

Issue: 08 October 2010

Spring graduation a resounding success

Durban University of Technology (DUT) is proud to announce that 805 students graduated at the Spring Graduation, from their respective programmes under the faculties of Art and Design, Engineering and the Built Environment, Health Sciences, Applied Sciences, Accounting and Informatics and Management Sciences. A total of 36 Masters and 10 Doctoral degrees were issued to students who have worked diligently to accomplish their goals.

As a Higher Education Institution, research in academia has been a pivotal goal as we set our standard to achieve what was once unimaginable, discovering new developments and thus expanding global frontiers in research across various fields. This is the University's second graduation ceremony for the year.

At the previous ceremony held in April, a total of 4500 students graduated with National Diplomas and postgraduate degrees. As part of the University's ongoing support of technology transfer and innovation, DUT seeks to actively strengthen postgraduate recruitment in alignment with niche areas in research. Our focus is to continuously increase the pool of researchers, building the capacity of staff and postgraduate students to engage in research activities. As a University of Technology it is our vision and strategic goal to promote excellence in learning and teaching, technology transfer and applied research.



Dr Imtiaz Sooliman, recipient of Honorary Doctor of Technology degree flanked by Prof Nomthandazo Gwele, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic and Ms Ela Gandhi,



Councillor M. Ntshangase: eThekweni Municipality, Professor Ahmed Bawa: DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Ms Ela Gandhi: DUT Chancellor and Vice Admiral J Mudimu: Chief of the South African Navy.

DUT is committed to providing increased levels of support to staff conducting research at BTech, Master's and Doctoral levels and we are pleased that the academic community has used this opportunity well to expand on their current qualifications. Dr Imtiaz Sooliman, founder and chairman of the Non-Governmental Organisation, Gift of the Givers was awarded an honorary doctor of technology degree in Health Sciences, during the second session. Since its inception, Gift of the Givers, under the leadership of Dr Sooliman, has achieved international acclaim for its humanitarian efforts.

His work has inspired civilians and leaders across the world to actively contribute to social development drives and disaster relief efforts. DUT is privileged to pay tribute to his work and wish him all the best in his future endeavours. In honour of DUT's new partnership with the South African Navy, Vice

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2010 Spring graduation Doctors



Dr Lawrence Lekhanya

Dr Lekhanya received his Doctor of Technology degree in Marketing. His research promoted by Prof R B Mason, investigated "The use of marketing strategies by small, medium and micro enterprises in rural KwaZulu-Natal area.

Dr Thirumurthie Pillay

Dr Pillay, Deputy Registrar at DUT obtained his Doctor of Technology degree in Public Management, his research was promoted by Prof M A H Wallis. His study looked at

"Student enrolment planning in Public Higher Education: A South African case study

Dr Gopalkrishna Chetty

Dr Chetty, Special Advisor to DUT's Vice-Chancellor and Principal, received his Doctor of Technology degree in Human Resources Management. His research titled "The transformations of South African Higher Education sector through mergers: a case study of Durban University of Technology" was

promoted by Prof M A H Wallis. **Dr Richard Perumal**

Dr Perumal, a former DUT employee achieved his Doctor of Technology degree in Human Resources Management after completing his research on "The development of Universities of Technology in the Higher Education landscape in South Africa", which was promoted by Prof M A H Wallis.

Dr Vinodh Edward

Dr Edward received his Doctor of Technology degree in Biotechnology on completion of his research on the "Development of a Starter Culture for the Production of Gari, a Traditional African Fermented Food". His research was promoted by Prof S Singh and joint promoters, Dr CMAP Franz and Dr PJ van Zyl.

Dr Viresh Mohanlall

Viresh Mohanlall received his Doctor of Technology degree in Biotechnology for his research on "Screening, In-vitro Propagation and Bioaugmentation of *Ceratoheca triloba* for the Production of Secondary Metabolites". His investigation was promoted by Prof B Odhav and joint promoter, Dr B Okole.

Dr Paul Mokoena

Dr Mokoena received a Doctor of Technology degree in Biotechnology; His research investigated "Computational Studies of the Folding Patterns of Small and Medium-size Polypeptides" and was promoted by Prof K Bisetty and joint promoter, Prof J J Perez.



Dr Feroz Swalaha

Dr Swalaha obtained his Doctor of Technology degree in Biotechnology after completing his study on the "Optimization of Riboflavin Production by Fungi on Edible Oil Effluent". His research was promoted by Prof B Odhav.

Dr Indra Bahadur

Dr Indra Bahadur received his Doctor of Technology degree in Chemistry after successfully completing his investigation on the "Excess Molar Volume and Isentropic Compressibility for Binary or Ternary Ionic Liquid Systems". His study was promoted by Prof N Deenadayalu.

DUT Student scoops top Eskom award

Bridging the skills gap in Free State

Simba's African princess returns to South Africa

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Dr Richard Sheridan

Dr Sheridan received his Doctor of Technology degree in Language Practice upon completion of his study on "The language of digital learning: developing an e-learning approach for the elderly". His research was promoted by Dr DD Pratt and joint promoter, Prof R Naidoo.

Teaching Assistant Programme

Durban University of Technology held a certification ceremony on 7 September 2010 where 557 students were awarded certificates for completion of the Teaching Assistant Programme (TAP). The programme was offered at the behest of the KZN Department of Education (DoE) to deal with the problem of under-performing Foundation Phase teachers, especially in rural areas.

In regard to its underpinning philosophy and module content, the programme is in line with the Foundations for Learning Campaign (2008 -2011) gazetted by the Minister of Education on 14 March 2008. Consequently, TAP, like the Foundations for Learning Campaign has, as its main objective, the improvement of the reading, writing and numeracy abilities of Foundation Phase learners.

TAP's central objective is to provide high-level training to 600 Teaching Assistants who will relieve qualified Foundation Phase teachers of onerous yet inescapable administrative and classroom management responsibilities, and thus accord them the time and flexibility to focus on their core responsibility of teaching and assessment. It is hoped that this will enhance the quality of the teaching and learning experience in primary schools.

The course was offered to select teaching assistants who have been appointed and deployed in primary schools in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN). The Teaching Assistant initiative has an important developmental dimension in that it provides employment for unemployed youth who could later choose to pursue a career in teaching.

The completely self funding course is offered at the Indumiso Site by DUT's School of Education. The selected delivery sites are appropriately-equipped DoE Education Centres throughout KZN, including Education Resource Centres and some schools. The project is facilitated by part-time tutors who have at least five years experience of Foundation Phase teaching, a Bachelor of Education (Honours degree), and lecturers from the School of Education.

The joint TAP partnership between the KZN DOE and DUT provides an excellent opportunity for the University to market its academic programmes to communities within the province. The minimum TAP admission requirement is a Grade 12 certificate. TAP is a non-subsidised course that equips learners with the necessary knowledge, skills and competencies to enable them to provide necessary support to qualified teachers. It also acquaints the Teacher Assistant with the Foundation Phase curriculum with a view to piquing their interest in teacher education; and equips learners with generic cognitive skills especially in the fields of Communication and Life Skills which will stand them in good stead in any self-improvement venture. experts.

Business Studies Unit Awards Ceremony

- Sboniso Biyela



Proud BSU graduates

Photographer: Sboniso Biyela

More than 500 DUT students graduated from 15 different programmes at the 2010 Business Studies Unit Awards Ceremony, at Fred Crookes Sport Centre, on 8 September. Management Sciences Executive Dean, Prof Malcolm Wallis opened the ceremony by congratulating graduates. In his address he stressed on the need for Universities of Technology (UoT) to pay greater attention to post experience studies.

He further challenged DUT and other UoTs to recognise the importance of promoting post experience studies and to encourage students to pursue studies with the greatest vigour. He also

cautioned graduates to ensure they put their skills and competences into practise to avoid becoming non-functional members of society.

Guest speaker, Alex Bozass addressed students on the importance of graduating to increase employment opportunities for themselves. "A qualification is not a guarantee for success but it is merely a door opener. Continue to research and read," he said.

DUT creates environmental awareness

- Karishma Gunpath

More than 200 students participated in DUT's joint Anti-Litter Campaign with eThekweni Municipality, on 8 September, in a drive to create awareness on environmental conservation by encouraging the academic community to put an end to littering through recycling initiatives.. The collaborative project was launched by Dr Kenneth Netshiombo, Executive Dean of Health and was endorsed by the office of DVC Academic, Prof Nqabomzi Gawe with student support from the Environmental Health programme, the Health Advisory Students Organisation (HASO) and the Department of Health and Safety.

Project Manager, Lihlo said the joint initiative between DUT and the City is an intended long term partnership that will look at alternative ways of incorporating efforts by industry and research stakeholders. "We want to inculcate a culture of cleanliness within the University's communities. The Anti-Litter campaign was supported by eThekweni Municipality's Durban Solid Waste and the Health Unit: Pollution Control and involved the participation of students from Ritson, Steve Biko and ML Sultan campuses. The project will focus on constant monitoring litter hotspots using litter marshals and ways to encourage students to keep their environment clean", he said. DSW Education Office, Noxolo Mcobongwana said the project intends to provide recycling bins at strategic points to encourage students to segregate waste for recycling purposes. "The recycling bins encourage the public to separate waste into paper, cans, plastic and glass.



*Prof Nqabomzi Gawe (Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Institutional Support) , Dr Kenneth Netshiombo (Executive Dean: Faculty of Arts and Design) and Mr Lehlohonolo Mokhohlouane from DUT Health and Safety with the student volunteers for Anti-Litter Campaign
Photographer: Bhekani Dlamini*

Through this initiative we want to eradicate the perception that littering creates jobs by highlighting the environmental impact of pollution

Senior Technician at the Health Unit: Pollution Control, Phumlani Ngema said: "The project is a good education tool which focuses on sustaining the environment. Waste segregation is important and can be used to create employment opportunities through recycling projects. The project can be enhanced by implementing an institutional policy on waste recycling.

We also want to encourage the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, which is a global warming gas, together with other toxic gasses which are released into the environment through burning of plastic mixed with other waste including rubber. These harmful gases known as Poly Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) together with dioxins and furans pose increased health risks with respiratory tract infections being common symptoms."

DUT welcomes first MSc Textile Graduate

- Sboniso Biyela

Ashwin Sheolall received a warm welcome by the Department of Textile Technology upon his return from the Czech Republic after completing his two year masters in textile technology. Sheolall has made history by being South Africa's first citizen to qualify with a master's qualification from the Technical University of Liberic (TUL).

The relationship between DUT and TUL has resulted in a long term partnership to maintain strong links to enable future exchange programmes between the two universities.

Sheolall describes his stay in the Czech Republic as an experience of a lifetime which has broadened his knowledge intellectually and academically. He said: "My stay was interesting, demanding and I was fortunate to be introduced to a different way of life. I was ecstatic about the developments, exposure to new technology and conducting research." He added that living in a hostel with different people from different countries has broadened his perception about life. Sheolall thanked the Post Graduate Development and Support (PGDS) department for its continued support while he was completing his coursework at TUL.

He said TUL has implemented different ways of accessing the delivery of lecturers, he believes these methods can be incorporated at DUT to foster the provisions for a master's programme. He also thanked DUT for realising the need for high quality education in the field of textile technology which, with development, can aid in improving South Africa's clothing and textile industry.

Sheolall intends on embarking on his Doctoral degree and hopes his academic output will contribute to improving the current textile curriculum by incorporating the involvement of various stakeholders and government to channel funding in an appropriate way.

As part of the ongoing student exchange programme and to maintain good relations between the two universities, nine DUT students and staff members travelled to TUL to complete a six week Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Programme.



L-
R: Liberic MSc Textile Graduate, Ashwin Sheolall receiving a gift from the Dean of Applied Science, Professor Darren Lortan

Photographer: Sboniso Biyela

Gandhi Trust honours struggle veterans

- Karishma Ganpath



Ela Gandhi, grand-daughter of Mahatma Gandhi presents Dr Enuga Reddy with the 2010 Mahatma Gandhi International Award for Reconciliation and Peace at Durban's City Hall

Dr Enuga Sreenivasulu Reddy was awarded the 2010 Mahatma Gandhi International Award for Reconciliation and Peace for his efforts in building solidarity against apartheid. He received the award at the annual Gandhi Development Trusts' Mahatma Gandhi and Satyagraha Awards ceremony at Durban's City Hall, on 9 September. The former United Nation's (UN) Assistant Secretary-General led the Centre against Apartheid from 1976 to 1984 and later became Principal Secretary of the Special Committee against Apartheid.

Dr Reddy's firm values were shaped and influenced by the political and social beliefs of Nehru and Gandhi in their fight against British oppression and colonization. He has written extensively on the South African liberation struggle and has been engaged in research on Gandhi and

his Passive Resistance Movement. During his time at the UN, Dr Reddy used his political influence to cultivate international solidarity towards the demise of apartheid.

Posthumous awards in recognition of the role struggle veterans played towards achieving South Africa's democracy were issued to family members of Chief Albert Luthuli, Dr Yusuf Dadoo, Dr Monty Naicker, Ruth First and Fatima Meer. Struggle veterans Ahmed Kathrada, Lalloo Isu Chiba and Sophie Williams De Bruyn received Mahatma Gandhi Awards for their courage, commitment and sacrifice.

Accepting the award in the memory of his late father, Dr Monty Naicker, Dr Kreesan Naicker said the award was a fitting tribute to his father, other recipients and the thousands who sacrificed their lives for our freedom. He said however, his father would be particularly disappointed that South Africa achieved political freedom but not socio-economic empowerment for all citizens.

Dr Naicker said if his father were alive he would be concerned with the high levels of crime and corruption and "he would mobilise citizens and members of civil societies to assist our government in healing our fractured society. He would be critical of government for any deviant behaviour that goes against the constitution. He would find it difficult to understand or justify the government's tabling of the Protection of Information Bill, because throughout his life he fought for the freedom of speech and association and access to information".

Du Plessis Caught in the Act

- Lisa Mbongwa

The Department of Drama studies entertained playwrights, producers and students at their recent live performance of *Fragmented Prisms*, an energetic and dramatic play written by Sabelo Ndlovu and Genbia Hyla. The production was showcased on the 26-27 July at DUT's Courtyard Theatre.

Ndlovu said: "Fragmented Prisms is aimed at changing the perceptions of society through a global message of hope for humanity by depicting the different eras South Africa has gone through to achieve democracy". The thought provoking piece which showcased at the Grahamstown National Arts Festival in June, questions our thoughts and emotions and the type of democracy we have achieved.

He said different scenes reflect the transitions through colonial rule, the apartheid era and contemporary society and are carefully interwoven into the complex dramatic performance. Despite the serious undertone, the performance is colourful with good use of props and comes with a dash of laughter. The characters' personalities are captivating with traits that we can relate to, whilst they wittily radiate the clash between traditional beliefs and post modernism. The story line focuses on contemporary issues including xenophobia, racism, social imbalances and the ever widening gap between the rich and poor. The play further raised questions on whether we live in an illusionary democracy and examines the role of government.

The main character 'Man', played by Menzi Mkhwane, is sent back in time by a group of sangomas, to retrieve the lost souls of his ancestors. He is tasked to fetch the wandering souls, who remain trapped in the pages of our history, with the use of an Umphafa branch. The act signifies cleansing of the soul to help society find peace within itself to restore humility to humanity.

Ndlovu said: "The use of traditional adaptations from the Zulu culture provides a unique take on how tradition can be used in conjunction with post-modern beliefs to achieve common ground. The act of purging, a cleansing exercise to rid the body of contaminants, is used to illustrate that the mind and soul can be rid of hatred that stems from past injustices."

He said the plot creatively questions the perceptions and belief systems of different races and ethnic groups, inspiring public discourse. The play however, has an intended message which focuses on building a unified progressive society through forgiveness and tolerance.

Researcher focuses on religious practices at school assemblies

- Siboniso Biyela

More than 250 international delegates attended the 17th International Conference on Learning 2010 held during June in Tai Po. The event was hosted by the Hong Kong Institute of Education and focuses on research development in education. DUT DTech Education student, Loshini Govindsamy

attended the conference, where she presented her paper titled the “Mismatch between the Policy on Religion Education and the way this is currently practised at South African Public Schools”

This year’s conference aimed to draw international attention to the way school assemblies are being conducted at public schools in South Africa. Govindsamy’s research, funded by the postgraduate Incentives Award, focuses on changing the way in which assemblies are currently being conducted, and the predominance of certain religions in schools. She said the conference afforded her the opportunity to network with academics, discuss future research possibilities, share ideas and strategic research methods. She added that her stay in Hong Kong was fascinating, empowering and motivating.

Govindsamy said: “Attending the conference has given me international exposure; my paper will be published in the International Journal of Learning by Common Ground Publishers.” She intends to have her thesis passed by the university’s Higher Degrees Council thereafter, once accepted research findings are made available to the Department of Education (DoE). She hopes the DoE will take remedial action to assist School Governing Bodies in becoming more knowledgeable on the conduct of school assemblies, and South Africa’s diverse religious following.

Mad Hatters celebrate Secretaries Day

- Lisa Mbongwa

As South Africa celebrated the dawn of Spring and Secretaries Day, DUT management hosted a Mad Hatters Tea Party in collaboration with the Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE), to honour the vital role and commitment of the institution’s secretaries. The colourful event was held at the Hotel School on Ritson Campus and showcased secretaries dressed in unique hats in various styles.

Secretaries Day began 52 years ago when an American advertising executive, Harry Klemfuss, decided secretaries should be annually celebrated to show appreciation for their work. The event coincided with Prof Ahmed Bawa taking up the reins as the university’s Vice-Chancellor and Principal. In his address to staff at the tea party, he said the efficiency of secretaries and the key role they play in putting forward a public image of the University, is largely dependent on a deep fundamental trust.

Motivational speaker Dawn “Nomsa” Harrison emphasised that secretaries are often not acknowledged for the significance of their roles within the corporate sector. She encouraged them to further their academic qualifications and to persevere after their goals and ambitions. Secretaries were pampered by Somatology students with free facials and massages. Proud of their identity, comfortable with themselves, and reliant on their inner powers and strengths to be happy.



*DUT secretaries at the Mad Hatter Tea Party
Photographer: Sboniso Biyela*

DUT hosts World of Work

- Lisa Mbongwa and Siboniso Biyela



More than 50 national companies participated in DUT's World of Work (WOW) careers fair at Rison Hall on 12-13 August, attracting hundreds of students seeking employment opportunities. The interactive initiative between the institution and industry stakeholders was launched in 2007 by the Department of Co-operative Education with the aim of providing a networking platform for students and prospective employers. The 2010 fair saw the participation of 19 additional companies compared to last year.

Public Relations student, Alzira White said WOW creates student employment opportunities and its success and growth has resulted in Toyota and the South African Revenue Service providing DUT graduates with long term employment.

Large corporates including Siemens, Engen and IT company, Accenture, displayed colourful stands with informative presentations to captivate potential interns. Siemens also provided students with information on its Apprenticeship Training Scheme that focuses on the development of crucial technical skills. Siemens representative, Venessa Da-Silva said: "The training consists of six months basic theoretical training and 18 months practical training. The objective of the training scheme is to prepare students to write their trade test to become qualified artisan as boilermakers, fitter and turners, welders and electricians."

Accenture is currently recruiting IT graduates for its 2011 Graduate Internship Programme with training to specialise in different fields. Accenture representative, Natachia George said the careers fair provided a great opportunity to market Accenture and to look for potential employees.



Siemens representatives, Venessa Da-Silva, Nivesh Lutchman and Anthony Venketsamy

Mars Africa takes the lead in Food Science Innovation

Mars Africa, one of the country's leading manufacturers of food, chocolate and pet care products, has taken the lead in food science innovation by championing the support of the South African Food Science Industry at the International Union of Food Science & Technology (IUFoST), 15th World Congress of Food Science and Technology.

The bid to host the conference was won by the South African Association for Food Science and Technology (SAAFoST) and was held for the first time in South Africa, at the Cape Town International Convention Centre from 22-26 August, 2010. The conference aimed to unite food experts around the globe and highlight the important role food scientists play in terms of research and education. Amongst the topics of food innovation and safety, focus was given to food security, food preservation, consumer education and environmental sustainability. Fifteen Food & Science Technology students, including Trishanta Pursotham, Sri Devi Saminathan and Aadilah Cassim from DUT, were sponsored by Mars Africa to showcase their work to international delegates attending the event.



Delegates of the 15th World Congress of Food and Science Technology conference in Cape Town. Mars Africa sponsored 15 students from different universities. Three of the 15 students were from Durban University of Technology. Photographer: Jurie Senekal

The conference revealed that while food science is still seen as a scarce skill in South Africa, there has been growing interest in applications for food science programmes at South African universities. Employment opportunities have increased with greater opportunity for students exiting degree programmes in fields including nutrition, research, education, the agriculture sector, quality assurance or in food ingredient sales and advertising. Jeanne Cerff, Mars Africa Food Business General Manager said: "As a forward-thinking organization we have always been supportive of the industry scholars, from students and educators to leading industry players contributing to research and development. We believe in paying particular interest to students and hope to help them grow their interest in food science as a discipline and contribute to the growth of the industry," The event was also attended by Ashraf Shehata, Scientific and Regulatory Affairs Manager for Mars Africa, India, Middle East; Adam Adams, Director of HW and Sustainability at Mars Incorporated and Lisa Ronquest, Head of Research and Development at Mars Africa Food

"South Africa has an extremely diverse food industry from small family businesses to large multi-nationals. I believe this is a great foundation for innovation and trying new things in our country and diverse consumer base. We do, however, have a responsibility to South African consumers to provide food that is value for money as well as play our part in reducing food insecurity in our country. Mars Africa will drive this cause through the IUFOST conference."

DUT and eThekweni Municipality embark on sustainable living

- Lisa Mbongwa

In promotion of sustainable living, eThekweni Municipality hosted the Sustainable City Exhibition at the Durban Exhibition Centre, from 13-15 August. The exhibition was open to the private and corporate sector to encourage increased research in innovations and demonstrate support towards sustainable living, highlighting the importance of using the earth's natural resources through green products and services. Experts in the field of energy conservation, waste management and environmental health were invited to exhibit presentations, and contribute to the growing discourse and debate on sustainable energy. The event showcased innovative ideas and projects linked to energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste minimization, recycling and organic food gardening. Exhibitors included individuals, small, medium and micro enterprises, departments within eThekweni Municipality and provincial schools. Institution for Water and Wastewater Technology (IWWT) director, Prof Faizel Bux said, "The IWWT, as part of DUT, exhibited the Algae Technology Project that we are running with eThekweni Municipality, focusing on the production of biodiesel from microalgae. The display was well received with many enquiries especially from potential entrepreneurs and scholars, with many of them now wanting to pursue their qualifications in biotechnology."

The event was attended by Deputy Mayor, Logie Naidoo and City Manager, Dr Mike Sutcliffe.

DUT Student scoops top Eskom award

- Siboniso Biyela

DUT BTech Engineering student, Lee Naidu received the 2010 Eskom Academic Award for the University of Technology student category at a prestigious ceremony held on 11 August, in Johannesburg. The annual event recognises those engineering students with academic excellence enrolled at Higher Education Institutions, and provides academic bursaries in promotion of furthering interest in the field. Naidu was nominated for the Eskom Academic Award by the Department of Electronic Engineering after graduating with 20 distinctions and an 81% aggregate. As part of acknowledging his academic achievements, Eskom presented Naidu with an achievement plaque and a R10 000 bursary. Naidu's victory comes after receiving the Dean's Merit Award at the April

graduation ceremony. His lecturers described him as a dedicated and hardworking student who is always keen on acquiring new knowledge. Naidu's aspirations in the field of engineering is endless, he is currently completing his BTech degree while employed as an Application Engineer and is involved in processing software and the design for process control.

He said: "Elements of engineering, challenges of design and innovation inspires me." He added that unconditional support received from his wife and family played a crucial role towards his achievements and kept him motivated. Naidu is enthusiastic about his future and plans to pursue his Master's degree in Electronic Engineering and hopes to be involved in project and design management upon completion of his current qualification.

Bridging the skills gap in Free State

- Karishma Gunpath

A delegation of officials from the Free State (FS) provincial government visited DUT's Steve Biko Campus, on 21 August, to meet students funded by the province's Operation Hlasela Fund as part of its commitment to bridging the skills shortage gap. The bursary initiative supports 27 students currently enrolled at DUT, UKZN and Mangosutho University and has raised R154 million towards providing education opportunities to disadvantage learners. The bursary will cover all academic costs over the full duration of the students' qualification. Bursary applications will be advertised in regional papers across all provinces, including local papers in the Free State.

FS Premier, Elias Magashule said the country is currently faced with major challenges which require rapid response from government and social partners including universities. He said problems required an integrated approach to overcome high levels of unemployment and skills shortage within the labour market, poverty, poor service delivery models, low levels of productivity and rigid bureaucratic machinery. Spokesman to the Premier, William Bulwane, said Magashule and his Executive Council embarked on a national tour to meet bursary recipients and to engage with management at Higher Education Institutions to address the need for social partnerships to fund tertiary education.



*Free State Provincial delegation officials with DUT, UKZN and Mangosutho University students who are recipients of the Operation Hlasela Fund
Photographer: Karishma Ganpath*

He said: "Hlasela is a Sotho word meaning attack. It is appropriate as the Hlasela project aims to attack poverty, the lack of education and unemployment by providing opportunities to disadvantaged learners. The project is also trying to address the skills scarcity in South Africa by providing bursaries in fields with specific focus on math, science, engineering, technology, and commerce."

Bulwane said Operation Hlasela is an intended long term project that generated funding with individual monthly contributions at R600 from the FS Legislature, with the Premier and Executive Council members making a monthly contribution of R1500 each. He said: "Employees are not obligated to contribute to the charitable cause. However, we love to urge others to contribute toward the educational cause that allows equal opportunity to those who are less fortunate." The delegation included MEC and HOD of Co-operative Governance and Human Settlement, M Zwane and K Ralikontsane, Executive Mayor J Ramokhoase and Mayors L Mtombela, T Mahlaku, M Mokgosi and M Moshodi.

Simba's African princess returns to South Africa

- Lisa Mbongwa and Siboniso Biyela



*Jubilant Nombuso Gcabashe
Photographer: Sboniso Biyela*

After spending months in Hong Kong, one of the leading global trade centres, DUT Drama postgraduate student, Nombuso Gcabashe, returned to South Africa for a seven day visit after being cast in the award winning Broadway Musical, The Lion King, in August. After responding to a call for auditions Gcabashe managed to snatch one of the leading roles in the play. Gcabashe always hoped to move to Hong Kong, and now her dreams have become a reality.

The ambitious actress, who majored in music and dance, plays the role of Simba's boisterous girlfriend, Nala. Gcabashe said citizens of Hong Kong, in comparison to South Africans, are very reserved however the cast received wonderful audience response to the production. She is keen on becoming a director and producing her own shows, similar to that of The Lion King, with performance artists and dramatists from around the world. Gcabashe emphasized that the key to success lies in self confidence, courage and discipline. She said:

"Everything that I have learned at DUT has come into practice and I am grateful to people like Debbie, who have pushed me to work hard, enabling me to cope in this strenuous industry. You do not become famous, people make you famous."

Drama Studies lecturer, Debbie Lutge said Gcabashe was a very good student and is focused and provides an all round performance which is internally integrated.

Recognising international students

- Siboniso Biyela

The Department of International Education and Partnerships (IEP), together with Swazi students studying at DUT acknowledged the National Day of Swaziland, in celebration of the country's independence which was achieved on 6 of September 1968. As proud citizens, students honoured the efforts made by their fellow men at a private ceremony held at the IEP boardroom, ML Sultan Campus, where they networked with other International students.

Angel Motsamai, International Relations Officer, said: "As part of the IEP's commitment to International students and in the spirit of good hospitality, we acknowledge and celebrate the various national, independence days, special holidays and events from their countries of origin. The initiative emphasizes that we are proud to have international students studying at our university.



*International students celebrating Independence
Day of Swaziland
Picture supplied*

They are important to us as part of our drive to foster new relations with different countries within Africa and other continents"

Exchange students



Photographer: Lisa Mbongwa

DUT Textile students currently on an exchange programme at Technical University of Liberia (TUL) (from left), Phumza Zigana, Leseli Moleko, Wendy Schultz, Sarah Lichkus and Gugulethu Mthembu

DUT FC in search of hidden talent

The DUT's Power House Football Club meets on Fridays, depending on the availability of the soccer field, as a social networking platform for staff, students and alumni who have a common interest in the sport. Practice sessions for the strategic game focuses on mental and physical fitness training. The club welcomes new staff and student membership and is keen on increasing the number of games played against other institutions and corporates.

Soccer matches are geared towards exposing the hidden talents of DUT's academic community and increasing engagement with the university's alumni. The team recently played against formidable teams with DUT winning 2-1 against the SABC Soccer Team. They were locked in a tight battle with Ilanga Newspaper as the teams drew 1-1. Earlier practice sessions proved to be successful as the home team walked away with a victorious win with 3-1 goals against Independent Newspapers. For membership details, please contact Thuli Duma on 2114.



DUT staff playing for a soccer club.

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

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

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