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DUT jeweller makes jewellery from cow horn

Bhekani Dlamini

Bonginkosi Tshabalala is applying his expertise to design and make beautiful pieces of jewellery from cow horn. His precious jewellery ranges from earrings, neckpieces and finger rings. He has been developing and fine-tuning his jewellery work for the past nine years.

Tshabalala is a qualified jeweller and he is a junior lecturer in jewellery design and manufacture at the Durban University of Technology (DUT). He has a National Diploma and BTech degree in this field. He is currently doing a Masters degree in Fine Art. The cow horn jewellery is also part of his Masters degree study. He was born and bred in Jabulani, Soweto in Johannesburg, and is now based in Durban.

"My jewellery is unique in that it has a contemporary South African edge if compared with commercial jewellery which all looks the same. I combined my gold smithing technique to make this jewellery," comments Tshabalala. He makes his jewellery using cow horn, silver or gold.

A soft spoken and passionate Tshabalala says his interest in working with cow horn began in 2000 when he was doing his second year Artist project. He was tasked to find a local artist, learn more about the work they were doing. If he loved it, he had to apply it in creating a piece of jewellery. He visited a local man who was a traditional healer. He found that the traditional healer was using cow horn to make containers for his medicine.

Impressed, he applied this when making his jewellery and it worked perfectly for him. He then started collecting cow horn material. 'It's just the beginning' for him because he is still working to improve his jewellery and introduce new features that make the pieces more beautiful.

His concern is that it is very difficult to source cow horn because of African beliefs. He says that most South African tribes slaughter cows for rituals and celebrations which are attached to their ancestors. He adds that once the beast has been slaughtered, its horns are placed on the roof above the door and this acts as a signal to the ancestors that the sacrifice has taken place. He says people uphold the belief that the horn must stay on the roof until it's been cleaned by insects and elements. He says superstitions such as witchcraft also makes it difficult to source horn from Zulu people because some believe that one can harm the family by using elements that are connected to their ancestors.

He also found that the abattoirs cut the cows' horns short because the long sharp ones could cause injury amongst the cattle which will then lead to a loss of revenue. He cannot use the cut ones.

All the horns that he has been using for the past three years come from Manguzi, north of KZN, near the Mozambique border. Here, one could find road side butcheries slaughtering cows and selling meat to passers by until the government closed them down last year because of stock theft.



His jewellery is on exhibition at the Artisan Gallery in Florida Road. He has had a number of joint exhibitions with his colleagues.

In 2008 and 2009 he had his work exhibited at the annual Design Indaba in Cape Town.

The price for his jewellery ranges from R400 to R2500 depending on labour, time and the amount of silver or gold used. He has observed that tourists from European countries love his jewellery. He says local people appreciate it but prefer gold and diamonds.



DUT academic develops nutrition education workbooks for school kids

Bhekani Dlamini

Food and Nutrition expert Dr Carin Napier, has participated in a SANPAD-funded research project developed by the Institute of Sustainable Livelihoods. SANPAD is a South Africa-Netherlands Research Collaboration. Dr Napier lectures in the Department of Food and Nutrition Consumer Science at Durban University of Technology (DUT).

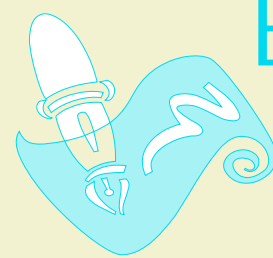


The project involved the development of nutrition education material for pre-school and primary school children, namely an activity book that the teachers can use to guide the children through a number of learning outcomes and activities, as well as supplementary tools such as a food group puzzle, card games and board games to teach the children the basic concepts of nutrition in a fun and creative way. The material developed is in the process of being patented and will be available to institutions that may need nutrition education material as part of their education programme. The Institute of Sustainable Livelihoods at the Vaal University of Technology is headed by Prof WH Oldewage-Theron, who is also a consulting Professor and Supervisor to Postgraduate students at DUT.

Dr Napier was commissioned by Prof Oldewage-Theron three years ago to develop the workbooks, a set of little books and games for nutrition education material to be used in teaching pre-primary and primary school learners which nutritious food to eat. The teacher is expected to work through the workbook with the children while the games serve as supplementary material. "We often do not teach our children how important it is to eat from each food group to live a healthy life. When giving our children tuckshop money we must encourage them to at least buy an apple, instead of a packet of chips," says Dr Napier. She emphasised that it is important to educate children about correct nutrition at an early age. She has applied her academic creative mind to create educational messages that she wants to put across. She is confident that her ideas will achieve its intended goals as the messages and drawings have been tested for accuracy and understanding by children. The material has also been shown to improve the nutritional knowledge of children.

As part of a contribution to community involvement, Dr Napier has developed placemats for a children's home in Durban. Children will read the placemat while eating their meals and hopefully learn good nutritional habits while doing so. The placemats are in the process of being tested for effectiveness and to see if any learning takes place. In line with the Department's niche area of community nutrition, "we determine the nutritional status and eating patterns of a community. Then identify the needs and develop a solution as part of an intervention," says Dr Napier.

She says she believes in empowering people with knowledge, adding that this allows them to make informed choices when choosing meals although this does not mean that they will make a healthy choice.



Editor's Column

Durban University of Technology will soon be calling back all its graduates to their alma mater for the Homecoming celebration in July. This annual event on the university calendar seeks to maintain links with our alumni, who form the largest constituency at the university.

The Latin for "nourishing mother" is "Alma mater" which has become part of everyday lingo when referring to the university or school one studied at. A "nourishing mother" is exactly what DUT is to its current students. Starting as young, green freshers, they are groomed for the working world with initiatives such as Work Integrated Learning, which gives them a taste of the real world.

The university has a large contingent of differently abled students. Read more about them and their experiences on pages 2 and 10. While they are an upbeat and positive group of young students, we need to nourish them, and make sure that they do not face unnecessary hardships. Nomonde Mbadi, my Executive Director, aka "big cheese" and now, I guess, "nourishing mother" has decided to make sure that the little things that bog these students down should and must be resolved in a sympathetic manner.

Ciao,

Raylene Captain-Hasthibeer

Communications Manager

Follow your Dream

Being deaf is not an inability for Adhil Ramnath and Zamile Dlamini who realized their dreams of qualifying with a National Diploma in Information Technology from the Durban University of Technology at the university's Graduation ceremony earlier this year.

Born in Durban, Adhil attended the V.N. Naik School for the Deaf from preschool up to matric. When he was a baby he contracted German measles, which lead to his becoming deaf. Zamile on the other hand, was born in Escourt and became deaf at the age of eight months after an illness. She attended the Kwa Thinhwa School for the Deaf from preschool up to Grade 8 and then completed the rest of her schooling at the Fulton School for the Deaf.

At the moment, both Adhil and Zamile are unemployed and looking for any

position in the IT field. They are interested in pursuing careers in either programming or database administration. Adhil and Zamile wish to study further and at a later stage open their own businesses in the IT field. Both Adhil and Zamile express their appreciation for the support they received at DUT. They are also grateful to DUT for providing them with access to facilities to enable them to attain an education. They thank interpreters and the lecturers in the department for motivating, encouraging and helping them to succeed in their endeavours.

Zamile advises young Deaf students to persevere with their studies at school and strive to do well so that they can access college and universities to improve their qualifications. Adhil's advice is: "Follow your dream. Pursue studies in higher education because this will help improve your quality of life."

Wayside Orphanage

The Programmes of Environmental Health and Chiropractic in the Health Sciences Faculty at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) and the Wellness Champions (Integrated Processing - part of Standard Bank - Greyville branch) under the leadership of Mrs Shirley Morris, have come to the party as primary sponsors and student mentors and are united in their efforts to assist the Wayside Orphanage in Shallcross.

The orphanage, run by nuns from the order of Mother Theresa, exists entirely on donations from well-wishers. The elderly, the sick and children, many of who are physically and mentally challenged, have nowhere else to go, and seek refuge at the orphanage. This collaborative project, which commenced in April 2009, and will continue till August 2009, is in keeping with DUT's vision to be actively involved in community engagement.

The project leader, Ms Joy Kistnasamy (Lecturer - Environmental Health) explained the initial phase will see twenty-seven final year Environmental Health students revamping and giving the Wayside Orphanage the fresh look it deserves. Students have visited the orphanage and conducted a situation analysis as part of their epidemiology course project. Ms Kistnasamy is closely assisted by Dr Junaid Shaik (Senior Lecturer - Chiropractic).

Ms Kistnasamy added that students have been advised not only to do this project to obtain marks but to give back to the community. Ms Kistnasamy emphasised that students are expected to make an environmental impact and add value to the lives of the children living in that orphanage. Working in three groups, she says students have compiled situational analysis reports of three identified areas of concern, namely: The kitchen, the recreational area and the playground. Using a structured plan of action, students will now look at renovating and improving the conditions to make this a better place for its inhabitants.

A Health Care and Holistic Approach will also be addressed by fifth year Chiropractic students. This includes looking at the physical, emotional and social well-being of the orphanage's residents. Students have drawn up their action plan and will begin the process of implementation soon.

Historical Tri-lateral Alliance Formed at DUT

Maleni Thakur

Durban University of Technology (DUT) recently met with a high-ranking delegation from the Indian Navy (IN), along with ranking representatives from the South African Navy (SAN) to discuss a tri-lateral alliance between the organisations.



Pictured at the Reception Dinner for the Indian Navy Vice-Admiral: D.K. Dewan, Indian Navy; Professor Roy du Pré, DUT's Vice-Chancellor and Dr Jairam Reddy, Chair of DUT's Council.

Professor Annelie Jordaan, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Technology, Innovations and Partnerships (TIP) said, "This meeting further positions and defines DUT as a University of Technology." She added that it was only through active measures such as these that the mindset of people will change as the institution purposefully moves away from a Technikon to a University of Technology. "We truly want to live our institution's motto which is 'making knowledge useful'.

Captain Colin Johnson, Departmental Head of Maritime Studies guided the delegation on a tour showcasing his department's Navigation Simulator Labs and Computer facilities.

The South African Navy's Captain Neil Watts, together with Commander Basson Goussard and Lieutenant, Commander Angelo Manuel joined DUT in welcoming the Indian Delegation. "I want to emphasise the strong relationship we both have with DUT," Captain Watts told the IN Delegation. He outlined some of the challenges the SAN was experiencing, especially the critical shortage of skills in the engineering discipline. Captain Watts explained the reason for SAN working with DUT is the university's strong emphasis on experiential learning in its qualifications.

The Indian Navy's Vice-Admiral, Mr Dalip Kumar Dewan, stressed that South Africa was an independent nation that knew what it wanted. "India is a large country with the third largest navy in the world and I believe we have a lot to offer South Africa, particularly in skills development. And DUT can play an enabling role," said Vice-Admiral Dewan. He further asserted that a ship costs millions of dollars, and it was incumbent on the nation to equip this resource with the best and most appropriately qualified staff. "Training cannot happen on a ship, it must occur at a place like DUT", he added.

The Vice-Admiral was accompanied by Commodore D M Deshpande and Defence Adviser for the Indian High Commission to SA, Captain S R Gouyinal. The Vice-Admiral philosophically concluded, "A long journey has just begun and the Indian Navy is very happy to help."

Following the meeting, DUT's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Roy du Pré hosted the Indian and South African Navy Delegations at a reception dinner at Ushaka Marine World. The event was conceptualized and facilitated by the university's Co-operative Education Unit.

Robin Sewlal to convene Vodacom Journalist of the Year Competition

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) and Vodacom Journalist of the Year (VJOY) are pleased to announce that Advocate Robin Sewlal has been appointed the Convenor of the Vodacom Journalist of the Year. Advocate Sewlal is a long-serving member of the Panel of Judges and he brings to his new role a wealth of experience on every facet of the competition. Advocate Sewlal is Associate Director: Journalism at DUT.

Phil Molefe has now been named patron of the VJOY and in this capacity Mr Molefe will not be involved in any way in the judging process. Mr Molefe has recently been appointed Acting Head of News for the SABC and he offered to hand over the role of Convenor to Advocate Sewlal to retain the competition's reputation for fairness in its judging process.

DUT Public Relations students assist at the 2009 Tourism Indaba

The 2009 Tourism Indaba was held at the ICC from the 8-12 May 2009. Students from the Department of Marketing, Retail and Public Relations assisted at the Indaba. Alzira White and Lobohang Tekela relay their experiences as PR students at the Indaba.

The experience added value to my learning as it helped me merge theory with practice. Alzira White says "The experience of being part of the event was very informative. From the moment we entered the exhibition hall, we were greeted by a frenzied atmosphere of excitement and the subtle buzz of people moving around engaged in conversation". The event consisted of international buyers of tourism products and hundreds of international media and special guests. "We were involved in all aspects of the event from helping at the registration desk to assisting delegates in finding their way around," says White.

A readiness breakfast where international media and the Premier were the guests of honour, was held on Saturday morning. The aim of this was to inform the media and international delegates of Durban's readiness to host the 2010 Soccer

World Cup. "We were also privileged to be part of a beach party and the official opening of the Cruise Indian Ocean Association, aimed to market the southern coastal cities of Africa," added White.

White also mentioned that "due to the magnitude of this event, it served as essential practical work experience for us. We were faced with many real life challenges of event management. We also learnt that the lessons of the working world are very critical in the field of public relations".

This experience has served as a stepping stone for the students involved as we were able to network with people in the communications, public relations, marketing and journalism industry. Students also learnt that all departments in an organisation are equally important and co-exist in the working environment because they complement each other. "We will truly treasure this experience" said White.



From left to right: Nobantu Nxumalo (PR), Lisa Mbongwa (Journalism), Alzira White (PR) and Naledi Hlefané (Journalism)

Interweaving art and geometry in African basketry

Raylene Captain-Hasthbeer

Durban University of Technology (DUT), in association with the National Research Foundation (NRF), recently hosted a public lecture on 'Interweaving art and geometry in African basketry' presented by Professor Paulus Gerdes. Professor Gerdes is the Director: Centre for Mozambican Studies and Ethnoscience, Pedagogical University, Maputo, Mozambique and is Vice-President of the African Academy of Sciences.

An ethno-mathematician, Professor Gerdes explained the science behind basket-weaving. "Symmetry is omnipresent in basketry". Some designs used by basket weavers throughout Africa (from places as far afield as Swaziland and Uganda) rely on binary codes.

Professor Gerdes has authored 50 books, and started collecting baskets over 33 years ago.



L-R: Thama Duba, Professor Paulus Gerdes and Joan Conolly

Photo by Raylene Captain-Hasthbeer

DUT kick starts a special bursary to assist students

Bhekani Dlamini

Durban University of Technology (DUT) has established a special bursary fund to cater for those students that fall outside the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) but are showing successful progress in their studies. The bursary fund has been created to afford students an opportunity to complete their studies when, due to a variety of unforeseen circumstances, they are unable to finance their studies themselves.



L-R: Melanie Lourens, Mandla Shange, Nomonde Mbadi, Viv Moodley, Nelani Govender, Gops Chetty

The Student Bursary Fund Committee to drive the student bursary fund was formed after an observation was made during student visits that there was a serious issue with student finances. It took the committee a year of brainstorming and deliberating the issue of a special bursary fund to assist students before it was launched in March 2009. The Student Bursary Fund Committee is composed of Gops Chetty, Nomonde Mbadi, Melanie Lourens, Viv Moodley, Mandla Shange and Nelani Govender.

This is not a general bursary but is for academically successful students with special cases which may have arisen because of dire family financial constraints or other difficulties. It is an opportunity to assist a successful student who would otherwise have to leave the university without having completed their qualification due to unforeseen

problems. We are not trying to mirror normal bursary schemes but want to bridge the gap for those students with special problems. We step in to help where NSFAS cannot because the student does not meet the stipulated requirements," says Mr Gops Chetty, Student Bursary Fund Committee member and Executive Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor.

The student bursary fund was well received by business partners at the recently held launch and DUT made contact with those who expressed interest in supporting the fund. Companies responded positively by pledging to contribute to the fund. The Committee is going on an extensive drive to ensure that the fund grows. The Committee will be visiting companies to strengthen its relationship with them.

Once the rules of the fund are finalized, students will be invited to apply for the bursary fund.

Five Minute interview with Nicky Muller

Sithembile Shabangu sat down with PGDS' Nicky Muller, Acting Manager of the Postgraduate Development and Support Directorate recently and chatted with her about recent developments in her department.

In a few lines, please tell us about PGDS. What services are offered to staff and students and how can they access the information?

The Postgraduate Development and Support Directorate is about developing and supporting postgraduate students. This includes staff who are registered for a postgraduate degree. Its goals are to increase postgraduate throughput and to increase the numbers of postgraduate students studying at DUT.

In addition to the awards and incentives (see below), support is given for students on proposal writing, writing their dissertation/thesis, research methodology, etc. Further support is given in statistical analysis, editing and proofreading, isiZulu translation. A university-wide system of postgraduate computer laboratories on each campus are being planned. Workshops are organised on topics such as proposal writing, academic writing skills, literature review process, as well as various software applications programmes.

A Postgraduate Students' Forum has also been established to hear the voice of postgraduate students. This is also a platform for sharing student experiences, to engage in discussion about common problems, etc.

The development side of the Directorate attends to national and international visiting professors, researchers and guest lecturers, in conjunction with the IEP Directorate; it strives to develop relationships with potential facilitators, supervisors and promoters from other universities. National and international study visits and benchmarking exercises are undertaken to position DUT appropriately and to learn from other institutions about their best practices. Support for student publication of research is also available through this office. We also assist in dealing with

queries for study opportunities by trying to link potential students up with appropriate heads of department/supervisors.

All this information is available from the DUT website - click on Postgraduate. Otherwise, phone the Directorate on (031) 373 2829 for further information.

Please tell us more about the awards and incentives that are provided for staff and students.

There is a system of postgraduate awards and incentives for registered students, at the BTech, MTech and DTech levels. The awards and incentives are explained in detail on the website and the application forms can be downloaded from there for completion. A brief synopsis is as follows:

- BTech awards are made for students close to completing their BTech and who need financial assistance to complete their degree. This is not an automatic award, as it is based on need, desire to study further, and sufficient motivation from mentor/Head of Department.
- MTech awards are made on application to full research students; the first date of registration for the degree will affect how much money you are awarded. Fees are deducted from the amount as a fee waiver, after which the balance of the award is made in three parts, 40% in first year, 40% in second year and 20% when close to completion. As part of the award, a student can request a laptop computer, the amount of which is then deducted from the award prior to the three part allocation. Students may also apply for a Graduate Assistantship, which is managed by the supervisor.
- DTech awards are made on application to full research students; the first date of registration for the degree will affect how much money you are awarded. Fees are deducted from the amount, as a fee waiver, after which

the balance of the award is made in three parts, 40% in first year, 40% in second year and 20% when close to completion. Staff who are studying at other universities may also apply for an award, but the allocation amount is different to that awarded to DUT students.

Incentives are made for, amongst other things, conference attendance particularly for developing researchers/students who are not presenting papers but wish to be exposed to the academic debates of their disciplines etc., additional ad hoc funding, on full motivation, and staff may also apply for workload relief from the incentive allocations.

Please tell us more about the support centres and where they are located?

The support centres consist of the statistical support centre, the editing and proofreading centre and the academic centre. They can all be accessed via the PGDS Directorate, but at present are fairly 'virtual' in that people identified to assist are widely distributed. There are two offices in Berwyn Court, on the first floor, where consultations with students can take place. If anyone needs assistance, they can contact the PGDS Directorate, and will be put in touch with an identified individual.

I know that your department recently exhibited at a conference in Johannesburg. Tell us a little more about that.

This was a PhD fair organised by the National Research Foundation (NRF) for newly registered and potential PhD students. Planning for this took place fairly late in the day, but we were able to have a stall where information regarding DUT's postgraduate programmes was made available. I believe that what made a particular impact was a presentation by Raveen Naidoo, of DUT and Acting



Photo by Raylene Captain-Hasthbeer

PGDS Director, on his experiences as a PhD student. Following his excellent presentation everyone wanted to know about DUT!

Are there any opportunities for employment in your department? We need more statisticians for the statistical centre, particularly for quantitative statistical analysis. [Anyone who is interested may apply \(this includes DUT staff\).](#)

Anything to add...

The PGDS is a young directorate - just over a year old and I think tremendous ground has been broken and covered during that time. However, to quote Barack Obama in his recent 100 day review, "We are pleased, but we are not satisfied!"

We acknowledge that there's still much work to do, we have to ensure that all systems work to the benefit of ensuring the throughput of our students, we have to get appropriate marketing underway, we have to support our supervisors and researchers in the valuable work that is being done, we have to . . . you hopefully get the picture!

DUT receives a consignment of books

Raylene Captain-Hasthibeer

A self-confessed book-worm, Mr Stafford Baines has donated a lorry-load of books to the Durban University of Technology. Hailing from the Berea, Mr Baines has spent the past 50 years or so trawling bookstores and has amassed books on a variety of subjects - ranging from the Man-eaters of Tsavo, to Mathematics.

A physicist, Mr Baines has direct links with the university as he lectured at the then ML Sultan Technikon. "I know that some of these books are a few years old, but it always helps, especially with maths, physics and chemistry, to get another perspective," said Baines.

Executive Director of Corporate Affairs at DUT, Nomonde Mbadi was on hand to receive the consignment of books, along with a team of muscle from the university's Maintenance Department. "This gift will give joy to a whole new generation of kids," said Ms Mbadi.

"I love books!" exclaimed Mr Baines. He reads just about anything in ink, save "blood and thunder" or anything gruesome. At present, while he is normally not a fan of science fiction, he can be found engrossed in HG Well's "The War of the Worlds".

Durban is his favourite place in the world, but the family has since relocated to the UK after experiencing a number of unsettling criminal attacks.

Tuebingen 2009

Raylene Captain-Hasthibeer

Hailing from a small village in the Eastern Cape, Ndzonelelo Katikati has seen the world, thanks to an inter-cultural exchange programme, Tuebingen South Africa.

The programme, which has been sending students studying German to visit Germany, has been in existence for a decade and is based at the University of Stellenbosch. Sponsors include Tuebingen University, Daimler (the motor vehicle company) and the University of Stellenbosch.

Introduced to the programme at the beginning of 2008 by Frau Gisele Sudheim (his then German lecturer), Ndzonelelo (a third year Tourism Management student) was determined to excel in his German studies, and to be the recipient of the travel scholarship.

A highlight of the trip was arriving to a warm welcome in the freezing city of Munich. Laughing, Ndzonelelo explains that in one day, he left the sunny South African climate, where the temperature on the day was in excess of 35 degrees Celsius, and arrived in Germany to a chilly -15 degrees Celsius! "I didn't expect that the reception we would receive would be so warm! It was exactly the opposite of what some of us had in mind. The people were really friendly, warm and inviting," he explained.

In the 25 days that Ndzonelelo spent in Germany, he was saturated in German culture, and even learnt how to make a traditional German dish, Kasspaetzle, a local noodle dish. "This was the perfect ice-breaker," he rationalized. "We had to cook together, and didn't know one another. It also introduced us to German culture."

The rigorous education programme he and the other students hailing from Africa attended, saw the participants attending seminars on intercultural communications, Germany's political system, philosophy and media workshops.

The rest of their stay was filled with interesting excursions. A factory tour to Daimler AG showed how robots work "hand by hand" with one another to produce one of the world's finest cars, the Mercedes Benz AMG. That was followed by visits to the Castle of Hohenzollern where King Hendrick Willem the IV had stayed and the Stuttgart Art Gallery where well-known paintings by some of the world's finest artists, eg Picasso, are housed. Here, the students were given the task of presenting paintings to the group, "this helped build my self confidence as I had to address complete strangers, something I had never done."



Pictured: Ndzonelelo living it up in Germany, along with his fellow students

Continued on page 6 ...

Centre For Excellence In Learning & Teaching

Professor Thengani Ngwenya

Taking its cue from the strategic directions of the University, the Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT) has chosen to adopt a holistic approach to academic development (AD). For our purposes academic development is seen as wide-ranging and multi-pronged but primarily comprising student, curriculum and staff development. The primary goal of the centre is to contribute to the enhancement of the quality of learning, teaching and assessment across all academic programmes offered by DUT. It is our hope that this will have a direct and measurable impact on the throughput and progression rates in all programmes and qualifications.



CELT will balance the need for centralisation essential for the coordination and monitoring of AD interventions with decentralisation which is equally important for their implementation in Faculties and Academic Departments. CELT will work closely with Faculty management at all levels, from the Office of the Executive Dean to the lecturers or tutors in charge of particular modules. CELT commits itself to an open and collaborative style of managing AD initiatives. While CELT will plan and implement most of the academic improvement interventions, some AD initiatives will be initiated by Faculties in line with the strategic directions of each faculty. All CELT projects and interventions will be designed in such a way that they will have an integral mechanism for assessing their impact on learning, teaching and assessment.

There are three Units in CELT: Learning, Teaching and Assessment; Educational Technology; Student Access and Support.

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT (LTA) UNIT

This unit will be primarily responsible for facilitating and promoting the development of innovative, transformative and effective Learning, Teaching and Assessment (LTA) interventions at DUT.

Key functions

- Representation of CELT in Faculties
- Academic Induction and Mentoring Programmes
- Learning, Teaching and Assessment workshops
- Self Study for Transformative Higher Education (SeStuTHE) project
- Tracking of Academic Development (AD) interventions at DUT and Research on LTA

STUDENT ACCESS AND SUPPORT UNIT

The initiatives of this unit revolve around student development. In order to ensure that a holistic approach to student support is maintained, the unit will focus on identifying academic barriers to learning which could be psycho-social, academic or cultural. The unit will assist in designing interventions that can address these barriers. The projects in this unit range from direct student support to support of tutors and lecturers.

Key functions

- Access and Student Testing
- Tutor Training and Development
- Recognition of Prior Learning Coordination
- Academic Literacy Intervention
- First Year Students Project
- Extended Curriculum Programmes
- Research on Student Access and Development

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

The Education Technology Unit of CELT has established itself as a key player in learning innovation at DUT. The unit promotes and implements e-learning in the various programmes offered by the university. The unit provides e-Learning training and support to lecturers through the Short Course in Web-based Learning, "Pioneers Online".

- The training will give you 21st century lecturing skills and make you part of the international Blackboard (WebCT) community of online lecturers.
- Through project activities and socials, you will have the opportunity to exchange ideas with innovative peers from other faculties.
- Participation will enable you to write a draft conference paper.
- Educational Technology will host your virtual classrooms on a web server.

Key functions

- Training staff in e-learning & e-teaching
- Workshops and short courses on e-learning
- Research on e-learning
- Partnerships on e-learning
- Technical support to enable e-Learning: Blackboard server management and Ed Tech lab maintenance; e-Learning end-user support to lecturers
- Administrative support to enable e-Learning: creation of course and user IDs and related support to lecturers.

Tuebingen South Africa programme - 2009 continued from page 5 ...



The students also visited Munich, known for its fine architectural buildings.

Ndzonelelo observed the subtle and not so subtle difference between Germany and South Africa during his time there. "Germans save time by being on time (punctuality is the priority) and I try to practice that in my life every day now. There are few, if any, young people who are not in school. The transportation system is so well organised, they have a low crime rate, they recycle

almost everything and you somehow get paid for looking after yourself! To me, everything seemed

to be scientifically programmed and so well organised." That said, he added: "It is now upon me to make sure that I pass on what I

learnt and experienced in Germany to my peers and apply it to my life. I feel that we, as South Africans, have a long way to go before we can reach the first world country standard, and that is possible only if we share the same goals about our country. I think those who get a chance to travel abroad must always paint a really good image of South Africa. There are questions we need to ask ourselves, for instance, what is the difference between our country and Dubai? I mean, they have natural resources like we do . . ."

According to Ndzonelelo, "I still lack words of gratitude towards my HoD Mr Krishna Murthi Naidoo for nominating me and urging the University to pay the money required. Thanks also to DUT for making this programme possible for me as the University paid half of my flights to and from Germany, plus a participation fee of R2000. One other person who made my trip to Germany possible was Frau Gisele Sudheim who helped me with my Visa application and other formalities and accompanied me to and from the airport. This programme has not only revealed interesting facts about Germany but it also empowered me a lot. It is true when they say there is no better way of learning in life than experiencing it yourself."

"I somehow ended up studying Tourism, and then even though I was getting distinctions, I wanted to change my course. Lecturers talked me into staying, and I have to admit that I love Tourism now! I want to change the way the public perceives SAA - our national airline carrier. I was so impressed with the professionalism of Emirates (we flew Emirates to Germany), and I believe that SAA can be improved on so that as South Africans, we are proud of them." One thing is for sure, Ndzonelelo is going places!

For more information about the programme visit <http://infoserv.zdv.uni-tuebingen.de/isp/sonder/southafrica/Kurs2009/links2009.htm> or Google search Tuebingen/South Africa 2009.

Students receive NRF and Innovation Awards

Nelisiwe Mathonsi and Thobile Ngozo

The Postgraduate and Development Directorate at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) recently presented BTech and MTech students with National Research Foundation (NRF) Honours and Masters block grants and Department of Science and Technology (DST) Innovation Awards for Honours and Masters degree students, at two separate functions recently.

When asked how she feels about receiving this bursary, Thirusha Pillay, a Dental Technology Masters student and a part-time staff member, said "I am grateful; the scholarship will make my Masters degree easier, I don't have to worry about financial issues. I am very happy and privileged". Lindelani Sibiyi, a Chemical Engineering MTech student said, "I am thankful to the NRF for introducing research to South African students".

Commenting on how they will utilize the award, Thirusha said: "I will use it on anything that will be required for my research and also I will pay my NSFAS student loan." While Lindelani said: "I will use it to buy equipment for my research that I need to finish my MTech, and for tests (experiments) that are done outside campus. I will also buy myself a laptop to make it easier when doing research". All the students were thrilled about the awards. They promised to make DUT proud by carrying out their research for their Master degrees in different courses and faculties.

Awardees for the Masters' Innovation grants came from the Faculties of Applied Science; Engineering and Built Environment; Management Sciences; and Arts and Design. The value of the various awards ranged from R15 000 to R60 000. Siyabonga Kweyama, a student from the Faculty of Arts and Design, said: "I am overwhelmed and very excited I got this scholarship worth R15 000, nobody could give it to me for free, so I'm very grateful I am amongst those 27 who were awarded". The scholarship covers their research and their fees.

On the day students were presented with the awards, they were required to sign the NRF/DUT Acceptance of Condition letters.

Nicky Muller, Acting Manager of the Postgraduate Development and Support Directorate encouraged students to further their studies when she congratulated them. Ms Ruby Govender, Research and Finance Officer, also congratulated the students for receiving such prestigious awards and grants.

The students promised to work hard to make DUT proud and to further their studies.

Scene and Around Night of the Stars

Raylene Captain-Hasthibeer

DUT staff recently attended a Professional Secretarial Symposium at Sun City. According to DUT's Anusha Karamchand, "this symposium was awesome! They had great speakers from all over the country. This event is certainly a must for all Office Professionals".



Spotted at a "The Night of the Stars" banquet (where Anusha won the Best dressed award) are:

L-R: Elaine Giddings; Janet McBain; Mr Robin Banks, Facilitator; Avasha Lutchman and Anusha Karamchand

Guest lecture on internet research

Bhekani Dlamini

Two Swedish academics addressed researchers and scholars on using the internet for research and web-based surveys in conducting research at the guest lecture.

The main purpose of the workshop was to develop research at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) amongst staff and students.

The guest lecture was organised by Mr Fazel Khan, lecturer in the Department of Marketing, Retail and Public Relations in collaboration with the Postgraduate Development and Support Directorate. Khan believes that by bringing in academics from international institutions, knowledge is shared across cultures and boundaries.

Dr Anita Westerstrom comes from Lulea University in Sweden. She is an expert on web-based learning. She has a great deal of teaching experience at the university level and currently teaches social psychology. She has lectured at many universities internationally.

Dr Matts Jakobsson, another guest speaker talked on web-based surveys



Pictured: Dr Anita Westerstrom, Dr Matts Jakobsson and Mr Fazel Khan

and data collection, giving reflections from Scandinavia. He said between 80% and 90% of the population in Sweden use the internet and have email addresses. He also said the internet has become a useful tool for research and data collection. He commented that the response rate is higher if the speed of the internet is faster. He further said he has observed that if the subject in the survey is engaging and interesting for young people, the response rate is usually good.

The guest lecture was attended by academics and scholars from local institutions including the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Journalism's Community Engagement Day

Thobile Ngozo

South Africa celebrated Africa Day, along with the rest of Africa, on 25 May. In honour of Africa Day, the Journalism Department at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) hosted their annual DUT Journalism Community Engagement Day at DUT's City Campus. Different Non-Governmental Organisations from around KwaZulu-Natal were invited to showcase and enlighten students about the mission and objectives of their organisations.

Scene and Around



Photo: Supplied

Interior Design students celebrate at their Graduation ceremony.

DUT engineer to share expertise on European Working Party in Education

Suresh Ramsuroop has been recently elected to serve on the Working Party in Education (WPE), which is affiliated to European Federation of Chemical Engineers (EFCE). One of the key functions of this body is to give recommendations on the current and future structure of chemical engineering qualifications in Europe, and promote co-operation and sharing of best practices in chemical engineering education. He is the only South African to be elected to this committee.

Ramsuroop, who has a keen interest in engineering curriculum design and delivery, lectures in Chemical Engineering at the Durban University of Technology (DUT). The Working Party in Education (WPE) is made up of 38 members from 22 countries in Europe. Ten of these members are from industry and 28 are academics. He is one of the only two members that are not from Europe. The other member is Prof D Shallcross from Australia. Ramsuroop says this committee is informed by the Bologna Process which is an undertaking to have a standardised qualification framework in Europe. The Bologna Declaration, with over 45 countries as signatories, aims to harmonise university education across the EU. It aims at a closer alignment between different countries' programme and degree structures, ensuring that degree courses have a comparable content and take the same length of time to complete.

"It's exciting to see what's happening across Europe and to interact and share experiences with colleagues from various institutions there. I am confident that this will not only give DUT exposure but the University of Technology (UoT) engineering sector as a whole will benefit from my involvement in WPE," says Ramsuroop.

Ramsuroop currently serves on the Engineering Standard Generating Group (ESGG) which is currently developing the new engineering qualification standards for higher education in South Africa. This ESGG is an affiliate of Engineering Council of South Africa. He also leads the chemical engineering curriculum design process of Universities of Technology in South Africa.

DUT Library staff scoop Presidential Award for Library Association

Library staff at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) Library have been recognised for the role that they play in the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA). The KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) branch won the prestigious LIASA Presidential award for the best managed and best performing branch in the country.

The executive committee of the branch boasts three members of DUT's Library who have been recognised for leadership and teamwork in the province. They are Lucille Webster as Chair, David Thomas as Membership officer and Mandla Ndaba as Treasurer of the branch. This is the first time that the KZN province won the floating trophy and they hope to repeat this at the annual conference later this year.

The KZN LIASA branch was put to the test when LIASA hosted the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)

conference in 2007 at the ICC. Their hard work and commitment paid off as the conference was a great success. "It was a proud moment when we heard that we won the trophy. It took dedication and commitment from all the members to achieve this," says David Thomas.

The Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) is a professional non-profit organisation uniting and representing all institutions and people working in libraries and information services in South Africa.

French Presence in KZN



This year The Prince Imperial Rose Garden on the Riverside Campus, PMB, celebrated its 5th anniversary. Not only was that a celebration of note, but it was also the actual "birthday" (16 March 1856 - 1 June 1879) of the Prince. Students, staff, distinguished visitors and a bevy of top models from a prestigious "Parisian" Fashion House graced the roses to the tune of Ian Turnbull's Scottish pipes.

The 130th anniversary of the Anglo-Zulu War is also being commemorated this year, so for our DUT cultural tourism research development project, "French Presence in KwaZulu-Natal: La Route du Prince Impérial, Louis Napoléon", it is a BIG year!

DUT's Siyazama project collaborates with Swedish graphic artists

Dr Kate Wells and Bhekani Dlamini

The DUT's Faculty of Art and Design's Siyazama project, housed in the Graphic Design programme, has started a new collaboration with two Swedish Art and Design curators, Renee Padt and Ikko Yokoyama. Both Renee and Ikko are staff members of the CuratorLab at Konstfact University College of Arts, Craft and Design in Stockholm, Sweden.

This new project, titled 'Editions in Craft', is funded by the Foundation of the Future. Further to this, Renee and Ikko have instituted a linkage with 'FRONT' - a four member all-girl team of high level designers from Sweden. The idea behind this linkage is that the Siyazama project, in partnership with 'Editions in Craft',

will be taking art and craft products to another level. The exciting new partnership was launched on 13 March 2009 on the City Campus in the Graphic Design programme.

It was attended by Professor Ken Netshiombo (Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Design), Professor Graham Stewart (Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Design), Professor Ian Sutherland as well as other members of staff from Visual Communication. Translation was undertaken by Masters (Graphic Design) student Jean Shange who has worked in the Siyazama Project for over six years in this capacity.

At this launch Renee and Ikko presented their ideas to the Siyazama craftswomen. Siyazama is a rural craft HIV/AIDS education project which enables rural traditional craftswomen from KwaZulu-Natal to express their concerns about AIDS and all of its complexities through their beautiful beadwork dolls. It is spearheaded by Dr Kate Wells, Senior lecturer in Visual Communication Design.

Commenting on the collaboration, Dr Wells says this new project is sure to create more marketing opportunities for Siyazama and aims to place their craft artifacts into a completely different upscale marketing level.



Siyazama group



Photos: Siyazama dolls pictured with their creators

Continued on page 8 ...

Scene and Around Uqweqwe Community Workshop



The French Presence in KZN (an NGO based at the Durban University of Technology) recently visited The Wall during an Uqweqwe Community Workshop. Lawyers for Human Rights, along with a number of French visitors assisted in teaching "gogos" from the community about their civil rights and how to claim for social benefits.

Dedication ceremony - Basic Medical Sciences

Bhekani Dlamini

First year students in the Basic Medical Sciences took a solemn oath at a dedication ceremony as a pledge to treat with respect, the mortal remains of human bodies when they conduct their studies in the dissection hall. Students signed a register which gives them permission to use facilities for this purpose.

Head of the Department of Basic Medical Sciences, Mrs Razia Kharwa urged students to show respect to those who have offered themselves for the betterment and improvement of the quality of life for future generations.

Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Mr Greg Bass advised students to work hard if they are to succeed in their chosen careers. He told students that the human body is a wonderful piece of human engineering, adding that they are about to begin a journey of exploration which will fascinate and stimulate.

Addressing students, the keynote speaker, Rev Dr James Elias, delivered a solemn service and offered words of wisdom. Dr Elias appealed to students to understand their work as a vocation or calling rather than a profession in which to advance themselves. He said they will, in their vocation, meet victims of various diseases and will need a way of exercising their calling. He advised them to have an attitude of compassion when conducting their vocation. He urged students to treat patients holistically, not forgetting the spiritual aspect of life. He asked them not to lose sight of the personal. "All that matters is caring," said Dr Elias.

He told students to respect the wishes of those who donate their bodies to

advance medical sciences. He also informed students to approach their work with a sense of reverence and respect.

At a similar occasion student achievers were presented with certificates and trophies in recognition of their excellent performance in 2008. A moment of silence was observed in honour of the late Karish Hariram who died in an accident last year. An award was created to commemorate his life. This award was presented to Derice Singh for the most improved student in 2008. Mr and Mrs Hariram, parents of Karish, handed over the award to Derice.

Presenting a short meditation to students, Ms Jennifer Ducray, lecturer in Basic Medical Sciences, said, "we plant seeds as we go in our lives". She told students to nurture the seed when they encounter cadavers in the dissection hall. She added that cadavers are the greatest teacher.

This annual event is a rite of passage into the privileged and fascinating world of anatomical dissection. It was organised and co-ordinated by the Anatomy lecturer in charge of dissection, Mrs Fazila Ally. It involved guest speakers, an awards ceremony, and the taking of a modified Hippocratic oath.

Making money and saving the environment

Greg Bass

The Faculty of Health Sciences has started a great new community service project. The project is designed primarily to make money, but at the same time contributing towards saving the resources of our planet.

Given an ever increasing demand for student bursaries, the Faculty aims to be in the position where it will be able to disperse bursaries to students in need. A board of trustees will be established to safeguard the workings of the fund. Moreover, the fund will be subject to DUT's normal auditing processes.

In order to make money, we have initially started recycling waste paper that normally finds its way into the municipal waste system. The project has been operating for a short while and we recently delivered our first 340 kgs of paper to Mondi for recycling! Wow! 340kgs without trying very hard!



Pius Phewa and Mulungisi Ndebele load the first 340kgs of scrap paper for delivery to Mondi.

Unfortunately, we generate tons of waste paper at DUT. But, now, we need not despair. Our waste can start generating some good and very soon we will start putting back into the university bursaries to help good learners get a start in life from which, in the end, we will all benefit. Productive workers in the South African economy will make our country a better place in which to live.

What makes this project unique is that everyone in the Faculty is helping. We are all giving our time freely knowing that ultimately what we are doing is for the general good. If we take the paper to Mondi ourselves we discovered we could double our money. So that is what we are doing. Thys Walters, a lecturer from the Department of Basic Medical Sciences is helping with deliveries. In March, his bakkie was loaded to the top with our first 340 kgs and our first payment was secured!

It takes no small effort to get the paper ready for delivery and sometimes collection. Pius Phewa from Dental Services is our willing helper-in-chief. No load is too small or too large for Pius. He is also assisted by Mulungisi Ndebele, also of Dental Services. Without their assistance the task would be a lot more difficult.

Can you help?

Of course you can. For a start, make a resolution never to throw another

piece of paper in your bin. Then collect all your papers (collection bins can be provided) and bring them to the Faculty of Health Sciences' Faculty office. We have a storage area for you to deposit the paper. We welcome all your waste paper which includes paper, magazines and cardboard. If possible please separate the paper from the cardboard as a different rate is paid for cardboard and paper.

The second resolution that you can make is to clean out your office. I bet you have stacks of paper lying around which is no longer need? Like your old Senate agenda from 1922? If your load is too heavy to carry (and paper can be really heavy), just ask and we will collect it.

So folks, get collecting and make your waste paper work for DUT. I will end with a quote from Morris K Udall, a former US Congressman who is best remembered for his work on environmental issues. He said:

"What kind of society, given the choice between recycling a mountain of paper and denuding a mountainside of trees would make a decision to do the latter? The answer: our kind. And it is time to change that."

You have the power to change and at the same time make money, honey!!!

DUT's Siyazama project continued from page 7 ...

She is hopeful that something great is going to come out of this partnership. "Watch the space," says Dr Wells.

Renee Padt spoke about how they are interested in partnering with rural women doing beaded dolls to see if together they can be innovative and creative to come up with a range of different products that will take the design market by storm. After meeting Dr Wells at an AIDS exhibition in Gothenburg, Sweden five years ago, Padt was impressed with the designs produced by the Siyazama project and she explored engaging in a new working relationship with Kate. She also wants to conduct research on how the new project will proceed as well as interacting with the designers of Siyazama Project. This engagement will work on new products, which are to be designed by FRONT, and then will be developed further as time goes on. They hope to produce an ongoing product that will be developed and modified with the intention that it will last longer in the market place. As a contemporary design artist herself, she is confident that this project will create great possibilities for the rural women of Siyazama.

The whole team, including the FRONT designers, will return to the DUT in September 2009 to continue the work started on 13 March 2009.



First DUT Renewable Energy German Trained Engineer

Durban University of Technology (DUT) has the first renewable energy German trained engineer to spearhead and advocate environmental-friendly pilot projects in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN). The Academy for Renewable Energy (RENAC) organisation together with the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety granted Prof Richard Naidoo a scholarship to train as a renewable energy engineer in Berlin, Germany.

The RENAC organisation based in Berlin, Germany performs training in renewable energy engineering in cooperation with international institutions and experts, who have many years of expertise in the field of knowledge transfer of renewable energies and energy efficiency. Prof Naidoo has established collaboration with important partners such as the Production Technology Center (PTC) of the Technical University of Berlin and the Berlin University of Applied Sciences (Technische Fachhochschule Berlin, TFH).

As a renewable energy engineer in training, Prof Naidoo has acquired knowledge in planning, installation, operation, monitoring and maintenance of both photovoltaic systems (grid and off-grid systems) and solar-thermal plants. He further learnt to integrate this knowledge with existing conventional energy systems and other renewable energy technologies. In addition to the technical content, he also gained skills in costs, economics, finance, and maintenance, insurance, marketing and sales. Practical training in the Center of RENAC-Berlin allows the participating engineers to apply their knowledge through "hands-on" planning, installation, operation and monitoring of renewable-energy and energy-efficiency technologies.

At the Unit for Advanced Computer Modeling and Technology Enhanced Learning, four students are pursuing research towards Master's and Doctoral

degrees in renewable energy. Students are establishing innovations in renewable energy engineering and design.

Simulation software is currently being researched extensively in the Unit. Professor Naidoo will conduct seminars to deepen knowledge in renewable energy for interested staff, students and industry. Courses will be defined in conjunction with Berlin University of Applied Sciences (TFH), material prepared and then integrated into the discipline of the lecturer or student. The platform will offer participants a unique opportunity after the seminar for practical study, alongside their discipline.

The Unit plans to setup a renewable energy measuring station where all Renewable Energy practitioners in South Africa can send their design for evaluation or elicit information on their projects.

Prof Naidoo is embarking on a pilot project with eThekweni Municipality to apply small scale wind turbines to light up their parks in case of power outages. "Should this project be successful, we will be in a good position to move into rural communities to provide renewable energy for Community Centres, Clinics, or schools," said Prof Naidoo.

Prof Naidoo's main objectives are training engineers to manage renewable energies in the South African context, reduce reliance on fossil fuel energy and reduce the carbon footprint.

Workshop on Nonlinear Differential Equations

The Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Physics at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) hosted a Workshop on the Analysis of Nonlinear Differential Equations. The aim of the workshop was to bring together researchers and students in the field to share current and new results in their respective areas of research.

Professor Paulus Gerdes was one of the keynote speakers on the first day of the workshop. Professor Gerdes is the Director of the Centre for Mozambican Studies and Ethnoscience, Pedagogical University, Maputo, Mozambique and is Vice-President of the African Academy of Sciences.

Differential equations play an important role in Mathematics and Physics research. Most of the current research activities have been focused on the integrability of nonlinear differential equations. This has led to some developments which have included some aspects of algebra, geometry, topology and computer science to mention a few.

The lectures from the invited speakers were combined with some tutorial sessions.

The scope and topics for discussions included (but were not limited to) the following topics:

- Differential Equations (Partial, Ordinary or Algebraic)
- Integral Differential Equations
- Singularity Analysis
- Integrable Systems
- Symmetries (Local and Global)
- Differential Galois Theory and Group Theory
- Mathematical Physics
- Computer Science

The workshop was held under the auspices of the SA/Swedish partnership programme with three key partners: Prof S Moyo (DUT), Prof P G L Leach (UKZN) and Prof N Euler (Lulea University of Technology, Sweden).

DUT Comrades Marathon runners

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) has a number of staff members who participate in the Comrades Marathon, arguably the world's best marathon. [Bhekani Dlamini](#) chatted with a few of them recently.



Dr Stuart Clifton and Layle Henderson doing long run Comrades training

Clinician at DUT's Chiropractic Clinic, Dr Stuart Clifton took part in the Comrades Marathon for the first time this year. Dr Clifton did not complete the race - he was forced to withdraw from the Comrades after 72 kilometres because of a knee injury. He ran under the banner of King Fisher Athletic Club. He has run Hill2hill, Amashova, Triple Challenge and came in tenth in the Elite section, Dusi Marathon, Non-stop Dusi in which he finished fourth overall. He recently took part in the Dusi Mfula Mountain-bike race. His aim was to complete seven Pietermaritzburg to Durban events from September 2008 to June 2009. He is raising funds for a charity which works with disadvantaged children in the Molweni area of the Umgeni River Valley.

The Communications crew also visited Dr Grant Matkovichin at his practice in Glenwood, Durban. Dr Matkovichin, a clinician and part-time lecturer at Chiropractic Department, has been running Comrades Marathon for the past six years. He could not finish his seventh race because he fell sick 18 kilometres into the race. Despite the problems he had this year, he is still convinced that the Comrades is by far the best marathon in the world. A member of Athletic North Club, he says it takes a lot of preparation for one to qualify for the Comrades. He ran the Two Oceans and has climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. He advised people not to be nervous and get worked up, but to listen to their bodies. "If anybody wants to do it, they must do it. It's really awesome," says Dr Matkovichin.

Comrades Marathon legend, Brian Reynolds shared his 13 years of experience as a runner. Of these he completed ten races and has received his green number. Reynolds, the Acting Circulation Co-ordinator at the Library on Steve Biko Campus, runs under the auspices of Sydenham Athletic Club. Though he did not take part in the past two races because of an injury, he knows the do's and don'ts of the popular international sport. He reminisces about running his first Comrades Marathon at the age of 19 in 1991. "This was basically an experiential race, but it was the best ever, and better than the last one," comments Reynolds.



From left - Roshan Mohanpersad, Dhiren Govender and Jace Govender

Reynolds explained that as the time draws closer to the Comrades Marathon one has to cut down on training until completely stopping it three days before the race. One needs good rest and a good diet to stay fit. He says he changed his diet and ate a lot of carbohydrates like potato, pastas and energy drinks. He advises runners to take supplements during the race. He usually keeps salt and pain tablets in his pocket. He then takes lots of liquid supplements on the road. But he emphasises that a strong positive mind is the key to any race. He says he got injured at Sherwood during a up-run Comrades Marathon. Worried, he thought to himself, it was only about seven kilometres from Durban, and so he decided to walk until he got to Pietermaritzburg and managed to finish the race. "Anybody can do Comrades Marathon and it's enjoyable," he says.

Dhiren Govender, Head of Horticulture Department, successfully ran and completed his fourth Comrades Marathon this year. When he first ran Comrades, his goal was to do just one. Now that the running bug has bitten, he has since completed three more. He started running in 2005 and is a member of the Verulam Athletic Club. "Running has become away of life for me," he says. In preparation for the big race he trained by running 7-10 kilometres weekdays. To qualify, he ran the eThekweni Marathon (42.2 km). Other races that helped in his preparation were the Pietermaritzburg Postnet Marathon and the Two Oceans Marathon (56km).

Post Comrades 2008, his runs included the Longest Day (82.3km) Soweto Marathon, the South Coast Marathon and the Ballito Ultra (50km). He missed the 2007 Comrades Marathon because he came down with flu. He eventually did two up runs and two down runs, finding the up runs easier. Closer to the major marathons he stays clear of certain meals and more pastas and carbohydrates form part of his diet. He looks forward to taking part in the next Comrades. "My goal is to achieve ten Two Oceans Marathons (completed four) and as a bonus, possibly ten Comrades Marathons". He advises runners to register with athletics clubs and get support from fellow members. From now on Govender will be doing light runs until August, with his next race being the 50 kilometre run/walk in Ballito. He thinks next year's Comrades is going to be a bumper race as it will be the 85th and it coincides with the 2010 Soccer World Cup. As a highlight of his running career, he was named the Sportsman of the Year 2008 by his club for his achievements.

Open Day 2009 – a resounding success

Bhekani Dlamini

DUT Recruitment has organised a successful three-day Open Week programme to promote courses on offer at the university. Geared at school children primarily, the Open Week received a positive response from over 100 schools in KwaZulu-Natal. Schools visited the campus from 6 to 8 May. A special programme for the public was held on 9 May 2009.

The Student Counselling Department's presentation on "How to Choose a Career" was introduced as a new feature this year. This presentation was given as a handout to every student together with a DUT branded plastic bag, pen and a General Information Brochure.



A highlight of the week was Saturday's event where the Faculty of Health, along with other departments at the university, offered services free of charge to the public. The Department of Homoeopathy offered free cholesterol, blood glucose and blood haemoglobin testing as well as pressure testing. The Department of Somatology also got on board, and offered neck and hand massages which drew in the crowds. The Department of Radiography provided an echocardiogram which proved popular. The Department of Biomedical and Clinical Technology brought in a recruitment company, Isilumko (who recruit for the NHLs), and provided the public with information on Biomedical Technology and gave students bursary forms for the coming year.

Derrick Govender, Lecturer and Programme Co-ordinator : Biomedical Technology, said "As Faculty rep, I think the Open Week was a resounding success. The exhibition stands were well set up and all the Departments showcased what they have on offer. There was also good support from schools and parents".

Nomonde Mbadi, Executive Director of Corporate Affairs, echoed Govender's sentiments and said, "I applaud DUT academic departments for having put together such informative and well-thought display stands for the Open Week exhibition. Well done!"

Learners' comments

- *Nabila Mustupa, grade 12 at Centenary Secondary School, is interested in studying Human Resources Management next year. Her other career option is teaching. Her classmate, Nadia Sheik, is also considering Human Resources Management and Law. They enjoy working with people.*
- *Nokubonga Langa from Newslands East Secondary wants to pursue a career in teaching. She enjoys imparting knowledge to others. She is also exploring careers in nursing and social work because she loves helping people.*
- *Simangele Lushaba, also from the same school, says coming the DUT career fair broadened her horizons as she did not*

know what to do when she completes matric. Setting foot in DUT has helped her discover a career interest in IT, Food Technology and Video Technology. She loves working with computers and searching for information. She also loves getting a better understanding of good nutrition and working with cameras.

- *Samukelisiwe Mabaso came to DUT to learn more about making the right career choice. She has chosen IT, Teaching and Food Technology. She likes searching for information on the computer and learning more about nutritious food.*
- *Sasha Lee from Umbilo Secondary came to DUT Open Day to find more information about career options. Her love for working with figures and learning more about stock markets at Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) and finance has inspired her to choose a career in accounting and economics. She also loves teaching others.*

The judges of the "Best Stand Competition", Prof Bachle (Germany) and DUT's Mr Trevor Naidoo and Dr Shalini Singh, declared the following departments as winners: First Prize - Interior Design, Joint Second Prize - The Departments of Student Counselling and Health and Maritime Studies.

DASA handover

Raylene Captain-Hasthibeer

A group of differently abled students recently met with the Division of Corporate Affairs at DUT's Design Studio on the Steve Biko Campus.



Photo: Fiona Pillay

The group of DASA students and their "assistants".

Nomonde Mbadi, Executive Director of Corporate Affairs set up the meeting after seeing a few differently abled students on campus. "I was driving along Mansfield Road one day, when I saw two students, one in a wheelchair, and they appeared to be having some difficulty negotiating the pavement and the large stacks of books they were lugging around. I knew we had to step in, and try to make their lives a little easier". With that, Ms Mbadi resolved to, at the very least, track down bags that would ease the student's burden.

During the meeting, Ms Mbadi asked the students, members of DUT's chapter of Differently Abled Students Association (DASA) to relay some of the problems they had encountered on campus, and promised to help where she could, or to direct the query to the relevant people on campus. The issues ranged from students being denied access cards to lifts, to a lack of suitable ramps.

Mandla Makhoba, an IT student came to DUT after discovering that UKZN's Westville Campus was not very wheelchair friendly. "I came to DUT because of accessibility," Mandla said.

"While the situation is better here, things can still be improved at DUT. During registration, you don't have anyone to help you. The Department of Housing is on the first floor, and you have to get a friend to pull you up the stairs."

Sisa Xaba, a 3rd year Auditing student is involved in many developmental projects on campus. "I'm currently working on a number of projects, all geared at "rebuilding DUT" and I'm happy to say that the Vice-Chancellor, Prof du Pré has been very supportive of our initiatives." Sisa pointed out the wide variety of skills available at DUT - with students in a variety of disciplines, from Architectural Technology, to Entertainment Technology. Her aim is to get DUT to elicit students' help with projects, thereby giving the students a chance to learn experientially, in addition to the current Work Integrated Learning programme currently in practice.

The students present on the day were a group of lively, motivated and determined young people, who are not looking for pity or handouts, but rather just want to be given a fighting chance in today's dog-eat-dog world.

Mother of 3 finishes Comrades in time

Ms Shakira Naidoo is feeling fit and revitalised after taking part in the popular Comrades Marathon for the eighth time. She has now completed the race seven times within the specified time. She is a lecturer in the Department of Radiography at Durban University of Technology's Ritson campus and is a mother of three girls. The Department of Radiography congratulates her on her effort and success.

"I am pleased to have completed the race with eight minutes to spare, because I have been struggling with a knee injury," says Naidoo. She draws her inspiration for the Comrades Marathon, because road running is a social sport and any one regardless of status and level of fitness can partake, as long as one is prepared to train regularly. She emphasises that training for Comrades

Marathon starts in July a year before to ensure that one does not lag behind.

Naidoo advises aspirant runners that one has to choose something that is going to be easily achievable. "If you set your goals and work towards them you will definitely achieve. All you need for road running or walking is a good pair of running shoes and a

determination to train," she says. She urges that it is a good idea to join a club because one gets a lot of support and company for training, adding that age is no barrier. She believes that every South African should do at least one Comrades Marathon.

She is preparing to run the Two Oceans Marathon next year with two of her daughters.

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