

socials



Natalie Rungan at the DVD store launch



Vinay and Lavashni Valjee with Seren Reddy and Krish Chetty at the DVD store launch

Pictures: ABHI INDRARAJAN

city swank



Yasantha Naidoo

They may be down, but not out

Amazulu FC proved popular by being KZN's Newsmaker of the Year



Thava and Sankaran Pillay at the DVD store launch

THEY may not be winning on the field but local soccer team Amazulu FC walked off with top honours in the Durban City Hall last Wednesday.

The soccer team, currently sitting at the bottom of the log, grabbed the title of KZN Newsmaker of the Year at a simple but elegant function.

They pipped Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife's Save the Rhino campaign, last year's climate conference COP 17 and Vera Hecht — who campaigned with Somali pirates for 20 months to negotiate the release of her brother Bruno Pelizzari and his partner Deborah Calitz.

BIG NEWS: The competition, which was decided by SMS votes (clearly uSuthu fans are loyal to their team) between July and September was the second to be hosted by the Durban University of Technology (DUT) via its Journalism Advisory Board. Last year's winner was cricketing great



Nishon and Sandra Singh with Raksha and Rajesh Anandray

Hashim Amla. During formalities, eThekweni mayor James Nxumalo mentioned that the city, which is also a partner in the competition, is keen on hosting the World Karate Cup in 2015. He made several references to the success of another local golden sportsman, Chad le Clos, who is probably a serious contender for the top spot in next year's competition.

was amusing and slightly uncomfortable while others thought it was an "ag, sweet" moment.

RELAXED: DUT's senior director of corporate affairs, Alan Khan, was the evening's programme director. DUT applied science head, Professor Darren Lortan, represented vice-chancellor Ahmed Bawa — who was unavailable. Lortan had a slight case of foot in mouth when he encouraged all the guests to relax and enjoy themselves, something he couldn't do because he was seated at the same table as the mayor and didn't know what they would talk about.

MOVIE aficionados and members of the Reddy kootam (clan) gathered at Durban's Florida Road on Thursday night for the launch of Art Film Co, a DVD rental outlet for discerning film lovers.

The concept store, in the heart of the city's cultural hub, is the brainchild of senior electronic engineering lecturer Seren Reddy.

Reddy, together with his elder brother, Rajan, opened a similar store (DVD Gurus) in Melville, Johannesburg, eight years ago.

Now Reddy — who has watched something like 10 000 movies across a number of genres — has decided to replicate a similar venture in Durban.

DUT Journalism Advisory board chair Mary Papayya announced the winner before dinner was served.

PRESS PLAY: The formalities were light. Popular singer Natalie Rungan kicked things off with a song before introducing the night's only speaker, Reddy. He outlined his passion for films and the concept of the store with a cleverly edited visual of various film clips in their impressive library, which boasts about 500 titles.

OVERALL: The formalities were short and the vibe was light — particularly when an amiable Khan cosied up to the live band, Afritude, and serenaded his wife, educationist Mariam Seedat. For some, the declaration of affection usually reserved for private events

OVERALL: Afterwards, guests — an assortment of like-minded people (Reddy's words) — socialised and enjoyed Rungan's music.



Philani Mabaso, Mary Papayya and Darren Lortan



Sylvester Dunn and Alan Khan



Bronwynne Anderson, Mariam Seedat and Sahida Khan