

### Issue: Graduation Special May 2010

## Congratulations to DUT graduates



Durban University of Technology (DUT) congratulates all graduates who have successfully completed their qualifications and graduated during the April graduation ceremony, which ran from 14-22 April 2010, at the Durban and Midlands Campuses.

DUT Chancellor, Ms Ela Gandhi graduated a total of 4500 graduates who have qualified across six faculties. Graduates obtained their qualifications from the faculties of Health Sciences, Accounting and Informatics, Applied Sciences, Art and Design, Engineering and the Built Environment and Management Sciences.



DUT graduates sharing a moment of happiness

Photographer: Morgen Kisten

DUT is proud to further congratulate hundreds of our top achievers who have completed their qualifications with distinctions Cum Laude and have received Dean's Merit Awards for Academic Excellence. Their hard work and dedication over the years of study has made the DUT Community proud.

Doctoral graduates are applauded for having accomplished their highest qualification in academia. They reap the fruit of years of research in their chosen fields and now join a cohort of proud scholars, researchers and experts in their speciality.

Speaking at the graduation ceremonies, Acting Vice Chancellor of DUT, Professor Nqabomzi Gawe said: "This day is an occasion for great joy and celebration. It is also an occasion for serious reflection; graduands should start practicing their professions, stop simulating problems and start solving them. Today is truly a celebration of the collaborative work done by today's graduates and their loved ones." She congratulated graduates for their commitment and dedication to their studies and acknowledged the support that parents, families and friends gave to graduands during their time at DUT. On a different note Prof Gawe thanked academics for having taught and imparted their knowledge and expertise to students. She further acknowledged lecturers for having helped shape students' experience at DUT. "You are the agents of growth evident in today's graduates. You are the ones that today's graduates will remember." Management congratulates all staff who graduated during the 2010 graduation ceremony. Their effort to upgrade their qualifications for personal and professional development is recognized.

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### Top honour for Nanda Soobben, esteemed cartoonist

Durban University of Technology (DUT) conferred an honorary doctoral degree on renowned alumnus and esteemed artist in recognition of his exceptional contribution in art, on 22 April.

Accepting the award, Nanda Soobben said that he was deeply touched by the honour bestowed on him by his Alma Mater. "Never in my wildest dreams did I expect to be called a doctor. I want to take this opportunity to thank the University for this wonderful gesture. It was a remarkable journey."

Soobben earned his diplomas from ML Sultan Technical College in Commercial Art and Parson's School of Design in New York for animation. His work as a Black Cartoonist has been on exhibition at numerous national and international exhibitions. He is renowned for his work as a political activist through his art work in local and international media.

In 2007, Soobben was awarded the United States Congressional Award for Outstanding Achievement by Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. He received an Amnesty International Award for using his cartoons to "tell the truth" and a Certificate of Honour from the City of San Francisco. In 2009, he won The Heritage Award for being one of six South Africans honoured for their contribution towards the preservation and promotion of South African heritage and culture.

In the Cartoonist Category in 2009, Soobben won the Vodacom Journalist of the Year (KZN) award, which he has been awarded twice before. Soobben was also recently commissioned to develop an animated series on the life of former President Nelson Mandela.

As an artist, he continues his social activism through his work. He uses his school, the Centre for Fine Art, Animation and Design (CFAD) in Durban, to develop talent across the racial divide.



Artist Nanda Soobben receives his Honorary Doctoral Award from DUT. Mrs Deseni Soobben, wife and lecturer in Journalism congratulates him.

Photographer: Morgen Kisten

### Guest speakers

Prof Karin Reinhard was the keynote speaker on 14 April, at the Midlands Campus graduation ceremony. She teaches Marketing, Internet Management and Media Economics at the Co-operative State University of Baden-Wuttemberg in Germany. Dr Bandile Mkhize was the guest speaker at the graduation ceremony on 20 April. He is the Chief Executive Officer of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife.



DUT Chancellor Ms Ela Gandhi, German guest speaker Prof Karin Reinhard and DUT Acting Vice Chancellor, Prof Nqabomzi Gawe

Photographer: Morgen Kisten



DUT Chair of Council, Dr Jairam Reddy, DUT Chancellor Ms Ela Gandhi, KZN Ezemvelo Wildlife CEO; Dr Bandile Mkhize, Deputy Vice Chancellor: Academic, Prof Nomthandazo Gwele (DUT) and Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor: Institutional Support, Dr Kenneth Netshiombo

from reaching for her dreams

Academic passion reaps rewards

Mechanical Engineering graduate proud of his achievement

## Doctors

### First Doctor of Homeopathy at DUT

- Daisy Mthethwa



Dr Izel Botha proved that entering the field of homeopathy was the best career decision she made, after accomplishing her two year goal to complete one of South Africa's top academic honours, when she graduated with her Doctoral degree in Homeopathy on 16 April. She is the first in South African history to receive a doctoral qualification in Homeopathy, a science which deals largely with natural solutions to medical problems.

As a lecturer in Homeopathic Pharmacy and Radiographic Anatomy at the Department of Homeopathy, at DUT, Dr Botha sees her achievement as a first step in improving the quality of homeopathic research world wide. She is the chairperson of the Postgraduate Student Forum, a support group which was launched with the aid of three doctors at the university, to help students overcome obstacles in research. She said the forum is also aimed at providing a sense of community, to avoid the feeling of isolation often associated with conducting postgraduate studies.

Dr Botha is in the process of furthering her research to advance the scientific understanding of homoeopathy and will engage in research supervision to aid the development of future researchers.



**Left**

Dr Santhosh Kumar Kuttan Pillai received his doctoral degree in Biotechnology after undertaking a successful research titled, Investigations of the Bioprocess parameters for the production of Hemicellulases by *Thermomyces lanuginosus* Strains. Pillai's research was supervised by Prof S Singh and Prof K Perumal.



**Right:**

Dr Siphon Bongane Vumase achieved his doctoral degree in Business Administration. His research titled, The evaluation of the processes of operational and administrative procedure of health care waste management in Public Hospitals in South Africa was supervised by Dr M de Beer and Mrs J Lombard

Photographer: Daisy Mthethwa

### Presheila Ismail graduates in Engineering despite odds

- Karishma Ganpath

The Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment was honoured that 57-year-old Presheila Ismail was amongst this year's postgraduates when she received her Bachelor of Technology degree in Civil Engineering. Ismail was capped, on her birthday, on 19 April Like most paraplegics and

partially-abled bodied people, Ismail never dreamt that she would be pursuing academic interests' at her age, let alone weeks before the birth of her first grandchild. However, the grandmother to be has only been re-energised by this accomplishment, as she embarks on furthering her studies; in between juggling her busy work schedule with her dedication to the Brahma Kumari's World Spiritual University (BKWSU) where she has been an active member for the last 19 years.

In an interview, Ismail said being bound to a wheel chair since the age of eight has not prevented her from living a normal life. She lost her legs in a near fatal train accident on her way to school in 1961. She said: "I disembarked from the train and turned to wave goodbye to those who were going ahead to the next station. Whilst waving, another passenger grabbed my hand and pulled me back toward the train. It began to move and I was left dangling outside, the passenger let go of my hand and I fell between the train and platform. The rest is history."

Ismail said she was far too young to really notice much difference, but as she grew older she had fewer thoughts of wanting to be able to do normal things. "I soon realised that I have some limitations and that only I can work around them to have a happy and satisfying life. It has made me take some risks if only to prove to myself that anything is achievable. Society however, creates limitations as they feel sorry and afraid of people with disabilities. Many question whether your brain and mind is also not disabled. Disability raises insecurities in many people because they are not sure how to behave around someone with a disability that is physical and can be seen. However, I believe that you should be yourself and accept everybody as they are."

The former Edendale resident currently resides in Glenwood and is employed as a Civil Technologist at Westville based engineering company, Kwezi V3 Engineers. Prior to embarking on a career in engineering, Ismail worked in an administrative position for 19 years within the corporate sector and The Witness Newspaper before moving to Durban. She completed her accounting qualification, at the age of 40, from the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA). Her qualification carries 125 points which is equivalent to a B.Com Honours degree. She began studying towards her Civil Engineering degree at age 50.

Ismail said being part of the BKWSU movement has enabled her to embrace change and enjoy it. "My family has been very supportive; they did not say I was too old to study but instead supported my decision. I believe everything can be achieved provided you believe in your self. My gratitude is also due to my employer, KV3 Engineers, for their sponsorship and affording me the opportunity to study. I believe respect, honesty and self-esteem are the tools you require to forge ahead. One can overcome limitations; by not letting it dictate the way you should live your life, but rather let it empower you."

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Presheila Ismail receives her degree in Civil Engineering at DUT  
Photographer: Morgen Kisten

### Keeping eyes on the goal despite challenges

It was a happy day for Mbalenhle Mkhize when she received a National Diploma in Human Resources at DUT. Mbali, as she is affectionately known by friends and family, lives in Umlazi. Despite being in a wheelchair after having suffered from arthritis a month ago, she is still determined to achieve her goal of gaining work experience to become a



professional human resources practitioner. Mbali wants to have her own business in this field.

Mbali is ecstatic after graduating

Photographer: Dumile Mbatha

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## Twins

### Carey twin sisters graduate in Engineering

For the past 15 years the Carey twins, Tersia and Chane' have studied together until they found employment which forced them to go their separate ways. The pair was proud to have graduated with their National Diploma in Electronic Engineering at Durban University of Technology on 19 April. Chane' works as a repair technician and Tersia is an IT administrator. They like similar things in fashion and food and have younger brother.



**Right:** Carey twin sisters celebrate together

Photographer: Morgen Kisten

### Johnson twins



**Left:** Johnson twins, Craig and Michael graduated with their National Diploma in Graphic Design.

### Ndlovu twins



**Right:** Sihle and Siphwe Ndlovu graduated with a National Diploma in Interior Design.

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### Parents celebrate with their son

Matt Downard graduated with a National Diploma Electrical Engineering Light Current. He is currently completing his BTech in the same field. His father Ian flew down from Johannesburg to witness his son's achievement. His mother Jan Downard is a webmaster in the Division of Corporate Affairs at DUT.



Photographer: Dumile Mbatha

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### TV Newsreader Bathabile Maphanga graduates



SABC TV Newsreader and journalist Bathabile Maphanga graduates with BTech degree in Journalism at DUT. She is one of a number of journalists that graduated in 2010 April graduation.

Photographer: Dumile Mbatha

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## Top achievers do us proud

### Graeme scores distinctions in Engineering

- Dumile Mbatha

Graeme Baker graduated Cum Laude and with the Dean's Merit award when he received his BTech degree in Civil Engineering at the Midlands graduation ceremony on 14 April. Barker has nine years of experience in the engineering sector and runs his own construction company. He said: "It is both an honour and privilege. I must say that there was a fair deal of blood, sweat and tears involved, which has made it all the more gratifying". Barker initially did not intend on studying engineering, he embarked on pursuing his dreams of becoming a pharmacist and went on to study Pharmacy at Rhodes University. His interests wavered and he soon found himself studying commerce through UNISA and Small Business Management through Intec College prior to registering for his engineering qualification. He intends obtaining his professional registration and master's degree in the coming years.



BTech Civil Engineering graduate,  
Graeme Baker

Photographer: Dumile Mbatha

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### Mariska shines in Health Sciences

- Dumile Mbatha

"Whatever you do in life, make the best of it. Live in the moment and do not hesitate," said Mariska Dreyer after she received a Dean's Merit Award for her National Diploma in Dental Technology.

Dreyer said her journey in Dental Technology began soon after she was introduced to the science by her friend. She is currently studying towards her BTech degree and is working towards receiving the Dean's Merit Award at her next graduation ceremony. She said Dental Technology allows her to restore a very important aspect of a person's life and that is their smile. "In first year, lecturer Anisa Vahed taught us about the three P's of Dental Technology, perseverance, pride and passion. This was a great inspiration to me as I realised that everything you do in life should be done according to these three P's and if you do that full heartedly you will succeed," said Dreyer.



Photographer: Dumile Mbatha

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### Nothing stops Janelle Rampath from reaching for her dreams

- Daisy Mthethwa

- Photographer: Daisy Mthethwa

Receiving the Dean's Merit Award for Academic Excellence in Industrial Engineering proved that hard work and determination paid off, for Janelle Rampath. She graduated with her National Diploma on 17 April and is confident that her love for her career will enable her to achieve her B.Tech degree and later pursue her Master's in Engineering qualification.



Delighted Janelle Rampath, after receiving her National Diploma in Industrial Engineering and a Dean's Merit Award

Rampath said her interest in engineering science stemmed from being exposed to her sisters work as a chemical engineer. Her unwavering interest in engineering made selecting a career path an easy option. Rampath said she hopes to find employment within the corporate sector in an environment which is conducive to applying theoretical knowledge to practical applications, where she can put to use her industrial engineering skills to further develop herself.

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### Academic passion reaps rewards

- Daisy Mthethwa



As a marketing intern for one of South Africa's largest oil companies, Total SA, Andiswa Gabada has discovered that her career in marketing can be immensely satisfying and challenging at the same time. Gabada received the Dean's Merit Award for academic excellence when she graduated with her Marketing diploma, last month. She said her achievement is a result of her dedication and the passion she possessed for her studies.

Gabada has always prioritised her education and intends on being amongst South Africa's most educated women in a few years. She is enthusiastic about furthering her education and hopes to obtain her MBA in the near future, as well as the opportunity to lecture marketing.

**Left:** Andiswa Gabada pleased with her achievement.

Photographer: Daisy Mthethwa

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### Mechanical Engineering graduate proud of his achievement

- Daisy Mthethwa

Words could not explain the emotions that B.Tech Mechanical Engineering graduate Mndeni Mabaso felt on the morning of April 17, when he received the Dean's Merit Award for academic excellence, at his graduation ceremony.

Mabaso said this achievement is the milestone of his year, as he can not remember the last time he was awarded for being a top achiever. However, he has always felt that he possessed the potential to academically excel.

For now, Mabaso's only hope is to gain further industry exposure and the opportunity to apply his theoretical knowledge to practical experience. He



said the award has motivated him to further his education and is currently considering embarking on his M-Tech degree. Mabaso dedicated his award to his parents for their unconditional inspiration and commitment to enabling him to achieve his dreams.

**Right:** Jubilant Mndeni Mabaso, after graduating for his B-Tech degree in Mechanical Engineering, from the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment

Photographer: Daisy Mthethwa

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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](mailto:bhekanid@dut.ac.za)

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