

Issue: 18 May 2010

Soccer fever

Ke Nako (it's time. Celebrate Africa's humanity)

Soccer fever has hit DUT, as staff proudly wear soccer gear in support of the FIFA 2010 Soccer World Cup games to be held in South Africa from 11 June-11 July. Staff from the Finance Stores Department at ML Sultan Campus kitted in the official South African Bafana Bafana T-Shirts.

From left: Neela Singh, Mzomuhle Hansford Mbambo and Lindiwe Mtsweni

- Photographer: Ernest Dlali



DVD donation for Maritime Studies

The Department of Maritime Studies recently received a donation of audio visual material from Unicorn Shipping.

From Left: Prof Darren Lortan (Executive Dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences), Captain Colin Johnsen (Head of Department, Maritime Studies) and Mr Gavin Le Roux (Training Manager, Unicorn Shipping).



Remote Rural Water Treatment System

- Karishma Ganpath

In recent years the number of peri-urban households receiving clean water has increased, as a result of infrastructural development and the supply of water tanker services. However, for many rural communities, access to clean bacterial free water still remains a privilege, leaving many remote communities vulnerable to disease and infection.

Illnesses arising from drinking contaminated water, however, could soon be a problem of the past as research in water treatment technology has contributed significantly to improving health in rural communities.

In an interview with Professor Lingam Pillay, from the Department of Chemical Engineering, he outlined the advantages of his project titled, the Remote Rural Water Treatment System (RRWTS). He said the idea behind the research stemmed from developing more robust technology that will be suitable for developing economies. The system is specifically designed for extreme rural areas where there exists no viable water supply option at present. The RRWTS uses unique membrane technology developed at DUT. The system is very simple, and consists of a water tank that contains multiple membrane filters and a permeate outlet.

The advantages of the system include: it has a high flow rate; it uses gravitation to filter contaminated water through the membrane filters; the membranes are very robust and are not

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destroyed by rough-handling or drying, like current commercial membranes. The RRWTS is inexpensive, mobile, electricity independent, not time consuming, safe and user friendly.

Prof Pillay said: "The membrane filters works with gravity to remove most of the impurities in contaminated water. However, it is used in conjunction with a disinfectant, like Sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) solution, commonly known as bleach, to destroy any remaining micro-contaminants in the product water. The RRWTS has undergone extensive testing by Umgeni Water and the system is currently being tested by technologists and researchers in China and Thailand. Field trials will be conducted at a rural village located in the Eastern Cape in July."

He said previous research revealed the need to include a residual disinfectant in the product water, as communities in rural settings were exposed to secondary contamination that came from the use of unsterilized utensils or alternatively from bacteria in water pipes. He said by adding a few drops of the NaOCl solution to the system, it neutralises any bacteria in the RRWTS product, and continues to disinfect utensils used as storing vessels. The RRWTS technology has been patented in South Africa, and an international patent application has been initiated.

Prof Pillay received an Innovation Award from the Water Research Commission (WRC) in February, for his previous research in the water treatment field. The award acknowledged Prof Pillay's research in Capillary Ultra-filtration Membrane, as an innovation leading to commercial application in South Africa's water sector.



From left: Lawrence Baloyi, Head of Intellectual Property at the Water Research Commission (WRC), CEO of WRC Dr Rfikir Kfir and Prof Lingam Pillay, recipient of the 2010 WRC Innovation Award

SA youth in need of basic technology skills

- Daisy Mthethwa

KZN Department of Education, Superintendent-General, Dr Cassius Lubisi placed emphasis on Information Communication Technology (ICT) to be made available at public schools. Dr Lubisi was speaking at the African Networking Academy Safari 2010, which was co-hosted by DUT and the CISCO Networking Academy, at Ritson Campus from 12-15 April.

In his address, Dr Lubisi said only 119 public schools in the province provided Information Technology (IT) as a subject, with 313 schools providing Computer Applications Technology (CAT). ICT forms a fundamental part of education; the course however remains largely available at elite schools. He said the greatest challenge that most schools face is the lack of infrastructure "We have a massive infrastructure backlog, R44 million is needed in KZN and R140 million is needed nationally. The province is further faced with a large number of orphans and child headed households."

Alfie Hamid, Cisco Systems Regional Leader said the Networking Academy forms part of its corporate social responsibility programme. The programme makes ICT courses available to people from disadvantaged backgrounds. He said: "The demand for specialised and advanced ICT skills and the lack of its supply has the potential to affect economic growth and social cohesion of South Africa. Unless a country acts decisively to bridge the digital divide and increase its supply of scarce ICT skills, it will risk falling further behind its neighbours and its youth may lack necessary skills in the digital age."



DVC: TIP, Professor Frederick Otieno; Cisco Public Sector Regional Sales Manager, Aggrey Rantloane; Colin Thakur, EDU HOD and Chairman of the KZN Computer Society of South Africa; KZN Department of Education, Superintendent-General, Dr Cassius Lubisi and Alfie Hamid, Cisco Systems Regional Leader

Enterprise Development Unit HOD, Colin Thakur said the academy utilizes a blended learning model that combines face-to-face teaching, engaging with online content and hands-on lab exercises to prepare students for industry-standard certifications and

higher education in engineering, computer science, information systems, and related fields. He said: "DUT has been awarded the provincial Regional Networking Academy status and is strategically positioned to assist the province with increasing the adoption of ICT skills development at KZN schools and colleges

Winter warmers for Children's Centre

- Daisy Mthethwa

As winter fast approaches, homeless people around the country will be subjected to the wrath of stormy weather and cold nights on street corners. As part of a drive to aid homeless children, the Department of Food and Nutrition have donated a batch of blankets to the Zamani Children's Centre in Durban, to help them get through the bitter nights ahead. The department provided the boys' centre with soccer themed comforters as part of the department's 2009 community outreach programme.



DUT students and staff of Zamani Children's Centre

Food and Nutrition lecturer, Heleen Grobbelaar, said the Zamani Centre was selected to be a project recipient after students had conducted research into several of the city's children's homes. The research team noticed that centre's comforters were in poor condition and were in need of replacement. Students were then mobilized to raise funds for the project through the sale of piggy banks and confectionary made from ingredients sponsored by the Department's staff. She said: "This project taught students the importance of giving back to community; it showed them that you don't need to have lots of money to make a difference in someone's life."

The Centre Manager, Muhle Ngcobo said they were humbled by DUT's contribution. The children are grateful for this thoughtful gesture, He added however, that the centre is in need of public support for the purchase of food and clothing. The Department is currently engaged in its 2010 project, in conjunction with the Department of Horticulture, which focuses on establishing and maintaining vegetable gardens at various child welfare centres in Durban.

Introducing Making Connections at DUT

- Dumile Mbatha

Durban University of Technology (DUT) was presented with the latest release by UKZN based editors, Dr Kathleen Pithouse-Morgan, Relebogile Moletsane, and Professor Claudia Mitchell at a College Lecture Programme (CLP) at DUT's Art Gallery, on 05 May. The book titled Making Connections: Self Study & Social Action was co-authored by several South African and international scholars including 14 DUT academics.

Making Connections: Self Study & Social Action is published by Peter Lang Publishers and is the first book to be published in the area of self study by South African editors and authors. It presents a trans-disciplinary and trans-cultural discussion of the dynamic interplay between self-study and the social world.

The event was co-ordinated by Prof Joan Conolly, director of the Self Study for Transformative Higher Education (SeStuTHE) project at DUT. The presentation of the book was made by Dr Pithouse-Morgan and Prof Mitchell together with co-authors Dr Liz Harrison, from the Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT), Department of Jewellery Design Lecturer, Marlene de Beer, and Delysia Timm from the DVC: Academic's office and SeStuTHE.

The idea of the book was born at a self study symposium organized by Dr Pithouse-Morgan held in July 2007 at the Kelly Campbell Museum. The book is an excellent example of collaborative scholarship; it provides a wide variety of approaches and uses of self study as scholarship. Highlighting the scholarship of self study, Prof Mitchell praised DUT for its efforts, and underlined the social benefits and research implications.



As part of the presentation, Dr Harrison focused on the scholarship of bricolage which is the collection and use of all life's experiences and influences in our research endeavours. De Beer explained that her creations are largely influenced by historical events and folk songs she learned as a child. Drawing more emphasis on bricolage, Timm said "where we come from as individuals, impacts on the ways in which we learn and teach."

The event was also attended by Acting Director: Research, Professor Sibusiso Moyo; Chancellor, Ela

Gandhi; Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nqabomzi Gawe and Professor Frederick Otieno, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (DVC-TIP).

To order a copy of the book e-mail Sibongile Madi at sibongilem@dut.ac.za

Above: Professor Joan Conolly, Mr Erasmus Mnguni, Ms Delysia Timm, Mr Crispin Hemson, Dr Kathleen Pithouse-Morgan, Professor Claudia Mitchell, Dr Snoeks Desmond, Ms Ela Gandhi, Professor Fred Otieno, Dr Liz Harrison, Professor Sibusiso Moyo.

Photographer: Dumile Mbatha

Five Minute Interview

- Sithembile Shabangu



Left: Thabile Maphanga, Senior Journalist – Health: SABC Radio News, was interviewed about her recent graduation and winning of the award.

1. Please tell us about yourself and your current job.

Well I'm an ambitious woman who wants to excel in everything I do. I'm one of the few people who do bi-media (both radio and television) at SABC. I currently work as a senior health journalist for SABC Radio News based at the headquarters in Auckland Park in Johannesburg. This is what I do full-time, I research, go out into the field, conduct interviews and file for hourly bulletins and Current Affairs shows across the SABC's Public Service stations. We broadcast to about 18 million listeners nationally. I also work as a Prime Time TV News Anchor for SABC 1 IsiZulu News which I do on a part-time basis. IsiZulu News has the highest number of viewers of over 3 million. My two jobs are two worlds apart; radio for me is so much more personal, interactive and immediate mainly because the story is mine even before it exists. I have to come up with an idea right until it's broadcast. I interact with a lot of people at various levels of life. Television, on the other hand, is a team effort and involves so much more than the information we present to the viewers. It's more technical and how one looks is important.

2. How does it feel to have completed your qualification?

It's one of my greatest achievements thus far, it's really exciting. I'm proud of myself for furthering my studies and eventually graduating. My parents are proud too which is very fulfilling.

3. Can you tell us about the recent award and how do you feel about the win?

I was recently awarded with the Discovery Health Radio Journalist of the year award. It's a national award for all health journalists. The story that won me the award was the coverage of the Doctors' strike last year. It was a unique angle on a widely-covered story on the doctors' strike. I'm really humbled and honoured to be recognised for the job that I do and passionate about. It's really nice that people in the industry think I'm doing a good job.

4. Do you think the Durban University of Technology has armed you with the right skills to get you where you want to be in your career?

Definitely, these are usually visible in the work environment when I have to apply what I've studied in an actual situation. It's also encouraging to see so many former Natal Technikon and DUT students in the industry. The majority of us are doing quite well.

5. What challenges did you face while studying (from your diploma to your BTech)?

Finances were not readily available and pressure to do well and not disappoint my parents were some of the concerns I had while studying towards my diploma. I was also concerned about whether I'd get a job afterwards. With B Tech on the other hand, it was time, time, time. As a full-time journalist I didn't always have time to attend my lectures and pay sufficient attention to my studies. Balancing work as a radio journalist and studying felt impossible at times.

6. While reading the news, you are viewed by millions of people and they recognise you wherever you go. How do you handle the attention?

Well it's actually not too hectic. Strangers don't always recognise me because I look different without make-up but when they do I just politely attend to that person.

7. How has this job changed your life?

I suppose you are talking about television, well it has built a really good profile of me as a news person. It's given me and my career a huge boost.

8. What advice would you give aspiring journalists who, one day, would like to be where you are?

If you are getting into this career for money, look elsewhere. Be prepared to work extremely hard, long and irregular hours. Be prepared to go where nobody wants to go. When people are running away from a situation rest assured you'll be running in the opposite direction to get your story. Get into it for the love of it, it's really fulfilling when you do a really great story.

9. What are your future plans?

Well, I'd love to work for an international broadcaster hopefully doing bi media . My job has taken me to many parts of the world, however I would still love to travel more.

10. What do you do to relax after a long day?

Well I relax at home, watch television, read a good book and chat on the phone with my family members who are based in KZN and some of my friends. I also listen to music and hope nobody calls me about a breaking story when I'm resting ... (laughing).

Photographer: Dumile Mbatha

Ori heads SASCE

- Karishma Ganpath

The Southern African Society for Co-operative Education (SASCE) hosted its bi-annual International Conference at Willow Park Conference Centre in Johannesburg from 28-31 March. The event coincided with the organisation's presidential election at its Annual General Meeting where Shakeel Ori, Director of Co-operative Education at the Durban University of Technology, was elected as the new organisational head.

SASCE is an international organisation that has been in existence for the last 25 years and represents collaborative efforts, from the higher education sector and industry, in promoting integrated academic studies with quality industry based learning experience.

Ori is a member of South African Quality and Standards Committee (SAQCA) and the World Association for Co-operative Education (WACE) based in Boston, USA. He said during his two year term as president, his efforts will be focused on reorganising SASCE. "My role as president is to drive the organisations strategic goals and achieve its objectives. Our first step is to resurrect a board that is inclusive of industry stakeholders, Further Education and Training (FET) institutions, traditional universities, Universities of Technology (UoT) and essentially all bodies involved in work integrated learning. We will also be looking at increasing research in work based learning and including the launch of new collaborative partnerships, joint conferences and workshops and national and international exchange programmes".

He said the transformation drive is a big step to get industry bodies on board. SASCE's current

objective is to be recognised as an expert body of co-operative education with the long term vision to make SASCE the professional body of co-operative education.

Ori said the organisation recently signed an agreement with the South African Manufacturing Engineering Seta (MERSETA), to ensure placement of engineering students in industry across South Africa. It is intended to expand the organisation to the rest of the Southern African region to increase the Work Integrated Learning opportunities to students across all fields.

He said SASCE faces the challenge to review the role, responsibilities and qualities of staff who manage experiential learning in industry and within the Higher Education sector, in the hope of improving learner support and facilitation. This will also ensure the standard of industry experience is in compliance with the Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC) best practices for work based learning.

The organisation presented at the Higher Education Summit which was held at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology's Belville Campus, from 22-23 April. SASCE addressed issues related to industry based learning for undergraduate students. The summit was opened by President Jacob Zuma and the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Blade Nzimande.

Publication Workshop

- Dumile Mbatha

The departments of Post Graduate Development and Support (PGDS) and Research Management and Development (RMD) in collaboration with Academic Researcher, Fazel Khan jointly hosted a Publication Workshop at ML Sultan Campus, on 29 April.

Khan said the workshop aimed to encourage and mobilize participation of the university's academic community in collaborative research and encouraged independent research. The programme also focused on enabling academics to overcome their research fears and challenges related to publishing work in public spheres. His current project involves documenting positive experiences of South Africans, through a collection of short articles by the academic community. The book, titled (Re)Searching Durban, is expected to be released in June.

He said: "We are pleased with the positive feedback from the workshop and we intend continuing these types of forums to provide support to academics. As a University of Technology (UoT) we need to further our research capacity and capabilities. Research is a fundamental aspect in academic growth; it is also important that research findings are available for public consumption and is accessible. The idea behind research is to enable progression in society across all sectors by discovering new technologies, overcoming loop holes which exist, improve current techniques, provide feedback into teaching and learning institutions and investigate problems in hopes of finding solutions."

The workshop was attended by Professor of Applied Law, Tony Reddy, Professor Bharti Odhav from the Department of Biotechnology and Food Technology, Publisher Naseema Mall, CELT-Sesthuthe representative, Shubnam Rambharos and University of KwaZulu-Natal NRF rated scientist, Professor Sultan Khan.



Prof Reddy, editor of Research Bulletin of Commerce (REBOC) an in-house journal published by the Faculty of Commerce for novice publishers, said research required an immense amount of dedication and commitment. In his presentation he raised questions and provided possibilities as reasons why academics choose to shy away from publishing. He also discussed different ways of getting published. Prof Reddy's motivation to aspiring publishers was that they should

constantly be in pursuit of their academic goals, ensuring they give every effort in all undertakings to ensure success. "Whatever you do, do it well. We walk down this road in life once, so give it your best shot," he said.

Above: Professor Bharti Odhav speaking at the Publication Workshop, held at DUT's Finance Conference Room, ML Sultan Campus.

Photographer: Dumile Mbatha

Siyakhula lives up to its name

- Daisy Mthethwa

Over the last four years Siyakhula Public Relations Consultancy has seen rapid growth in its core functions; the student development project was initiated by the Department of Public Relations at DUT and is aimed at bridging the gap between theory and practice.

Projects undertaken by the consultancy have contributed to the holistic development of students. Over the years students have participated in different conferences, including the 2008 HIV/AIDS International Conference held at Durban's International Conference Centre.

The consultancy is managed by public relations lecturers, who provide clients with expert advice together with the added advantage of being able to tap into the strong knowledge base and a broad range of skills and expertise, as needed.

Public Relations (PR) intern, Nothando Ngcobo said lecturers are largely involved in the provision of services; this ensures the consultancy's client base receives quality services that are of industry standards. This enables the consultancy to procure more client accounts, in addition to outsourcing PR students.

Amongst the consultancy's core functions they are also responsible for conducting case studies, organizing conferences, drafting press releases, newsletters and speeches. PR and Marketing students also assist with the distribution of pamphlets

Since its inception, the consultancy has gained extensive experience in event management; its recent undertaking includes product promotion and launches, organizing sports events and community outreach programmes, including Fun Days.

Ngcobo said product marketing is essential in a highly competitive industry which requires experts in the field of advertising. The consultancy therefore, has its own advertising consultants who are responsible for campaign conceptualization and the use of various media and communication tools.

She said students involved in the consultancy are skilled with hands on experience and are in demand for their professional capabilities. "We are currently working on outsourcing students to Unilever to work during the FIFA World Cup. We have also seen considerable interest from the organizers of the Prawn and Wine Festival; the event is the first of its kind and is intended to be an annual festival. Event organizers have tasked PR students to brainstorm possible ideas for the planning and preparation of the festival." said Ngcobo.

For more information, contact Siyakhula Public Relations Consultancy at the Department of Public Relations Management on 031 373 5277.

Mother's Day treat for St. Theresa's teachers

- Daisy Mthethwa

Following the recent success of the Faculty of Health Sciences community engagement project, Somatology students paid a special visit to educators, in celebration of Mother's Day, at St Theresa's Roman Catholic Primary School, in Sydenham. Female educators were acknowledged for their commitment to community development and were pampered with sensual massages, manicures and pedicures as a mother's day treat.

The visit forms part of the third year Somatology curriculum, where students are required to engage in a minimum of ten hours community work. "We visited the school for Mother's day to demonstrate appreciation of our female teachers. We spoke to the Principal who gave us the go ahead. Students who treated the teachers undertook this voluntarily, as part of their community service," said Charl Fynn, Somatology Lecturer.

Bev Ori, a third year student said she chose to be part of the group of six students because she believes good things happen to those who give back to community. "I believe in good Karma, a good service to the community is a good service to God. Teachers need a little pampering as they work hard," she said.



With the school having a majority of female teachers, the school's Principal, Greg Akkers said it was important for them to get spoiled as they are also mothers, not only to their biological children, but to learners as well. "My teachers work really hard. Getting a treat will relax and give them more energy to do their work," he said.

He praised the Department of Chiropractic and Somatology for their continuous support to the school. "It's been fantastic working with Sharl, she has been supportive and organized, we look forward to working with her in future," said Akkers.

Above: Somatology students pampering an educator at St Theresa's Roman Catholic Primary School.

Toastmasters Graduation

- Daisy Mthethwa

The Department of Food and Nutrition Consumer Sciences held a Toastmasters' International Speech Craft Graduation on 04 May at the Rendezvous Restaurant, Steve Biko. The glossy event followed by light snacks started with a toast to Africa's first female president, Liberian President, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

The Toastmasters programme, which is co-ordinated by Lecturer Anjellah Reddy, is part of the second year Food Communication curriculum. The programme aims to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment where every student develops communication and leadership skills. The itinerary included a contest between students to deliver prepared and impromptu speeches and speech evaluations.

Distinguished Toastmaster Elaine Swanepoel said: "All students who participated in the programme achieved something. If they do anything the Toastmasters way, they will succeed." Students' speeches were impressive and covered a wide variety of issues faced by society. Winning the challenge with her speech titled, 'Blood in my chocolate' was Mpume Makhathini, her address painted a dark picture about child labour in the chocolate industry.



The second and third runner ups were Barbara Lisebo Mothepu and Sithembiso Gigaba. Winning the Best Speech Award was Nothando Mngomezulu, followed by Sajana Ramandh in second place and Simlindile Ndebele in third place. Silindile Ngcobo won for best impromptu speech contest, with Xolisile Nzimande in second position and Azande Mbutho in the third position.

Left: Toastmasters celebrate with Mpume Makhathini, the winner of the Toastmasters Speech Contest. Her winning speech was titled, Blood in my chocolate.

Writing for Power

- Daisy Mthethwa

The Faculty of Arts and Design's Writing Centre is in its second year and is in the process of embarking on new projects to bolster student engagement activities at City Campus. Centre co-ordinator Andrea Alcock, said the focus of the centre is to enable productive learning through mentoring sessions which focus on engaging with students, understanding what their needs are and how mentors can assist.

She said the focus is on improving creative and academic writing in an environment that is conducive to learning and teaching. Student mentors are available from 12pm to 2pm daily for writing consults. The centre is in the process of extending its working hours to accommodate more students and continues to conduct workshops in conjunction with lecturers from the faculty. The idea of the centre stemmed from creating an informal environment where students would feel welcomed. As part of attracting more students to the programme, the Writing Centre team

has focused its energies on its image. Their most recent undertaking was sign posting the centre by the use of a graffiti mural.

The graffiti mural, which borders a large black board outside the centre, was painted by B-Tech Graphic Design student, Dane Knudsen. The artwork is strategically positioned to draw attention to the centre. It also adds to the relaxed informal atmosphere and is inviting. The board will be used to display student work and invitations.

Knudsen said the mural was completed as part of his postgraduate studies and aimed to change public perception of graffiti. "My work is aimed at writers, art enthusiasts, art students, lecturers, teachers as well as those who are interested or intrigued by graffiti. An understanding needs to be developed around graffiti, by writers and non-writers. For writers, there is a need for greater consciousness about what they are doing and why and who they are talking to," he said.



Knudsen said graffiti is largely a neglected art form, which struggles to get the recognition it deserves. It is a form of self expression, but is largely considered as vandalism to public and private property. He said graffiti in Durban is still very limited amongst a small group of artist who are willing to experiment with different styles.

"There are a few dozen writers in Durban, with new writers emerging daily, painting hard and non-stop, developing styles but not necessarily boundaries. This limitation could be resultant of the lack of exposure to other forms of art, communication, image and text. My intention is to push boundaries through my work and create an interest in graffiti. I want the audience not to be irritated when graffiti is painted illegally, the night before and is seen under bridges and on walls. I also want the reaction, yes that's art, it's creative, come paint my wall," he said.

Above: Dane Knudsen, a B-Tech Graphic Design together with his graffiti mural outside the Faculty of Art and Design's Writing Centre

Promoting health in a fun way

- Daisy Mthethwa

DUT's Faculty of Health Sciences visited St Theresa's Roman Catholic Primary School in Sydenham, on 05 May, as part of their community engagement project to promote health awareness among learners.

The school services five children's homes, as well as learners from the surrounding informal settlements and relies heavily on donations from the private and corporate sector to supplement its government funding. Funds collected in recent drives were used in various academic and social projects during the recession.

Sharl Fynn, Somatology Lecturer and project organizer said: "The aim of this community engagement project is to encourage healthy lifestyle practices of learners from a young age, with the objective of promoting long term relationships between the various departments from the Faculty of Health Sciences and St Theresa's school. The project was a joint collaborative initiative by the Departments of Chiropractic and Somatology, Community Health Studies and the Television, Drama and Production Studies.

During the visit, Chiropractic and Somatology students played games with learners that were geared to promote nutrition and exercise in order to improve their general wellbeing and concentration. The Department of Community Health Studies facilitated activities related to the socio-psycho emotional state of the learners and met with the school's Environmental Club, to discuss the development of an agricultural project which will focus on growing a fruit and vegetable garden, using biodegradable matter as compost and fertilizer.



Above: Chiropractic students doing exercises with Grade One learners from

*ST. Theresa's Roman Catholic Primary School, in Sydenham, Durban
Photographer: Daisy Mthethwa*

The greening project further aims to educate learners about global warming and how they can engage in eco-friendly activities to sustain their environment. Learners were entertained by an energetic performance, by the Department of Television, Drama and Production Studies, which encouraged learners to engage in healthy relationships the play focused on de-stigmatising HIV and creating HIV/AIDS awareness.

Hertine Court holds Motivation Day

- Daisy Mthethwa

Life at the quiet university residence, Hertine Court was roused by a glamorous cocktail party as part of its Motivation Day on 08 May, which aimed at encouraging students to excel academically. Event organizer, Mbokodo Mbatha said the function also focused on creating useful educational and social support networks. The event also centred on the need to encourage tolerance and appreciation amongst students in an effort to promote social change.

The function was attended by Director of Student Housing, Theophilus Nhassengo, Deputy President of Convocation, Siyabonga Vezi and Tongaat Hullet-Voermol Feeds, Human Resources Manager, Ndabezihle Ntuli. Guests were entertained by music and poetry by Khumbulani Sithole. Ntuli addressed students about ways in which to structure a professional CV and techniques in preparation for interviews.



Sifundo Nkosi, Convener of the Residence Assistances Forum, motivated students to become successful achievers in all activities of engagement. He said: "To be a winner you must know where you are coming from and where you are going so that you can have a meaningful future."

Mbatha said: "Students had to team up with a partner within the residence; this taught them the importance of getting along with one another and prepared them for the working world, where they will have to get along with total strangers."

From left: Sizwe Mchunu, Khosi Mdluli, Sabelo Thusi and Precious Fikile Mhlanga at the Hertine Court Residence, Motivation Day. Photographer: Mathe Moeti.

DUT Library launches World Cup Poster Campaign Count Down

- Lucille Webster

The Alan Pittendrigh Library at Steve Biko Campus launched a campaign in celebration of the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa. The festive campaign kicked off on 21 April as a count down to the opening ceremony. Library staff members were decked out in soccer regalia at a forum outside the library. The colourful vibrant scene drew students to participate in vigorous Diski dancing to the sound of pulsing music and the ceremonial vuvuzela. Colourful posters drew a curious crowd of spectators who were surprised to see staid librarians as soccer crazed fans and supporters.

International students participated in the festivities and gave locals a run for their money when they blew vuvuzelas like old pros. The German contingent visiting the university also did not shy away from the opportunity to learn the moves of the Diski dance. Dancers received vuvuzelas and soccer balls which were donated as prizes, for the occasion.



Above: Library Director Roy Raju with some of the winners

Photographs are supplied by Audio Visual. Other images are supplied by departments and DUT staff.

Kindly send your articles to Bhekani Dlamini on email: bhekanid@dut.ac.za

What's Up @ DUT e-Newsletter is produced by the Division of Corporate Affairs

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