

VISION

A Faculty that strives to nurture a holistic approach towards education and a critical understanding of society and the world by balancing the intellectual, creative and artistic aspirations with the pragmatic requirements of contemporary professional disciplines.

MISSION

- To empower the Faculty through quality career focused teaching in applied and relevant research.
- To build capacity in a transforming society within a dynamic African and global context.
- To promote sustainable partnerships with industry, community and society.
- To encourage entrepreneurial and vocational development through an innovative approach to analytical creative thinking and artistic expression.
- To instill in the learner initiative, sensitivity, responsibility and a values driven ethos.

OVERVIEW

Introduction

Leading the noteworthy faculty staff successes and honours of 2008 were the promotion of Head of the Department of Television, Drama and Production Studies, Peter Burnett to the position of Adjunct Professor, and the DTech awarded to Dee Pratt, Faculty Research Co-ordinator. Other faculty staff who improved their qualifications by completing their Masters degrees were Yashaen Luckan and Cally du Toit (Architecture and Interior Design) and Izan Greyling (Television, Drama and Production Studies).

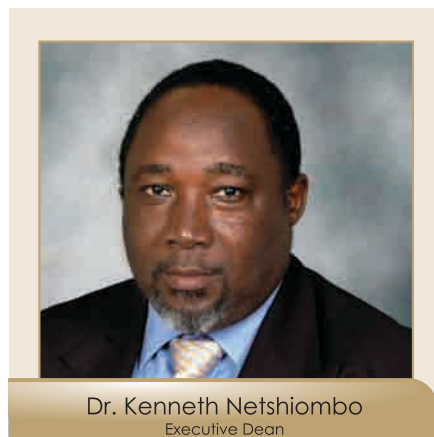
The qualification profile of the faculty continues to grow rapidly with nine staff registered for Masters degrees and six registered for their doctoral studies.

Staff members who made an international impact in 2008 were Fine Art staff, J Roome, A Botha, B Truter, T Shibase and N Ziegler who exhibited internationally, while Media, Languages and Communication Department staff members, Dr Prenitha Singh and Dr Sylvia Zulu presented papers in Austria and Morocco respectively. Advocate Robin Sewlal made a presentation on the upcoming general elections at a Broadcasting Complaints Commission of South Africa (BCCSA) Workshop in Johannesburg.

Jewellery staff exhibited at the Design Indaba in Cape Town. Jewellery staff and three Diploma students exhibited work at the Jewellex industry expo in Johannesburg and Lolie Makhubu presented a paper at the SASCE International Conference.

Dr Kenneth Netshiombo, Executive Dean, was appointed by the Minister of Arts and Culture, Dr Pallo Jordan, as a member of the Ministerial Committee: Intangible Cultural Heritage Policy Writing Team, and as a member of the Council of the State Theatre (2008 - 2011).

Professor Graham Stewart was appointed Associate Editor (Verbal Arts) of the new Encyclopaedia of South African Arts, Culture and Heritage. As leader of the Durban Research Team of the national ESAACH project, Prof Stewart is also responsible for the development of the online version of the encyclopaedia. DUT Graphic Design student, Claire Griffin, won the ESAACH project logo design award, commissioned by the national project.



Dr. Kenneth Netshiombo
Executive Dean

Amongst faculty staff whose scholarly articles were published in internationally recognised academic journals were Tanya van der Walt, Dr Dee Pratt, Dr Prenitha Singh and Piers Carey. Dr Kate Wells of the Department of Visual Communication Design had a chapter published in the book "Feminist Conversations: Women, Trauma and Empowerment in Post-Transitional Societies".

Innovation in Teaching and Learning

Advances in e-learning continued to exemplify innovative learning and teaching in the Faculty. The open access laboratory availability for City Campus students was further extended. Faculty staff excelled in e-learning development, with Chris de Beer (Jewellery Design) winning the 2008 DELTA Award for Distinguished Electronic Learning and Teaching and John Roome (Fine Art) as runner-up. In addition, four faculty staff were presented with their UKZN M Ed Module Certificates in Web-based Learning from Vice-Chancellor Prof Roy du Pré at an E-Learning Day ceremony: Chris de Beer (Jewellery Design), John Roome (Fine Art), Prof Graham Stewart (Deputy Dean: FAD) and Abdul Haq Bhorat.

In Photography, four more staff completed their Pioneers Certificates (DUT Short Course in Web-based Learning): Sharon Zoepke (Graphic Design), Prof Peggy Siyakwazi (Education), Les Hodgson (Communication) and Ayesha Mall (Journalism).

The Performing Arts Technology programme implemented specialised networking software, Netschool into a CAD teaching laboratory. Netschool's testing module has enabled the development of innovative assessment methods.

Awards and Prizes

Faculty staff and students were awarded numerous awards and prizes including the Department of Visual Communication Design's Yandisa Monkali, (3rd Year Photography) 1st Prize in the Lee Jeans Advertising Photography competition, and Louis de Villiers, Merit award, Think Ahead Awards.

Third year Fashion Design student, Joel Janse van Vuuren won the prestigious Emma Smith Scholarship Award, with Ravi Govender sharing an unprecedented Special Merit award place with Graphic Design student, Wesley van Eden.

Another Fashion Design student, 2nd year student, Jane Wolff, won the "Environmentally Friendly" competition in October, which was run nationally.

Programme Development

In January 2008, a new programme was introduced after many years of planning, the Bachelor of Technology: Video Technology. Seven students were enrolled for this course, with Ms Cary Burnett as Programme Leader.

Three faculty programmes underwent rigorous reviews chaired by external industry representatives: Fashion Design, Jewellery Design and Manufacture and Graphic Design. All reviews applauded the considerable successes of these programmes, and provided recommendations to guide quality improvement planning.

The graphic design Programme registered seven new Master's students in the first intake of its revised MTech course, which included the department's first overseas MTech student.

Research Development

2008 was a year of unprecedented growth in the number of postgraduate registrations in the faculty, and followed a renewed focus on the development of a research ethos allied to the university of technology notion of applied research and "making knowledge useful".

The Arts and Design Strategic Research Plan to strengthen research capacity while increasing research output in the form of higher degree graduations, improved staff qualifications and research projects/publications.

The visit by Dr Netshiombo with a DUT Management Study group to Australian Universities of Technology brought not only ideas for re-curriculation and programme restructuring, but also valuable international contacts. As a direct result of these, a FAD conference is being planned for 2009, with keynote speakers from Curtin (Australia) and Massey (New Zealand).

RESEARCH

Introduction

In keeping with the need to rise to the challenge of becoming a university, there was an increased focus on research and higher degree registration in 2008. As soon as the HOD posts had been confirmed, a standing Faculty Research Committee with departmental representation was formed, its brief being both research administration and the development of research capacity. The Faculty's Strategic Research Plan was formulated to integrate activities designed to build research capacity and to increase research output in the form of higher degree graduations, improved staff qualifications and research projects/publications. 2008 saw an increased focus on Higher Degree programmes for both staff qualifications improvement and "growing" the postgraduate section of the Faculty.

This intense focus on research activities soon bore fruit, as the number of student masters registrations and staff doctoral registrations doubled in 2008. The PGDS awards, as well as the emphasis placed on growing degree numbers and staff qualifications improvement, are thought to have assisted with the increases, as well as Faculty workshops aimed at proposal submission and supervision. Two DTechs graduated in FAD higher degree programmes (Education and Language Practice) in 2008, one being a staff member, and the number of staff registered for doctorates rose from 6 to 12. Qualifications improvement, particularly at doctoral level, meant increased supervision capacity to cater for the growing number of new masters and doctoral registrations. As a result, more FAD staff became involved in supervision, assisted by experienced supervisors with doctorates, some from outside of the Faculty, who shared expertise and experience across the FAD higher degree programmes. A new BTech programme in Television was introduced in the Department of Television, Performance and Staging, and another BTech in Architectural Technology was readied for introduction in 2009. Senior staff in the Journalism programme worked on the necessary prerequisites for introducing the MTech in Journalism in 2009.

In June the Executive Dean participated in a visit by Executive Management to Australian Universities.

Dr Dee Pratt graduated with a DTech in Language Practice, and her post as Research Co-ordinator was confirmed. Arts and Design FRC Online, an online research site set up on Blackboard, was used to expedite routine FRC business as well as to circulate various research documents, ranging from official procedures and communiqué to higher degree proposals. An online portal, JAD (Journal of Arts & Design), was also set up to provide an online publishing outlet for all FAD staff and students. Amongst other in-house research capacity building activities, Dr Pratt organised a Proposal Writing Workshop and facilitated an HOD Workshop to adapt the Higher Degree Forms for Arts and Design use, as well as a Supervisors' Workshop focusing on research proposal submission. She worked with Dr Mikhail Peppas in facilitating the online BTech Research Module for Journalism, and set up and ran the BTech Research Module for Television, as well as facilitating the Basic Research Course for the newly introduced Television BTech programme.

2008 STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND DESIGN

The following is a summary (shown in table format) of the *integrated research activities which are proposed as forming the Strategic Research Plan of the Faculty of Arts and Design. The activities are planned both to build research capacity and to increase research output in the form of higher degree graduations, improved staff qualifications and research projects/publications. Apart from the fact that the various activities should scaffold and support each other, sustainability (i.e. continuance without the initial funding) is a key issue. Note that this is an outline only, and that operational factors (apart from

the estimated cost) have not been included at this stage. While the plan was drawn up in 2008, it represents the focus areas identified in 2007 (and carried over, with some modifications, to 2009).

*By "integrated" it is meant that all activities feed into each other in sustaining and nurturing research in the Faculty of Arts and Design. Some of the proposed activities are events, others are interventions or gradual processes. However, all can be seen to support research capacity building, while leading to increased research output, whether directly or indirectly.

2008 STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND DESIGN

No	RESEARCH ACTIVITY	EXPLANATION AND/OR NOTES	CAPACITY BUILDING	RESEARCH OUTPUT	SUSTAINABILITY
1.	FAD FESTIVAL: New Research Day format celebrates creative output & integrates it with traditional output.	Holding Research Day later in the year as a "DUT Festival of Arts and Design" will showcase creative as well as traditional research output.	Staff displaying artefacts etc. will now be obliged to articulate the theoretical aspect/s of exhibits.	Encourages formalising of creative output by publicly acknowledging it as "research". Articulation of theory can be a prelude to publication, formal research projects.	This has long-term potential to generate sponsorship so as to be self-sustaining.
2.	LOCAL CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE: Develops novice researchers (i.e. younger staff engaged in masters study).	Currently no DUT funding source exists specifically for this form of capacity building (N.B. requires progress report.)	Research expertise, subject expertise: also models for novices how to present papers at conferences.	Assists improvement of staff qualifications, more HD graduations for staff registered at DUT.	Staff learn how to generate their own funding.

Continued . . .

2008 STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND DESIGN

No	RESEARCH ACTIVITY	EXPLANATION AND/OR NOTES	CAPACITY BUILDING	RESEARCH OUTPUT	SUSTAINABILITY
3.	NEW MTECH AND DTECH PROGRAMMES: FAD investigates suitable SAQA qualifications, while exploring whole curriculum needs in FAD.	New degrees need to suit overall curriculum planning and revision. Existing SAQA HD programmes can be fast-tracked.	Staff working on developing new interdisciplinary programmes gain depth insight into research processes.	Interdisciplinary higher degrees offer more scope for recruiting and graduating students (also better integration of FAD resources).	New degrees will bring in more FTEs, more resources (including staff).
4.	ONLINE FAD PORTAL: Publicises/publishes research activities and output for multi-campus faculty and public.	In a multi-campus faculty, web pages communicates information better to staff and students.	Informs staff/students of activities, gives publication outlet (builds research writing skills), gives public acknowledgment.	Provides an accepted form of research publication, particularly for creative output.	Academic advertising can make web pages self-sustaining.
5.	PROJECTS: Each Dept will run at least one research project per year	Staff learn not only research skills, but how to write proposals for the NRF and other funding.	Research expertise, subject expertise.	Projects generate content for book chapters, research articles and papers in conference proceedings.	NRF and other funding can be obtained for research projects.
6.	RECRUIT EXTERNAL SUPERVISORS: These will have the dual role of supervision/mentoring novice staff supervisors.	External supervisors provide a valuable resource in building supervision capacity. This needs to be formalised, regularised and properly funded.	Subject expertise, research expertise, supervision expertise. Co-publishing under DUT aegis also a possibility.	More higher degree students, higher graduation rate (possibly increased publication output).	Subsidy from increased HD throughput makes this self-sustaining.
7.	PUBLICATIONS WORKSHOPS: Two to be held per year, one for novice writers and one for more experienced writers.	Instead operating in silos, experienced writers will be invited to collaborate in a book publication.	Instead of operating in silos, experienced writers will be invited to collaborate in a book publication.	More articles and papers from novice writers, book publications from groups of more experienced writers.	Generates ad hoc funding and increases institution's rating.

2008 STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND DESIGN

No	RESEARCH ACTIVITY	EXPLANATION AND/OR NOTES	CAPACITY BUILDING	RESEARCH OUTPUT	SUSTAINABILITY
8.	RECRUIT MTECH AND DTECH STUDENTS: Recruit students for existing programmes more aggressively.	More students can be recruited if external supervisors are obtained where Dept resources not available.	Having more students acts as an incentive to staff to improve own qualifications and subject knowledge, and supervision expertise.	More higher degree students, higher graduation rate (possibly increased publication output, as students can also publish).	Subsidy from increased HD throughput makes this self-sustaining (also more ad hoc funding).
9.	RESEARCH SEMINARS: Run a Faculty programme of research seminars with in-house and outside speakers.	Research activities have inherent interest for academics: we are part of an intellectual community.	Knowledge of general research processes, as well as interdisciplinary knowledge can be acquired: intellectual debate is encouraged.	Knowledge updates and research exposition/ argument structures acquired in staff and students are invisible but highly important research outputs.	Generates no material wealth but is the most important currency of universities.
10.	STAFF QUALIFICATIONS IMPROVEMENT: This to continue as per current PGDS awards system.	Currently ad hoc: perhaps more mentoring and acknowledgement is required.	Builds supervision and research capacity.	Staff qualifications improvement with staff registered at DUT constitutes double output.	Improved supervision and research capacity indirectly self-sustaining.
11.	TYPING, EDITING AND PROOF-READING SERVICE: Contract experienced staff and subsidise this (at least partly) for both MT and ESL HD students.	Have some reliable a/h staff on hand who can do copy-typing, transcriptions, and know research layouts and formats.	Students and staff can learn from good copy typists who are experienced in research copy typing.	Allows staff and students to concentrate on quality of research: fast-tracks theses and publications.	Funding, student bursaries and awards are well spent on this. Increased output sustains this indirectly.
12.	VISITING PROFESSORS: These are recruited to co-write and publish their own works under the DUT aegis.	Professors with an excellent publication record relevant to specific Departmental programmes are required.	Models research writing (spin off: better theses and dissertations).	Increased publication output (indirectly: theses and dissertations).	Ad hoc funding self-sustaining.

FUNDING STRATEGY

The drawing up of the above strategic framework in advance for each year means that projected funding can - and should - be requested in advance from various sources. The optimum is of course to group projects so that experienced project leaders can apply for NRF and other funding. However, in-house sources of funding can be also be solicited in advance. For example, if it is estimated that seven novice researchers will need local conference funding per annum, the PGDS can be approached in advance to see whether it can fulfil this request and to expedite application (i.e. so that each application is seen in the context of a FAD grouping for which funding has already been motivated).

D. Pratt

Research Co-ordinator

Departmental Research Publications and Conference Attendance 2008

The staff on the faculty attended a number of seminars, workshops and conferences.

The School of Education

Postgraduate enrolments include nine DTech students, four MTech registrations, two Doctorates and three Masters registration.

Department of Fashion and Textiles

The Department of Fashion and Textiles had two MTech registrations and were involved in a number of research activities.

Department of Fine Art and Jewellery Design

A total of 15 staff members are registered for their MTech degrees.

PUBLICATIONS

ARTICLES IN PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS

Jan Jordaan:

Jordaan J "Designing and Implementing Art Based Human Rights Advocacy Campaigns", Sustainability, a new frontier for the arts and cultures. A publication of the ESA Arts Conference 2007 in Lüneburg, Eds Sacha Kagan and Volker Kirchberg, Chapter 4 : voices from the field p. 290 2008 VAS-Verlag Akademische Schriften Alle Rechte vorbehalten. Printed in Germany ·ISBN 978-3-88864-440-5

BOOKS

Jan Jordaan:

Jordaan, J. "Designing and Implementing Art Based Human Rights Advocacy Campaigns", Sustainability, a new frontier for the arts and cultures A publication of the ESA Arts Conference 2007 in Lüneburg, Eds Sacha Kagan and Volker Kirchberg, Chapter 4 : voices from the field p. 290 2008 VAS – Verlag für Akademische Schriften Alle Rechte vorbehalten. Printed in Germany ·ISBN 978-3-88864-440-5

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

Jan Jordaan:

- Art and Upheaval: Artists on the Worlds Frontline, William Cleveland, February 2008
- Contributor, Cited; Chapter 8 Artists for Human Rights p181- 126
- Contributor, interviewed and reviewed; Chapter 10 Art for Humanity p152 – 16
- ISBN 978-0-9766054-6-1 Pub. New Village Press 2008
- Jordaan J. p 51- 57 The Nominees (Mercedes-Benz Award for South African Art Projects in Public Spaces 2008) Editor Renate Wiehager, pub. Seipel Verlag, Cologne, ISBN 973-3-940440-03-7

AWARDS

A number of staff in the department were nominated and won numerous national and international awards.

Department of Media, Language and Communication PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Glenn Flanagan

Glenn Flanagan has been trying to publish her book, Vignettes on the Prince Imperial for three years, but as yet has been unable to obtain the sponsorship to do so. She is submitting a quote to Professor Annelie Jordaan.

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

Dee Pratt

Pratt, D.D. (in press) Mixed-mode Communication courses at a multicultural technikon: a pilot study combining web-based learning and an Internet search project with face-to-face classroom instruction. In M. Price & S.P. Schaffer (eds.) Interactive Convergence: Interdisciplinary Research in Multimedia. New York: Rodopi Press.

Salawu A S

Salawu, A. S. (2008). Development Communication: The Preliminaries. In E. M. Mojaye et al. (eds.) Globalisation and Development Communication in Africa. Ibadan: Ibadan University Press. Pp. 13 – 22.

Salawu, A. and S. Isola. (2008). The Press as tools and casualties of political conflicts in Nigeria. Accepted for M'Bayo, R. T.; C. Onwumechili; and B. A. Musa (eds.) Communications in an era of global conflicts: Theories, systems, strategies and the African context. USA: University Press of America.

ARTICLES IN PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS

Pratt, D.D. (in press) Composition theory in practice at a UoT: piloting a mixed mode writing clinic at the Durban University of Technology. Paper accepted in 2008 for publication in the International Journal of Learning.

Singh, P. 2008. The Unexpected Rewards of Qualitative Research in Assessment: A Case, Example. Qualitative Research (In Press)

Salawu, A. S. (2008). The Growth and Development of African Media Studies: Perspectives from Nigeria'. Journal of African Media Studies, Vol. 1, No. 1. (UK).

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLISHED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Peppas Mikhail

3rd International Conference on e-Learning, Cape Town.

The BTech Research Module for Journalism.

Pratt Dee

- Pratt, D.D. (2009) Composition theory in practice: piloting a mixed-mode writing clinic at the Durban University of Technology. Paper accepted in 2008 for the 16th International Conference on Learning. University of Barcelona, Spain, 1-4 July 2009.
- Pratt, D.D. (2008) The use of ICT for research development in the Humanities at a multicultural University of Technology. Proceedings of NADEOSA 2008 Conference. University of Pretoria, Groenkloof Campus, 18-19 August 2008.
- Pratt, D.D. & Peppas, M. (2008) The BTech Research Module for Journalism: theoretical aspects of course design in developing research capacity through blended learning. Proceedings of the 3rd International Conference on e-Learning (ICEL 2008). University of Cape Town, 26-27 June 2008.

WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND SYMPOSIA

A number of staff members in the department attended workshops, conferences and seminars during the year. They were also involved in a number of research activities and workshops.

Visiting Researchers/Academics

July 14 to 18 – hosted visit by Jaya Prakash from the Nash School of Journalism (NSJ) in Singapore. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DUT and NSJ has been signed.

Eight people were registered for their D Tech qualifications of which four were staff members and four were students. The following students were mentored by Dr Pratt in 2008 in preparation for registration in 2009:

Bridget Campbell Proposed area of study: academic writing/writing centres

Sumitha Soni Proposed topic: An autoethnographic account of the "Maye babo" series (a graded series of school textbooks written by Mrs Soni and designed to assist learners studying isiZulu at South African Schools at first additional or second additional language level)

There were three M Tech registrations and two doctoral registrations. Four students were registered for their Masters qualification.

Department of Television, Drama and Production Studies**Creative Works and performances****Rabindra Singh**

Directed: *THE OWL AND THE PUSSYCAT WENT TO SEE...*'85...'85. By Sheila Ruskin and David Wood. Venue: Courtyard Theatre

MASTERS REGISTRATION**Susan Donaldson-Selby**

Registered for Master of Drama and Performance Studies – UKZN

DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN**GRAPHIC DESIGN**

There were nine registrations for the MTech qualification in the department.

PUBLICATIONS**Kate Wells****Chapter in Book**

Wells, K. (2008). Dolls with Jobs: A compelling response by traditional craftswomen in an era of HIV/AIDS. In D. Budryte, N. Reigg & L. Vaughn (Eds), *Feminist Conversations: Women, Trauma and Empowerment in Post-Transitional Societies* (pp.). New York: American Press of America.

Piers Carey

Carey, P. 2008. Symboles et systemes graphiques africains. *Étapes*, (French edition). Issue no: pp

Carey, P. 2008. African graphic symbols and systems. *Étapes*, (English edition)

PHOTOGRAPHY**MTECH STAFF REGISTRATION****Moses Khubisa: Lecturer**

A documentary investigation of the *Imvunge* group of street photographers in Durban with specific reference to the development of photographic and business skills (1999-2009). Supervisor/s: Tony Starkey, Abdul-Haq Bhorat

All photography staff and students were involved with the photography of both the June and September Graduation ceremonies as part of the WIL component of the course.

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY AND INTERIOR DESIGN**INTERIOR DESIGN****MTECH STAFF REGISTRATION****Cally du Toit: (Graduated April 2008 MEd (Higher) UKZN)**

"Service learning in academic programmes: Students' experiences and perceptions"

Research Output 2008

RESEARCH OUTPUT - 2008	No. of Academic Staff			Staff Registered for HQ			Research Funding		Publications			Conference Presentations		Post Grad Award		Post Grad Reg		Post Docs	Visiting Academics	
	M	D	O	M	D	O	DUT/Seed	External	Acc	Sub	Other	Nat'l	Int	M	D	M	D	M		
FACULTY OF: ARTS AND DESIGN																				
Architectural Technology & Interior Design	2	0	13	0	0	0	3500.00	.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	
Education	3	2	9	4	1	1	78500.00	.00	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	8	0	0	
Media, Language & Communication	10	7	5	1	4	0	170800.00 93758.42	.00	9	1	0	3	5	0	1	3	7	0	2	
Fashion & Textiles	7	0	6	0	0	0	.00	.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	
Fine Art & Jewellery Design	6	0	7	3	1	0	22932.66	195542.00	7	0	0	0	2	1	0	14	0	0	0	
Visual Communication Design	4	1	14	1	0	1	.00	221732.00	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	
Television, Drama & Production	4	0	8	0	0	0	.00	.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
TOTAL FOR FACULTY FOR 2008	36	11	62	9	6	2	369491.08	417274.00	19	1	0	3	8	1	2	24	17	0	12	
Overall total	108			17			R786,765.08													

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND/OR ENGAGEMENT

Community and industry involvement

The Faculty of Arts and Design prides itself on its extensive external engagement initiatives, characterised by an integration of community outreach, authentic learning and applied research.

Dr. Kate Wells and Prof Ian Sutherland oversaw the successful conclusion of their EAP research project in collaboration with Makerere University, Uganda, and the University of Northumbria, UK. The Art for Human Rights unit under the leadership of Jan Jordaan (Fine Art) continued to expand its impressive array of national and international academic, NGO and donor partnerships in the pursuit of the promotion of human rights through the visual arts. Planning started for an international conference on Art and Social Justice in Durban in 2010. Adv. Robin Sewlal hosted a visit by Jaya Prakash from the Nash School of Journalism (NSJ) in Singapore that led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between DUT and NSJ.

Dr Kenneth Neshiombo and Prof Graham Stewart visited the National University of Lesotho (NUL) at the Roma Campus with a view to discussing areas of co-operation and partnerships. The signing of an MoU and a collaboration with the Faculty of Humanities around the four-year degree structure offered at NUL, is envisaged for 2009.

Mr Luyanda Mphlwa addressed a successful Architectural Technology student exhibition that attracted widespread favourable publicity for the Department.

Interior Design student Matthew de Beyer won the much coveted award for best entry for the PG Bison competition. Matthew and his lecturer, Ms Cally du Toit won an all expenses paid trip to the 2009 Milan Furniture Fair. The award was covered in all major design magazines as well as in the local news papers and radio. Jewellery Design students and students from the Velobela group scooped the top awards in the 2008 national Sasol Wax competition.

Third-year Fashion Design students participated in the "Vodacom Durban July" competition, and 16 of the 20 finalists were from DUT. Lauren Ninow and Jennifer Hodge were selected as the two finalists to represent KZN on "July" day.

The annual Fashion Show highlighted once again the diversity of student talent and was judged by well known fashionistas, Lucilla Booyzen from SA Fashion Week and Karen Termorshuizen from Lunar Fashions (JHB). Both commented on the high standard of the student's work.

Ten third-year students in the Programme: Translation and Interpreting Practice provided interpreting services under the supervision of Ms Lolie Makhubu at the ICC for the International Youth Crime and Cities Summit.

In the N Dip: Drama Studies, students were once again very active in performances staged for the public, as well as participating in various festivals. A troupe of students were invited to participate in the annual 'Dance Umbrella' in Johannesburg, and also produced and directed a play produced at the National Festival of the Arts in Grahamstown during July. In addition the following shows were directed by staff of the department, and performed by students in the department:

The Owl & The Pussycat went to See – Sheila Ruskin & David Wood. Directed by Robin Singh

The Crucible – Arthur Miller. Directed by Allen Auld

The Dining Room – A.R. Gurney. Directed by Tanya van der Walt

Taxi Jam – Themí Venturas. Directed by Themí Venturas

The Mahabharata – Peter Brook. Directed by Verne Rowin Munsamy

Light of Hope – Choreography by Mdu Mtshali, Musa Hlatswayo, Nellie Rushualong & Sanele Mzinyane

The Department of Visual Communication Design's Siyazama Project continued its work with rural beadworkers, and the department hosted a design project on behalf of Amnesty International on the issue of school safety for girls. The Department's industry engagement involved students in the department working on projects in collaboration with Orange Juice Design, Disturbance Design, Nampak Packaging, the Sunday Tribune, Mr Price/House and Leisure magazine and others as part of their industry-simulation model WIL programme.

The Art Gallery situated on the Steve Biko Campus continued its active programme of exhibitions. An extensive valuation exercise of the DUT Collection was conducted, along with the development of an assets database incorporating digital images of the works.

Dr Kenneth Netshiombo

Executive Dean

