

Issue: 2 November 2009

From the Desk of the Executive Director: Corporate Affairs

Welcome to the second issue of What's Up @ DUT!

We have introduced another communication tool for DUT's internal stakeholders. The purpose is to ensure that you are continually kept up-to-date with what is going on in our university. This will ensure that we provide you with "fresh" news all the time as the ConDUiT is only published every second month.

With so many demands on our budget, and supporting the "global greening campaigns" digital is the way to go. Not only will we be saving a lot of trees as this publication goes paperless, but we are also doing our bit to contribute towards nature conversation.

For the ConDUiT lovers, do not despair. We will still produce the ConDUiT but at less frequent intervals.

This is a pilot project until the end of 2009. Your views and opinions are welcomed. We look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Nomonde Mbadi

In this issue

First DUT inaugural lecture

DUT recognises the importance of e-skills

A Musical Journey with Rakesh Soni and Friends

Nomination for National Excellence in Teaching and Learning award

DUT students excel in PlatAfrica Jewellery Competition

EduLoan laptop prize handover

EduLoan's commitment to sustainable educational development

Principals' lunch

Interior Design annual awards

DUT hosts former Prime Minister of Jordan, Dr. Abdel Salam Majali

Lecture on International Year of Astronomy

Students' wooden creations take the prize

First DUT inaugural lecture

Durban University of Technology (DUT) hosted its first inaugural lecture series on Wednesday, 28 October 2009 at the Hotel School's Conference Centre, on Ritson Campus.

Prof Pavel Yaroslavovich Tabakov from the Department of Mechanical Engineering was honoured to present the lecture. He addressed the academic community, staff and students on the topic: "Development of the algorithm involving the forest of decision trees for the prediction of fuel consumption in large trucks in surface mining".

Prof Tabakov is a Civil Engineer by profession. He has been an Associate Professor since 2004 and was awarded a full Professorship in April 2009. He lectures in Applied Science of Material III and Strength of Material IV (B-Tech level).

"These inaugural lectures presented by the DUT professors demonstrate the caliber of the staff at the institution and they distinguish this institution from other institutions that provide the same service to the society," said Prof Roy Du Pré, DUT Vice-Chancellor.



Prof Theo Andrew DVC: Academic (Acting), who facilitated programme of the lecture, also stated that the only way to give support to the professor's lecture is by attending these functions because they can share their new information with DUT staff.

Pictured: DUT Vice-Chancellor Prof Roy Du Pré congratulates Prof Pavel Tabakov on presenting the first DUT

inaugural lecture

- Sandile D Msomi

DUT recognises the importance of e-skills

Eidos Chief Executive Officer, Bruce Muirhead has been promoting the development of e-Skills networks across the country in various educational institutes, most recently at the Durban University of Technology.

Muirhead addressed DUT's executive management, the Information Society Institution, and the e-Skills Institute of the Department of Communications, DUT staff and general public at a public lecture at DUT.

He related the key steps necessary for implementing a successful e-Skills network and discussed the importance of including members from the community, universities, industry and government.

"The collaboration of these members of society is imperative in the success of the e-Skills development process. Also a clear and easily comprehensible goal or objective is required in order to ensure that this network does not succumb to failure", said Muirhead.

During this presentation, Prof Wesso of the Meraka e-skills Institute pointed out that in South Africa, there is a huge shortage of e-Skills human capital development. This is due to the lack of demand of e-Skilled experts in the labour market as well as the high exodus of SA citizens to other countries that offer better working conditions. To respond to this challenge the government formed the Meraka e-Skills Institute and an e-Skills Council. The e-Skills Council consists of the Ministers of Communication, Trade and Industry, Public Service and Administration, Education, Science and Technology, Labour and individuals elected by the Presidential International Advisory Council members.

The Meraka e-skills Institute has created a collaborative effort which is 'building on existing institutional e-skills capacity.' "We acknowledge that the gap between FET colleges and

Universities is incredibly steep to the point whereby the FET College's standards are much higher than those of the perceived better institutions. However, Meraka's primary objective is to introduce the Korean styled e-Skilled literacy level in the early childhood development stage" said Meraka manager, Prof Wesson.

Executive Dean of Engineering and the Built Environment and Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic (Acting), Prof Theo Andrew said: "The key is always a moral purpose. The hope is to develop the skills of good thinkers, researchers and public leaders from an early age. This is also what the Meraka e- skills Institute hopes to achieve."

- Mausley Oliphant and Hlumelo Nyikana

'A Musical Journey with Rakesh Soni and Friends'

Music lovers are in for a treat as local flute maestro and tabla player, Rakesh Soni takes to the stage in collaboration with instrumentalist, Yashaen Luckan, and local artists in a spectacular fusion of music and dance. The YR Productions' concert titled 'A Musical Journey with Rakesh Soni and Friends' will be held at Suncoast Casino's Supernova Theatre on Monday, 09 November.

The two hour programme will feature a colourful and vibrant dance performance by Praksha Karshan, popular English songs by partially sighted Jodi Naidoo, Alicia Dawling and Ronnie Prolad. Luckan is expected to get the crowd travelling down memory lane with a medley of entertaining music of various Indian genres.

Soni is a network administrator at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) and is a self taught musician and recording artist. He holds a diploma in Information Technology and studied Music Technology at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, UK. He has also performed solo and within an orchestra at international music festivals and concerts. Soni is also the 2009 recipient of the prestigious DUT Silver Tusk Award for his achievements, perseverance and honour that his accomplishments have brought to the university.

The show will coincide with the release of Soni's third album titled Shades of Expression. The album is an instrumental cover version of popular Bollywood classics with Yashaen Luckan on percussions and backing tracks by Rajiv Mohan.

The rhythmical concert will feature a duo by Luckan and his talented son, Nikhil, who has a refined ear for music. Nikhil is expected charm the crowd at his debut performance with an original composition.

Luckan said the concert is a fusion of western and eastern music, with rhythmical dance performances and entertainment by stand-up comedian, Afzal Khan.

As an established musician, Luckan made his mark on the South African music fraternity. His style demonstrates the strictness of classical music compositions which he fine tunes with his creative flair and spontaneous technique. He said: "My love for music developed in my early childhood, however, I was born into a family of musicians and was therefore exposed to various genres of Indian music from a very young age. I have also performed with prominent local and international artists and have been featured on several broadcast programmes".

Despite his unwavering dedication to his music, Luckan he has also maintained a robust career in architecture; he currently holds a Master's qualification in the discipline and is the Head of Department of Architectural Technology at DUT.



Luckan has managed to strike the right balance between his music and academic career by amalgamating the two in his Masters thesis titled Music & Architecture- towards a centre for Indian Music in Durban.

Pictured is Rakesh Soni playing his flute

- Karishma Ganpath

Nomination for National Excellence in Teaching and Learning award

The Higher Education Learning and Teaching Association of Southern Africa (HELTASA) in association with the Council on Higher Education (CHE) have nominated a Dental Technology lecturer from the Durban University of Technology (DUT) as the recipient of their celebrated National Excellence in Teaching and Learning award.

Anisa Vahed is one of four recipients, out of a total of 48 candidates from across South Africa, to be awarded the 2009 title. The award will be presented to her at the annual HELTASA conference, which is scheduled to take place from 25-27 November 2009 at the University of Johannesburg (UJ). She will also receive the sum of R15 000, which is attached to the award, to further her research work at DUT.

Vahed was nominated for the National Excellence in Teaching and Learning award by the Dental Sciences HOD, Grant Somers, with the additional support from Health Sciences Executive Dean, Professor Nomthandazo Gwele.

Vahed said: "I am overwhelmed and highly excited to have received this prestigious award, which is an affirmation that my teaching is helping my students. Research in Dental Technology is a rarity and this award has further incentivised, encouraged and empowered me to continue in the field of Dental Technology Education. It will also afford me the opportunity to network and collaborate with other specialist experts, and create long term collaborative relationships and work on projects that I am passionate about".

Vahed has worked for the Department of Dental Sciences since 1999, when she started her career initially, as a graduate assistant. Since then, she has persevered in attaining excellence in her work - teaching and research in Dental Technology.

In June, Vahed was also presented with the Educator of the Year Award by the Dental Technology Association of Southern Africa (DENTASA). Later in September, she won the second place position at the institutional phase of the National Innovative Competition for her innovation the "Dental Technology Educational Games", which included the Tooth Morphology board game and the Muscle Mania multi media games. These games are specifically designed for undergraduate Dental Technology students and were used as a tutorial strategy in converting abstract information into interesting learner friendly content. Based on the innovativeness and success of the games, Vahed was invited to compete in the National Innovative Competition. She is also the first South African Dental Technician to have a journal article published in an international Dental Materials Journal, in 2006.

Vahed has a colourful and vibrant personality and has struck the right balance between maintaining a successful career and productive social life. "I am a huge adrenaline junky and outdoors person; I enjoy gym, adrenaline filled activities such as bungee jumping, paragliding and water sports. I am also a big European soccer fan and a Liverpool supporter. I love watching the Discovery channel and gymnastics."

She is also big on family and spends most of her recreational time engaging in family activities. "My love for the outdoors came from spending time with my large adventurous family and friends; we often go mountain climbing and back packing together. I also enjoy exploring other countries and their cultures." Her travels to date include visiting the Middle East extensively, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Greece, Spain, Germany, London and Turkey and she hopes to continue extending her travels in the future.

Vahed is deeply fascinated with the roots of her culture and religion. "I take pleasure in reading biographies relating to the Middle East, I am fond of Islamic classical music with traditional undertones, I also possess a love for Islamic influenced art. I am selective when it comes to Bollywood movies but am captivated with the work of fashion designers Tarun Tahliani, Manish Malhotra and Ritu Beri."

On the subject of her accomplishments Vahed said: "I owe my life's achievements to the blessings and guidance of my parents Cassim Ebrahim and Hawa Bibi Vahed, my late grandfather, Dawood Ebrahim Goolam Paruk and Allah, my creator, through which all things are made possible."

- Karishma Ganpath

DUT students excel in PlatAfrica Jewellery Competition

DUT Jewellery Design students make their mark at the 11th PlatAfrica Jewellery Competition

Durban University of Technology's (DUT) Jewellery Design students have been awarded for their innovative and inspiring designs at the 11th PlatAfrica Jewellery Competition. The event was held at an evening awards ceremony at Gallagher Estate in Midrand at the weekend. Distinguished guests from design houses and established jewellery manufacturers attended the celebrated occasion which was sponsored by Anglo Platinum, Johnson Matthey and Metal Concentrators.



DUT student designs under the theme Zulu Symmetry won first place in the student collection category, with each student being awarded with a R2500 and a certificate in recognition of their outstanding designs and unique creativity. DUT student designs for the theme Indian Intricacy won merit awards for the versatile and delicate designs.



This year's competition provided the impetus for South African designers to get creative with platinum. Platinum remains the metal of choice for bridal and gifts of commitment across the globe. Timeless and contemporary, platinum is astonishingly versatile. The competition theme revolved around cultural connections in relation to Southern African courtship and broader wedding traditions. PlatAfrica challenged designers to come up with an innovative way of reinventing the past in a diverse presentation that represents South Africa's dynamic and diverse society fused with a contemporary perception of eclectic wedding gifting traditions.

Professional and student designers were tasked to use their ingenuity to create symbolic platinum jewellery based on the design brief. Plat Africa received 126 entries with fresh, creative designs inspired by over 26 diverse Southern African cultures. Designer Vernon White received second place in the professional category but it was his team's "Zulu Symmetry" that won first place in the student collection category.

"This year's competition immediately caught my attention because it allowed professionals to work with young student designers in a collaborative way. Our collection was inspired by the beaded necklaces worn by the Zulu people. Personally, I was thrilled to be able to explore my own interest in art deco jewellery design which complemented the strong geometric shapes favoured by Zulu culture perfectly. My hero piece takes the traditional Zulu love letter to a new level as it incorporates a locket into the design. The team worked so well together in creating this contemporary bridal collection and it was often simply a matter of guiding their talents to create saleable pieces," said White.



Michael Joseph of Anglo Platinum said: "So often we talk about the need to differentiate through design by providing jewellers the opportunity to work with this precious metal and inspiring and harnessing the creativity of our local talent. PlatAfrica has produced a collection of really unique jewellery. Jewellery that may very well evolve cultural gift giving whilst still upholding traditional values"

Winner of this year's professional category, Durban based designer and mentor Vijay Shah said: "Working with the students from DUT provided me with fresh insights and inspiration, their enthusiasm was infectious. Although my heritage is Indian, my work as a professional designer is generally very ethnic and South African, so creating this collaborative collection was a wonderful challenge! The students were inspired by the filigree designs found in traditional Indian jewellery and each design was their own unique creation. It was wonderful to help them tweak their ideas to maximise each piece's commercial potential. "

Pictured: Students' work that won prizes

- Karishma Ganpath

EduLoan laptop prize handover

A KwaZulu-Natal educator is one of four winners of the National EduLoan Laptop Competition. Gideon Msezane received his prize at a handover ceremony at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) earlier this month. The event was attended by KZN EduLoan representatives and DUT's Department of Financial Aid.

Since 2007, Msezane has been granted three loans from EduLoan to further the education for his daughter, Noncebo who is currently completing her National Diploma in Hotel Management at DUT. Msezane initially did not believe that he had won the competition and was sceptical when he received a call from EduLoan. He said: "I did not believe it. I thought the whole exercise was part of a creative sales ploy. However, to see it finally happening for real, in front of these wonderful people is unbelievable. This is the most blessed day of my life".

Operations Manager of EduLoan in KZN, Klaas Mabetlela delivered a presentation at the handover ceremony detailing EduLoan Corporate Social Investment and its dedication to the development of youth in South Africa.

Mabetlela is convinced that the occasion proved to be a comprehensive one-stop-shop in that it provided an opportunity to brand EduLoan out there by building solid relations with partners while at the same time acknowledging and motivating staff. He strongly believes that gave the team another avenue to be together and network. He also feels that it was the most blessed day of the winner's life. He applauds everyone for being an overwhelming winner.



EduLoan1 - Pictured from left: Sarika Govender, Sikhona Ndlovu, Gideon Msezane, Klaas Mabetlela, Faith Brisett, Somayya Maula, Prabashnee Kisten, Magandree Govender, Thaveshnee Naidoo. They joined Gideon Msezane in celebrating the laptop prize.

- **Article and picture:** Supplied

EduLoan's commitment to sustainable educational development

EduLoan, the Durban University of Technology's (DUT) accredited financial provider, has awarded two students with laptops to the value of R16000 each.

Since EduLoan's partnership with DUT, it has assisted more than 500 000 students countrywide by writing off study loans, issuing bursaries, providing secure financial assistance and laptop giveaways. EduLoan's regional management said that their corporate social investment aims to contribute to human capital development in society through the educational advancement of youth.

Portia Nobel, a third year Tourism Management student along with Krinesh Sakaloo, a BTech Hospitality Management student, were presented with laptops on October 23.

Klaas Mabetlela, Operations Manager at EduLoan said: "Computers are one of the tools that enable individual advancement in this dynamic world that is driven by development in technology. Education is the only thing that no one can take away from you".

DUT Vice Chancellor, Prof Roy Du Pré said the university was grateful for the continued sponsorship from EduLoan and that laptops were a good investment in a student's academic career as it is a tool that is necessary for accessing and retrieving information.

Nobel said winning the laptop has encouraged her to persevere in her studies and is aspiring to be a high achiever. Sukaloo said he was shocked and excited at the same time, adding that the

laptop will assist him as he plans to pursue his Masters degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management. Eduloan was thanked by the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Lecturer, Arasmus Mnguni, who said EduLoan's support and efforts in sustaining youth development is recognized and appreciated.

Pictured: From Left back: Mr Klaas Mabetlela (Manager: Operations), Ms Nomonde Mbadi (Executive Director: Corporate Affairs), Portia Noble (laptop recipient), Prof Roy Du Pré (Vice-Chancellor), Krinesh Sukaloo (laptop recipient), Prof Nqabomzi Gawe (Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Institutional Support), Mr Erasmus Mzobanzi Mnguni and Mrs Hesta Vermeulen.



- Sandile Msomi

Principals' lunch

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) recently held its annual Principals' Lunch as part of its Corporate Social Investment (CSI) programme at the Ritson Campus Hotel School, last month. The event was organized by the Department of Student Recruitment and was open to schools in and around Durban.

The programme included presentations by the Central Applications Office (CAO), Lecturer Rajen Naicker, from the Department of Management Information and Finance Officer, Nelani Govender, from the Department of Financial Aid. Guests were entertained by undergraduate drama students, treated to lunch prepared by the Hotel School and taken on a tour of the Faculty of Health Sciences and the Faculty of Engineering Science and the Built Environment.

Student Recruitment manager, Rodney Maharaj, said principals from 150 feeder schools were invited to the Principals' Lunch with the aim of providing insight into DUT's academic programmes on offer to matriculants. "The itinerary was designed to change the perception that DUT is the second university of choice in KZN. We are a university of technology which provides graduate and post graduate courses that are internationally recognized and is of the highest international standards. We have received positive feedback from different schools and we intend on having a vibrant and detailed programme next year."

Addressing the seminar, acting DUT PR Practitioner Zama Hlengwa, said the programme was geared to ensure that principals from various schools went home with the message that education is affordable to all learners. "We have bursaries and financial aid available from accredited providers at a reduced rate in comparison to banks. We are here to encourage learners to further their education", she said.

Dr Charmaine Korporaal, Department of Chiropractic and Somatology lecturer, said: "Educators were taken on a tour of the Health Sciences Faculty as many were not aware of the different programmes available and what they involved. We intend on holding a Faculty Day which will provide a more tangible experience to scholars and educators. This will give them more insight into the nature of the course and what is required, both academically and psychologically."

HOD of Life Orientation at Our Lady of Fatima Convent School, Alison Swanepoel said: "The presentation was great, it was very interesting and we enjoyed the tour of the two faculties and we are now aware of what courses are offered".

Chairperson of the Principals Forum in Northern KwaZulu Natal, Bergville Secondary Principal, Vusi Nkabinda said: "DUT has done an incredible job. My sincere gratitude goes out to the Student Recruitment staff. The presentation was very fruitful and an eye opener. The institute is doing its level best to reach disadvantaged students and all involved should keep up the good work".

Umbilo Secondary Educator, Dale Seidle, said his visit to DUT has changed his perception for the better. "Well done, very well presented. I feel that DUT does not receive enough exposure. The public perception is that DUT is a poor cousin to the University of KwaZulu-Natal".

- Karishma Ganpath

Interior Design annual awards

The Durban University of Technology's (DUT) Interior Design Programme held its Annual 3rd year awards ceremony at the Arthur Smith Hall, on City Campus last month.

The event which was held on October 22 also showcased student portfolios which were displayed at the Interior Design Gallery. On exhibition was the work of first year student, Kylie Mcfayden who recently won the prestigious 15th PG Bison award. The exposition also included work based on specific design briefs for non-profit organisations in aid of community development projects.

The Department of Interior Design raised R13 000 in sponsorship, which was used to purchase the prizes presented to 19 designers for their eclectic and detailed designs.

Interior Design lecturer, Sue Barrett, said the event was attended by proud parents and established interior designers. This year's awards ceremony was a special achievement with the addition of a few fun categories that were made possible by the increased sponsorship from industry.

McFayden won four awards including Top Student of the Year which took the form of a floating trophy and R1000 sponsored by Franklin, Garland and Gibson Architect (FGG).

In order to maintain the high academic standard, the programme co-ordinator, Cally Du Toit, aims to obtain more equipment and funding to increase their students' exposure to different interior design techniques and help them hone their skills in the trade. She said: "It is our department's plan to have a second computer library set up next year, which will be helpful to students. We aim to increase the number of outstanding and high achievers at next year's award ceremony."



The 2009 list of top achievers include: Winner of Invitation Design: Sihle Ndlovu , 3rd Top Theory: Chantelle Loeve, 2nd Top Theory: Angela Joubert, 1st Top Theory: Kylie Mcfayden, Peer Assist Ambassador: Luvuyo Mbikwana, 3rd CAD: Paige Macaulay, 2nd CAD: Sphiwe Ndlovu, 1st CAD: Kylie Mcfayden, Joy Ambassador: Candice Geysler, 3rd Office Project: Jennie McKenzie, 2nd Office Project: Nicole Day, 1st Office Project: Kylie Mcfayden, Outstanding Portfolio: Angela Joubert, Student with Commendable Growth: Sphiwe Ndlovu, 3rd Interior Design: Angela Joubert, 2nd Interior Design: Nicole Day, 1st Interior Design:

Kylie Mcfayden, Grace Ambassador: Silindile Duma, Class Representative: Roxy Meyers

Pictured: 3rd year Interior Design student, Sihle Ndlovu proudly accepts his award

- Article and photographer by Khulekani Mazibuko

DUT hosts former Prime Minister of Jordan, Dr. Abdel Salam Majali

The Directorate of International Education and Partnerships at the Durban University of Technology hosted His Excellency Dr. Abdel Salam Majali, who delivered a lecture on the conflict between Palestine and Israel.

Majali is a former Prime Minister of Jordan, which forms part of the two Arab nations that attempted to make peace with Israel during a peace conference in Madrid, 1991. He has dedicated his life trying to solve the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Majali is a distinguished citizen of Jordan and well known leader in the Middle East, he is also a member of the Royal College of Physicians, London and the Third World Academy of Sciences. Within the Government of Jordan he has held the portfolio as the Minister of Health, Education,

Defence, Minister of State for the Prime-Ministry Affairs and Prime Minister. He also served as the President of the University of Jordan for two terms. Majali was Advisor to His Majesty, King Hussein, and was centrally involved in the Peace Treaty with Israel; he headed Jordan's delegation for peace negotiations with Israel in Madrid in 1991 and Washington in 1994.

Majali was also the former Chair of the Board of the United Nations University in Tokyo in Japan; Chairman of the Islamic Academy of Sciences and Chairman of the World Affairs Council in 1980. He is a strong believer in visionary leadership, together with late King Hussein, Queen Noor and former UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali; he laid the founding vision for the United Nations University International Leadership Institute in Amman, Jordan.

In his lecture, Majali traced the root causes of the Palestine-Israeli conflict that is considered to be a major destabilising factor for peace in the Middle East. He also shared his extensive and rich knowledge of his involvement in the peace negotiations with Israel, assessed the current status of the conflict and outlined possibilities for peace in the region.

Lecture on International Year of Astronomy

The Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Physics hosted Prof N Dadhich who delivered a lecture on the topic "Understanding Einstein: A Common Sense Perspective." The lecture marked the celebration of the International Year of Astronomy.

Dr Sury Rajah from Mathematics, who facilitated the programme during the lecture, coordinated the visit of Prof Dadhich.

Prof Dadhich has recently retired from the Directorship of the Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics in Pune, India. This is a world ranked research institute and is amongst the top Science institutes in India. They are also partners in the South African Large Telescope collaboration.

Prof. Dadhich was born in a small village in Churu District of Rajasthan. He studied at Pilani, Vallabh Vidyanagar and Pune. He did a Ph.D. at Pune University in General Relativity under the guidance of Professor V.V. Narlikar. He joined the faculty of Mathematics, Pune University in 1971. He left in 1988 when he was invited to draft the project report for Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA). In building up IUCAA he has been involved with Professor Jayant Narlikar right from the conception of the dream of creating a world class institute for the university scientists. He was Director of IUCAA from July 2003 until August 2009.



Prof Dadhich's main area of research is gravitation and relativistic astrophysics. He has published over 100 papers in international front rank journals in collaboration with many students and colleagues. He has visited several universities and institutes all over the globe. He has been nominated Honorary Research Professor by the University of Natal, Durban, South Africa. He has also been elected to the Council of the International Relativity Society and has been the President of the Indian Relativity Society. He is a fine and deep thinker with a commitment not only to make

complex and subtle issues of science accessible to general audience but also to have a dialogue on issues of greater and wider social relevance.

Pictured: Prof N Dadhich and Dr Sury Rajah
Pic by Bhekani Dlamini

Students' wooden creations take the prize

The Department of Interior and Architectural Design proved that they are trendsetters within the university when two of their students recently won first

and second prize in the Mixed Media competition.

Linda Knox's multi-function clock secured her the first prize which included a R10 000 cheque, an HP laptop and laptop bag, while Sabrina Schaller's clock which was inspired by the Durban skyline won her second place and a cheque worth R5 000.

The competition is a partnership between eThekweni Municipality, The Furniture Technology Centre (Furntech) and Economic Development Unit.

The students were required to present designs in four categories, which were manufactured using wood, beadwork and copper wire.

"This competition has exposed me to the need for young enthusiastic designers. I'm still very overwhelmed that I won 2nd place and this is a huge achievement for me", said Sabrina Schaller.

Linda Knox said: "I am overjoyed and cannot believe my luck. I will be going to Furntech in the future and feeding them with other design ideas for their NGO students to make products out of wood."

The main aim of this community initiative is to provide approximately 48 unemployed learners with technical skills training in furniture and wooden products manufacturing. Another objective was to sufficiently address economic development and employment within the municipality by creating small businesses. These businesses will form an extension of the Furntech Business incubation programme and the Business Support Unit will be responsible for the business creation process as well as monitoring ongoing entrepreneurial mentorship. The Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) will also provide the necessary business skills training which will assist with developing sustainable businesses. The chosen designs will be remanufactured by the small businesses and sold to the municipality as gifts for various events as part of their expanded public works programme.

The prizes were awarded at the closing ceremony of the eThekweni SMME Fair on 27 September 2009 at the DBN Exhibition Centre.

- Hlumelo Nyikana and Mausley Olifant

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

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

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