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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 to 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 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.



Photographer: Morgen Kisten

Journalism Lecturer, Deseni Soobben together with her husband, Nanda Soobben, recipient of the Honorary Doctorate

In the Cartoonist Category in 2009, Soobben won the Vodacom Journalist of the Year (KZN) award, which he received 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.

Star gazing at DUT

Staff members from the departments of Electronic and Power Engineering at DUT were treated to a special viewing of the night sky from the roof top of the S7 building on April 13. The objective of the presentation was to generate an interest in astronomy and was hosted by the Department of Electronic Engineering.

The evening's programme was co-hosted by Associate Director, Stuart MacPherson and Lecturer, Aritha Pillay. The night presentation included instruction on how to use star charts and various public domain astronomy software packages to identify stars, constellations, nebulae and star clusters.

MacPherson said the presentation was a trial run for what is hoped to be a regular community outreach event. This is one of the objectives of the Indlebe Radio Telescope Project. He said: "The concept for the astronomy programme was influenced by the International Year of Astronomy, in 2009, and the department's enthusiasm to make a contribution. Further to that we saw a growing need to increase interest in the Science Engineering and Technology



Photographer: Karishma Ganpath

Left: Aritha Pillay Electronic Engineering Lecturer takes a peek at the North Star through the department's eight inch Celestron optical telescope

(SET) sector amongst secondary school learners."

He said: "We have received positive feedback from staff. Many were amazed at what they were seeing through the eight inch Celestron optical telescope that the department has acquired. Society in general, and those living in an urban environment in particular, take for granted the presence of the night sky with stars and very few question what they see. More often than not planets are mistaken for stars, although the brighter ones can easily be identified with the naked eye with a little basic knowledge."

MacPherson said scientists are constantly researching and conducting new experiments in astronomy to broaden our current knowledge of the universe and students should be exposed to this remarkable science. He said

however, that unfortunately, society appears to have a greater interest in astrology which is a pseudo-science which tries to predict future events based on the position of the zodiacal constellations in relation to the Sun and planets.

"The Indlebe Radio Telescope Project is currently being used for undergraduate and postgraduate research. It focuses on radio astronomy, by looking at objects radiating electromagnetic energy in the radio frequency spectrum. The star party outreach event is a subdivision of this project which focuses on looking at objects radiating electromagnetic energy in the visible light spectrum. We hope our night presentations will help develop more interest in the fields of SET by the youth at future community outreach programmes," he said.

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.



Photographer: Morgen Kisten

DUT graduates sharing a moment of happiness

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

DUT is proud to further congratulate hundreds of our top achievers who completed their qualifications with distinctions Cum Laude and received Dean's Merit Awards for Academic Excellence. Their hard work and dedication 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 on 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 efforts in upgrading their qualifications for personal and professional development is recognized.

Doctors

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.



Doctor Bongane Vumase



Doctor Santhosh Kumar Kuttan Pillai

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.

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.



Photographer: Daisy Mthethwa

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 homeopathy and will engage in research supervision to aid the development of future researchers.

South Africa's first homeopathic doctor, Izel Botha

TV Newsreader, Bathabile Maphanga graduates



Photographer: Dumile Mbatia

Above: SABC TV Newsreader and journalist Bathabile Maphanga graduated with BTech degree in Journalism at DUT. She is one of a number of journalists that graduated during the 2010 April graduation ceremony. Maphanga was recently named Discovery Health Journalist of the Year.

Graduation 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.



Photographer: Morgen Kisten

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



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.

Professor Frederick Otieno appointed new DVC: TIP

Dumile Mbatha

Professor Frederick Otieno has been appointed new Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP). He will be providing strategic leadership and direction within the university for the next five years.

Prof Otieno has a BSc Honours degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Nairobi in Kenya; an MSc and a PhD in the same field from the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne in the UK. He also holds a Master Degree in Business Administration (MBA) from the then University of Durban Westville. He is a Professional Engineer (PrEng) in South Africa and a Fellow of the South African Institution of Civil Engineers (FSAICE) and the Water Institute of Southern Africa (FWISA). He says one of his roles is to support the Vice-Chancellor together with the other Deputy Vice-Chancellors and other senior staff at DUT in ensuring that the

university is managed in the most effective and efficient manner and that it achieves its objectives in National Development. He said: "There are a number of challenges facing the sector of universities of technology (UoT). Among these are the need for us to play both our roles as institutions that offer technician and technologist training and at the same time being able to offer research and innovation as expected by the requirements of Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). Changing the culture of some of our staff so that they appreciate the need for us to address the twin roles that DHET expects us to play, while playing a

meaningful role in applied research, alongside basic research which is critical to our success as a university. This will collectively assist us in empowering communities that look up to us to provide this stimulus. "I would like to appeal to all staff and students at DUT for their support in addressing areas that we need to improve on. I believe that we have an excellent opportunity to develop a world class institution and we have to go for it," concluded Prof Otieno. Prof Otieno is based at the offices for Research Capacity Development and Support, Tromso Annex, Steve Biko Campus.



Professor Frederick Otieno

Professor Krishnan Kanny awarded full professorship

Professor Krishnan Kanny received his full professorship in April 2009. He is the Director of the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Professor Kanny is a seasoned engineer and scientist with more than 10 years experience in management, leadership, and human resources development. Additionally, he holds over 15 year's research experience in manufacturing, robotics, and advanced engineering materials. He also has extensive experience in mechanical engineering products, processes and systems design including development, implementation and commissioning.

His research interests include designing, processing, and testing of composite materials systems, reinforced thermosets/thermoplastics, nano-infused structures for aerospace, naval and automotive applications and failure analysis, including computational and analytical modeling. Characterisation and morphological analysis including Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM), Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM), and X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (XPS). Other interests include renewable energy solutions, Demand Side Management (DSM) and water jet machining.

Prof Kanny is an NRF rated Scientist and is a registered professional technologist with the Engineering Council of South Africa, since 1988. He holds a PhD in Materials Science and Engineering (USA), a Msc in Mechanical Engineering from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) and a Mechanical Engineer's Certificate of Competency (factories). Prof Kanny regularly reviews papers for several journals and has published more than 70 papers in international journals and conference proceedings. He is the holder of several registered patents.



Professor Krishnan Kanny

Professor Brian Pearce awarded associate professorship

Brian Pearce was awarded an Associate Professorship in Drama Studies, on 01 December 2009. He studied at Natal University, Durban, completing BA Honours degrees in English and Drama and an MA in English. He also studied at Royal Holloway College, University of London, completing an MA and PhD in Drama and Theatre Studies. His thesis examined the relationship between performance and criticism in Shakespeare's later plays and analyzed the re-evaluation of these plays as a group.

Pearce was the editor of *Shakespeare in Southern Africa*, from 2000 to 2008, an academic journal produced by the Shakespeare Society of Southern Africa. His research has included articles in *New Theatre Quarterly*, *Comparative Drama and Shakespeare in Southern Africa*. He is currently a Research Associate for the Institute for the Study of English in Africa at Rhodes University and an Honorary Life Member of the Shakespeare Society of Southern Africa. His most recent publication is a chapter entitled "British Directors in Postcolonial South Africa" in *Shakespeare in Stages*, published by Cambridge University Press, 2009. Apart from teaching at the Department of Drama Studies at DUT, his work involves collaborative research in the Centre for Systems Research. His most recent theatre production, in collaboration with Ellis Pearson, was titled *Impisi*. The performance was showcased at the Grahamstown Festival in 2008 and later went on tour in South Africa.



Professor Brian Pearce

Ori heads SASCE Karishma Ganpath

The Southern African Society for Co-operative Education (SASCE) hosted its bi-annual International Conference at Willow Park Conference Centre in Johannesburg from 28-31 March. The event coincided with the organisation's presidential election at its Annual General Meeting where Shakeel Ori, Director of Co-operative Education at the Durban University of Technology, was elected as the new organisational head.

SASCE is an international organisation that has been in existence for the last 25 years and represents collaborative efforts, from the higher education sector and industry, in promoting integrated academic studies with quality industry based learning experience.

Ori is a member of South African Quality and Standards Committee (SAQCA) and the World Association for Co-operative Education (WACE) based in Boston, USA. He said during his two year term as president, his efforts will be focused on reorganising SASCE. "My role as president is to drive the organisations strategic goals and achieve its objectives. Our first step is to resurrect a board that is

inclusive of industry stakeholders, Further Education and Training (FET) institutions, traditional universities, Universities of Technology (UoT) and essentially all bodies involved in work integrated learning. We will also be looking at increasing research in work based learning and including the launch of new collaborative partnerships, joint conferences and workshops and national and international exchange programmes".

He said the transformation drive is a big step to get industry bodies on board. SASCE's current objective is to be recognised as an expert body of co-operative education with the long term

vision to make SASCE the professional body of co-operative education. Ori said the organisation recently signed an agreement with the South African Manufacturing Engineering Seta (MERSETA), to ensure placement of engineering students in industry across South Africa. It is intended to expand the organisation to the rest of the Southern African region to increase the Work Integrated Learning opportunities to students across all fields. He said SASCE faces the challenge to review the role, responsibilities and qualities of staff who manage experiential learning in industry and within the Higher Education sector, in

the hope of improving learner support and facilitation. This will also ensure the standard of industry experience is in compliance with the Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC) best practices for work based learning. The organisation presented at the Higher Education Summit which was held at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology's Belville Campus, from 22-23 April. SASCE addressed issues related to industry based learning for undergraduate students. The summit was opened by President Jacob Zuma and the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Blade Nzimande.

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 studying engineering. He embarked on pursuing his dreams of becoming a pharmacist and studied 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.



Photographer: Dumile Mbatha

Btech Civil Engineering graduate, Graeme Baker

Nothing stops Janelle Rampath from reaching for her dreams

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 chosen career will enable her to achieve her BTech degree and later pursue her Master's in Engineering qualification.



Photographer: Daisy Mthethwa

Rampath said her interest in engineering science stemmed from being exposed to her sister's 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 her industrial engineering skills to use in order to further develop herself.

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

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.



Photographer: Daisy Mthethwa

Andiswa Gabada pleased with her achievement

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 wholeheartedly, you will succeed," said Dreyer.



Photographer: Dumile Mbatha

Mariska Dreyer

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. They were proud to have graduated with their National Diplomas in Electronic Engineering at Durban University of Technology on 19 April. Chané works as a repair technician and Tersia is an IT administrator. They like similar things in fashion and food and have younger brother.



Photographer: Morgen Kisten

Carey twin sisters celebrate together



Johnson twins

Johnson twins, Craig and Michael graduated with their National Diplomas in Graphic Design.



Ndlovu twins

Sihle and Sipiwe Ndlovu graduated with National Diplomas in Interior Design.

Mechanical Engineering graduate proud of his achievement

Daisy Mthethwa

Words could not describe the emotions BTech 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 was the milestone of his year, as he can not remember the last time he was recognised for being a top achiever. However, he has always felt that he possessed the potential to excel, academically.

For now, Mabaso hopes 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 MTech degree. Mabaso dedicated his award to his parents for their unconditional inspiration and commitment thus enabling him to achieve his dreams.



Photographer: Daisy Mthethwa

Jubilant Mndeni Mabaso, after graduating with a BTech degree in Mechanical Engineering, from the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment



Editor's note

With just a few weeks before the official kickoff to the 2010 FIFA World Cup games in South Africa, last minute preparations are in full swing ahead of the arrival of international delegates and tourists. As South Africans, we are proud to be the first African country on the continent to host the World Cup. In the spirit of true patriotism we will be flying our flags high and cheering on our national soccer team, Bafana Bafana.

As a University of Technology, DUT is working towards ensuring that we have a stable, fully fledged management and leadership structure to provide strategic direction to the institution. Two deputy vice chancellors have been appointed - they are Professor Nomthandazo Gwele, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic, and Professor Frederick Otieno, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Technology, Innovation and Partnerships. The process of appointing a Vice-Chancellor is in progress and we will update you as soon as the announcement is made.

The position of Senior Director: Student Services has been converted to that of Dean of Students to align with the higher education structure. DUT will soon be embarking on a process of appointing a Senior Director of Corporate Affairs. This is one of the key positions at the University as it is responsible for strategically positioning DUT in the national and global arena. The candidate appointed to this position is expected to have extensive experience in all aspects of marketing, media and corporate communication, public relations, branding and corporate identity.

City Campus is currently undergoing a renovation project to restore its roof; construction work commenced at the beginning of May and will run until the end of August 2010. Academic activities at the campus will resume in September 2010.

Bhekani Dlamini

Communications Manager (Acting)
Division of Corporate Affairs
Durban University of Technology

Remote Rural Water Treatment System

Karishma Ganpath

In recent years the number of peri-urban households receiving clean water has increased, as a result of infrastructural development and the supply of water tanker services. However, for many rural communities, access to clean bacterial free water still remains a privilege, leaving many remote communities vulnerable to disease and infection.

Illnesses arising from drinking contaminated water, however, could soon be a problem of the past as research in water treatment technology has contributed significantly to improving health in rural communities.

In an interview with Professor Lingam Pillay, from the Department of Chemical Engineering, he outlined the advantages of his project titled, the Remote Rural Water Treatment System (RRWTS). He said the idea behind the research stemmed from developing more robust technology that will be suitable for developing economies. The system is specifically designed for extreme rural areas where there exists no viable water supply option at present. The RRWTS uses unique membrane technology developed at DUT. The system is very simple, and consists of a water tank that contains multiple membrane filters and a permeate outlet.

The advantages of the system include: it has a high flow rate; it uses gravitation to filter contaminated water through the membrane filters; the membranes are very robust and are not destroyed by rough-handling or drying, like current commercial membranes. The RRWTS is inexpensive, mobile, electricity independent, not time consuming, safe and user friendly.

Prof Pillay said: "The membrane filters work with gravity to remove most of the impurities in contaminated water. However, it is used in conjunction with a disinfectant, like Sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) solution, commonly known as bleach, to destroy any remaining micro-contaminants in the product water. The RRWTS has undergone extensive testing



From left, Lawrence Baloyi, Head of Intellectual Property at the Water Research Commission (WRC), WRC CEO, Dr Rfikir Kfir, with Prof Lingam Pillay, recipient of the 2010 WRC innovation Award.

by Umgeni Water and the system is currently being tested by technologists and researchers in China and Thailand. Field trials will be conducted at a rural village located in the Eastern Cape in July."

He said previous research revealed the need to include a residual disinfectant in the product water, as communities in rural settings were exposed to secondary contamination that came from the use of unsterilized utensils or alternatively from bacteria in water pipes. He said by adding a few drops of the NaOCl solution to the system, it neutralises any bacteria in the RRWTS product, and continues to disinfect utensils used as storing vessels. The RRWTS technology has been patented in South Africa, and an international patent application has been initiated. Prof Pillay received an Innovation Award from the Water Research Commission (WRC) in February, for his previous research in the water treatment field.

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Keeping eyes on the goal despite challenges



Photographer: Dumile Mbattha

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 wheelchair-bound due to arthritis she is determined to achieve her goal of gaining work experience to become a professional human resources practitioner. Mbali's aim is to start her own business in this field.

Mbali is ecstatic after graduating

Presheila Ismail graduates in Engineering despite the 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 been re-energised by this accomplishment, as she embarks on furthering her studies; in between juggling her busy work schedule alongside 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 are also 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



Photographer: Morgen Kirsten

Presheila Ismail receives her degree in Civil Engineering at DUT

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 BCom Honours degree. She began studying towards her Civil Engineering degree when aged 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 extended 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."

Sachs launches new book in Durban

Karishma Ganpath

Justice Albie Sachs, former Chief Justice of the South African Constitutional Court launched his latest book, *The Strange Alchemy of Life and Law*, in Durban from 21-24 March, as part of his international book launch. Sachs was in the city attending the International Art and Social Justice Conference hosted by the Durban University of Technology and Art for Humanity.

Sachs said *The Strange Alchemy of Life and Law* deals with the complex interaction of reason and passion, the two crucial elements of justice. The launch began during 2009 in London and Oxford in England; it then travelled to Johannesburg and Cape Town late last year. He said: "This is the first time the book has been launched in Durban and it coincides with my 15 years of service to the Constitutional Court coming to an end. It took me four months to complete, while I was on sabbatical leave in New York. I worked very studiously from 10am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, whilst resisting the temptation of the city". He said: "The theme of this book is to connect the subjective personal experience with objective writing of

judgement, to establish what the connection between the two is. In my experience, we are not machines nor are we purely subjective creatures. This book is full of messages and it claims that judges are amongst the great story tellers of our age, and we must take responsibility for the stories we tell and the way we tell them".

Sachs said he was thrilled when he discovered the publishers had decided to use the picture of the blue dress on the cover as it tells a story which holds much meaning and significance. "I had initially suggested a picture of myself delivering the Same Sex Judgement, but I was told that judges and courtrooms don't sell. The blue dress signifies the character of the court and my judicial thinking. My life

experiences were melodramatic with detention without trial, torture by sleep deprivation and being blown up. However, none of this entered directly in my judicial reasoning. But it all influenced the foundational system of values written into the constitution which guided my thinking", he said.

Sachs is also the author of *Justice in South Africa*, *The Soft Vengeance of a Freedom Fighter* and *Free Diary of Albie Sachs*. He is globally admired for his efforts to promote democracy and his fight to liberate the oppressed against the injustices of apartheid. He lost an arm and the sight in one eye as a result of a car bomb explosion, but despite the challenges he faced he continued his pursuit for democracy together with other



Picture: Supplied by Audio Visual

Justice Albie Sachs at the International Art and Social Justice Conference at DUT, the conference was held from 21-24 March 2010 at Ritson Campus

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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

Remote Rural Water Treatment System

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The award acknowledged Prof Pillay's research in Capillary Ultra-filtration Membrane, as an innovation leading to commercial application in South Africa's water sector.

Professor Pillay's research portfolio primarily focuses on innovative water and wastewater treatment technologies for developing economies. Current projects include membrane bioreactors in waste water treatment, algae recovery for biodiesel and pharmaceutical production, low flux membrane systems for rural areas, and novel disinfection methods. Collaborators include the University of KwaZulu-Natal, the University of Stellenbosch, the University of Johannesburg, the Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand), Savannah State University (USA) and Ben-Gurion University (Israel).

Prof Pillay holds a Bachelor of Science (Engineering), a Master's of Science (Engineering) and a PHD in Engineering from the then University of Natal, now known as University of KwaZulu-Natal. He joined the University of Natal in 1992 as Senior Research Fellow; in 1995 he became a Lecturer at the Department of Chemical Engineering at ML Sultan Technikon. He was later appointed as Associate Director and Associate Professor in the department and received his full professorship in 2009.

Maritime Studies Isiponono harbour tour

Dumile Mbatha

The Department of Maritime Studies at Durban University of Technology (DUT), together with 65 first year students were treated to a harbour cruise, sponsored by Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA), on the *Isiponono*, on 30 April.

Students were also provided with a deeper insight into the maritime industry's role in importing and exporting, the vast opportunities available in the maritime sector at sea and shore and TNPA's core production areas in a presentation at the TNPA's School of Ports.

TNPA representative, Mazwi Mdletshe informed students about current developments at the Port of Durban and TNPA's joint initiative with the Durban Municipal Council to expand the entrance channel of the port. Students were provided with lunch and a historical overview of the different ports in South Africa and their core functions. Staff from the School of Ports also provided a demonstration on a ship simulator, on which students were allowed a practical session. The computer driven equipment provided a realistic view of a ship entering the port from the wheelhouse, which houses all the navigational equipment.

Student, Mandla Mthonsi, said the harbour cruise was an unforgettable experience. The ship simulation exercise also introduced different aspects of sea based maritime responsibilities. It would be an advantage to maritime students if the university acquired simulators that could be used in practical lessons. Staff at the Department of Maritime Studies said they were grateful to TNPA for its continued hosting of academic outreach programmes which demonstrated their long standing commitment to their relationship with the university.

New Shipping Management Programme

Dumile Mbatha

The Department of Maritime Studies at Durban University of Technology (DUT) is in the process of developing a new National Diploma in Shipping Management. The programme will focus on the shore-based maritime sector and will consist of five semesters of theory and one semester of Work Integrated Learning (WIL). The programme is set to start in January next year if the Council for Higher Education (CHE) processes the department's application.

Captain Colin Johnsen, Head of Department of Maritime Studies said that despite the programme being still under development, 50 learners have registered for the first year of study for the new programme, which is currently offered as the first year in the National Diploma in Maritime Studies. The programme will start with a National Diploma qualification and at a later stage, postgraduate qualifications will be introduced. "We've always offered two streams of studies, sea-going and shore-based, but we are now formalising the shore-based programme and giving it a new name," he said.

"The Department of Maritime Studies is the first in the country to provide this specific programme. We have benchmarked this qualification with foreign institutions. We saw what they are offering and aligned it with international offerings," said Senior Maritime Studies Lecturer, Leon Govender.

"The shore-based industry is a wide-ranging industry with many career paths that the students can take. We want to give them a very broad education in the maritime industry which covers fields such as cargo logistics, transportation, warehousing and documentation," said Captain Johnsen.

He said the department has made successful agreements with shore-based companies to secure Work Integrated Learning (WIL) student placements. Currently, WIL in the Diploma in Maritime Studies programme takes 12 months to complete, however, this will be reduced to six months when the new diploma is registered. The department is currently involved with eThekwin Maritime Cluster (EMC) and its engagement with various sectors of the industry. The formation of EMC signifies the maritime industry's role is crucial for Durban's export and import industry. The idea of the cluster is to improve the efficiency and competitiveness of the industry.



Cargo operations at Durban harbour where a ship alongside is discharging a heavy lift steel structure onto a flat bed trailer on the quayside. Stevedores are conducting the operation and a cargo surveyor, wearing a blue hardhat, is monitoring the operation for insurance purposes

Conference held to promote human rights

Daisy Mthethwa

Art for Humanity's first international Art and Social Justice Conference was hosted by the Durban University of Technology at the Ritson Campus Conference Centre, from 21-24 March. The conference addressed issues relating to the arts in promoting human rights and social justice in society.

The conference served as a platform for organizations and artists to share their experiences with a broader international audience on issues relating to art, its value and a need to create an audience. "The conference was a useful forum that allowed us to state and draw challenges on how we can tackle community problems through our artistic work," said Witty Nyide, a representative from Caversham Centre for Arts and Writers. Leeds artist, Bruce Rimmel, said money is worth nothing when it comes to art because art is unique and can be interpreted by many people in different ways. "You don't get value of money in art but you get value of life. I enjoyed being part of the conference; it's an exciting international experience. It has

been wonderful to listen to inspiring speakers, and it will stay with me for a long time," said Rimmel. Event co-organiser, Nomonde Masoka said it is important to hold such conferences as it puts the university on the international map. "Through the conference, DUT is represented internationally; people from all over the world will know of the good things that the University does. More importantly, it gives our students an opportunity to perform and be recognized for the good work we do," she said. Tony Starkey, Chair Conference Secretariat said the conference created a platform for new partnerships and relationships and its success would not have been possible without the gathering of like-minded people.



Delegates at the Art and Social Justice Conference at DUT. From left: Cladius Joecue from Germany, Canadian Professor, Judith Marcuse and Vera Zimmermann from Germany

Is normalisation of HIV/AIDS an option for SA?

Karishma Ganpath

HIV is a problem and has fast become a pandemic world wide. Over the last two decades, there has been increased focus on media-based health campaigns. However, according to research, campaigners have used a limited array of media forms and comprehensive campaign strategies.

Alternative strategies to reduce the rate of the prevalence of HIV include recent calls for the use of innovative social marketing, Entertainment Education, Information, Education and Communication-interventions (IEC's) and the normalisation and remedicalisation of the diagnosis of HIV. In an interview with Ronwyn Von Staden, Law Lecturer at DUT, who recently completed her research titled 'Normalization of HIV/AIDS in South Africa', she addresses whether normalisation is a viable option for South Africa.

Von Staden said her research was largely motivated and influenced by Justice Edwin Cameron's stance on HIV/AIDS. She said: "I have much respect for the open and honest way in which he has written about the impact the disease has had on his life and the wisdom that he has imparted in the numerous articles, speeches, books and papers he has published. I read a transcript of his speech which was delivered at the Ronald Louw Memorial Campaign, at UKZN in 2006. Two points that he raised caught my eye and aroused my interest in the pandemic".

Sachs launches new book in Durban

Continued from page 6 ...

struggle heroes. Sachs played an integral role in drafting South Africa's post-apartheid constitution, and was later appointed by former President Nelson Mandela, as a member of SA's first Constitutional Court.

During Sach's Durban stay he visited the Moses Mabhida Stadium, he said: "I knew him well in exile, he was an honourable man and a dignified people's person and it is fitting that his name has been memorialised".

She said the first was his call for what he termed the 'normalisation and remedicalisation' of the diagnosis of HIV/AIDS. Cameron's appeal was motivated by the fact that AIDS is no longer a death sentence but is now considered to be a medically manageable disease. He suggested that the human rights protections erected around AIDS, particularly its diagnosis have resulted in it being treated as exceptional and that this has served to reinforce the stigma surrounding the disease. Von Staden's personal interest regarding certain illnesses and diseases motivated her to compare the manner in which other diseases are diagnosed and treated in comparison to HIV/AIDS.

The second aspect was that Cameron stated that HIV/AIDS could only be treated in the same way as other diseases if three conditions were met. These conditions included that antiretroviral treatment must be available to the patient; assurance that the consequences of the diagnosis will not lead to discrimination and ostracism; the patient must be secure in the knowledge that the testing procedure and its outcome will remain confidential.

She said: "I was interested to assess what progress had been made in achieving these goals between 2006 and 2009. I found that despite a progressive Constitution and enabling legislation and policies, the reality on the ground is very different. South Africa remains a country of constrained healthcare resources and the result is that antiretroviral treatment is not universally available. Further, HIV/AIDS remains to a large extent a disease of stigma".



DUT Library launches World Cup Poster Campaign Count Down

Library manager, Lucille Webster

The Alan Pittendrigh Library at Steve Biko Campus launched a campaign in celebration of the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa. The festive campaign kicked off on 21 April as a countdown to the opening ceremony. Library staff members were decked out in soccer regalia at a forum outside the library. The colourful vibrant scene drew students to participate in vigorous Diski dancing to the sound of pulsing music and the ceremonial vuvuzela. Colourful posters drew a curious crowd of spectators who were surprised to see staid librarians as soccer crazed fans and supporters.

Final Call For Papers: (re)searching Durban

As the FIFA World Cup 2010 fast approaches, South Africa is in the spotlight bringing heavy focus on infrastructure, crime, human trafficking and sex workers and HIV/AIDS. Whilst these are significant social issues, there exists a trend to focus mainly on negative aspects of the South African experience. Reconstructing the lived experiences makes for an interesting alternative view of South Africa and its people which will go a long way in challenging current perceptions.

It is with this theme in mind, that we propose a collection of short articles that document these lived experiences.

Contributions may cover the following themes:

- Hospitality and Tourism
- Design, Arts and Culture
- Communication and Media
- Marketing, Retail and Public Relations
- Science and Technology

The call for contributions is envisioned as a process of training emerging academics and intellectuals in addition to enriching the experience of the thousands of expected visitors to South Africa.

SUBMISSION CRITERIA

- Articles should be no longer than 2000 words, and submitted electronically
- The author's name, affiliation and contact information should be on a separate title page
- The author's bio should be about 100 -200 words
- The author's photograph should be passport size
- An abstract should be provided for each article (maximum - 150 words)
- All aspects of presentation, including references, should conform to Harvard style guidelines
- Photographs should be of good quality (more than 2MB)

IMPORTANT DATES

- Meeting of authors and Submission of Draft Paper: 14 May 2010
- Final paper submission with corrections: 31 May 2010
- Book Publication Date: June 2010

EDITORIAL BOARD

Candidates are invited to submit their cvs to be part of the editorial board and reviewing panel

Previous record of publishing in academic journals would be an advantage

Submit completed articles and cv submissions to:

Fazel Khan

Centre for Quality Promotion and Assurance, Durban University of Technology

Cell: 0845778627, Ph: 0313735669, Submission is strictly on-line to:

E-mail: fazel@dut.ac.za

Mlu Zondi Wins Spier Contemporary 2010 Award

Article supplied



Photographer: Cecile Mella

Mlu Zondi, DUT alumnus and winner of the Spier Contemporary 2010 Award

Durban based artist, Mlu Zondi, has won the Spier Contemporary 2010 Award at the Spier Contemporary Exhibition in Cape Town. The exhibition began on 14 March and ran until 14 May at Cape Town's City Hall and later travel to exhibition sites in Johannesburg and Durban. The work of 101 artists selected from over 2 700 submissions were showcased.

As part of Zondi's prize, he will attend the prestigious 18th Street Art Centre in California, USA, as an artist in residency for eight weeks, from December 2010. Zondi is a multi-award winning artist. He graduated from Durban University of Technology with a diploma in Drama and Performance Studies. He has since garnered international recognition with his work that blends dance, visual art and video installation. He has collected a string of coveted awards including the 2006 and 2007 MTN New Contemporaries

Award and the Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Dance 2010. His latest work, *Cinema*, will premier at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown in June. His video installation, *Despotica*, was screened at Screen Moves in Copenhagen, Denmark in March. He is also featured in the US published book, *South African Art Now*. For more information and to view the artists' profiles visit www.spiercontemporary.co.za.

Siyazama Project seeks out its way to international market

Daisy Mthethwa

Professor Kate Wells, Graphic Design Programme Co-ordinator and a leader of the *Siyazama Project*, together with *Editions in Craft*, recently hosted a five day craft workshop at DUT's City Campus.

The focus of the workshop was to get international designers to work creatively with the *Siyazama* craftswomen. The aim of the project was to come up with new and innovative beaded products for the international market. The workshop follows a 2009 visit of Stockholm based curators and the founders of *Editions in Craft*, Renee Padt from Netherlands and Ikko Yokoyama from Japan. The *Siyazama Project* involves artwork created by a group of craftswomen from rural areas of KwaZulu-Natal. "We want *Siyazama* craftswomen to find a platform outside South Africa by taking them to an international level. We also wanted to bridge the gap between anonymous craft makers and well known designers," said Padt.

The initial workshop with the *Siyazama Project* craftswomen started after Professor Wells, who has led the project since its inception in 1998, attended and presented at an exhibition by Padt in Sweden. The large international art exhibition was titled *No Name Fever: AIDS in the Age of Globalization*, and included the work done by the *Siyazama Project*. She presented talks about her work with *Siyazama*. Prof Wells said: "Siyazama is a DUT exemplar project which links rural craftswomen with education on design and health". Swedish designers, Boaz Cohen and Sayaka Yamamoto, took craftwork to a new level when they used the idea of a snake to inspire the design and production of utensils and accessories including fruit bowls. "The pattern reminds me of a snake wrapping itself around, the colours are quite similar to what the craftswomen are using but with different interpretation," said Cohen.

Khishwephi Sithole, an Msinga craftswomen said she enjoys being part of *Siyazama Project* because she loves craft work and it helps keep her active. Both the *Siyazama Project* and *Editions in Craft* hope to exhibit their finished products during the Milan Design week in April. "We seek to explore and discover new, more equitable strategies for the production, marketing and distribution of design and craft products. We are hoping to showcase these wonderful products at the Milan Design Week," said Padt.



Pictured: Lobolile Ximba, a member of the *Siyazama Project* makes a bowl using traditional techniques.

DUT students give back to community

Daisy Mthethwa

Translation and Interpreting Practice students from the Department of Media, Language and Communication at DUT recently visited Fulton School for the Deaf, in Gillitts, outside Durban as part of their community outreach programme. Students met with learners to gain an understanding of their literacy needs and embarked on a library revamp project to facilitate their learning.

Sign Language lecturer, Odette Swift said the community outreach project, which was launched this year, is an initiative by second year students. The library revamp project will benefit the school and DUT students will gain a better understanding of the deaf community. "It is important for students to interact with deaf pupils to understand them better, like where they are coming from and how much they are able to do," said Swift.



Second year Sign Language student, Nqobile Luvuno chats to Trida Frank, a learner from Fulton School

The library, which was formerly used as a garage, currently has old books, charts, and a printer. "The library is too old; when you enter it's like a study room. We want to use bright colours, add a new carpet, shelves and new curtains to make coming to the library pleasant for learners," said second year student, Stha Mazibuko.

The school Vice Principal, Bronwyn Bouwer said the library needs a lot of attention and the intention is to incorporate the ideas of students and learners to make the surroundings visually appealing.

Poem

By Genbia Hyla
isiZulu prefixes edited
by Lebohang Sibisi

Being African in isi-NGLISH
It's not the hue of my skin
Nor the colour of my eyes,
It's not the kroes of my hair
Nor my political ties,
Being African.

It's not the laws that I follow
Or the shape of my beliefs,
It's not ma's religious fervor
Or being a fan of Kaiser Chiefs,
Being African.

S'not the expression o' Benin art
Or the curl of sisi's lashes,
It's not u-focus of u-media
Or ama-photographic flashes,
Being African.

It's not i-culture of ama-clan
Nor the mahala in my purse,
It's not i-language I inherited
Or the one in which I curse,
Being African.

It's not my sports affiliations
It's not the vuvuzela I play,
S'not makarapa or Laduma
Or the goals achieved today,
Being African.

It's as old as time can measure
It's the birthplace of all man,
It's echoing uShaka or Madiba
It's the 'viva' in "I can",
Being African.

It's in the warmth of my spirit
And the openness of my smile,
It's in the richness of my voice
The uniqueness of my style,
Being African.

It's in the exuberance of my passion
It's in the landscape of my birth,
It's in the elephantine ear shape
Across the continental girth,
Being African.

It's the kaleidoscopic canvas
It's from desert to the sea,
It's lush forests and mountain ranges
It's in the root of every tree,
Being African -
Or just being me.

DUT crowns Miss Walsingham 2010

DUT's Walsingham Residence, on Currie Road, recently hosted its Miss Walsingham 2010 Programme in search of three dynamic and dedicated students, who can be inspiring role models to undergraduate resident students.

Sanele Nhlumayo, Residence Warden and event co-ordinator said the annual event was specifically introduced to increase social networking amongst resident first year students and to provide them with peers they could talk to, should they have any personal and academic concerns.

The glamorous winners have been tasked to professionally represent Walsingham Residence at youth forums, social events and to facilitate residential life socially and academically. Their responsibilities include facilitation of integrated life at the residence by enabling personal growth, building self esteem and confidence through various projects that are geared towards discovering individual potential.



Picture: Supplied

Winning the Miss Walsingham crown was Sindy Ndzimande (middle), flanked by First Princess Nongcebo Khumalo (right) and Second Princess: Precious Mbhele (left)

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.

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