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GRADUATE *alive*

Gwen Stuart

DUT launched its first **Graduate Alive** and HIV Counselling and Testing Campaign aimed at encouraging students to know their HIV status at the Fred Crookes Sports Ground, on 6 August 2010.

The project was run by the HIV/AIDS Centre, in partnership with the South African Students Congress (SASCO) as part of the Centre's ongoing commitment towards HIV education to promote self commitment to graduating alive.



DVC: Institutional Support,
Professor Nqabomzi Gawe addressed students at
the Graduate Alive and HTC Campaign launch.
Photographer: Gwen Stuart

Information on HIV/AIDS was made available from the HIV/AIDS Centre, companies and NGOs affiliated with the project. Peer educator, S'thokozile Xabashe motivated HIV positive students to keep to a rigorous healthy lifestyle. Drama students entertained the crowd with an edutainment sketch while NGO, Ithembalabantu, provided voluntary HIV testing. The project received sponsorships from Future Life, Ever Fresh, Red Bull and CAPRISA. The event was attended by Reverend Mandla Mdabe, Sbo Shezi a representative from the MEC for Health's office, Pastor Vusi Dube and Westville Correctional Service Centre representatives.



Message from the HIV/AIDS Centre's co-ordinator

The HIV/AIDS Centre is currently working on integrating HIV/AIDS education into the academic curriculum. A workshop was recently held to share what other institutions such as the University of the Free State, University of Fort Hare and University of KwaZulu-Natal, have done. We intend to support more student and staff projects in 2011. We look forward to diversifying our approach in creating awareness and educating the DUT community on HIV/AIDS. We welcome innovative ideas and suggestions and hope to establish a long term partnership with DUT academic and non-academic departments, student bodies and industry.

To all staff and students who participated in our 2010 campaigns, we thank you for your efforts in making our programmes successful. We look forward to your continued support in the coming years and hope our publication and projects have enabled you to make safe and responsible choices for your future. Best wishes to all students in the upcoming examinations. From us all at the HIV/AIDS Center, we wish the DUT community a merry Christmas and prosperous 2011.



Thobile Zulu
Specialist HIV/AIDS Co-ordinator

Incorporating HIV/AIDS education into the academic curriculum

Ntokozo Zondo

The HIV/AIDS Centre is currently working on integrating HIV/AIDS education into the academic curriculum, in conjunction with co-hosting a series of workshops with other Higher Education Institutions.

DVC: Academic, Prof Nomthandazo Gwele said a task team has to be appointed to drive the long term sustainable project. As part of the centre's focus, the current projects will be extended to tackle issues of non-violence and responsible citizenship. The merger of the HIV/AIDS Centre, the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CELT) and the International Centre of Nonviolence (ICON) will result in the formation of a new integrated Foundational Module.

An integration team, with representatives from each centre, were tasked to put together and present a draft proposed module at a Strategic Planning Meeting in May. The office of the DVC: Academic organised a final Integration Workshop to appoint a task team responsible for the design of a merged module encompassing the objectives of each centre.

The Student Representative Council (SRC), Deans, HODs and academic representatives attended the workshop where learning outcomes were discussed to inform the proposed module. The Centre for Quality, Promotion and Assurance (CQPA) addressed academics on protocol to be observed should the module be registered. The workshop was a success with 2012 set as the deadline for faculties to have integrated the module into their academic curricular.

The task team received brilliant feedback from the discussion. Deans across faculties said work in the field of HIV/AIDS is currently being undertaken to further inform students about the pandemic. Prof Gwele said: "The HIV/AIDS Centre, CELT and ICON will serve as an information resource for the Design Team. However, the new module should be owned by the faculties."

She said the approach and implementation of an integrated module is inspired by the success of University of KwaZulu-Natal's (UKZN) Voluntary Foundational Module and Credit Bearing Foundational Module, University of the Free State's Foundational Module and University of Fort Hare's Foundational Module.



The proposed Integration Task Team with members from the HIV/AIDS Centre, Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT) and International Centre Of Nonviolence (ICON) at the Integration Workshop

Photographer:
Morgan Kisten



Religious seminar geared towards preventing the spread of HIV

Gwen Stuart

Durban University of Technology (DUT) hosted its first religious seminar for students representing different religious formations, on 29 August 2010. The HIV/AIDS Centre, in partnership with the Department of Student Governance and Development, organised the event in a collaborative effort with religious clubs and societies.

The project aimed to provide revised HIV/AIDS interventions on prevention, positive living, wellness management, treatment, literacy and advocacy for students affected and infected with HIV/AIDS. The centre and the department will provide sustained support towards student HIV/AIDS initiatives by providing peer education training, information through awareness campaigns, facilitation of discussion forums and community outreach projects.

eThekweni Community Church member, Dr Taki Dube, and former DUT student, Senzo Myeni addressed students on participating in HIV/AIDS initiatives on campus. During the seminar, students pledged their commitment to continue working within the student community. The student initiative aimed to ensure that the dignity and rights of people living with HIV/AIDS are upheld, creating a solidarity movement that mobilises support towards removing the stigma attached to the virus by advocating an open atmosphere conducive for status



A collaborative choir entertained students at DUT's first religious seminar with hymns and praise songs. The event was attended by 200 students who gathered to unite against the spread of HIV

Photographer: Gwen Stuart

disclosure. The project also aimed to understand and address social factors influencing the spread of HIV and ways to effect positive actions to prevent further spread of the pandemic.

The religious seminar was supported by religious organisations affiliated to DUT, Alpine Food Services and Tromso Kiosk.



PR Interns

Over the last three years, HIV/AIDS Centre staff worked closely with Public Relations students in providing Work Integrated Learning (WIL). S'lindokuhle Mokoena (left) was employed as an intern at the centre in 2008. Ntuthuko Sokhela (right) was employed in 2009; he is currently working on obtaining his BTech qualification.

They are proud of their involvement with the staff at the HIV/AIDS Centre and having completed their undergraduate studies.

