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DUT celebrates 100 years of City Campus in 2010

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) is proud to announce that it will be celebrating a 100 years of history together with the architectural significance of our City Campus to Durban's built environment. The building, which is currently used to house DUT's Faculty of Arts and Design, was initially built for students and staff of the Durban Technical Institute. The building's foundation stone was laid by the Duke of Connaught on 03 December 1910.

Over the last century, the City Campus has been recognised as one of Durban's oldest heritage sites displaying as it does, the original architectural design. The building is also listed as a historical monument by eThekweni Municipality and has attracted local and international tourists, struggle heroes and ex-South African citizens.

In celebrating the centenary DUT has embarked on a building restoration project. The first phase of the project will involve the replacement of the entire roof with all ancillary components of the ceilings, electrical and air conditioning installations. During the refurbishment of City Campus, the original architectural significance will be maintained. The project forms part of DUT's progressive academic and social development goals which are committed to the creation of a learning environment through the provision of safe, modern and technologically advanced facilities for its academic community.

In a recent address to Faculty of Arts and Design, Vice-Chancellor Prof Roy du Pré said the massive revamp and renovation project is reflective of DUT's commitment to academic excellence, scholarship and the promotion of a conducive learning and teaching environment.

He said the decision to close the campus during the removal and reconstruction phase was motivated by safety concerns and aims to minimise disruptions to the academic programme. The building restoration project will run from May until August 2010. However, the academic curriculum for 2010 has been designed to accommodate the four month semester break which will also coincide with the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Prof du Pré said the temporary closure of the faculty is necessary for the urgent replacement of the roof. "The City Campus building is valued at around R100 million and is a heritage monument that we want to preserve and showcase to locals and the international community. The renovation will also allow for the replacement of support structures that have never been replaced since the building was first built."

He assured staff that this will not affect the academic programme of neighbouring DUT campuses. "The university's academic activity will not be affected by the project as we have engaged in extensive consultation with lecturers who have restructured their syllabuses to ensure all students complete their 2010 academic programme."

The academic calendar for all programmes offered at City Campus will include two semesters, the first semester will commence in January, a month earlier than the University wide programme, ending in April and the second will begin in September ending in December. To ensure minimum disruption to the academic programme for 2010 only contact academic work will be done during the beginning of the year. Students will be given projects to do and communication will be maintained between staff and students via e-mail. Should a need arise for lecturers to meet with their students; support venues at other campuses will be made available.

Academic support will be made available at Steve Biko Campus to ensure off campus management is

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maintained by the Faculty of Art and Design. Administration and recruitment procedures will also not be disrupted as the office of the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Design and the Faculty office will be temporarily relocated to Steve Biko Campus.



Picture: City Campus building, which is a heritage site

DUT's rapid response team returns from quake hit Haiti

- Karishma Ganpath

The Durban University of Technology's (DUT) interim Rapid Response Emergency Medical Care and Rescue (EMCR) team have been hailed as local heroes upon their return from quake hit Haiti, last month.

The six member special operations team was led by Sageshin Naguran and Raveen Naidoo and concentrated on humanitarian efforts at Haiti's capital, Port Au Prince. Naguran, who headed the medical support, said the team was glad to be home and were grateful for the Gift of The Givers sponsorship which funded the NGO's second humanitarian team.

Gift of the Givers founder, Imtiaz Sooliman said: "The cost of the relief mission with three teams, medical supplies, food and equipment came to R3 million. Funds were raised from the private and corporate sector. Additionally, the organisation's financial reserves were also used to fund the mission. We also sent to Haiti, 400 tons of cargo – consisting of tents, water, food, medical supplies and non consumable goods worth R8 million to help sustain survivors of the quake".

Raveen Naidoo said the team's primary mission was to locate victims buried under rubble and concrete using specialised equipment. The team arrived nine days after the quake and at that time the estimated death toll was 170 000 people. "We embarked on a search and rescue operation and located four bodies through a collaborative effort with a Mexican rescue team. The state of destruction to some of the buildings made it very difficult and unsafe for the rescue team to attempt extrication. The stench of decomposing bodies hung heavily in the air and survivors were in desperate need of food, water and medical attention."

He said search and rescue missions were called off by the United Nations on day 10 after the earthquake. The EMCR team then split up, allowing team members, Charlie McClung, Shannon Du Randt, Yugan Naidoo and Yugan Pillay to provide further medical assistance at field hospitals in Port Au Prince and on the outskirts of the capital city. The team attended to close on 400 patients over three days. The majority of the patients were amputees with many of them receiving treatment without optimal anaesthesia, analgesia and follow up treatment.

Naidoo said: "As a result of the lack of medical supplies and inadequate medical care, many survivors faced secondary insult to the initial trauma sustained during the earthquake. We assisted with cleaning and debriding of wounds, re-stitching and applying new dressings. Fortunately, many patients responded well despite the delay in treatment. However, those who suffered from severe sepsis and gangrene had to undergo further amputations."

Naguran said the team's medical skills and knowledge in wound management and holistic care were largely put to use. The mission exposed the team to some of the worst possible scenarios in disaster

management. One of the greatest challenges humanitarian teams faced during the mission was that medical needs exceeded the supply of surgical supplies and medical equipment.

"I am proud of the team; they worked tirelessly to assist in all aspects of the relief mission. Conditions were difficult. We ate out of cans, slept in sleeping bags with no shelter and the lack of proper ablution facilities was a challenge. The extent of the need for our services in these circumstances was a real eye opener. Our efforts have been recognised in global search and rescue and if the need arose both nationally and internationally, we would offer assistance without hesitation", he said



EMCR HOD, Sageshin Naguran and team member, Yugan Naidoo together with the Mexican Team's sniffer dog which was used to help locate survivors trapped under rubble in Haiti



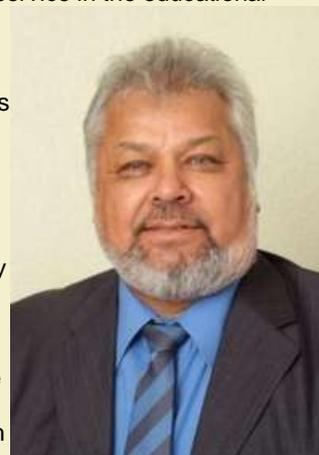
Part of Haiti rescue team was Shanon du Randt.

UEL awards visiting Chair to DUT Vice Chancellor

The University of East London (UEL) in the United Kingdom, has awarded Professor Roy du Pré, Vice Chancellor at Durban University of Technology (DUT), with an honorary Visiting Professorship. Professor du Pré is a leading figure in African Higher Education with over 25 years of service in the educational sector.

In the last 17 years he has served in the higher education sector as an academic, academic manager and a policy maker. In recent years, close ties have been established through collaborative agreements with UEL's Continuum team and Professor John Storan. This strategic partnership has resulted in a growing list of mutual benefits and outcomes for both UEL and DUT. This includes staff study visits and exchanges, joint conference presentations and publications, specific policy and practice exchanges, joint research activity and national and international Higher Education (HE) policy links.

The DUT / UEL partnership has also resulted in significant funding success and two British Council research awards. The quality and significance of the project was recognised by the British Council at an international conference that celebrated and encouraged England/Africa HE partnerships. The British Council has also recognised Professor du Pré's outstanding contribution through his leadership in national and international HE.



Commenting on the award, Professor Storan said the team have built an excellent relationship with Professor du Pré and his Durban team. "His work is an inspiration for further HE developments in Africa. Personally and professionally, I have learned so much through the collaboration. It has had a profound effect on the work we do here at Continuum. Knowledge and practice exchange continues to develop and has to date included HE access, student success, partnership working, employability, entrepreneurship and building a research capacity in these and related areas. This has been an important aspect of our collaboration".

Picture: Professor Roy du Pré, DUT Vice Chancellor of DUT

Body donors honoured at annual dedication ceremony

- Daisy Mthethwa & Dumile Mbatha

"Before you use the body, you must learn to respect the life it once contained", these were the words of Greg Bass, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Durban University of Technology's (DUT) Annual Dedication Ceremony.

The prayer service to honour the lives of individuals who donated their bodies for medical research and training purposes was held on Wednesday 10 February, at the anatomy lecture theatre, Department of Basic Medical Sciences on Ritson Campus.

In an interview Senior Lab Technician and Anatomy Laboratory Curator, Ganas Mathura, explained the processes involved in human tissue donation and in preparing and preserving a cadaver for research purposes.

Mathura said the Department of Basic Medical Science was opened in 1989 and since then 300 bodies were received. On average over a year the department receives between 10 to 15 bodies from hospitals and old age homes which are prepared for undergraduate and postgraduate research and training. He said on receipt the body is cleansed and embalmed to prevent decomposition.

The body is then kept in the mortuary for six months to a year, allowing for the excess body fluid to drain out. The cadavers are stored at 18° C and are ready for dissection a year later. They are then wrapped in white calico and plastic to prevent dehydration.

A cadaver may be kept for up to 20 years; as long as it is kept moist to prevent dehydration. Cadavers are also plastinated; this refers to the coating of dissected specimen in a plastic substance which enables preservation.

Mathura said: "Donating one's body to further the development of science and health research is wonderful. Instead of the body being lost to cremation or burial it can be used by students and researchers. Prior to cremation an Inspector of Anatomy from the Department of Health oversees and ensures that the entire procedure has been carried out in keeping with the Section 2 (1) of the Human Tissues Act No 65 of 1989 and that all records are meticulously kept".



Picture: Ganas Mathura, Senior Lab Technician and Anatomy Laboratory Curator, at DUT's Department of Basic Medical Science together with models of the male and female body which are used in practicals. The department also uses the skeletal system and plastinated specimens of the human body.

- Picture by Dumile Mbatha

International students warmly received at DUT

- Daisy Mthethwa & Dumile Mbatha

Durban University of Technology recently welcomed this year's international students with a sociable orientation held at the Art Gallery, Steve Biko campus. The event was organised by the Directorate of International Education and Partnerships.

The event, which was attended by representatives from various departments, gave students a chance to mingle with each other and gather information they might need during their period of study.

DUT's Head of Investigation of Crime (Security & Safety), John Pillay, told students about the success they've had in catching the perpetrators and advised the students to immediately contact the Security and Safety control rooms situated in all DUT campuses, should they become the victims of crime. He also assured the students of a safer environment that is conducive to teaching and learning. "In a couple of months we have successfully prosecuted a number of people. Our mission is to make DUT a home away from home", he said.

Students also shared their expectations about the institution and views on South Africa. Miguel Dias, a first year Mechanical Engineering student from Angola said although he knew there were good and bad things happening in South Africa, he was not afraid and expected to get the best education at DUT as he sees it

as the best institution. "I hope to finish my course successfully without any outstanding subjects," said Dias.

Vusumuzi Moyo, studying Retail Business Management, hails from Zimbabwe. He said he finds South Africa very friendly and warm. "It's not my first time being here in South Africa, I even have a home in Verulam," said Moyo. He said he's looking forward to getting his permanent citizenship.

Andreas Mohr from Germany, who is a third year Business Administration student, said he can't wait for the World Cup and he is not intimidated by the crime statistics. "I've been here for two months now and since my arrival I've visited a lot of interesting places like the Umfolozi Game Reserve," said Mohr.



Ingwe Health Plan representative, Antonette Nell told students about the importance of having Medical Aid Cover while studying in a foreign country. She said it is now compulsory for all international students to have joined a medical aid scheme before being accepted into the institution. Representing the Department of Home Affairs was Nonhlanhla Maphumulo who told students about the importance of study permits. The event ended with a brilliant performance from the Drama Society.

Picture from left: First year International students, Vusumuzi Moyo (Zimbabwe), Andreas Mohr (Germany) and International Students Organisation President, Sibusiso Nyawo (Swaziland) at the International Students Orientation.

Science and Technology goes hand in hand

- Daisy Mthethwa

A renowned scientist, Professor Jim McKenzie, recently delivered a lecture on Solar System Atmospheres at Durban University of Technology, Steve Biko campus. The lecture was jointly hosted by the Research Management and Development Division & the Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Physics.

Professor McKenzie is affiliated to the Astrophysics and Cosmology Research Unit, School of Mathematical Sciences, University of KwaZulu Natal and Department of Physics, CSPAR, University of Alabama, USA. He is also a Senior Member of Kings College, Cambridge University in the UK. In addition, Prof McKenzie is a specialist in Space Plasma Physics and Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences.

Presenting a lecture in an entertaining way, Professor McKenzie explained the properties of the planets and their atmospheres and oceans. He suggested the interesting idea that there are seven days in a week because the ancient Greeks observed five planets (wandering stars – namely Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn) as well as the Sun and the Moon. He said that Uranus was discovered in 1781 by Herschel and Neptune in 1846 by D'Arrest (predicted by the mathematicians, Adams and Verrier). According to Professor McKenzie, Pluto, discovered in 1930, is the only planet not to have been visited by a spacecraft. It since has been demoted from its planet status as being too small and cold.

Professor McKenzie commented that fluids and gases are characterized by their average properties of velocity, density, pressure and temperature, all which are functions of space and time described by the fluid equations. "Waves communicate information over large distances without matter being transported", he added.

He concluded by saying: "It is important for everyone, not only mathematicians and physicists to know about solar system atmospheres because they are part of our universe and represent an interaction between Science and Technology through telescopes and the building and launching of spacecrafts".



Pictured from left: Guest Speaker, Professor Jim McKenzie with Professor Sibusiso Moyo, who is Acting Director of Research Management and Development and Professor Kevin Duffy, Director of the Institute of Systems Science, who

introduced Professor McKenzie.

- Pictures by Dumile Mbatha.

Paying tribute to Mandla Thabethe – Drama graduate

I met Mandla Thabethe at the end of 1989 when he successfully auditioned for the then Drama and Theatre Crafts Department at Technikon Natal (now Durban University of Technology).

Mandla's impish grin and twinkling eyes were a constant reminder that here was someone mischievous and full of surprises. His face was a combination of disarming charm, quizzical curiosity, and unabashed comic warmth with just a touch of sass thrown in for good measure. A lethal combination which later made him a favourite with his many female viewers! As a student Mandla quickly perfected Scarpin type characters. His quick witted commentary and intuitive sense of comedic timing on stage cast a lasting spell, allowing him to initiate a small following in Durban. This was to grow with each new endeavor. Additionally, Mandla used his strong stage presence to excel in mime adding depth to his original physical choices and quick smile. This is evident in the sign language used in later work on the learning channel on TV. In his third year of study Mandla directed his own play, a one act comedy entitled The Bosses. This two-hander ran for a week to full houses. Mandla had a knack of communicating with his audiences because he understood what was sought and because he knew he needed to surprise. This sense of honesty and humanity, or 'ubuntu' characterizes his later work as Bongo on SABC 1's "Family Bonds" (Ezomndeni in isiZulu). This deep comprehension of identity was always treated with a sense of cultural irony by Mandla who continued to uncover the shifts in social veneer that he discovered throughout his life. It was as if each new artistic revelation conjured more flabbergasting elements Mandla needed to share.

For me as a teacher, Mandla was always a frontiers man: interesting and unexpected. On my way from the US imagine my astonishment at switching on the BBC channel in Britain to see Mandla in a small part on the TV series "Cecil John Rhodes". Mandla would take the wind out of your sails by popping in impromptu style to see a show at the Courtyard Theatre or rock up at a rehearsal and chat about the industry to students. This is, in fact, how Xolile Zondi was mentored by Mandla. Mandla continued to surprise by noting the lack of opportunities around him in Durban and his response was to initiate a TV Sitcom with Durban talent by a Company on a Durban location. A feat few have managed to achieve. Not only did 39 year old graduate Mandla Thabethe engage the industry wearing many caps, producing, writing and acting in "Family Bonds", a show garnering 5 SAFTA 2010 nominations including a nomination for Bongo for Best Comedy Actor, his boundless energy extended to other fields and hobbies. True to the form of an excellent performer, Mandla Thabethe left us wanting more. On one hand it was the rush and exhilaration of a new Harley Davidson adventure that led to his tragic accident in the early hours of Sunday morning 31 January 2010, on the other it was this impulsiveness, this sudden exuberance that was also the driver of his artistic charisma.

Mandla was a frontrunner because he took the bull by the horns and twisted in a new direction. He will be remembered as a pioneer in his industry, as producer of the first essentially Durban based Sitcom, as mentor to young Durban television 'wannabees', as writer/creator of a popular sitcom in isiZulu and as an artist whose heart belonged to the green hills of KwaZulu Natal. Mandla Thabethe was finally laid to rest in the Pinetown cemetery. He will be sorely missed by his remaining Lecturer, his alma mater and his Technikon Natal class of '92.

- Debbie Lutge.

Be eco-friendly and educate with the waste paper recycling project

Are you tired of unnecessary paper lying around your office? Well you can finally turn your clutter into something worthwhile. The Faculty of Health Sciences has embarked on a Waste Paper Recycling project to raise funds that will go towards academic bursaries. The project collects all types of paper and cardboard. If you have a once off load, drop an e-mail to gregb@dut.ac.za and it will be collected at no cost. However, serial paper collectors will be supplied with a recycling bin which will be emptied on a routine basis. Large amounts of unwanted paper can also be delivered to the Faculty of Health Sciences, Faculty Office.

So let us not waste, where we can save. Recycling has never been so easy. Recycle, educate and empower!



Scene and around

Maritime first year orientation



Abe Botha, Fire Fighting Instructor at Unicorn Shipping and Mthobisi Khwela (student) demonstrates how to use a Self Contained Breathing Apparatus.



Maritime Studies first year students attending orientation.

- Picture by Daisy Mthethwa

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

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

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