continue to be kept apprised of any developments within Convocation and DUT. Do us proud, make a difference in the world and remember, Convocation is your link for life.

**Mr Zakhile Nyuswa**  
President of Convocation

## Postgraduate Awards

The Postgraduate Development and Support Directorate has developed the Postgraduate Award Structure for 2008. Outlining the awards (including cash incentives and laptops) for BTech, MTech and DTech students, the structure includes guidelines for application.

Visit the website, [www.dut.ac.za](http://www.dut.ac.za) for more information.

## DUT Homecoming

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) invites ALUMNI to a HOMECOMING to be held from 27-29 June 2008 at the Ritson Road Campus of DUT in Durban.

If you hold a qualification from M L Sultan Technikon, Technikon Natal, DIT or DUT, please contact the Convocation office to confirm your attendance.

Free residence accommodation will be provided for those requiring it.

**Activities**  
27 June 2008 (evening): Arrival, Meet & Greet; Cocktail Function

- 28 June:
- Funding opportunities (business development etc)
  - Post-graduate study opportunities & funding
  - Continuous professional development
  - Opportunities for unemployed graduates
  - International exchanges for alumni
  - Alumni mentoring programme
  - Class/programme re-unions
  - Interaction with SETAs, Banks, SEDA, etc
  - Silver Tusk Awards for achievers
  - Meet DUT Executive & Academic staff

29 June: Networking & Departure

For more information and/or to confirm attendance, contact Nishie or Zandile 031-373 2549 or [NishieG@dut.ac.za](mailto:NishieG@dut.ac.za) or [ZandileN@dut.ac.za](mailto>ZandileN@dut.ac.za)

*"There's no place like Home!"*

## My heartfelt gratitude...

I could not even imagine where I would be, with whom and doing what if our developing-Government had not established a financial aid scheme, and if DUT had not realised my financially challenged potential. This joint effort was life changing indeed and is engraved permanently in my heart.

After completing Matric in 2003 at Qhilika High School (Umlazi), being less mind-mapped and informed, I almost enrolled for a security course; possibly I would be working at DUT as a security guard, who knows!

It therefore makes sense to call NSFAS an AID because it came to rescue not only me, but also thousands of needy beneficiaries (students) who can testify to this. This initiative, irrespective of being a loan; is in the best interest of young people and is transformation driven.

In the same breath, irrespective of ongoing higher education challenges, I am proud of DUT. It took me about seven days before I managed to register for my National Diploma: Financial Information Systems. Having seen my hard fought Matric results, DUT's then (2004) Student Administration HOD: humble Mr Langa (worth mentioning), NSFAS and the SRC jointly made me realise that yes; South Africa is alive with possibilities. "A dream never dies" - take it from me. To register was, after all, a mission accomplished! I therefore take my hat off to salute these institutions!

My three years' span at DUT (2004-2006) was a mountain to climb - well the crown is always at the top so I had to have stamina. Thanks to my lecturers, including the best but sadly late CMA lecturer, Ms Gasa, and supportive and loyal friends: Sbu Nxumalo and Mike Mapaila, resident-mates, classmates, Saturday Tutorial Programme (STEP) and Abafundi Talk show colleagues. My special thanks also go to Sihle Mbanjwa (psychologist) at Student Counselling. You all added bricks to my wall!

The big challenge, like any other graduate, was where to find a job or how to create one. Our lecturer (Mrs Zincume) from the IT Department once asked: "Do you know that some of you won't get employed?" Eish! We all stared sadly at her, and to cool things down, she added "It's because some of you will employ people." This made me double my efforts. While "piece" jobs like tutoring, waitering and taking part in student organisations contributed a great deal, most importantly, academic progress remained paramount. In fact, I have discovered that there is more after tertiary - it is wise to dedicate yourself to your studies, pass well and move on.

My life at DUT was a turning point and I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all mentioned for contributing directly or indirect to my journey. Lastly, when my family and friends ask me how I did it, my answer is simple and straightforward: "God had a plan for my life" - nothing less, in fact, there is more...

Education is the key to nation building. Long live DUT! Long live NSFAS!

**Musa Luthuli**  
MIS Officer: Mangosuthu University of Technology

# PROFILE

## ... Five Minute Interview: Prof Thengani Harold Ngwenya

*Raylene Captain-Hasthibeer* interviewed the Director (Academic Services: Midlands Campus) recently.



Tell me a bit about yourself?  
I have always thought of myself as an academic with wide-ranging interests in the Humanities and Education. Most academics are specialists in their chosen fields but I am interested in everything including music, literature, religion, philosophy, economics, management, education and politics. If you visit my office you will find books on all these disciplines. I am a book fanatic and I have an Exclusive Books Fanatics card to prove it! However, my friends and colleagues know me primarily as a literary scholar with a special interest in what is known as the Sociology of Literature.

Since I joined the School of Educational Studies at the former University of Durban-Westville in July 2002, I have been gradually establishing myself as a student of Critical Management Studies (CMS). At UKZN, where I was a Deputy Dean, I have been involved in leading the Teacher Development sector in the

Faculty of Education at UKZN and I hope I will be given the opportunity to use my knowledge and experience at DUT.

You recently joined the institution as the Director: Academic Services at the Midlands Campus. What does your position entail?

My job profile as Director of Academic affairs at the Midlands Campus of DUT captures the essence of my personal philosophy as a 'generalist'. Working closely with Executive Deans and Heads of Department, I am expected to provide academic leadership to my colleagues who offer various academic programmes in the Midlands.

As a member of the Academic Affairs Executive (AEM) and the Academic Planning and Quality Committee I have an important role to play in academic policy formulation. Needless to say, one of my main responsibilities is to ensure that DUT policies are implemented correctly and consistently at the Midlands campuses.

Although I am located at the Riverside site I would like to think of myself and would like to be seen as a DUT academic manager and not simply as 'the new Midlands guy from UKZN'. I have already set up structures to expedite collaborative management with the key academic units of the university including CHED, CPQA and PGSU. I am going to be actively

involved in programme design, quality assurance and general academic management at DUT and not just in the Midlands. I think it's crucial for the DUT community to have a common vision regarding its organisational identity especially as we engage in the challenging task of defining ourselves as a University of Technology in a globalised knowledge economy.

What are your plans at the institution?

I would like to contribute to the process of transforming DUT into a respected national and global player in the tertiary education sector. As a relatively young university we should strike a balance between national responsiveness and global competitiveness. We have to come to terms with the obvious fact that we live in a flat world where knowledge in its various forms is the most prized asset.

DUT has to ensure that its academic programmes are of the highest quality and that they resonate with the needs of the national economy. However, the immediate challenge facing us is to align our academic programmes with the recently published Higher Education Qualifications Framework (HEQF) and to ensure that our new programmes are not found wanting by the Council on Higher Education (CHE).

## Researcher predicts the occurrence of hazardous wastewater bacteria

*Bhekani Dlamini*



Photo: Bhekani Dlamini

Pictured is young scientist Dashika Naidoo

Young researcher, Dashika Naidoo, has been detecting and identifying filamentous bacteria that affect the quality of sewage wastewater and cause huge damage in pipes including in wastewater treatment plants.

This is a first for South Africa as these bacteria have not been identified locally using the new and improved methods of identification and characterisation. This project aims to help engineers and to give perspective in reducing costs and to produce good effluent water quality. It also helps to design more efficient wastewater treatment processes for the future. Naidoo is a researcher in the Department of Biotechnology, under the research niche area: Water and Wastewater at the Durban University of Technology (DUT). "Too much of the filamentous bacteria in wastewater treatment systems cause major problems which cost industry and

municipalities a lot of money to treat. There are many of these bacteria but identifying the actual one and relating it to its specific activities is a first for South Africa. If the occurrence of the bacteria is predicted, necessary precautions can be taken to ensure one gets good quality effluent water," says Naidoo.

Naidoo has conducted a survey to identify and characterise these bacteria as part of her doctoral studies, which will be completed in the next few months. She uses molecular techniques to identify the filamentous bacteria. She says it is important to understand how this bacteria grows and what it likes in the wastewater so "we can prevent it from growing by reducing the nutrient that it likes in the water." This may be oxygen or any other element. She is in the process of publishing a paper on this work in the *World Journal of Microbiology and Biotechnology* soon. She considers pursuing her postdoctoral studies as she enjoys doing research.

## In Dialogue- Technology Transfer, Innovation and Diffusion

*Bandile Malindisa*

The Division of Corporate Affairs recently hosted an In Dialogue on Technology Transfer, Innovation and Diffusion lead by Professor Gerhard Prinsloo. This was the first In Dialogue session for 2008, and took place at DUT's Steve Biko Campus.

Amongst issues discussed, Prof Prinsloo talked about the challenges and opportunities for DUT as a University of Technology (UoT) on issues of Technology Transfer, Innovation and Diffusion. He went on to explain the role of the Department of Technological Transfer in a UoT as similar to that of a harbour. "A UoT uses a Department of Technology Transfer to transfer technology, just like a city uses a harbour to export goods to other countries," said Prof Prinsloo.

He explained the role of the Department of Technology Transfer between the inventor of a product and the university in what is called a patent. A patent application works both for staff and students, it gives them the first right to receive benefits for their creative ideas or concepts. He also talked about the Business Study Unit (BSU) at DUT that trains in the field of business and commerce at the university campus and other sites of delivery closer to industry.

The other technology transfer unit he talked about was the Centre for Skills Development. This unit deals with transferring skills and knowledge in the human and management science environment. "It trains students for DUT that may be unsuccessful in meeting the university's entry requirements. "It is considered as part of the community development work of the university," said Prof Prinsloo.

Prof Prinsloo would like to invite staff to contact his office with any enquiries relating to the above. His telephone extension is 2092 and his email address is prinsloo@dut.ac.za

## Never take your eyes off your goal

Bhekani Dlamini

Determined Clothing and Textile Studies students have proven that it's never too late to upgrade their skills and qualifications to be better qualified for greener pastures in industry.

Zola Ngcobo and Busisiwe Mchunu will receive their National Diploma in Clothing and Textile Studies at the Durban University of Technology Graduation ceremony on 20 June 2008. They are now on a training programme as trainee buyers with the Mr Price Group, under the Miladys Label.

They have confirmed that perseverance is the mother of success after overcoming hurdles throughout their studies. Their studies have been interrupted by dropouts, in some instances due to financial difficulties. They each dropped out and worked for two consecutive years. Determined to qualify as fashion designers they later returned to complete their studies.

Ngcobo (24) hails from Port Shepstone and now lives in Isipingo. Part of her duties at the Mr Price Group include following trends on the season's fashion colours, latest leisure, career and ladies' clothes. Based on the information she gathers when conducting research, she places orders for the fashion garments required by customers. She acknowledges that the knowledge she gained from DUT has helped her a great deal in her present job. She advises other students to follow their dreams and never take their eyes off their goals.

Mchunu (24) was born in Mzumbe and now lives in Pinetown. She is also on a retail training programme with a goal of becoming a fashion buyer at Mr Price Group, Miladys Label. She enrolled for her first year and dropped out to work as a design coordinator for Gemelli in Sydney Road. She designed clothes, ensured that orders were in place, checked design patterns and ensured delivery dates were met. She later realized that there were no promotion prospects and decided to return to campus to complete her studies. She intends doing a BCom degree in marketing and management, and also wants to train to be a fashion designer.

## Reconnecting with Alumni

Miliswa Sitshwele

Bombay Blues Restaurant in Rosebank, Johannesburg was recently a hive of excitement as old friends re-united, shared stories and joked over an exotic Indian meal at the annual DUT Alumni dinner meeting.

The Alumni dinner meeting is an annual meeting whereby alumni from the old Technikon Natal, M L Sultan, DIT and DUT are briefed about the current developments at the University over an informal dinner.

Speaking at this meeting, DUT's Shakeel Ori said, "We called this meeting because there are many alumni students who are currently residing in Johannesburg and feel left out so we would like to get them involved on the programmes that are currently underway at DUT, establish the Jo'burg chapter and create networks among alumni."

"We have an alumni mentoring programme whereby alumni students can mentor DUT students in their prospective fields and tell them more about what it's like in industry. Two students will be paired with two alumni and this will be a brother-type programme to create the balance between theory and industry requirements," said Ori. He elaborated on this by stating that many students expect to land top jobs as soon as they get their diplomas or degrees and this isn't the case.

Another programme will be Alumni mentoring each other. "There are people here who are in the same profession that need to be mentored by alumni who have been in industry for longer," he said.

The third programme according to Ori will be Student leadership mentorship. "To avoid strikes, we have created a programme that's geared at the SRC to equip them with skills to address the needs of students and familiarize the SRC with governing structure."

Asked whether this mentoring arrangement would infringe on alumni's personal time Ori said, "We want your input and engagement without infringing on personal time, we want you to give talks, attend workshops so that we can bring DUT students in touch with what happens in the workplace, that said, it's up to you to involve others for the benefit of DUT and yourselves."

Convex member, Mathuto Motumi expressed her gratitude to alumni in Jo'burg for attending the dinner, she said: "I'm very happy that this meeting was a success, we had been meaning to meet with them because they felt deserted. I'm also excited to see the transition from tech-DIT-DUT and inform them about the changes that have been happening and what it means for their qualifications and to assure them that they belong at DUT."

## Drama twins graduate together

Bhekani Dlamini



Photo: Bhekani Dlamini

Pictured are Drama twins: Maryl and Marcia Peschke

Together forever has always been the name of the game for Peschke twins, Maryl and Marcia, who have been in one class from primary school until their final year of study at university.

The Peschke twins will be reaping the fruits of their hard work when they graduate with a National Diploma in Drama Studies at the Durban University of Technology on 19 June 2008. Since they set foot on campus they have excelled in their Drama studies achieving 37 distinctions from first year level to the final year of study.

They fondly recall classmates calling them 'M and M' for Maryl and Marcia during their school days. They were born in Port Elizabeth and came to live in KwaZulu-Natal, La Mercy near uMdloti, north of Durban when they were three years old.

They are passionate about pursuing success in the field of art. They dispel the perception that science is the only way to success.

Maryl is doing freelance work for the Heritage Theatre in Hillcrest. She is involved with lighting for the theatre after accompanying her friend who does lighting on several occasions. Maryl has now developed an interest in this field and wants to learn more

about lighting techniques. She also wants to follow her interests in sport and fashion. Her big dream is to go overseas in the next two years to pursue her interests in drama. She says she chose drama to prove wrong people who think drama is for those who are not intelligent enough. She acknowledges that a small percent of drama graduates make it big in industry. "It's a wake-up call for me," says Maryl.

Marcia is currently a freelance writer for Love Life Magazine. She is thrilled that she has been given her first assignment to write a story on an artist who produces cutting edge art work. She is currently viewing samples of work produced by different artists. She aspires to be a successful film director who understands people and the way they do things. She is confident that while exploring this adventure she "can take people from this world into other worlds" through her love of art. "I did drama not because I could not be accepted into other fields, but because I love it". She is proud of having wisely taken advantage of the opportunity her parents gave her to study at the University. "We are privileged to study at the University and we have invested our emotions in it," says Marcia.

## Not too late to follow your dreams

Bhekani Dlamini

Disability has not been an inability for Presheila Ismail to attain her dream of being a qualified civil engineer. She is in a wheelchair after losing both her legs in a train accident in 1961.

Ismail will be graduating at the age of 55 with her National Diploma in Civil Engineering at the Durban University of Technology, on 20 June.

The single mother of a 33 year old son is now employed by KV3 as a design technician involved with a major project for civil infrastructural development of various townships. Despite being disabled and qualified in the field of accounting she took it as a challenge to explore new avenues in engineering. She developed an interest in learning more about buildings, structures and roads. She was curious to know how the structures are constructed and what makes them stand upright.

Eager for more knowledge, she is currently doing a B Tech degree in Civil Engineering. She advises students to study first and party later when they are qualified. "Education is the only asset that nobody can take away from you. Make the right choice and study responsibly," advises Ismail.

# Local scientist visits Biotechnology and Food Technology

Bhekani Dlamini



Photo: Bhekani Dlamini

Pictured is esteemed scientist Prof Bernard A Prior (right) with Prof Suren Singh

Legendary scientist Prof Bernard A Prior recently visited the Durban University of Technology (DUT) for a month on a scholarly mission to evaluate research performance, assist students and to review publications to ensure they are in good shape and form.

Prof Prior was based in Biotechnology at M L Sultan Campus. He is a Professor Extraordinary of Microbiology and Biotechnology at Stellenbosch University. Previously he held positions as Chairman of the School of Biological Sciences at University of Stellenbosch and Head of the Department of Microbiology and Biochemistry at the University of Free State and recently was visiting professor at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, USA and Jiangnan University, Wuxi, China. His association with DUT goes back a few years and he was here in August last year. He works closely with Prof Suren Singh, Head of DUT's Biotechnology and Food Technology Department.

He was here to improve the research profile of the department and carry on the work he started in 2007. He discussed with students

their projects and advised them on how to conduct research effectively and to prepare their work so it is ready to be published in international journals. He, however, applauds the department for having recruited a cohort of post-doctoral candidates to increase its research capacity. He said he strongly feels that the department is actively engaged in research production and is parallel with others in the field. "It's important to get new techniques and ideas to improve expertise and I see continued progress," said Prof Prior.

Prof Prior was impressed that students are keen on pursuing their research projects and there is a strong emphasis on preparing them to go in this direction. "Understanding that DUT was previously not set up to be a research institute, it is encouraging that the University is now providing facilities and equipment to carry out research effectively," commented Prof Prior. He suggested that establishing more research centres where more people with scientific expertise could share knowledge and conduct research would be ideal to boost research capacity. He believes this would encourage collaboration and sharing of research facilities and ideas to make this University a research institute like any other traditional university in the world.



Photo: Supplied

# Launch of Durban Press Club

Bandile Malindisa

The Durban University of Technology's (DUT) Department of Journalism, in conjunction with the Southern African Society for Co-operative Education (SASCE), recently coordinated the launch of the Durban Press Club. The event was held at the Durban International Convention Centre (ICC) with a theme "Racism Coverage in the media: walking the tightrope."

The launch was directed by none other than the university's alumnus and e-tv journalist, Vanessa Govender. She began by introducing the evening's theme when she highlighted the concern over the growing number of xenophobic killings in Alexandra. Amongst delegates was the Chairperson of the South African Human Rights Commission, Jody Kollapen, who addressed the need for a press club, "A press club is a good platform for journalists and media people to talk about how to report on certain issues and for junior and senior journalists to intermingle."

Among other issues Kollapen spoke about was the ineffectiveness of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) after apartheid. Furthermore, he mentioned the need for transformation and to understand where we come from before focusing on transformation and creating space for the views of unheard voices.

DUT's Vice-Chancellor and Chairperson of SASCE, Professor RH du Pré was the speaker of the day. He gave emphasis on the safety of universities, and warned about the attitude towards sexism, xenophobia and maltreatment of HIV positive people that has manifested itself at universities. Prof du Pré also spoke about universities being an ideal place to start fighting the attitude when he said, "If we can make an impact in the way our students think at universities, we can also stop the attitude in our society."

## 20 years at DUT

Maliga Reddy (from Nazeema Jappie's office) has been with the university for 20 years! She celebrated this milestone in May 2008, and the university extends congratulations to her.

## Scene and around

### Imperial Dinner in the Midlands



Photo: supplied

L-R Elaine Giddings, Fazel Shaik, Glenn Flanagan

The Imperial Dinner, to celebrate the bicentenary of Napoleon III, father of the Prince Imperial (and Les Hodson's birthday!) took place at the Strelitzia Room of the PMB Botanic Gardens. It was just one of the events on the programme of DUT's 2008 cultural tourism research development project, FRENCH PRESENCE IN KZN: La Route du Prince Impérial, Louis Napoléon.

The evening was a regular *tour de force*, with fine dining and suitable imperial ambiance!

### Work Integrated Learning

Aideen Whelan (Human Resources Manager) from Red Carnation Hotels - London (a partnership of eight years) who recruit students on an annual basis for Work Integrated Learning (WIL) and future employment along with Jaya Naidoo (WIL Practitioner) and 2nd year Food & Beverage students from the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

# DUT graduate to join World Press Institute

SABC journalist, Antoinette Lazarus, has been selected to join the World Press Institute Programme to hone her expertise later this year. She is only one of four South Africans to have been chosen for the programme in its 48 year history.

Lazarus is an alumnus of the Durban University of Technology (DUT) armed with a National Diploma in Journalism from M L Sultan Technikon.

She has displayed a progressive record in broadcast media over the past ten years. She has worked for SABC's New Media department for six years. She is currently a producer/presenter for SABC Newsbreak - the news on phone service. She also reports and sometimes sub-edits for sabcnews.com. Prior to this, she was at East Coast Radio for five years.

The World Press Institute (WPI) is a non-profit organisation which is

supported by among others, local and national media, multinational US corporations and individuals from around the world.

This year the programme will run from mid-August to mid-October and includes visits to the Republican National Convention in St Paul, Minnesota. The fellows will spend eight weeks in the United States, being exposed to the free-press system in the country and the social and cultural diversity of the US. The fellows begin their journey across the US in Minneapolis/St Paul and then move on to Los Angeles, Washington DC, New York and Chicago. "I'm very excited about being selected to go on this programme. I feel very honoured and privileged to have been selected. I think being on this programme is going to give me immense insight into the American governance and politics as well the country and its people as a whole," says Lazarus.

# Hospitality Management students in Dubai

*Bandile Malindisa*

Ephraim Musa Xaba, a DUT Department of Hospitality Tourism and Leisure student, was recently down from Dubai. Xaba is currently doing his in-service training at Qarmardeen, a hotel in Dubai, and was in the country to spend his rest days.

Ephraim, along with Thabile Zulu, is one of two students from the Department of Hospitality Tourism and Leisure currently doing their in-service training in Dubai. Born in Verulam, Xaba came to DUT in 2003 with a dream to study Hospitality Management; little did he know he would end up doing his in-service training in the city of leisure, Dubai.

His supervising tutor Mr Jaya Naidoo, says "His work in Dubai varies from reception, reservation, guest relations and house-keeping. "He is more on the accommodation side than cooking. This allows him to enjoy the privilege of meeting and greeting well known people."

Xaba added that his challenges were to adapt to the extremely hot weather and the usual left sided traffic lanes. He works with more than twenty different nationalities speaking different languages from different continents.

"I have learnt a lot in Dubai, I know now that you don't shake hands when greeting people in Dubai. Also, it is rude to speak loudly in Dubai," said Xaba. He also mentioned that he would like his lecturers to pay him an in-service training visit like other students. In addition he would like to see other students from DUT having the same experience he is enjoying in Dubai.

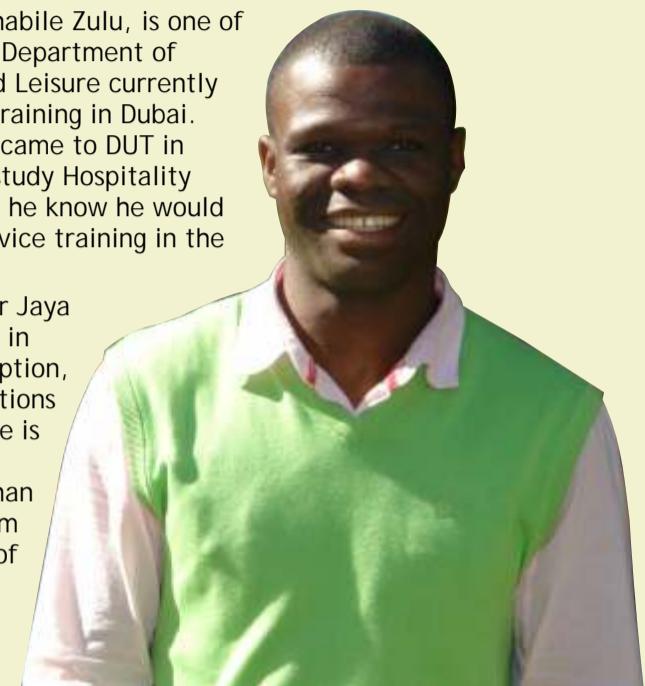


Photo: Bandile Malindisa

## 25 Years of Academic Support at City Campus

*Bandile Malindisa*

The Durban Thekweni Academic Programme has been operating at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) City Campus for 25 years. The programme was founded in 1983 by the Race Relations Educational Trust (Natal) and 2006 Rotary Service award winner Carol de Kock, Reuben Nagoor and Professor Graham Stewart. Unfortunately due to work pressure Professor Stewart was forced to bow out ten years ago.

Grade 11 and 12 learners from previously disadvantaged backgrounds in Durban have been receiving academic assistance through the years to gain access to higher education. The programme offers enrichment classes to 400 of Durban's Grade 11 and 12 pupils annually in key subjects including Physical Science, Mathematics, English, Economics, Accounting and Basic Computer Science. The students have different aims: to some, the aim is not only to pass grade 12, nor secure a place at university, but being awarded a bursary is also at stake.

These classes are run at DUT's City Campus with the help of dedicated teachers who are graduates in the various subjects offered. Some of them benefitted from the programme and are now returning the favour. From 1983 until 1996, the programme was made possible by the Race Relations Educational Trust (Natal). From 1997 the programme has been sponsored by the Durban Thekweni Educational Trust funded by the Rotary Club of Durban Thekweni. Classes are offered after school hours on Saturday mornings and sometimes during the winter school vacation.

The Executive Dean of Arts, Dr Kenneth Netshiombo, has played an invaluable managing and coordinating role, as well as providing strong motivation to learners to go forward and succeed.

## Prioritising staff development in the Faculty of Health Sciences

*Joy Kistnasamy*



Photo: Supplied

Workshop delegates at eMakhosini Conference Centre

## First SATN Conference

*Bandile Malindisa*

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) proudly hosted the first annual South African Technology Network (SATN) conference. The conference theme was "Nature and Characteristics of Universities of Technology" and was held in Ritson Campus's Old Mutual lecture theatre.

The conference was attended by academics from South African universities and international participants. Many speakers from Government and international institutions delivered keynote addresses on the impact of research at Universities of Technology (UoT). Among speakers was Dr Martin Hinoul from Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium.

Hinoul, well known for his experience in the field of research, spoke about research, innovation and Technology Transfer as well as developing businesses. He also talked about the importance of infrastructure when doing research and advised the audience to kick out negative minds when starting a project.

CEO of Tshumisano Trust, Dr David Phaho spoke about Small, Micro and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMME's), as one of the things to consider in the economic growth of the country. Research and technology transfer was delivered by Prof Dean de Beer of Central University of Technology, Free State (CUT). DUT's Professor Gerhard Prinsloo stressed the importance of Technology Transfer Departments in UoTs as they transfer research products to companies and other destinations.

The Faculty of Health Sciences recently held a two day Research Methodology workshop at eMakhosini Conference Centre, Morningside. This workshop is the first of three workshops planned for 2008 and is in response to prioritising staff development in research in the Faculty.

The facilitator, Prof Santy Daya, Head of Pharmacology at Rhodes University

was motivated and knowledgeable about this field. His ability to simplify and transfer the content was appreciated by all 35 delegates.

Additionally, we celebrated the birthdays of Prof Daya and Ms Anisa Vahed (Dental Services). Much appreciation to Prof Jordaan and the PGDS office for supporting this endeavour. Thanks to all staff who attended and thanks also to the Conference Centre for the excellent service.

# DUT Beauty Queen crowned Ambassador of Higher Education in SA

Bhekani Dlamini



Photo: Bandile Malindisa

Pictured is the First Queen of Mzansi Higher Education: Marcia Mzindle

Marcia Mzindle has recently been crowned the First Queen of Mzansi Higher Education, triumphing over students from all Higher Education institutions in South Africa. She was presented with this title in Centurion, Pretoria.

Marcia is excited to be the ambassador of all Higher Education institutions in South Africa. She says public speaking and knowledge of her institution were key factors in her success. They were required to visit local schools and speak to learners about their institutions as part of the pre-screening process.

As an ambassador of Mzansi Higher Education, she has community outreach activities lined up for schools and charity. She will be visiting schools to inform learners about life in higher education.

Marcia received a bursary prize of R10 000 which she is going to use to pay her fees. She was further awarded a modeling contract with Promodel, a Protea Hotel voucher for two nights, a Spa Treatment voucher of R1000, a voucher for chocolate, a gym contract with Planet Fitness and a clothing voucher.

Previously modeling for The Cast, she now works with Promodel Agency. She is proud to be the first Queen of Mzansi Higher Education in South Africa, but adds that "it comes with lots of benefits and exciting challenges".

In pursuit of her career, she is interested in getting into the entertainment business. She also runs her own company called Justripe, which specialises in dance and promotions.

Marcia, a final year Drama Studies student was born in Wilbadash, and now lives in Umlazi.

## DUT Hosts Visitors from Australia's Monash University

Dashnee Govender

DUT's Centre for Quality Promotion and Assurance (CQPA) recently hosted two international visitors from Monash University, Australia.

They were Associate Professor Sid Nair, Interim Director for the Centre for Higher Education Quality (CHEQ), and Dr Lorraine Bennett, Acting Director for the Centre for Advancement of Learning and Teaching (CALT). Their visit was to discuss some of the strategies that they employ at their institution to proactively respond to student feedback and to improve the student learning experience.

The work of both these centres was based on the importance of evidence-based planning and decision making which enables them to provide targeted, systematic, effective and efficient intervention strategies.

These were some of the points that Associate Prof Nair spoke about:

- Popularity with students
- Faculty and Central Committees, when reviewing candidates for promotions such as becoming a

full-time lecturer, or for a Professorship.

- Different methods to make one's case for being promoted.
- Inclusion of future plans such as improving teaching methods in one's application.

Associate Professor Nair said to the lecturers present, "You need to have a teaching philosophy. For example, you want to be the best teacher you can be." He also mentioned that lecturers "should keep abreast of changes."

Dr Bennett, on the other hand, spoke about the Leadership Programme she was researching. She said, "Leadership of learning and teaching are important areas."

On the purpose of the Engaging Leadership framework, which she had explained to the audience, she mentioned, "It is to promote institutional wide change by assisting leaders who are responsible for overseeing, evaluating and implementing quality improvement strategies. The framework provides both a conceptual structure and a systematic process to guide their actions."

Both these visitors have senior leadership roles in quality improvement at Monash.

# Art for Humanity Gala Dinner

Sithembile Shabangu

An evening of glitz, glamour and art at the recent Art for Humanity (AFH) gala dinner held at the Durban Art Gallery to commemorate art, creativity and freedom proved to be a huge success.

The evening celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 200th Anniversary of The End of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and the Presentation of the first Art for Humanity Rights Award to the City of Nantes, France for its promotion of Human Rights.

Art for Humanity is a non-profit organisation based within the Durban University of Technology's Fine Arts Department. Started in 1988 as an adhoc group called Artists for Human Rights, in 2003 it became a registered NGO. According to AFH, they aim to inspire moral ownership of human rights issues, in Southern Africa particularly and also internationally through art and contribute to the future cultural heritage in a socially responsible way, among other things.

The discussions that filled the night were the recent xenophobic attacks that have affected our country. It was largely agreed that this was a sad period for South Africa against the backdrop of events in the townships. Chairperson for Art for Humanity, Adv Anil Naidoo said that art is an ideal medium for the education of human rights. He added that there is a gap between the rich and the poor in this country, despite democracy and human rights.

Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Roy du Pré said that academic freedom has an essential value in our society and mentioned it is exercised in a number of ways at DUT. He added that it is the duty of all institutions to exercise freedom of expression. "Art created today will influence the future of coming generations," added Prof du Pré.

## Choosing your Future Ideal Employer

In the same way that companies invest their resources in trying to encourage you to buy their latest products, companies are now investing a lot of time on campus in trying to market themselves as 'ideal employers of choice.'

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# Emancipation Through African leadership

Greetings to all Black Management Forum (Student Chapter) (BMFsc) members and non-members. It's an honour to get such a platform to express my views about leadership. As Branch Chairperson of DUT, Durban Campus I'd like to pass this great news that history has been made and history must be known. The Branch Chairperson of DUT has been appointed as Provincial Chairperson of BMFsc and DUT Midlands Campus got the position of General Secretary.

BMF DUT Branch has been involved with various organisations and individuals as a change agent for transformation over the past years. Our key focus is to identify key leadership challenges and assist individuals and organisations to become more effective through successful leadership. Our observation in interacting with some leaders paints a rather concerning picture on issues of change and transformation. These concerns affect clubs and societies.

In order to begin to address these leadership challenges we need to go back to basics, which would entail defining a precise and clear moral basis for our leadership approach. That moral basis and value systems must obviously be based on how we can transform African brothers and sisters (students) to levels we can be proud of. This means a leadership that is disciplined, responsible and based on passion to serve rather than to be served.

Secondly, our leadership must be informed by our values to transform organisations so that they characterize our Africanness as individuals and as organisations. The myth that everything Eurocentric should be the basis of our

success should be completely eradicated. Our leadership approach should be based on our understanding and appreciation of the concept of diversity. The human race is indeed a diverse species, which is influenced by various dynamics whether it be gender, age, religion and so on. Strong and sustainable leadership should not only accept this diversity but encourage, champion and foster it all the times.

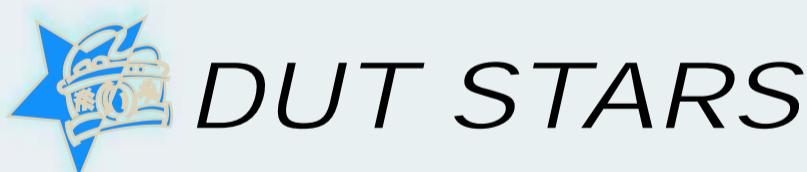
BMFsc is continuously involved in assisting students to improve the quality of their performance and delivery through effective leadership. It is about thinking "out of the box" and continuously seeking a fundamental change in our approach to executing and delivering results.

All clubs and societies are challenged to maintain focus on developing new leadership. It's encouraging to see success being achieved with the infusion of young leadership, particularly young women in clubs and societies.

Congratulations to those who will be graduating. Guys you have made it, "Leaders are made today, tomorrow they will be crowned as heroes." All the best for your future!

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Thanks Managers  
**Grant Myeza**  
BMFsc KZN PEC Chairperson and DUT  
Durban Branch Chairperson



I would like to nominate these departments under DUT Stars for carrying the DUT flag high!

Human Resources Management, Hospitality Management Sciences & Tourism and Information Technology.

They participated in the University Learning Channel TUT 101 (filming).

**Nomonde Mbadi**

**Wouldn't you like to know what's happening at your campus?**

Email your name, surname, Department, Course, Student/staff number and most importantly your cell number to [webmaster@dut.ac.za](mailto:webmaster@dut.ac.za) to receive important sms's, including advice in the event of an emergency.

For more information, contact Corporate Affairs on 031 373 2899/2339/2106.

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## Students making a difference through design

*Bhekani Dlamini*



Photo: Supplied

Pictured: A selection of the student work on display at DUT's Art Gallery

Twenty five Interior Design Students at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) designed and individually manufactured energy efficient lighting designs as part of their first Product design project of 2008. The completed prototype models were exhibited at DUT's Art Gallery, Steve Biko Campus earlier this year.

The purpose of the exhibition is to celebrate the successful completion of the third year's first project. The students' lighting design project is aimed at promoting awareness of energy efficiency in South Africa and how effective design can contribute towards the beginning of a solution.

Students were briefed to align their project with the 2008 Eskom Energy efficient lighting design competition which took place earlier this year. Students were allowed to choose various materials from which to make their designs. They were encouraged to integrate the 'three R's theory' where possible, which is 'recycle, reduce and reuse'. Many of the designs were consequently made from waste that would otherwise have been disregarded.

The majority of the students' work was handcrafted, as opposed to being manufactured using machinery. The rationale being that the crafted aesthetic would minimise energy consumption and the prototype could be reproduced by crafts people, empowering those who may otherwise be unemployed labour.

The use of LED or CFL lamps was part of the criteria for the Eskom Energy efficient lighting design project, as both dramatically reduce energy consumption.

## Quotable Quote

If you can imagine it, you can achieve it; if you can dream it, you can become it.

William Arthur Ward



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