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Jewellery Design Student has the Midas Touch

Bhekani Dlamini



Photo: supplied

Stephane Barbeau was named the winner of the Beyond Jewellery Design category after designing an elegant gold arm piece for the AngloGold Ashanti global competition 2007/8. The AngloGold Ashanti competition, which takes place every two years, was themed Kinetic Architecture. AngloGold Ashanti takes the collection of jewellery pieces around the world.

Stephane, a second year B Tech: Jewellery Design student took jewellery design to an exceptional level with polished skills. He entered two pieces, a neck piece and arm piece, each crafted in 18ct gold. He won a R10 000 cash prize. AngloGold Ashanti sponsored the tool kit for the competition.

Barbeau derives his inspiration from the Petronas Towers of Malaysia and Theo Jansen. Petronas is a structural form of a building and the wave motif represents a big kinetic storm.

This talented entrepreneur owns a company called Slab Design Label and specialises in doing one-on-one designs with clients. His design work is eclectic as it is influenced by many different features, he is currently working on taking traditional design and converting it into contemporary jewellery.

Stephane is looking to start an international label stocking outlets around the world. He is also going to put his collection on show at the annual jewellery exhibition to be held at the DUT's Art Gallery in November this year.

Babalwa Mveno, a model, tries out Stephane Barbeau's arm piece.

DUT Students Exhibit at KZNSA Gallery

Bandile Malindisa

The KZNSA (KwaZulu Natal Society of Arts) Gallery recently exhibited the works of twelve Arts students from DUT's Fine Art Department. This latest exhibition titled "Cream of the Crop" also featured the work of Arts students from (CFAD) Centre for Fine Art, Animation and Design.

"Cream" is formed by a wide variety of media materials ranging from prints, sculpture, ceramics and video, to public art. "The aim is to strengthen the relationship between KZNSA and DUT and also to look at, and invite selected students from the exhibition for other solo exhibitions later," said Gallery Director, Brenton Maart.

The twelve artists who form the "Cream of the Crop" have been chosen on the basis of their academic excellence. Among them is Tamlyn Young, the recipient of the 2007 Emma Smith Scholarship. Tamlyn worked with the Cascoland group from Holland to carry



out her public art work, titled "Taxonomy of Memories". Her "I wish" exhibition included photographs of people holding papers with their wishes written on them. Her work documents the physical journey through her meticulous mind.

Bongmusa Hlongwa used felt and silkscreen to create portraits of blinded people. Jess Nicholson, created poetic texts and inter-texts by layering paint upon collage. Saskia

Whitehead's bodiless garments appeared like ghosts from the walls of the gallery.

Witty Nyide's work of printing people's faces on teabags fascinated a lot of people who came to the gallery during the exhibition.

Other artists exhibiting included Jacintha Ellappa, Clayton Human, Blessing Maphumulo, Nothando Mkhize, African Mzobe, Mxolisi Sithole and Sabelo Khumalo.



Photos: Raylene Captain-Hasthibeer



Editor's Corner

Load shedding has become a part of the lexicon of South Africa. In suburbia just one year ago, you would have been branded neurotic or even an alarmist if you had a stash of white paraffin candles, a Cadac stove, and a cupboard full of baked beans and tuna to see you through yet another electricity-free night.

Today, universities are investing in generators to ensure that Graduation ceremonies go off without a hitch. Scientists are rummaging around in puddles of algae filled water, looking for unusual energy solutions and a new breed of architect has been spawned - enter the world of self-proclaimed garbage architect, Jan Korbes (see below).

I recently participated in Earth Hour, an initiative by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), in the hope of reducing global warming. The initiative calls for concerned citizens and businesses to switch off their lights for just one hour, at the end of March. This much lauded campaign pales in comparison to the countrywide powercuts which the Government and Eskom have unilaterally decided to sign all South Africans up for. Maybe the spin doctors at Eskom should invite Al Gore, prominent environmental activist and winner of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize around to get everyone rallying for the global advantages of load shedding...

Raylene Captain-Hasthibeer
Communications Manager

Chief Justice Pius Langa addresses the media at DUT

Raylene Captain-Hasthibeer



Photo: Nelson Munsamy

L-R: Robin Sewlal, Mary Papayya (*The Sowetan*), Chief Justice Pius Langa, Professor Nqabomzi Gawe, Professor Annelie Jordaan and Dr Lavern Samuels

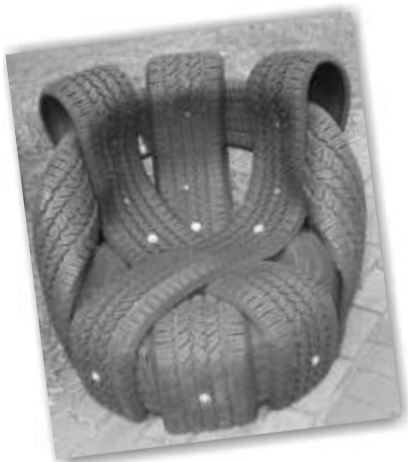
South African Chief Justice, Pius Langa, was the keynote speaker at a breakfast held at DUT's Hotel School recently, a joint initiative between the University and the South African National Editors' Forum (SANEF). Langa addressed the media, academics and interested parties on the "Role of the judiciary and its relationship with the media."

Langa said the "job of judges is to protect the freedom of expression of the media, and therefore ensure democracy." He explained that the media act as the "eyes and ears of society . . . ferreting out corruption."

He also stressed the duties of the media, including the provision of accurate information, reporting decisions of the court accurately and providing a forum for criticism and debate.

Garbage Architect at DUT

Raylene Captain-Hasthibeer



The Durban University of Technology recently hosted Jan Korbes, the self-proclaimed "Garbage Architect". Korbes ran a workshop for Architectural Technology students on "Refunc", or re-functionalising at DUT's Steve Biko Campus.

Korbes, a Dutch architect demonstrated novel ways to create furniture out of old tyres. Combining two tyres, he was able to quickly create a comfy chair. He soon set the students to work (under the watchful eye of DUT's Wouter Gildenhuys), and encouraged them to be creative.

Cautioning students against the problems associated with the hot South African sun,

especially when combined with rubber, he advised them to find shady spots for their creations. On the technical side, he showed the students and curious on-lookers the correct way to cut a tyre, (avoiding mangling the fine metal strips).

The session proved to be a useful exercise in flexing your creative muscles, and the students were also shown the endless possibilities in working with recovered waste materials.

The students' work has since become part of the DUT landscape, providing much-needed seating facilities.

Students creating functional pieces of art, using discarded tyres



Photos: Raylene Captain-Hasthibeer and Bandile Malindisa

Say NO to Racism, Sexism, and Xenophobia!

Dashnee Govender

"Like an unchecked cancer, hate corrodes the personality and eats away its vital unity. Hate destroys a man's sense of values and his objectivity. It causes him to describe the beautiful as ugly and the ugly as beautiful, and to confuse the true with the false and the false with the true." Martin Luther King

DUT's Department of Institutional Advancement (IA) in collaboration with Art for Humanity (AFH) recently held an anti-racist, anti-sexist and anti-xenophobic protest coordinated by Mr Prithiraj Dullay (IA) with Mr Jan Jordaan (AFH).

Dullay said, "We believe that racism and sexism can be removed from our society. The events of the past weeks had shocked us that 14 years into our democracy, which is supported by the finest laws in the world as well as the Bill of Rights, little has in fact changed. We are NOT a normal society. We can begin to become normal through formal and public education."

He continued, "Our democracy is burdened with those fossils within our midst who believe that it is ok to strip women who are wearing pants or mini-skirts. To them I want to say that you don't belong in a democracy. You have to learn that women's rights are Human Rights. There are many others who believe that women become their possessions to be beaten, raped and sometimes even killed. This is a barbaric attitude that needs to end immediately. The law has to be enforced with far greater vigour. It has to be always remembered that women are our equal partners in the development of our beautiful country."

The demonstration was organised due to recent incidents in the country, including the University of the Free State racist incident, as well as the sexist attack of Johannesburg taxi drivers on a mini-skirted woman.

Dullay also mentioned the murder of Somali refugees which he described as "a seething cauldron of prejudices, intolerance, xenophobia and hatred."

The presentation concluded with guests holding up placards with strong messages against racism, sexism and xenophobia.

PROFILE ... Five Minute Interview: Langa Herbert Nzuza



Photo: Bhekani Dlamini

A soft spoken and humble gentleman, Mr Langa Herbert Nzuza has accomplished some terrific things in his life. He started his own business, called

Full Phama Consultants, and he is currently writing a book, *Small Enterprise Planning and Development - A Consulting Perspective*, with the help of a professor from Madagascar. Nzuza is also involved in a mentorship programme for Women Entrepreneurs at the request of Dr Zweli Mkhize, MEC: Finance and Economic Development. *Dashnee Govender*, Conduit reporter had the pleasure of interviewing him and gaining insight into his world.

DG: What did you study?

LN: I did a National Diploma in Human Resource Management at DUT.

DG: What are you currently doing, career wise that is?

LN: I am running a small business that is into training and development, as well as consulting.

DG: What do you enjoy most about the work you do?

LN: It is the quality of the experience, because I work with various organisations. Every organisation is unique in that once I am done with my consulting project, I have learnt something new. In other words, I am exposed to a variety of perspectives.

DG: You are currently writing a book titled 'Small Enterprise Planning and Development - A Consulting Perspective'. Tell us more about this.

LN: The book talks about how or what you should do when you go into business, things that are normally cumbersome and that make your progress difficult. Using my experience, it explains how I have done it against the way in which it should be done.

DG: You have been involved in a mentorship programme for Women Entrepreneurs at the request of Dr Zweli Mkhize. What have been the challenges associated with this?

LN: Well, challenges associated with this programme were that there was a problem in terms of maintaining professionalism with many women who run businesses. The reason being is that there is a challenge in that a woman respects her husband to the point when he starts taking advantage and interferes in her business. This then gets her in trouble with her business partners and the challenge here is maintaining professionalism. In

running a business there are two competing issues: the respect for her family and the values of the business. These are two important challenges. But more importantly some women need to work at changing their mindset, since they still look at themselves as the oppressed even though they know that there are opportunities that exist for them because they are a part of the designated group in terms of the BEE Act. But the challenge is getting them to believe opportunities exist and that it is possible to succeed.

DG: What advice would you give to today's youth?

LN: It is okay to be ambitious, in fact they should be ambitious, but they must start small, because there are advantages to it. If you start small, you are able to exercise control over that which you have started and you are able to take lessons from that which is in your control. Then you can grow. But, at the same time there is nothing wrong with starting big if you have a good base and resources. The problem at that level is the consequences could be fatal. My advice is to start small and get good at what you do, because that increases your level of confidence in order for you to try bigger things.

DG: Anything you would like to add about life in general?

LN: I want to believe that the future is great for young people. The challenge is that they need to look after themselves, so that when great opportunities arrive they find themselves in a good state of health and are able to grab hold of them.

EDU-LOAN's Laptop Competition

Bandile Malindisa

Edu-Loan, a private finance provider recently ran a successful competition for students of the Durban University of Technology (DUT). The competition was held inside the Edu-Loan offices, in the foyer of the ML Sultan Campus, where a laptop and an iPod were up for grabs.

"The competition was initiated late last year with the aim to introduce laptops as one of the things we finance," said Edu-Loan's KZN based Business Manager, Klaas Mabetlela. "Another aim was to settle debt for students who are not able to pay for their own fees, or do not qualify for financing through formal banking sector or government aid schemes."

The theme of the day was 'We can' and Mabetlela went on to describe it as "a phrase that includes us all, since with Edu-Loan, students can study, and the university can benefit." He also stated the significance of Edu-Loan as a structure that assists students who do not meet the requirements of government loans.

The winner of the HP laptop was Ntombizonke Ntuli and the runner up was Lubabalo Notshikila who received an Apple iPod. Both students are from the Department of Auditing and Taxation.

In his closing remarks, Mabetlela mentioned that there are strategies being implemented to strengthen their structure as an organisation. He added, "Edu-Loan's aim is of reaching people in the vast areas of this country, so they can utilise the organisation's services."



Photo: Bandile Malindisa

L-R: Gops Chetty, Ntombizonke Ntuli, Lubabalo Notshikila, and Klaas Mabetlela

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MBChB, BAO (NU)

Dr. Suria Naidoo
B.Sc. (UDW) B.Ch.D (U.W.C)
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DUT Student Finalists in the Mr Price Competition

Bandile Malindisa

Two Graphic Design students from Durban University of Technology (DUT) are among ten finalists in the fourth House and Leisure Designers at Mr Price Home competition. Since 2005 *House and Leisure* and Mr Price Home have joined forces to find the brightest design students in South Africa.

In this competition, students from various design institutions are selected to create various items ranging from salad servers to gift packaging. They are guided by mentors in their respective fields and in the past eight months *House and Leisure* magazine has featured the best.

DUT students in the top ten are Jenna-Leah Shone and Elizabeth-Ann Ross. Jenna-Leah describes her wallpaper titled 'Badly Drawn Dancers' as 'awkward, geeky and endearing.' The starting point for her design was her experience at weddings to develop a concept about awkward dancing. Elizabeth-Ann Ross describes her wallpaper titled 'Counting Birds' as 'simple, silly and cute' as she was inspired by pigeons. The overall winner singled out of the ten finalists would be announced in the May issue of *House and Leisure* magazine.

There is R30 000 for the overall winner to start her own design studio as well as R15 000 and R10 000 respectively for the runners up. There is also an opportunity for students to have their work developed and sold in Mr Price Home stores. This is not the only competition DUT's Graphic Design students are involved in this year. Work of some third year students such as Steven Frank were published in the March issue of *Sunday Magazine*.

Where are they now?

Conduit journalist Sithembile Shabangu tracked down Tara Turkington

What did you do at DUT?

I lectured journalism from the beginning of 2001 to early in 2004.

What job are you doing now and where?

I started a media and communications company called Flow Communications, in Johannesburg in 2004. I now work with about 15 colleagues, many of them past DUT students, who worked on the website DITonline. We have some fabulous clients, including the Nelson Mandela Foundation, Wits University, the British Council, and a Durban-based wildlife film company, www.earth-touch.com. You can read more about us on our website, www.flowsa.com



Photo: Supplied

What do you enjoy most about your job?

The diversity of the work and the wonderful people I work with, both inside and outside Flow.

What book are you reading at the moment?

Several at once, mostly non-fiction for now: Chris Anderson's *The Long Tail* about how the Internet is changing the global economy, a book on leadership by John Maxwell, *Life of Mammals* by David Attenborough, and a biography on Hillary Clinton.

What's your favourite quote?

"Be the change you want to see in the world." - Mahatma Gandhi

Tell us about your background.

I grew up in Johannesburg, and have lived in all sorts of places, including Montana in the United States, and Kimberley in the Northern Cape. I am married to a school principal and have three great kids, ranging in age from nine to two.

Is there anything that you would like to add?

I loved working at DUT, and am still realising how much I learnt and gained there. What stands out for me is the dedication of some of the staff, how innovative and clever some of the students were, especially in regards to technology, the importance of managing change positively (I joined DUT in the year of the merger between Natal Technikon and ML Sultan), and the lovely, warm Durban climate and people.

Using computer generated techniques to solve real life problems

Bhekani Dlamini

Systems expert, Prof Kevin Duffy is doing research using a systems perspective to understand the dynamics of a number of given situations in broader society.

Prof Duffy's systems models help us to understand situations as diverse as the impact of people influx from rural areas into urban settings and the movement of elephants in game reserves to determine the impact the latter will have on vegetation and its surroundings. He is the Director of the Centre for Systems Research at the Durban University of Technology (DUT).

Based on his research, Prof Duffy has built computer based systems models that can be used to understand and solve a variety of problems such as availability of food resources and HIV/AIDS prevalence. These models can, for example, determine the impact of worker deterioration (through HIV/AIDS or other health related factors) on economic realities.

Such models can be used by industry to understand how it operates in terms of production, work deterioration and to optimize functionality. The approaches use combinations of different techniques such as Monte Carlo, Agent Based and Discreet Event modeling. He says these techniques can be applied to investigate trade-offs between different management strategies.

Looking at his research from an economic perspective he says tourism in South Africa and Africa as a whole is the third most important economic sector. He adds that game reserves, and in particular elephants, are important aspects to attracting tourists to South Africa. He chose the elephant because it is a popular animal that people from abroad associate with Africa when they think of visiting. He has developed mathematical and computer models to understand how elephants populate and impact game reserves when re-introduced to them.

This work has an interesting connection to DUT whose corporate logo and symbol includes elephant tusks. Prof Duffy plans to further develop systems approaches using different technical methodologies including mathematical and statistical methods to solve problems. In another example, he has developed a new methodology for the classification of types and has received R260 000 in funding to pursue this research by fostering research collaboration with China.

Prof Duffy maintains that the Centre for Systems Research aims to be a leader in applicable systems research amongst Universities of Technology across the world. In so doing, many postdoctoral, doctoral and masters' students will be trained. He has published this work in numerous scientific journals

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Pictured is an elephant in a game reserve removing bark from a tree. This shows the impact an elephant can have on vegetation because it can kill the tree.

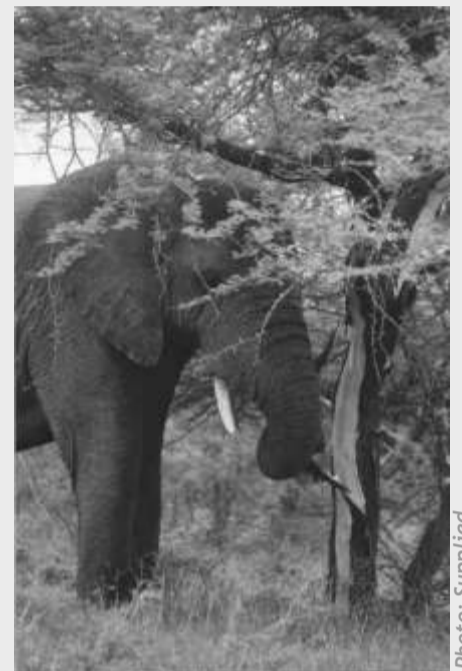


Photo: Supplied

SACI Research Colloquium held at DUT

Dashnee Govender

The Durban University of Technology recently hosted the 2008 South African Chemical Institute (SACI) Research Colloquium for PhD/D Tech, and MSc/M Tech at the Steve Biko Campus.

In his welcome speech, Dr Vincent K. Bisetty of DUT's Department of Chemistry and SACI's representative said, "The purpose of this event is not only to showcase our research, but also to promote and strengthen our collaborative allegiance."

The address was then continued by Professor Gansen Pillay, Director of Research at DUT. Prof Pillay said, "We would like to thank SACI for choosing DUT as a venue. These are the forums that we need to foster in order to engender networking and research." Prof Pillay spoke about the challenges of research when he said, "When we look at research in the country, one of the challenges is the critical mass of researchers. It becomes even more pronounced when you realize that critical mass of researchers in the region is even more limited, therefore it actually forces us or necessitates us to work together. I am very pleased to see the collaboration between the chemistry disciplines at the Universities."

Prof Pillay urged researchers to publish their research in "a good and highly respected peer review journal where you can actively see your addition to new knowledge."

Some of the presentations made were:

L M Madikizela - DUT M Tech: Determination of residual glyphosate and aminomethylphosphonic acid (AMPA) in dam and river water.

P Mokoena - DUT D Tech: A computational study of the folding patterns of a novel neuropeptide.

J Paraskevopoulos - UKZN MSc: Antimalarial activity of selected metal chelators.

Skills Transfer in Mozambique

Bandile Malindisa

Jewellery Design lecturer, Chris de Beer, recently went on a trip to Ibo Island in Mozambique to provide technical advice and input to a group of local traditional silversmiths. The trip was sponsored by TechnoServe, a non-profit organisation helping entrepreneurs in poor rural areas, along with the Aga Khan Foundation, a non-profit international agency that supports social development programmes in Asia and Africa.

It all began in Africa Nova, an up-market shop in Cape Town known for selling a unique blend of art and craft. The shop is also supplied with jewellery by DUT's Jewellery Design department. While inside the shop, de Beer saw rough craft made by a group of indigenous silversmiths from Ibo Island, Northern Mozambique. He then offered his technical expertise for improving the rough textured jewellery.

During his one week stay in Mozambique, de Beer visited the silversmiths daily to examine their process. "The Silversmiths use coin silver, quite primitive techniques and rudimentary tools but make beautiful jewellery based on Arab influences and the Dhow trade. I was taught how to use a blowpipe," said de Beer.

Because he liked the indigenous nature of their jewellery, he chose to minimize his interference so as not to disturb the indigenous nature of it. The main recommendation was to supply them with better drawplates for making wire, as their hand-made drawplates resulted in inconsistent quality. After the trip he felt that the community of silversmiths should be given more exposure for the unique jewellery they produce and all will prosper by this.

Sunflower bandannas

A group of 3rd year Fashion students recently participated in the Sunflower Fund competition and one of the bandannas designed by them was chosen as the overall winner. The design will be sold throughout SA and Namibia during Sunflower week in August this year. National Bandanna Day aims to raise funds through the sale of Sunflower Bandannas in support of leukemia patients and those suffering from other threatening blood disorders.

Mark Pywell, lecturer, with winning students Giulia Chella, Chelsea Lawson, Lauren Dougall.



Photo: Supplied

Empowering women in a "Man's" world

Ranilla Pillay

The Gender Forum recently hosted a workshop on Empowering Women in a "Man's" World.

Keith Kenneth from the Audiovisual Department demonstrated how to check oil, water, battery, etc in a car, how to jack up a car and answered a barrage of questions from enthusiastic ladies wanting to know more about their cars.

The function was an overwhelming success, with the ladies getting hands-on experience from changing a tyre to jump-starting a vehicle. It was a fun filled afternoon that ended with tea and light refreshments, and a whole lot of ladies empowered and raring to go. Hats off to Keith for a job well done!



Winner: Yandisa Monakali

Winning photograph by Yandisa Monakali

Tackling human rights issues through art

Bhekani Dlamini

Artist, Jan Jordaan, has elevated art to another level by using it to communicate human rights issues to policy makers in society.

Jordaan lectures in Fine Art on the City Campus of the Durban University of Technology (DUT). He strongly believes that inviting government officials to art exhibition openings is the right tool to target them to convey a message about the human rights issues affecting ordinary people.

He is working around the clock to promote the art of his students and counterparts in various ways including publishing their work in books, promoting the art as cultural heritage through ensuring that they become part of the permanent collection of various museums, nationally and internationally, including the Durban Art Gallery and the Museum for Modern Art (MoMA) in New York.

"It's the highest accolade now that MoMA included work which is also in the DUT collection. DUT is now also represented in a number of internationally recognised museums," commented Jordaan. He is excited that DUT has fulfilled its role of being a leader in Africa in this respect.

What reinforces the human rights aspect, says Jordaan, was the 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights - International Print Portfolio', commemorating its 40th anniversary in 1998, in which artists from 30 countries including some African countries that have suffered gross violation of human rights, contributed work. The human rights collection of art is also housed in the United Nations in Geneva, Michigan State University, the Durban Art Gallery and DUT, amongst others. In 2007 the collection was acquired by Guernica Peace Museum in Spain. The original catalogue of the collection has since been republished by the Peace Museum and translated into Basque, Spanish and French. This work which originated from DUT, was published by Art for Humanity, the research unit affiliated with the Department of Fine Art and is now widely accessible to a worldwide audience.

Photography Student Scoops a Prize

Theron Rapoo

Earlier this year, Final Year Photography students in the Department of Visual Communication Design were given an opportunity to showcase their creativity by entering a competition sponsored by the European based company, Lee Jeans.

Students had to find their own models, choose clothes for their models at the Lee store at Gateway shopping mall, and then conduct the photo shoot. They also had to scout a location that fitted the brief and consider technical aspects, including lighting and composition.

Everyone was excited and started working on the assignment right away and came up with ideas for their shoots. Students produced breath-taking images where they captured the true essence of today's style in the jean industry. At the end, the winner was chosen. Out of 20 students and participants, Yandisa Monakali walked away with the prize, due to the fact that he executed the brief in such a way that his final image were exactly what the clients wanted. He walked away with the title of being the current Face of Lee Jeans, R1000 cash prize and great exposure that will open doors for him as an aspiring photographer.

Yandisa said: "I am really honored to have won the prize and to me it's not about the money but being chosen out of 20 participants that leaves me speechless. It really shows that what I came to DUT for is starting to pay off, and hopefully more doors will be opened for me. Thanks to our lecturer, Abdul Borat for the knowledge and most of all, the time he dedicates to us."

Chantel Dickerson, Lee Marketing Manager commented: "Looking at all the pictures submitted, we were really impressed by your (Yandisa's) shot in particular. You really captured the graffiti element which reflected our current Lee campaign. The model chosen for the shoot was perfect, appealing to our target market. Well done for doing such an outstanding job and Lee wishes you all the success in this chosen career."

The department has produced successful photographers who fly the DUT flag high out there in the industry. It is one of the most competitive departments in tertiary institutions in this industry countrywide. Abdul Borat, lecturer, said: "The students worked well for the assignment and the results were excellent. We hope to motivate students with more challenging assignments as Lee Jeans."

Drama Students return after Triumphant Performance for the Queen

Dashnee Govender

A group of five talented drama students recently returned from their triumphant trip to London, where they strutted their stuff in front of the Queen of England.

The group, 'Destiny Youth Project', won the trip by putting together a performance dealing with an HIV/AIDS Awareness Campaign, for the 'Enterprise 4 Life' competition run by the Tabeisa Offices based at DUT. The prize was an invitation to dinner with her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom.

Ayanda Khanyile and Matsepo Tau, recent graduates, said tourists and Londoners watched in envy as they were escorted into the palace. "People were standing at the gates and watching with envy as we entered Buckingham Palace. They were probably wondering what was so important about us that we were allowed to enter, and why us," said both Khanyile and Tau.

Both these students then described their meeting and their impressions of the Queen. "People had to dress in a certain way, formal. After we met the Queen, she said that we were unique; since we did not dress formally, but wore our performing outfits. She also said she knew exactly where we had come from (South Africa). Although she is an old lady with the grand title of 'Queen' to her name, she seemed such a normal and friendly person to us," they said.

"We would like to thank both the Tabeisa offices for giving us this opportunity, ourselves for being brave, our families for supporting us, God, DUT, The Drama Department, and Debbie Lutge, whose techniques and advice we used," they added.

Their advice to future performers: "Just don't give up, everything takes time. Always believe in yourself, and have a positive attitude."

To book these talented performers, e-mail Tauzeen@webmail.co.za

Scene and around

Tea with the Chancellor

The Department of Sport Studies recently hosted Ela Gandhi, DUT's Chancellor at a high tea held at ML Sultan Campus. *ConDUiT* reporter *Bandile Malindisa* was on the scene. Gifts were presented to the Chancellor. The aim was for the department to get to know the Chancellor, as well as to discuss ideas for improving the University.



Photo: Bandile Malindisa

Peer educators' workshop

Oziel Mdletshe

A group of Peer educators from DUT pictured during group discussions at a workshop held in April 2008 at Cedara College, Pietermaritzburg organised by the HIV/AIDS Centre. About 65 students attended the workshop from both Durban and the Midlands. The workshop helped students reflect on their lives in relation to HIV/AIDS and they also learned how to facilitate and organise HIV/AIDS related projects.



Photo: Supplied

Co-operative Education Forum

Bandile Malindisa

The Department of Co-Operative Education recently held its first forum for academics to discuss pertinent co-operative education issues such as work-based learning, assessment strategies for work-integrated learning at higher education institutions and community service learning. The first forum was held at the Hotel School where all other forums to come, will be held every month.

DUT's Head of Co-operative Education, Mr Shakeel Ori, started off by saying "Co-op is about relationships, that is why we need to discuss strategies to help us build good relationships with industry". Amongst other points discussed at the first forum was the credibility of companies taking students for in service training as well as the fair assessment of students.

The question of who is capable of assessing students between the university and the company seemed to be a serious one. Brian Forbes mentioned that if a person supervising students in the company has more than thirty years of experience, they can assess students despite having no formal credentials. He was seconded by Mr Ori when he said "It's about relevance not certificates; if it was about certificates then we would be saying a person like Bill Gates is not capable of assessing students for Microsoft."

The 2008 DSA-DUT Programme

Bandile Malindisa

DUT's Department of Marketing in conjunction with DSA (Direct Selling Association) recently held an Exposition and registration day at the Botanic Gardens Visitors' Centre. First year marketing students completed agreement forms and were then shown the different products that they are to sell as part of their curriculum.

The Department's mission of "enabling community engagement" was fulfilled through this project. National Project leader, Marius Wait from the University of Johannesburg, described the project as "a practical empowerment built into a theoretical business subject that helps students to understand personal selling and sales management." He went on to say that "Students will pass personal selling which is a non-examinable subject, by practical sales."

"First year marketing students will have the opportunity to practice personal selling under the supervision of second year students," said project leader Mr Deon Noel. Students who are capable of supervising the first years are those who passed personal selling last year when it was first introduced to DUT. The first years will practice this by going door to door selling interesting products from companies such as Annique, Avroy Shlain, House of Aloes and Tupperware.

"Even though personal selling is interesting and full of benefits such as the good commission we receive, the challenge is the certain target that we need to meet at a certain time," said second year marketing student Arishka Umarpersad. Umarpersad excelled last year when she met her target three months in advance of the due date. DUT is among three universities who are practicing this 2005 award winning project, the other two are the University of Johannesburg and Walter Sisulu University in East London.



Photo: Supplied

Rose Garden's 4th Anniversary

Staff, students and guests celebrated the 4th anniversary of the "Prince Impérial Rose Garden" in the Midlands, recently.

From Local to Global at DUT's Library

Nicky Muller and Lucille Webster

DUT Libraries participated in South African Library Week with a host of functions and services for users during the week of 17 - 22 March 2008. The activities were directed at academics and researchers, students and the university community at large. Our users have come to expect the usual amnesty on fines for some overdue items and true to form the overdue items were duly returned during the amnesty week! As part of the "fun" element of Library week, students were encouraged to participate in a competition where they created a poem or rap song which included the words of the Library week theme "from local to global @ your library". Prizes were secured from local book sellers. When the winner was



The winner Mr Zama Msibi, a Horticulture student at the University won the crowd and the judges over with his powerful oratory.

announced by a member of the adjudication panel, Ms Christa Biyela a lecturer from the Drama Department, the thunderous applause from the crowd made it clear that they agreed with the verdict.

The winner, Mr Zama Msibi, a Horticulture student at the University won the crowd and the judges over with his powerful oratory.

The Library thanks their partners for sponsoring the event:

- 1st prize of R500.00 sponsored by Logans Books
- 2nd prize of R300.00 sponsored by Van Schaik Books
- 3rd prize sponsored by Vuka Books

As part of the Library's National Library Week activities, the Institutional Repository (IR) working group invited academics and researchers to view the fledgling IR. Why fledgling you may ask? The Repository is young: the two phase project began in October 2007, so it is only six months old. The first phase relates to loading Theses & Dissertations, and it was this work that was showcased to academics and researchers. To date there are 223 items loaded on the Repository. Visitors to the site will see that the communities are faculty based, with two collections per faculty at this stage - the Research Publications collections have yet to be populated, this being Phase 2 of the project. DSpace, open source software, has been used and at this stage DUT has not customised it in any way - this is a totally DSpace vanilla flavour that is being used. As our user community gives feedback, we will customise accordingly.

The IR working group acknowledge the valuable assistance and guidance provided by University of Pretoria and Rhodes University, as we have used their repositories as benchmarks. DUT's electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) will feed into the national ETD initiative being driven by the National Research Foundation (NRF) and the Committee of Higher Education Librarians of South Africa (CHELSA). Visit <http://ir.dut.ac.za> to view the site.

Time of the Writer Festival: Writers in the Media

Dashnee Govender

The Department of Media, Language and Communication at DUT recently hosted a seminar titled 'Writers in the Media' with two well-known South African writers, Max du Preez and Jo-Anne Richards, at City Campus's Arthur Smith Hall. 'Writers in the Media' is part of the 11th edition of The Time of the Writer festival.

Interacting with an audience of mainly journalism students, staff, and visiting journalists, du Preez and Richards spoke about the distinction, as well as the inter-related relationship between being a journalist and being a writer, as well as examining the role played by writers in shaping popular media.

Du Preez, described as one of South Africa's foremost investigative journalists, enlightened the audience with his knowledge of investigative journalism, and gave aspiring investigative journalists some very memorable advice. He said "What you see, smell or hear is important to an investigative piece. Use all your senses, and let your senses tell the story."

Du Preez also spoke about words being a journalist's selling point, "Because we are competing with radio, television, and the

immediacy of the internet, we then make use of words to our advantage."

Soft spoken Richards is an internationally published novelist and journalist and she spoke about focusing on the lives of people. She said, "When you get to write about people, get to know them. Find out about them. Find out about their background, about their thoughts, and about their lives. When you write a feature or a story, do not use 'I'. Place us (the readers) there instead of stereotyping and showing your own emotions."

Richards also spoke about 'murdering your own baby' (deleting your own work if it is not good) in terms of being a writer. She said, "Sometimes you need to murder your own baby, if it is not good. Delete your work and start over again. Never leave it incomplete." She continued, "Publishers are desperate for creative writers, they are desperate for young writers. If you want to be somewhere in this world, you need to fight harder."

Max du Preez is presently a freelance writer and a columnist for the Independent Newspapers Group.

Jo-Anne Richards is currently an academic co-ordinator in Journalism and Media Studies at Wits University.

Massive piece of art

Bhekani Dlamini

Renowned artist and sculptor, Andries Botha, has been commissioned to construct a public sculpture at the entrance to a building in Waterkant, Cape Town.

The site specific sculpture is located on the corner of Strand and Hudson Streets. The sculpture was commissioned by the owner of the building, Mr Gerald Phillips. Botha describes this art work as "a massive and powerful piece of engineering". The horizontal sculpture measures four by four metres in size. Inspired by the philosophy of public space, he says people are entitled to quality service so that they can appreciate and enjoy the beauty and value of life. He says it is important for people to rethink public space as a place of ownership. He feels people must be encouraged to have a sense of ownership in order to care for public space and nourish it.

Botha is also constructing an African elephant sculpture after having been commissioned by Bert van der Kamp in Amsterdam, Denmark. This follows an exhibition of nine elephants in Belgium attended by millions of people from all over the world including Van der Kamp's wife. His wife, Anna-Marie who liked the elephant exhibition, died six months later. Van der Kamp then decided to make a sculpture of an elephant in memory of his departed wife.

Commenting on Botha's work, Head of the Department of Fine Art and Jewellery Design, Mr Tony Starkey, said: "For many years Mr Botha has been acknowledged as one of South Africa's leading sculptors and he has redefined the nature of South African sculpture in exploring issues of cultural identity, power relationships and personal memory."

Journalism Student Achievement Awards Ceremony

A glitzy, glamorous event with entertaining MCs, budding journalists and prominent people, took place recently when the newly combined Department of Media, Language and Communication hosted the Journalism Student Achievement Awards Ceremony at the Hotel School. Conduit Journalist, *Dashnee Govender* got to join in and catch up with fellow colleagues as they received their awards.

Advocate Robin Sewlal, Associate Director of Journalism welcomed everyone to the occasion and spoke about the re-launch of the Durban Press Club. He said, "Soon we will be re-launching the Durban Press Club. One of the things that Dr Mikhail Peppas and I have done is to make sure that our students would be a part of this."

Prof du Pré, DUT's Vice-Chancellor, said "We cannot underestimate the world of journalism. I think that we need to salute those wonderful people who have dedicated their lives to bringing the story to us. To the students, you have great role models to look up to in the world of journalism."

Councillor Logie Naidoo, the Deputy Mayor of eThekweni, was the honorary guest speaker for the evening. "I am very privileged to be here. As a politician I know that it is very important to be associates with journalists. Journalists can make or break our careers. Journalists supported the ethos. They championed the underprivileged during the Apartheid era. They championed democracy," he said.

Councillor Naidoo spoke about the movie 'Under Fire' with regards to journalists and the responsibility that they have and the dilemmas they face about whether they should report the facts, or distort those facts in order to safeguard harmony. He said, "So sometimes journalism is a profession that you have a passion for, but you also have a passion for the lives of people, and the safety of a country, and herein may lay the dilemma."

He went on to speak about balance when reporting incidences. "There must be a balance when reporting, and there must be objectivity. Report without fear or favour."

Councillor Naidoo also spoke about the owners of the media and the control they have over what goes into the media. He said, "Journalists are there, the watch dogs of society, irrespective of the owners of media organizations, journalists should report facts."

Awards included:

- Top 1st year student: Meyuri Pillay, R500 cash prize sponsored by Independent Newspapers
- Top 2nd year Student: Craig Lewis, R1000 cash prize sponsored by Independent Newspapers
- Top Student - Overall Achiever: Kamini Padayachee, R1000 cash prize along with the Bobby Harrypersadh Trophy
- Top B Tech Student: Maud Blose, R1500 sponsored by Independent Newspapers

* 'Under Fire' is a movie based on a true story about a journalist's dilemma when he was asked to fake a photograph of a Nicaraguan rebel leader being alive and well, when in fact the leader was killed in battle during the 1980s.

Motivating DUT

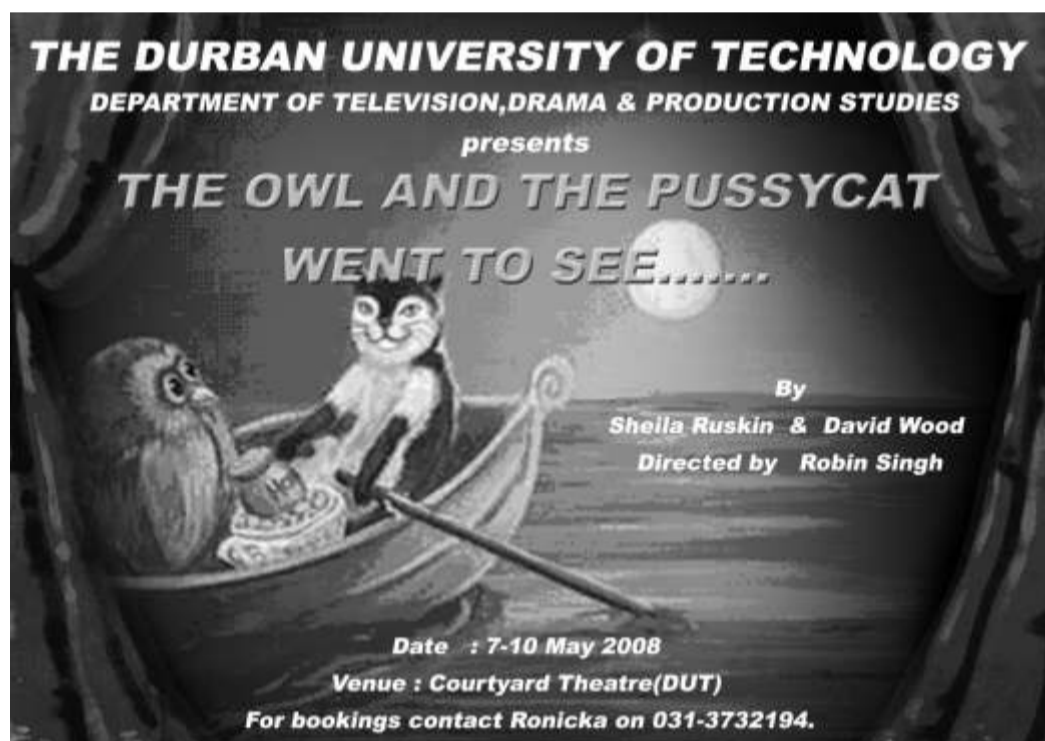
Please, Thank you, Well done & I'm Sorry

Ms Joy Kistnasamy

In today's fast moving world, it is often easy to forget these four simple phrases, yet they are in any hierarchy the key to help relationships foster, grow and survive. Their importance can never be downplayed.

When used appropriately and in the correct context, these phrases add value and make a difference to the recipient's emotional status and physical efforts while creating a pleasant atmosphere, be it at home, in the workplace or in society. These are simple phrases: they do not require much energy or deep thinking on the part of the giver but if practised effectively and when required, can actually become part and parcel of our daily vocabulary - making even the giver feel good about him/herself. After all which sounds more courteous: "Get the mail / Clean the tearoom / I never promised you that / ...you can fill in the blanks" OR "Please, get the mail / Thank you for cleaning the tearoom / Well done on going the extra mile / I'm sorry, I went back on my word".

We can make a life changing difference in our homes and our workplace as our words become building blocks for positive change. We can bring life, encouragement, healing, hope, confidence and self belief to all the people we interact with - for we do possess much power in our tongues. Practice will and does make purr...fect. Here's to our renewed efforts! We can do it.



DUT STARS

We would like to nominate **Kelvin Maclou** from the Department of Information and Communication Technology as a Star. He never complains when we keep asking for help!

From all the staff at Switchboard.

We would like to nominate **Prof Darren Lortan** as a DUT star, a big Thank You for your financial assistance. Also, to the Procurement staff (Ernest, Paul, Vijay and Colin) for organising a bus on such short notice, thank you guys.

The condolences extended and sympathy you showed in organising the transport and helping with the funeral of the late Miss Sisanda Majola are beyond comforting. Indeed, deeds are better than words.

Regards
ECP:Engineering

Disclaimer

The Communications Department strives to deliver accurate reporting and interesting stories, but cannot take responsibility for inaccurate information supplied. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Corporate Affairs Division.



The BMF student chapter (BMFsc) was founded in 1986 at Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT) and represents young and aspiring business leaders and managers.

The BMFsc is the one of the fastest growing student organizations within tertiary institutions. The student chapters present a unique opportunity for aspiring young students to gain the managerial skills needed to give them a head start in today's competitive business environment.

Objectives of the BMF Student Chapter

- To train and develop primarily black students to be effective business and management leaders.
- To ensure appropriate recruitment, selection and advancement of black students into business organizations.
- To provide career guidance services and facilities to members.
- To facilitate the processes of transformation and south africanisation of tertiary institutions within the framework of BMFsc.
- To promote awareness of the importance of managerial leadership for economic advancement and empowerment while encouraging members to play an active meaningful role in the broader South African community.

Thanks Managers
Grant Myeza
Chairperson

For more information, contact Wendy Mbambo, BMFsc Secretary General on 078 63 17670, or visit 5th Floor, Open House building, Mansfield Road during Office hours

Membership fee is R20.00 and is payable at our offices.

Join BMFsc if you want to see change and progress in your life!

College Lecture Programme

Airport Development at La Mercy

Raylene Captain-Hasthibeer

Colin Naidoo, the Communications and Brand Manager with ACSA recently addressed students, staff and the media at a Tourism CLP held at the Old Mutual Lecture theatre at Ritson Campus.

Highlighting the positive aspects of the La Mercy airport, Naidoo was quick to alleviate any concerns over the environmental impacts of the airport, including the roosting barn swallows found in the area, following eight appeals against the environmental impact assessment (EIA) previously conducted. The Department of Hospitality and Tourism's Krish Murthi Naidoo said: "The enlightening

information dispelled many uncertainties, provided new perspectives of the development and generally benefitted all present."

An overwhelming number of students attended the La Mercy airport CLP, co-hosted by Corporate Affairs' Communications Department and the Department of Hospitality and Tourism



Photo: Bandile Matindisa

Quotable Quote

It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog."

Mark Twain



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