

# CITY CAMPUS A CENTENARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION





## PROFESSOR AHMED BAWA

Vice-Chancellor & Principal

The 10th of December 2010 marks the centenary of laying the foundation stone of the first building of City Campus by Prince Arthur, the Duke of Connaught, signaling the colonial origins of Durban's higher education system. The campus was originally known as the Durban Technical Institute (DTI) and this occasion, 100 years ago, marked one of the beginnings of formal, local higher learning. Undeterred by a number of obstacles, Dr George Campbell established the DTI as the first institution of higher learning in Natal and this later gave material form to the dream of the colony's first university.

The history of the campus is indeed remarkable and it has a rich and diverse academic palette. Its continuing

beauty resonates through its original architectural form – a baroque revival style building. Great efforts were made to gain funding from the Union Government, the Natal Government Railways and the Durban community to sustain its operations. The funding for the listed historic site and its early apprenticeship courses is interwoven with the history of the unified national railways which celebrated its 150th anniversary on 26 June and the 150th anniversary of the arrival of indentured labourers, on 16 November 1860, most of whom worked on the railways and sugar plantations.

The institute first opened the doors to its humble structure on Russell Street on 14 September 1907. A century later, it is part of a fully-fledged South African university. Academic innovation and excellence have survived apathy towards new ideas and knowledge, and the move towards narrow vocationally-defined education. The fortunate occupant of City Campus today is the Durban University of Technology's (DUT) Faculty of Arts and Design. Over the years, many pharmacists, artists, media specialists, tradesmen, maritime and nautical trainees have passed through these halls.

Despite the college lacking sporting amenities in its early years, sporting activities were given a boost following the return of WW2 ex-servicemen. In its heyday, the institute was recognized for its Rugger Team which won a number of national competitions in the 1930s. And the same is true



of its cricket and water polo teams. In the early, 80s students proactively participated in demonstrations against the apartheid regime, in spite of the repressive laws the college continued to provide teaching classes for Black teachers. And later the Chair of Council, Carl Mouton defied the quota system and admitted students on merit and allowed mixed residences.

In 1907, there were 382 students at the College. Today, DUT has in excess of 24 000 students enrolled in its programmes and the University graduated more than 6000 students this year. Over the years, the institution's research capacity has grown and its relationships with local industry have developed into long-term partnerships. The institution's emphasis continues to be tightly linked to the higher learning and research needs of the local and national contexts.

At the same time, DUT's internationalisation project is a stunning success with research linkages in many parts of the world. These colonial beginnings have given birth to a University that is both intensely local and global and it is more than coincidence perhaps that these beginnings lay in the visit here by the Duke. It is a privilege to be here to celebrate the re-opening of City Campus and the role it has played in local and national development.



**Ela Gandhi**  
Chancellor

Congratulations and good wishes on the refurbished City Campus celebrating 100 years of higher education. Construction of the building began in 1910, the year South Africa was declared a Republic. The campus history is reflective of the transition from the colonial era, through apartheid and to our present democracy. The achievements of City Campus is a result of the great desire and need for knowledge, academic excellence and the strategic decision to create an accessible educational premises. 2010 marks the beginning of new academic endeavours as we celebrate our past and continue to work towards excellence in education.

DUT's integrated approach to vocational training is geared towards socio-economic development and tertiary education for all across race, gender and ethnicity. It is with great pleasure that I serve a university that is innovative in its approach and destined for greater success.



**DR JAIRAM REDDY**

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It is with great pride that Durban University of Technology celebrates the 100th anniversary of the construction of City Campus, one of Durban's historic architectural buildings.

The Council of DUT congratulates the University Management and staff on the successful completion of the 2010 Restoration Project. The campus has stood the test of time and has made a major contribution to higher education in Durban and continues to contribute to the great academic successes of the province and the country.



It is indeed an honour for the National Lotteries Board to be part of DUT's City Campus centenary celebration. We appreciate the role the institution has played in the development of our future leaders and the many that DUT has produced over the last 100 years. The National Lotteries Board would like to congratulate the University on reaching this milestone.

The preservation of our architectural heritage is one of the focus areas of the National Lotteries Distribution Trust Fund (NLDTF). DUT responded to a call for applications with a request to renovate and conserve the original architectural form of City Campus. This building is a listed heritage site and is recognised for its contribution to Durban's built environment and the Warwick Junction Precinct. The NLDTF's contribution of R30.4 million towards the historic project reaffirms the organisation's belief in preserving the architectural heritage of Durban and South Africa.

On behalf of the National Lotteries Board, I thank those involved in the City Campus restoration project for their commitment and dedication. I wish them well.

Professor Vevek Ram  
CEO of the National Lotteries Board



**DR KENNETH NETSHOMBO**

Executive Dean  
Faculty of Arts and Design



**PROFESSOR GRAHAM STEWART**

Deputy Dean  
Faculty of Arts and Design

It is with great honour that we celebrate the history of City Campus which has contributed in establishing the first higher education institute in the province. The building now houses the diverse and talented Arts and Design students of DUT.

The campus is the centre for significant research and development projects aimed at capacity-building which radiates their influence into the greater Durban community. The faculty's continued creative contribution to industry and society is indisputable.

City Campus has been a beacon of career-orientated education as subjects at the Durban Technical Institute ranged across the disciplines of Engineering, Commerce and Art. It symbolises the highest standard of vocational education in KwaZulu-Natal and has given rise to Glenwood High School, George Campbell Technical High School and Durban Business School which was later known as the Durban Central Technical College.

In 1931, the institution established Howard College which was the University of Natal's first building. The Faculty of Arts and Design is privileged to be part of the campus' remarkable history which has made significant contributions through its eclectic mix of courses which continues to shape the character of the campus.



## THE BEGINNING OF HIGHER EDUCATION

31 May 1902 marked the beginning of great developments in Natal. This day, later known as Republic Day, celebrated South Africa's partial independence under a Union Government. Dr Samuel George Campbell envisioned great things for the colony and with little support began, in 1905, to convince others that Natal required investment in higher learning and trade development to cope with the industrialized 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Previously, keen scholars who were eager to pursue their academic interests and higher technical training resorted to studying in the United Kingdom or in the established Cape and Transvaal. A commission was set up to make inquiries. However, the Natal Government failed to deliver on its decision that technical and higher education institutions be built.

Having exhausted all alternatives, Dr Campbell took it upon himself to see his dream become reality. On 4 April 1907, he called a private meeting at his home with likeminded people. A resolution was drafted which called for the Durban Corporation and Government to fund the project with a £500 annual grant, managed by local representatives. Durban Technical Institute was agreed as the name and it

was to occupy the vacated Russell Street Girls College. Dr Campbell was elected as the Council Chairman and Dr Benjamin Mason Narbeth as the first Principal.

The College opened its doors on 14 September 1907 at the tiny premises on Russell Street. The inadequate structure with its kitchen converted into a Science Lab and its multiple rooms used for lectures catered for 382 part-time students. The college later provided continuation classes in the evening to provide a firmer foundation for students enrolled for technical courses.

A Day Continuation School for Boys (later known as Glenwood Boys High School) was introduced in 1910 to bridge the gap between primary and technical higher education. This created the need for larger premises, which was secured through a municipal land grant of three and half acres between Smith Street and Warwick Avenue and £28 000 from the Union Treasury. Architects Ing and Anderson were commissioned to draw up the plans. On 30 December 1910, the Duke of Connaught laid the foundation stone for the new building which opened for academic studies on 10 August 1912.





## CITY CAMPUS 2010 RESTORATION PROJECT

City Campus reopened on 1 September 2010 following a four-month roof restoration with partial refurbishment to the building. The campus which currently houses the Faculty of Arts and Design is ornamented in the Baroque Revival style of the Edwardian period and is a listed historical site.

The building is one of the last of its kind and continues to artistically and architecturally contribute to Durban's built environment. City Campus, designed by architects Ing and Anderson, had its foundation stone laid by the Duke of Connaught on 10 December 1910.

DUT Campus Planner, Leonard Rosenberg said the main building has three floors which were erected in 1912 and extended in 1927. Later additions include the four-storey Art Deco Student Club House, Refectory and Gymnasium in 1938, the Art Block in 1948 and the Pharmacy Block in 1955. However, they were demolished to make way for the rail and road expansion schemes in the late 1980s.

He said DUT received R30 411 960 from the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund (NLDTF) in 2009 as sponsorship of the university's heritage projects, the City Campus Restoration Project and the Research of Currie's and Surrounds (ROCS).

Rosenberg added: "The NLDTF's Arts, Culture and National Heritage category provided R28 736 160 to fund the replacement and repair of existing roof structure and R1 675 800 towards the ROCS project. The reconstruction was strategically planned to coincide with the 2010 FIFA World Cup, the first-semester break and the low rainfall winter months. The project valued at R26 422 435 was awarded to Rapid Building Construction and reconstruction began promptly on 3 May 2010.

The task involved the removal of the building's timber roof structure and ancillary components including roof tiles and structure, ceilings, electrical pipe work and air-conditioning ducting to upper floors, gutters and rainwater downpipes and

and electrical light fittings. Final touches were concluded with the repainting and refurbishment of the interior upper floors which were affected by the roof removal. The external and courtyard facade has been repainted with the replacement of decayed doors and windows. The courtyard was also repaved and landscaped after new storm water pipes had been installed.

DUT set aside just over R2 million to fund additional repairing, landscaping, lighting to Campbell Square, epoxy floor painting, refurbishment of ramps and bird-proofing measures, including light reflectors, and sound devices.

Rosenberg said the remaining Bell Tower which was situated on the north wing of the roof is currently under reconstruction following the removal of decaying timber support structures. The total project including the building contract professional fees and additional scope costs amounted to R34 116 183.77.

“As a University of Technology in the 21st Century we pay tribute to the founders of higher education in Natal by commemorating their efforts which sowed the seeds for academic excellence a hundred years ago. This project would not have been completed in such a short time save for the dedication, commitment and extra hours put in by Singatha Africa Management Service, MAP Africa/ Makone, Chromanski Architects, Vaughan Charles and Associates, LSG International, Sydney Naidoo Associates and more importantly Rapid Building Construction, with more than 400 men and women who worked seven days a week, throughout the World Cup to bring the project to completion,” Rosenberg concluded.





## INSTITUTIONAL LEADERS OVER THE YEARS



Benjamin Mason Narbeth



Alan Pittendrigh



Professor  
Bennie Khoapa



Professor  
Dan Ncayiyana



Professor  
Bonganjalo Goba



Professor  
Nqabomzi Gawe



Professor Roy du Pré



Professor Ahmed Bawa





## THE BIRTH OF THE STUDENT CLUB HOUSE



In September 1929, a committee was appointed by the Natal Technical College Board of Studies to inquire into recreational facilities available to part-time students. Three months later, recommendations were proposed with the development scheme of a Student Club House and Gymnasium. However, the plan was put on ice as the country went into a four-year economic depression.

In December 1933, Humphrey Jones was appointed college Principal and made the Student Club House a priority. Fundraising efforts were embarked upon, with £5 493 raised by the end of 1935. In 1936, through a joint student and staff initiative a squad of collectors raised a further £13 990. In 1937, Mrs SF Crookes donated £10 000 in memory of her husband, Fred Crookes. The funds were to be used for equipping and building a gymnasium.

A Club House design competition was held by the College Council which was won by Ing, Jackson and Park-Ross. Both Howard College and the Club House had been designed by former students of the college. In 1938, the Club House was completed with costs totalling £45 000. The design, which is featured in Sir Banister Fletcher's

*A History of Architecture*, was admired for its modern international style and won the Gold Medal of the Natal Institute of Architects.

The Student Club House was officially opened, with a thousand guests in attendance, by Union Minister of Education, JH Hofmeyer on 26 August 1938. The gymnasium was opened by Sir Charles Smith, a prominent figure in the Natal Sugar Industry and a close friend of the late Mr Crookes.

The Club House included the Fred Crookes Gymnasium, a College Library and Refectory. However, due to the pressing need for space, the use of the premises was short-lived for what it was intended.

The Club House was later converted into lecture venues. With the increase in urban development, the college soon found itself in the middle of a bustling city. Despite receiving National Monument status, the building was later demolished along with the School of Art to make way for what is now known as Khuzimpi Shezi Road, formerly Market Road/Williams Road.



## The Design of the Club House

The International Style Student Club House was admired for its simplicity, what was envisaged for the students for whom it was built and above all, few colleges and universities in South Africa or overseas at the time, were privileged to have a recreational club of such high quality.

In the 1930s, Dutch links with South Africa were still strong due to reliance on imported building supplies, in addition to what was then available locally. Ing, Jackson and Park-Ross Club House design was inspired by the brick architecture by Dutch modernist architect, Willem Marinus Dukok.

The International Style, which was first developed in Europe and the United States, was a stark contrast to the classical approach of Victorian and Edwardian architecture. It was also a reaction to the highly-ornamented Art Deco style which had become popular. It is characterized by rectilinear and rounded forms, light and unornamented surfaces, glass, steel and open interiors.

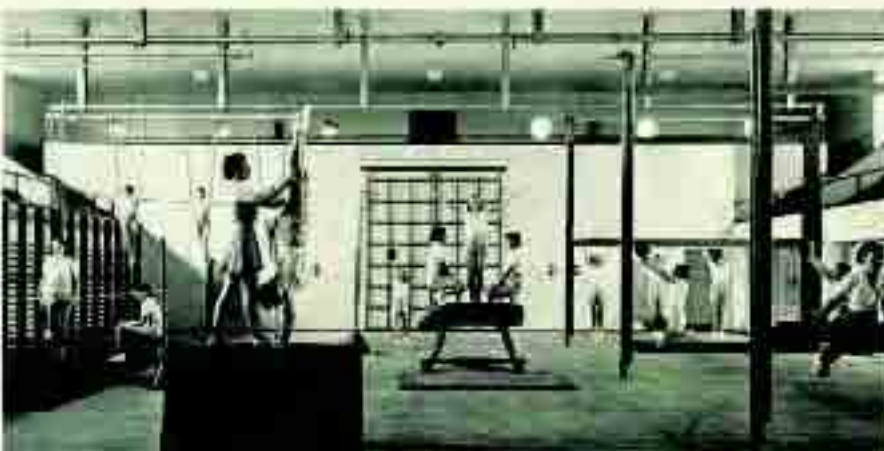
The north side of the Club House overlooked Smith Street and was adorned with three circular low relief sculptural panels by artist and ceramicist, Mary Stainbank in 1938.

She attended the School of Art at Natal Technical College from 1916-1921. Prior to the building being demolished, the Stainbank reliefs were removed.

The east side of the Club House which faced the railway lines housed the library which was generously sponsored by the Railway Administration. A marble plaque was erected on the north entrance. Today, all that remains of the building is the Stainbank sculptures and the Fred Crookes Gymnasium plaque which is now kept at the Fred Crookes Sports Centre on Steve Biko Campus.

The Student Club House was considered an architectural masterpiece, juxtaposed to the classical building from which it was born. The rest of the College in Baroque Revival style was adorned by decorative clusters of ornaments.

The college building had two bell towers and several smaller turrets, decorative towers, which today no longer exist save for the bell tower on the north entrance which is currently being restored. The hallways were illuminated by several small chandeliers and furnished with wooden tiles, stained glass windows and large wooden doors.





## DEFYING THE LAWS TO ADMIT STUDENTS OF COLOUR



Carl Frederik Mouton was unanimously elected as Council Chairman in March 1984 after the retirement of Prof Eric Phillips. He also served as an Executive and Building Committee member. As a man of great stature, he was not afraid to air his thoughts and opinions and went against the Union's laws to ensure the dream of higher education was realised. He was an established architect with a military background and served on several educational, commercial committees and operational boards.

For 60 years, the Council defended their prerogative to run the College according to local needs and their interpretation of those needs. In the 80s, the State with apartheid regulations cut finances to schools and institutions which defied apartheid laws. After Mariannhill's St Francis Catholic School continued to defy the laws of racial segregation, and Northern Cape Technical College faced legal action for admitting Blacks and Coloureds in classes, a quota system was introduced.

Upon hearing technikons were restricted to admitting a token number of Black (African, Coloured and Indian) students, Mouton provided a counter argument that scholars should be admitted based on merit contrary to the 6% prescribed by former National Minister of Education, PJ Clase.

His decision to defy the quota system continued and was supported by former Rector, Prof Andre du Preez. Mouton

believed that if the admissions were based on merit, students across all race groups would have to meet the criteria irrespective of quota percentages.

The State later refused to allow Black students to share residence with White students. This created yet another skirmish between Mouton and Clase, as the Technikon received students from other provinces for courses unique to the institution.

Mouton had undertaken a poll amongst White students to see if there were any objections to the admission of Black students. The response was favourable and after the findings were submitted to Clase, he requested permission to place Black students in White residences.

Clase initially agreed in a letter, followed by another letter 10 days later retracting his initial permission. Mouton remained calm and called Clase. He said: "We received a letter from you, on your official letterhead and signed by you. On this we acted. We now accommodate several non-Whites in the residence and so far it has been most successful."

In response, Clase said: "Then you must throw them out". Mouton bluntly refused, he courageously defied the Minister's orders. Other institutions around the country followed suit.



## NOTABLE ALUMNI

McIntosh Nzimande - Kass Naidoo - Aakash Bramdeo

Fred Khumalo - Yasantha Naidoo - Gordon Murray

Andrew Verster - Harold Strachan - Nanda Soobben

Vanessa Govender - Zayn Nabbi - Fikile-Ntsikelelo Moya

Alan Khan - Robbie Naidoo - Uveka Rangappa - Ben Said

Patrick Conroy - Sharoda Rapeti - Mary Stainbank

Shahan Ramkissoon - Jeremy Maggs - Mary Papayya

## EMMA SMITH SCHOLARSHIP

The Emma Smith Scholarship was founded in April 1920 by the Honourable Charles G Smith in memory of his mother. The scholarship provided funds to promising arts students which were initially shared between two students from the Natal Technical College and University of Natal. The scholarship presently sits at R60 000. Over the years, more than 50 students have been awarded the scholarship including fashion designer Dion Chang, artist and ceramicist Mary Stainbank, Workspace mentor Rowan Gatfield and Visual Communication Design member of staff, Mark Mindry.



## EARLY CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

### Academic Activities

The Durban Technical Institute offered trade, engineering, agricultural, commerce, medical and leisure courses. Matriculation classes began in 1911.

Technical courses included Metal Work, Carriage Building, German, Materia Medica, Technical Telegraphy, Electronics, Sanitary Science, Botany, Zoology, Costing and Cost Accounts, Pharmacy, Educational Woodwork, Quantity Surveying, Marine Insurance, Secretarial Practice, Trade and Commercial Organization. Part-time lectures included English, History, Dutch, French, Latin, Mathematics, Chemistry and Botany. Saturday lectures included Shakespeare, Modern History, Darwinism and Anthropology.

The Department of Domestic Science was established and stemmed from Saturday classes held at the Girls' Model School on Gale Street in 1909. The department provided instructions in Cookery, Dressmaking, Millinery, Housewifery and Laundry Work.

Popular courses in the 1960s at the School of Art included Sculpture and Ceramics, Art of Drawing, Graphic Art, History of Art, Painting and Anatomy.

Premises at City Campus were also occupied by Pharmacy, the Nautical Academy, Engineering, Public Relations, Food and Clothing Technology, Health Services, School of Printing and the Academy of Music.

### Sporting Activities

College sport was given a tremendous boost by ex-service men in 1919 when the first successful efforts were made to organise clubs for students of the Technical High School, part time evening classes and ex-pupils of the College.

The Technical College Old Boys' Rugger Club was launched in 1919. In 1922, under the guidance of rugby coach JR Sullivan, they became a force to be reckoned with.

In 1930s, the College won the Wylie Cup, Dewar Shield and Murray Cup. The Cricket Club was champion of the Durban senior league in 1924, 1925, 1928 and 1929.

In 1923, the Technical High School Swimming Club participated in the Under 21 Natal Water Polo League. They won the league's First Division and subsequently the Mills Cup in 1928, 1929, 1931 and 1932.

In the 1920s and 1930s, Jack Wyman and WR I'Ons were Natal and South African swimming champions. Later, tennis, football, hockey, ballet, boxing and gymnastics clubs were established. In 1932, various College sporting clubs organised themselves into the Natal Technical College Sports Union.

On 26 August 1938, the Student Club House was opened and included a gymnasium.





## MODERN FACULTY PROJECTS

The Faculty of Arts and Design has a historic reputation of producing artists of national and international stature. As part of the faculty's corporate social investment and community outreach initiatives, several projects have successfully contributed to the development of the city and province. Recent projects include the following:

### Saturday Classes

In the 1980s, Saturday classes were held as a staff initiative to train black teachers. A Saturday enrichment school for Black high school students was subsequently funded by the eThekweni Rotary Club. The programme continues today to improve learner's academic potential and assist them in applying to tertiary institutions.

### Art For Humanity

Art for Humanity (AFH) is a non-profit organisation run by Fine Art Lecturer, Jan Jordaan. The organisation engages cultural production in visual arts to promote regional and global human rights. AFH has been involved in art and advocacy projects since 1988, and hosted the International Art and Social Justice Conference in March 2010.

### Workspace

Workspace, a Work-Integrated Design Studio is an initiative by the DVCD for BTech Graphic Design students. It provides an innovative approach to experiential learning in visual communication using the latest

technology and South African design influence. The project was established in 2009 and is managed by DVCD's head, Piers Carey and Graphic Design Lecturer, Rowan Gatfield.

### Interior Design

The Interior Design Project is one of the Faculty of Arts and Design's most successful community outreach initiatives which has made vast aesthetical improvements to financially-strained orphanages and shelters in Durban.

The initiative began under the leadership of Interior Design Lecturer, Carolanda du Toit and has made successful strides in partnering with retail stores and industry to develop and expand the initiative as a long term sustainable project.

### Siyazama Project

The Siyazama development project was established in 1995 and is the brainchild of Prof Kate Wells who has a PhD in Social Anthropology. It operates as the flagship project under the Department of Visual Communication Design (DVCD). Siyazama aims to educate rural women on HIV/AIDS education through interactive workshops and simultaneously focuses on preserving KwaZulu-Natal's indigenous design and craft heritage.





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