

@ A GLANCE 2019



DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE

VISION

A preferred University for developing leadership in technology and productive citizenship

MISSION STATEMENT

The University's mission is to excel through:

- A teaching and learning environment that values and supports the University community
- Promoting excellence in learning and teaching, technology transfer and applied research
- External engagement that promotes innovation and entrepreneurship through collaboration and partnership

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INTRODUCING DUT

The Durban University of Technology (DUT), formed by merging Technikon Natal and ML Sultan Technikon in 2002, is a University with a rich history (originally established in 1907 as the Durban Technical Institute) at the forefront of higher education, technological training and relevant research.

More than 30 000 students a year attend lectures on five campuses in Durban and two campuses in Pietermaritzburg. DUT intertwines dual strands of student-centredness and multi-dimensional engagement into its framework. The University designs its programmes, infrastructure, social interactions and technologies to meet the needs of its students and shapes its teaching and learning and research to support economic development, engagement with local and national government and improving the quality of life of people within its communities.

A period of compulsory experiential learning provides working experience during the courses offered, thus graduates are prepared to make an active contribution to the demands of a changing workplace and society.

On the other hand, its drive towards becoming an entrepreneurial University is revolutionary in that it is not only preparing graduates to fill job posts, but also to create them.

DUT offers courses and programmes leading to officially recognised higher education degrees such as pre-bachelor degrees (i.e. certificates, diplomas, and associate or foundation degrees), Bachelor, Master's and Doctorate degrees in several areas of study. Its faculties include Accounting and Informatics, Applied Science, Arts and Design, Engineering and the Built Environment, Health Sciences and Management Sciences.

Academic staff are strongly encouraged to pursue the highest possible qualification in their field, and the University is a member of the International Association of Universities, thereby retaining high standards on an international level.

This publication will give you a high-level synopsis of some of the key highlights from the year 2019!

TOP POSITION FOR DUT ALUMNI AT SUPERSPORT

DUT's Video Technology alumni, actress and television presenter Dheshnie Naidoo was recently appointed as the first woman ever to be the Head of Production Operations at SuperSport.

Naidoo joined M-Net as an intern in 1997 and has been climbing the ladder in the television broadcasting industry ever since. Upon her appointment as Head of Production Operations at Supersport, she expressed her excitement for breaking the stereotype of a male-dominated industry.

"I am very excited to make the stereotype change because for a long time the industry has been dominated by males and now the playing fields have been levelled," said Naidoo.



Pictured: Dheshnie Pillay

Naidoo has held several titles over the years, including Senior Manager: Production Services, Events Manager, Operations Manager and Senior Manager: Outside Broadcast and Studios. Her different roles have helped her gain extensive knowledge and exposure to the world of outside broadcast.

Furthermore, Naidoo has worked on shows such as *Survivor South Africa*, *South African Idols*, *Miss South Africa* and the *Kora Awards*. She has also worked as a field presenter on *GOTV*, *Eastern Mosaic*, *Saffron* and local dramas, demonstrating her passionate side for the television industry.

Nasiphi Gigaba

“I am very excited to make the stereotype change because for a long time the industry has been dominated by males and now the playing fields have been levelled.”

– Dheshnie Pillay

MAGUBANE'S BOOK EXPLORES LOVE IN THE ERA OF THE 4TH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

The advent of the 4th Industrial Revolution inspired DUT Journalism programme alumnus, Khulekani Magubane to pen his latest book titled: *This Love Thing: A New Age Love Story*.

"I was inspired by the new innovations of the fourth industrial revolution, technology and how it has changed the way we live. Our cell phones and the mobile applications on them help us with so much of our lives that we depend on them to form opinions about reality. Bots that spread misinformation on social media networks are still widely blamed for manipulating societies, allegedly bringing about the Trump US election victory in 2016 and Brexit," said Magubane.

He said that his latest literature offering is about a trio of university IT students who build a cell phone application for the graduate year project that helps people with dating. "However, one of them is in a long-distance relationship and wants to keep tabs on her boyfriend. She secretly codes an artificial intelligence into the app



*Pictured: Khulekani Magubane
(Photo Credit: Lotte Manicom)*

that makes it in tune with the algorithm of truth. Others who download the app find themselves exposed for cheating and all hell breaks loose," he said.

The young author of more than 20 books said that even though writing this book presented its own challenges, he did enjoy the journey. "I just love telling stories. It's something that I was born to do," he said.

Magubane said that the target market for this book is mainly teenagers and young adults. "I want to get them thinking of our reliance on technology and how to live more holistic lives, without necessarily getting us off our phones, but at least to acknowledge that the phone is just a device designed to make life better and that a phone

is not a better life," he added.

The passionate author and journalist said that he intends to continue writing, and one of his aspirations is to put together a comic book.

"I was inspired by the new innovations of the fourth industrial revolution, technology and how it has changed the way we live. Our cell phones and the mobile applications on them, help us with so much of our lives that we depend on them to form opinions about reality."
– *Khulekani Magubane*

Synopsis of the Book

This Love Thing is written as a comedic fable and romance satire. Mbali, Courtney and Lillian are three information technology students at the Gauteng Central University who must create a cell phone application for their graduate assignment.

They decide to develop an online dating application to help people meet others with common interests and ease the daunting experience of dating. However, their various experiences with love begin to compromise the application itself.

Courtney Su is in a long distance relationship with Jerome Castle, who has taken up a teaching job in Hong Kong. She does not know where she stands in the relationship and, out of desperation, she secretly decides to enlist the help of a hacker to programme functions into the app that allow users to keep tabs on each other.

Meanwhile Lillian (who suggested the idea of an online dating app) sees this as the perfect opportunity to reconcile with her ex-boyfriend, Bulara Maswanganyi.

Mbali is the only one of the three ladies who has never been in a serious relationship. Her roommate and drama student, Cadence Mackenzie advises her to use the app to start dating, quipping that Mbali might find the love of her life through her own creation.

When the mobile application is released on a pilot basis, users who download it are asked to forward a link to 10 of their contacts in order to start using it. Those 10 are asked to forward a download

link to 10 others and so on and so on, until the application goes viral.

However, the surveillance components of the mobile application go haywire and the application begins to become attuned to the algorithm of people's truths.

This means that the mobile application causes various functions on users' phones to malfunction. For instance, it will disable WhatsApp, barring users from viewing their messages, which causes tension in people's relationships.

However, the application also causes other kinds of chaos, such as automatically sharing images from users' photo gallery on their Facebook and Instagram accounts publicly. This is just a nuisance if you are an honest person, but if you're receiving nudes from your side chick, it's a crisis.

The three ladies must try and mitigate the damage that their Frankenstein creation is causing, but in the process they must also face their fears, doubts and insecurities when it comes to matters of love.

Can they save the relationships that their application has put in jeopardy? Would it be right for them to even try? More importantly, will the application reveal any inconvenient truths about the relationships that they are in or are going into?

Nduduzo Ndlovu

DCT: REES PROJECT SEMINAR AIMS TO TACKLE SUSTAINABILITY AND CAPACITY BUILDING IN

SOUTH AFRICA

DUT hosted the Direct Current Technology: Renewable Energy Education and Skill Development in South Africa (DCT: REES) Project Seminar at the Coastlands Umhlanga Hotel from 12 to 15 February 2019.

Direct Current Technologies are rapidly gaining attention worldwide because of their efficiency and potential for sustainable solutions. In order to supply the country and its industry with adequately trained professionals in the field of electrical and electronics engineering, this project also aims to develop and implement a new educational programme, with new courses and materials on DC-technologies for South African universities (Electrical and Electronics Engineering).

On the opening day of the seminar, Acting Executive Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment Professor Paul Musonge welcomed the local and international delegates to the DCT: REES Project Seminar.

“The DCT-REES project has allocated 28 000 euros to DUT for DC and Renewable Energy-related laboratory equipment. For the first phase, we have already used 11 660 euros to set up a laboratory that will be used for modules offered in the new BEng Tech, BEng Tech Honours and Masters programmes,” he said.

Prof Musonge also said that other funds provided by this project were available for student and lecturer exchanges, which would be key for capacity building. He stressed that DC Renewable Energy projects will also promote sustainability in South African communities, especially in rural communities that do not have access to electricity.

“Although the Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering is the main driver of the project, the Department of Power Engineering is also part of this initiative and whose students will also benefit from the DCT-REES project,” he said.

Prof Musonge thanked the DUT team for organising the event and urged those visiting Durban for the first time to go to Durban’s historical sites and beautiful beaches.

Also speaking at the seminar was international guest Pepeijn Willigenburg, who said that all delegates needed to work collectively to gather information and decide what the modules would consist of, as well as to look at local and international collaborations into new courses, labs and projects, based on state-of-the-art research and industrial development.

Also speaking on DUT’s current Masters programme was Dr Suren Reddy: HOD Electrical Engineering, who said that the aim was to continue with the cohort of the Masters programme in line with international standards and that is why there were collaborations already in place to adapt to new changes.

Day Two focused on the relevance of the DCT-REES project and an Energy site visit at the DUT.

Waheeda Peters



Pictured: Local and international delegates at the DCT: REES Project Seminar.

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DUT'S MAKHATHINI AND SILUMA LEARN MORE ABOUT ONLINE INTERNATIONAL LEARNING

DUT always aims to ensure that students and staff alike are given opportunities to do research and collaborate at an international level. Two DUT staff members, Elliot Makhathini and Mirriam Siluma, were privileged to be given the chance to travel to the State University of New York (SUNY) in December 2018, to visit the Kingston Centre of SUNY Ulster and meet nursing professors and students.

Makhathini, a clinical instructor for undergraduate students at the Department of Nursing, and Siluma, a lecturer at the Community Health Studies in the Child and Youth Care programme, both went overseas to gain knowledge and skills that will enhance collaborative online international learning between DUT and the US University.

Siluma said that her role was to represent the Department of Community Health Studies and the Child and Youth Care programme so that it could benefit from the COIL initiative, and an opportunity to be an important partner in the internationalisation of the curriculum at DUT.

Siluma said that her trip had allowed her to learn so much 'hands-on' experience and prepare her faculty for the development and design of a COIL project.

Makhathini's area of research involves collaboration between indigenous healers and biomedical health practitioners in the health sector. He added that his trip enabled him to observe the American Western healthcare with its methods and implements.



Pictured: Elliot Makhathini with Kate Anjahlia Loye and Hope Windle.

“The trip to SUNY Ulster has been a success on many levels. I was able to meet local healers in the USA and work with SUNY Ulster Nursing Professor Dr Ellen Tangney, Dave Scarpino, CEO and Head of Health Alliance, Professor Glenda B Kelman of Sage College in Albany City, and Professor Roldan, to name but a few. I also learnt very useful information regarding the process of quantitative data analysis. For me, this is a golden opportunity for scaling up networking between DUT’s Department of Nursing and other nursing institutions abroad. We can establish international research collaboration and begin to address the challenges faced by our disadvantaged communities. One of my roles in the DUT Department of Nursing is to promote internationalisation and the COIL project at Indumiso Campus, which forms part of DUT’s strategic plan. I am excited by the fact that I can share this information with our COIL coordinator, Dr PM Orton and Dr D Sokhela,” he said excitedly.

Makhathini also enjoyed learning about the SUNY Ulster simulation laboratory where nursing students are taught practically what they have learnt in class. This was truly a learning experience for him. “Contrary to what I observed in SUNY Ulster, our approach in the clinical skills laboratory, where we demonstrated clinical skills to our learners, seems to be limited when it comes to the creation of a conducive learning environment for students. I think that we can improve our approach by adopting SUNY Ulster’s approach, despite the fact that we do not have the simulation equipment,” he stressed.

He also added that he was thrilled to have met four healers who practiced complementary medicine. Their trip to the USA was a huge success.

Waheeda Peters

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– Elliot Makhathini

SINGAPORE HIGH COMMISSIONER VISITS DUT

The High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Mr Chua Thai Keong, recently visited DUT.

Mr Chua met with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagement Professor Sibusiso Moyo, The Dean of the Confucius Institute Mr Wu Lin, the Senior Director of Corporate Affairs Mr Alan Khan, Director of Research Professor Carin Napier, Director of the DUT Institute for Water and Wastewater Technology (IWWT) Professor Faizal Bux, Vaneshree Govender and Greg Bass.

The main purpose of the High Commissioner's visit was to foster good relations between DUT and the Republic of Singapore, to discuss possible partnership opportunities and for him to better understand the role that DUT plays in the South African Higher Education arena. High Commissioner Chua also enquired about the Confucius Institute and the relationship between DUT and our sister University in China, the Fujian Agricultural and Forestry University in Fuzhou.

Professor Moyo took the opportunity to explain the different institutes at DUT and she highlighted some of the University's recent accomplishments, including the NRF award, among others. Professor Napier updated Mr Chua on some of the research areas that DUT focuses on.

The High Commissioner was also briefed on the work that was undertaken at IWWT. Professor Faizal Bux, Director of Institute, explained the type of research that is being carried out at the IWWT and how this would benefit the region, the country and the African continent.

The High Commissioner was impressed with the amount of



Pictured: Front – Mr Wu Lin (Dean of the DUT Confucius Institute), Mr Chua Thai Keong (The Republic of Singapore High Commissioner), Professor Sibusiso Moyo (DVC: Research, Innovation and Engagement). Back – Professor Faizal Bux (Director: Institute for Water and Wastewater Technology (IWWT)), Vaneshree Govender (Research Office), Mr Alan Khan (Senior Director: Corporate Affairs) and Mr Greg Bass.

entrepreneurship that was taking place at DUT and he commended the work done by the University. Professor Moyo shared some of the highlights of our entrepreneurial projects in the Midlands and in Durban, and Mr Chua was given some insight into DUT Invotech and the opportunities it presented for DUT students. The High Commissioner concluded the visit by expressing his gratitude and appreciation for the warm hospitality that he received at DUT and emphasised that he was impressed that DUT was so engaged within its local context. His Excellency Mr Chua also expressed his support for any future partnerships and collaboration projects between DUT and Singapore.

Alan Khan

VC VISITS THE DUT MIDLANDS ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTRE AND STUDENT DESK

The Vice-Chancellor (VC) and Principal Prof Thandwa Zizwe Mthembu and DUT Management, including the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC) from Research, Innovation and Engagement office (RIE) Prof Sibusiso Moyo, DVC from People and Operations Office Dr Isaac Machi, Director of Midland Campus Dr Reginald Thabede, Deans, heads of departments and external stakeholders, visited the Midlands Entrepreneurship Centre offices and the Innovation Hub on 28 February 2019. The aim was to take the VC and Management on a tour of the Midlands Entrepreneurship Centre offices and Innovation Hub so that they could witness the core operations of the centre and Innovation Hub, see the infrastructure and also engage with student entrepreneurs who receive business support.

After the State of the University Address at Indumiso campus hall, the VC and management proceeded to the centre for a site tour of the offices and Innovation Hub. The Centre Manager, Nontokozo Ngcobo, highlighted the current activities of the Centre, the technical skills units, namely Agri-processing, Technology and Art that the Centre plans to open in the near future as well as stakeholder relations that have been cemented thus far. Stakeholders that were present at the tour included the Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda), Department of Agriculture, Ikusasa LeAfrika Foundation (ILAF) and Makwande Corp Ventures.

After the office tour, they all went outside to engage with four student entrepreneurs who had exhibition stands of their products. These were Forward Slash Projects, Quench Still Water, Ruth Concept Interior Design and PSX Holdings. The tour proceeded to the Innovation Hub where two more student business entrepreneurs (Classis Foods Enterprise and Yummy Dairy) had tasting stands for dairy products, sweet potato juice and atchar. The sweet potato juice was a winner among all the attendees and was completely sold out by the end of the tour.



DUT management and stakeholders at the DUT Midlands Entrepreneurship Centre and Student Desk, Innovation Hub.

A brief networking session was held and the Campus Director Dr Thabede gave a short introduction and welcome to the guests. One of the Centre's stakeholders, Mr Bheki Zulu from ILAF, said "This is a good initiative that I have never seen in any other university. It will be great if industries could support such initiatives". In conclusion, the Vice-Chancellor Prof Thandwa Mthembu emphasised that if all students go through such programmes, they will be successful in business.

Sindisiwe Ndlovu

DUT TOURISM MANAGEMENT STUDENTS ARE PART OF IMEX-MPI-MCI FUTURE LEADERS FORUM INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE 2018/2019

Five third-year Tourism Management students from DUT participated in the IMEX-MPI-MCI Future Leaders Forum International University Challenge 2018/2019 at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, from 25 to 27 February 2019.

Jason Isima, Kaitlynn Ruiters, Sicelo Mkhwanazi, Amina Shermaine and Zinobia Jaikummar delivered presentations on futuristic proposal 'tourism' ideas that they showcased at the event.

The IMEX-MPI-MCI Future Leaders Forum International University Challenge 2018/2019 was created in 2009 to encourage students to showcase their ideas and talents based on a fictitious brief and it is held at six selected Future Leaders Forums each year. The winner of each challenge competition is invited to participate in the final of IMEX-MPI-MCI Future Leaders Forum International University Challenge at IMEX in Frankfurt 2019. The programme is especially designed to engage and inspire future industry leaders and cover various industry-relevant topics.

DUT's Kaitlynn Ruiters is excited have been given the opportunity to present at the prestigious event. She will do her presentation on: Taste The Food Revolution.

She added that the conference will reach everyone but will be more beneficial to young adults such as herself. "As we are growing up in a new generation where the food industry is growing fast, it's changing to become deceptive in the food labelling and marketing, the inhuman way in which animals are being fed, and lastly the dangerous chemicals being added – these would be the main topics to discuss at the conference and how we should deal with this to sustain our environment in order to produce healthy food for generations to come," she said.

Sicelo Mkhwanazi focused more on organic food for his presentation. He spoke about how to introduce organic food to people who weren't aware of it and how to introduce it to the



Pictured: Amina Shermaine, Sicelo Mkhwanazi, Kaitlynn Ruiters, Jason Isima and Zinobia Jaikummar.

youth as well. This is done to make sure that we all live a healthy lifestyle and eat healthy food. Amina Moloi presented on better eating for better living.

Hospitality and Tourism lecturer Nozipho Sibiya, said: "We are very proud as a department that five of our top students have been nominated to represent their proposals at the IMEX Future Leaders African Forum. They are presenting and networking with students from South Africa and other African countries as well as industry captains who will be mentoring and exposing them to the future trends in our industry. All logistical arrangements were taken care of by the National Department of Tourism and paid for by the department and sponsors for the event. This is an annual event where student projects that have been selected will represent Africa in Frankfurt where winners will be selected," she said.

Waheeda Peters

DUT STUDENT WINS SILVER AT BOXING

CHAMPIONSHIPS

In February 2019, DUT's Child and Youth Care student Bongumusa Nkosi 'jabbed' his way to win a silver medal at a boxing tournament held in Mtubatuba, where he represented Durban and DUT.

Nkosi challenged many boxers at the University Sport South Africa (USSA) Elite Boxing Championships. At the inter-university tournament, he took home the silver medal in the 81+kgs heavyweight category.

Nkosi's passion for boxing started from the age of eight years, and after much practice and training, he finally got his chance to go professional last year. At eight years old, he was bullied, so he took up self-defence and has never looked back, even training in other disciplines of self-defence like karate and mixed martial arts.

"I was bullied from Grade R to Grade 2, so I started self-defence classes. It then grew into boxing, which I love because the sport uses the whole body and makes you really fit," said Nkosi.



Pictured: Bongumusa Nkosi with his silver medal.

He also added that he wished more females would join boxing because it is a sport that they can excel in.

"I want to be the face for DUT boxing; I want to recruit people and encourage people to join boxing. I also want to encourage female boxers, because boxing is not just a male sport," he said.

His coach Zwi Magudulela said that Nkosi was headhunted by the eThekweni boxing team, which showed that he has great potential. He also added that Nkosi gained extensive experience and he is very proud of him because he was able to come back with a silver medal.

He added that for the next tournament he will be going to the Harry Gwala Stadium in Johannesburg to represent the eThekweni team again.

"There is talent at DUT and there many students representing DUT, and I trust that this year, 2019, we will come back with the number one title at the USSA boxing championships," said Magudulela.

Zethembe Sibiya

INTERNATIONAL NURSING STUDENTS FROM SUNY ULSTER COLLEGE VISIT DUT

International nursing students, accompanied by Professor Ellen Tangney from the State University of New York (SUNY), were on a week-long exchange programme at DUT in February 2019 to gain knowledge and skills to enhance Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL).

COIL, which was founded in 2006 by the State University of New York Professor Jon Rubin, acts as a model for fostering cross-cultural student competence through the development of multi-cultural learning environments that link university or college classes in different countries online.

The Department of Nursing, under the helm of the Executive Dean in the Faculty of Health Sciences at DUT Professor Nokuthula Sibiya, held the 'Meet and Greet' tea for the visitors from SUNY Ulster College to cement the partnership for further collaborations in the future.

In 2018, DUT's staff members Elliot Makhathini and Mirriam Siluma were privileged to travel to the State University of New York (SUNY) to visit SUNY Ulster College and to meet nursing professors and students, as well as to benefit from the COIL initiative.

Welcoming the local DUT staff and international guests was Acting DVC:Teaching and Learning Professor Theo Andrew, who emphasised that network collaborations were very important as DUT thrives on such academic interchanges. "Knowledge is infinite; the more networks and collaborations DUT have, the more it tends to gain knowledge in three dimensions, ways DUT thought would only be reduced to certain disciplines," he said.

Professor Sibiya added that DUT is the first University in the African continent to successfully implement COIL. "In South Africa, DUT is one of the universities that has successfully implemented COIL and I am proud to say my faculty has Penny Orton as the institutional COIL coordinator as well as Dr Anisa Vahed of the Dental Technology Department, who are instrumental in ensuring COIL is implemented in all faculties. As Executive Dean of the



Pictured: The DUT staff and international guests at the 'Meet and Greet' tea.

Health Sciences, I am in full support of COIL and I hope this is just a start of a good partnership between us and SUNY Ulster College," she said.

The visiting students and professor were given an academic tour with DUT's Makhathini to meet with South African traditional healers and visit rural clinics and the Imbalenhle Community Health Centre Psychiatric Clinic.

Expressing their delight in visiting DUT and touring Durban, Prof Tangney from SUNY Ulster College spoke about their productive week as well as of their COIL partnership with DUT. "We have been on a local tour to various traditional healers and clinics, which were amazing and very fruitful. The warmth that we felt and received was so great. We learnt that medical services offered at the various places we had visited were very patient-centred and that was just remarkable," she said excitedly.

The international guests also went sight-seeing around Durban before they left for the USA.

Waheeda Peters

DHBW UNIVERSITY DELEGATION VISITS DUT TO STRENGTHEN EXISTING EDUCATIONAL LINKS

International academic representatives from the Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg (DHBW) University in Germany visited DUT from 13 to 15 March 2019 to look at more ways to strengthen the existing cultural and educational links between the two universities.

The international delegation consisting of Professor Herbert Dreher (President of the DHBW Ravensburg), Professor Joachim Frech (Director of Centre of Advanced Studies – CAS), Thomas Schieber (Director of International Office DHBW Ravensburg), Professor Thomas Dobbelstein and Professor Karin Reinhard (HOD International Business, DHBW Ravensburg).

The visit followed the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the University of DHBW and DUT on 22 January 2018. This MoU signifies a partnership, in the form of curricula exchange and research, between the DUT and DHBW Management Sciences and Engineering department faculties.

The German delegation had ongoing discussions with the Faculty of Management Sciences; part of these dialogues centred around new programmes and collaborations.

The delegation also encouraged faculty and staff participation in exchange programme activities from host to host institutions.

DUT Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Engagement Prof Sibusiso Moyo said that the visit by the German delegation will enhance DUT's objective to expose students



Pictured left to right: Prof Karin Reinhard, Prof Ing Joachim Frech, Prof Dr Ing Herbert Dreher (President, DHBW Ravensburg), Vice-Chancellor and Principal Prof Thandwa-Mthembu, Prof Thomas Dobbelstein, DVC: Research, Innovation and Engagement Prof Moyo, and Mr Thomas Schieber (Director, International Office DHBW Ravensburg).

and staff to best international practice and make them globally competitive citizens.

Waheeda Peters

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND RESPONSIBLE ENTREPRENEURS

The continuous Clean-up Campaign that was initiated in 2018 has grown bigger, attracting more partners. The DUT Midlands Entrepreneurship Centre and Student Desk under the DVC's office: Research, Innovation and Engagement: Prof Sibusiso Moyo, held its third Clean-up Campaign on 15-16 April 2019 at the Indumiso Campus, targeting the surrounding areas from the entrance into Imbali township all the way up to the main gate of the campus. Stakeholder relations, community engagement, skills transfer among DUT students and the community, creating environmental sustainability awareness and green business, are the core reasons for such an initiative.

Hence, the DUT MEC collaborated with Imbali community members (of both Ward 19 and 23), Ward 19 councillor Mr Siphwe Ndawonde, Greater Edendale Development Initiative (GEDI), Msunduzi Parks and Recreation, the Department of Environmental affairs, the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental affairs (EDTEA), Invasive Alien Species Programme (IASP), Duzi Umngeni Conservation Trust (DUCT), the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), Entrepreneurship Champs, DUT Midlands Enactus and food was proudly sponsored by Jailbreak Caterers.

On the first day, Msunduzi Parks and Recreation provided grass-cutting tractors that were utilised in cutting the grass along the targeted route. The second day began with a few words from the local councillor, Mr Siphwe Ndawonde, who welcomed the team of Clean-up Campaign. The Centre manager for DUT MEC, Ms Nontokozi Ngcobo emphasised the importance of establishing sustainable businesses within the community. "Many business opportunities can be created, such as green businesses and businesses in the tourism industry. Let us first clean the environment before we talk business and this can only happen if we work collaboratively," she said. The Clean-Up campaign is in alignment with the Good Green Deeds concept of the Department of Environment Affairs.



Pictured: DUT management and stakeholders at the event.

Then EDTEA held a brief workshop on the removal of invasive alien species in the areas surrounding the Indumiso Campus. This led to an insightful discussion on the importance of educating the community on alien plants; the method of removing these plants using hazardous chemicals; the manner in which they spread; the amount of water they utilise daily and their impact on the environment. The participants then geared up with their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to ensure health and safety.

The process began with picking up litter and raking the grass from Imbali crossing to the main gate of Indumiso and using the tools sponsored by Msunduzi Parks and Recreation simultaneously. A small group was responsible for removing alien plants along the route. The waste that was collected was grouped according to their category for green business purposes. Then Msunduzi Parks and Recreation sent a truck to remove all the waste that needed to be disposed of. Jail Break Caterers sponsored the team with lunch for 80 people.

The Clean-up Campaign was a huge success due to the dedication of the team and all the stakeholders. Together, we can do more.

Sindisiwe Ndlovu

MOHAPI ATTENDS MSP EMEA

REGIONAL SUMMIT IN NETHERLANDS

DUT's Information Technology (IT) student Gomolemo Mohapi attended the Microsoft Student Partners (MSP) Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) Regional Summit held in March 2019 in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Mohapi, who is the only South African student who is part of the prestigious Microsoft Student Partner programme, was selected as part of only 20 MSPs to attend.

Mohapi said upon their arrival in Amsterdam, that they were paired with MSPs from other countries, which gave them an opportunity to exchange ideas and learn from different cultural and professional backgrounds.

He said that the Summit commenced with a visit to Microsoft's office in The Netherlands where they heard addresses from various speakers around entrepreneurship. "We learnt valuable skills on how to craft the perfect business pitch, implement the perfect business plans, public speaking, and how to build an innovative tech start up," Mohapi said.

The Summit featured Tech Talk from Lee Stott, a Microsoft Senior Program Manager in Data Science within the Academic Ecosystem in Cloud and AI Engineering, who spoke about some of the latest tools and technologies that Microsoft will be offering. "He held a comprehensive demo and explained how every product had been developed and produced. This was my favourite part because we got inside information on some of the most sought-after skills needed for the tech industry. MSPs also got the chance to participate in a hackathon (coding competition). My partner and I built a small mobile application that leverages the power of Azure's Custom Vision and Computer Vision API to retrieve the make, model and year information just from a picture of the car," explained Mohapi.



Pictured: Maasa Walker, a Windows Developer Marketing Manager, with Gomolemo Mohapi.

As part of the Summit, Mohapi also attended Microsoft Imagine Cup, which is a student developer global competition that empowers the next generation of technology students to team up and use their creativity, passion and knowledge of technology to create applications that shape how we live, work and play.

"The MSP EMEA Regional Summit coincided with the Imagine Cup EMEA Regional Finals and we had the privilege of meeting the 12 teams that were competing in addition to having front row seats at the Regional Final event that took place at the RAI Amsterdam Exhibition and Convention Centre. It was a treat to witness the mind-

blowing projects that were presented at the competition and it was an honour to witness the crowning of the winning team, Finderr, who, in addition to winning \$15 000, moved on as finalists in the Imagine Cup World Championship for a chance to win the Imagine Cup and \$100 000, which took place in Seattle in May. I was in awe of the calibre of projects that were presented. This only motivated me to work harder upon my return to South Africa," he said.

Mohapi was also invited as a special guest and speaker at the Microsoft Build 2019 (a developer conference), which took place from 2-9 May 2019 in Seattle.

He applauded the contribution and impact of this summit to his development. "All in all, the experience was incredible. I had the opportunity to meet some of the world's most talented student developers and to learn from them. Engaging and learning from Microsoft's top experts was such a privilege to have and I don't take it for granted. This trip has helped me develop the foundational skills that I will need to move forward professionally," he said.

Nduduzo Ndlovu

DUT FASHION ALUMNI WINS CHINA MOHAIR

FASHION DESIGN COMPETITION

DUT's Fashion and Textiles alumni Leandi Mulder is flying the DUT 'fashion' flag high.

The dynamic fashion designer, who specialises in sustainably designed women's wear and who obtained a scholarship to study at the prestigious Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology in China (BIFT), is making her mark in the international fashion industry. She is in China for a year to complete her theory preparation, one-year practical and thesis.

BIFT has offered a Masters scholarship to Mulder, which covers all tuition, accommodation and a stipend each month. As a student at Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology, obtaining a HSK Level 3 Mandarin was a prerequisite (the CI is equally one of the partners to facilitate the BIFT partnership). Thankfully, with the support of some incredible Mandarin lecturers, she reached her goal.

"I came to China to complete my Masters in September 2018, making this my eighth month at BIFT," she said.



Pictured: One of Leandi Mulder's creations in China.

She recently entered a national fashion design competition called the 5th China Mohair Fashion Design Competition. Fifty students were chosen across five Chinese universities to participate in this competition, and she was chosen as the overall winner.

"This win has furthermore confirmed that I am where I am meant to be and people are appreciating my work, even at an international level. There are so many talented students at this university, coming from all over China and the rest of the world so standards are high and the competition is tough. I am, therefore, working hard and am constantly appreciative of this great opportunity that has been very generously presented to me," she said.

Mulder also said she has settled into a comfortable routine, and is incredibly positive about the next part of her studies at BIFT.

Waheeda Peters

MBOTO OBTAINS 21 DISTINCTIONS AGAINST ALL ODDS

The 22-year-old Sanelisiwe Mboto from Phoenix, Durban said that losing both her parents as a 12-year-old, taking a two-year gap post-matric and working at a call centre in order to finance her studies inspired her to strive for academic excellence.

Mboto graduated with a National Diploma in Public Relations and Communication Management from DUT *cum laude* and the Deans Merit at the FJ Sithole Hall, Indumiso Campus in Pietermaritzburg recently.

The emotional Mboto, who was born after two sets of twins, shared the story of how losing both her parents had an adverse impact in her life. “The sad part is that I barely knew my dad, and to be honest – I’m not sure what really happened between him and my mom. When my mother passed away, I was in Grade 7. She passed away on 15 June 2008 – exactly a week after my birthday. Ever since that day, my entire life changed. My sisters were turning 21 in that year and they were already faced with the harsh reality of having to take care of a 12-year-old while planning a funeral. My brothers were only 26. In simple terms – we all hadn’t found our feet yet,” she said.

The difficulties for Mboto didn’t end there as she struggled to obtain the required marks during her matric in order to enrol at a university, which meant she had to upgrade her matric with limited financial resources. “Well, because of the ‘diploma pass’ I lost conditional acceptance that I had secured at Rhodes University to study towards a degree in Journalism. What made things worse was that my family spent a lot of money with the application process, using money they didn’t have – and it all went down the drain. It turns out I failed Mathematics dismally, which resulted in me not obtaining a Bachelor’s pass. After that huge slap in the face, my ego was crushed and my confidence towards anything academic had gone to the dogs,” she said.

“Despite everything, my sisters still believed in me and decided that I should take a gap year and upgrade my Maths mark at a matric school called ICESA located in Durban’s CBD. And guess what? I made a mess of that too. Unfortunately, that meant that I had wasted another year, and more money. Before I knew it – it was 2015, and at this point I still had no idea what was going on



Pictured: Sanelisiwe Mboto

in my life. My family’s funds were exhausted and here I was faced with another gap year. In February 2015, I began job hunting and immediately landed a job at a call centre. When I got this job, I told myself that this is the job that is going to fund my academic career. I opened my first bank account and began saving. I earned R3 750 a month, and every month when my salary was deposited into my account, the bank would deduct R1 500 and have it transferred into my savings account,” Mboto elaborated.

In 2016, Mboto finally managed to enrol at DUT’s Riverside Campus in Pietermaritzburg. “When I got to DUT, I was fuelled with the hunger to succeed. For me, attending every lecture and tutorial was of vital importance because I knew the sacrifices that I had made to earn a seat in this institution. I began to regain my confidence. At that moment, I reminded myself that I was born to be great,” she said.

Mboto’s hunger for success eventually paid dividends as she went on to maintain an excellent academic performance, which also earned her an exchange programme to Germany in 2017. “I managed to walk out with eight distinctions out of the 10 modules that I completed in my first year. In 2017, something even bigger

happened. About two months into my second year, I received a call from my Head of Department Dr Dlamini. He informed me that, based on my excellent academic performance in the year 2016, I had been shortlisted as one of the students who may be chosen to be a part of the exchange student programme that would allow me to study for a semester in Germany. I was absolutely excited as my interview was successful, and I was the chosen candidate,” she said enthusiastically.

The resolute Mbotso said that she is currently furthering her studies with a BTech in Public Relations and Communication Management while seeking employment. She is also running a blog (Told in Bold) and plans to start a PR consultancy soon. “I have also started an initiative of donating bread to students on campus who are in need. I began this initiative in 2018 because I know what it’s like not to have anything,” she added.

Nduduzo Ndlovu

“When I got to DUT, I was fuelled with the hunger to succeed. For me, attending every lecture and tutorial was of vital importance because I knew the sacrifices that I had made to earn a seat in this institution. I began to regain my confidence. At that moment I reminded myself that I was born to be great.”

– Sanelisiwe Mbotso

A 'LIFE-ALTERING SITUATION' COULD NOT DETER NTULI FROM GRADUATING

It is said that all great achievements are attained through mighty obstacles. This is the journey of one such brave lad – Andile Ntuli – who, despite going through a life-altering situation, still graduated with his National Diploma in Public Management at the FJ Sithole Hall, Indumiso Campus in Pietermaritzburg recently.

The 26-year-old Ntuli from Imbali in Pietermaritzburg, could not contain his excitement upon graduating. "I am so happy beyond words. I cannot really explain this feeling that I am going through. It was a rough 'life' journey but I am here," he said jovially.

He enrolled in 2014 to study towards a National Diploma in Public Management, but sadly, his dream was cut short in 2016. The young man was involved in a severe car accident on the Greytown Road in December 2016, leaving him paralysed and disabled, unable to use the lower half of his body, and not understanding how life could change in a matter of seconds.

"I was so down, I felt like giving up on life; it was life-changing in a matter of seconds. I lost the use of my legs, so I have a paraplegic disability. After the accident, I stayed in hospital for nearly three months," he said.

For the whole of 2017, Ntuli could not go back to studying as he prepared for a life bound to a wheelchair, not knowing what the future held. With the help of his family, he recovered from his injuries but had to learn to adapt to the use of a wheelchair and this new way of life. However, in 2018, he made up his mind to go back to his studies and his persistence paid off. "I could not get NSFAS funding, which was a challenge, and finances became a struggle but my parents went out of their way and got me enrolled back at Riverside Campus for my third year of study," he said.



Pictured: Andile Ntuli

He also said he has to thank Andre Le Roux, Manager: Finance and Information Services at the Riverside Campus for his amazing support. "I want to give a special vote of thanks to Mr Le Roux for his big support through my time here at DUT. I think that if it was not for his faith and belief that I would be able to navigate through the campus I would not have registered or perhaps wanted to find another institution as I only wanted to complete my studies here at DUT," he said.

Being back on campus was wonderful but it had its struggles, as at the time he was attending classes, the new state-of-the-art buildings and facilities at both the Riverside and Indumiso campuses had not yet been completed. "I have a brother who was always with me and also my fellow classmates who

carried me to class venues that were located upstairs on campus. The lecturers were very supportive, especially in terms of all the work and would email me all the notes that would be tackled in class. All this really helped my journey and help me to finish my diploma," he said happily.

Ntuli is currently doing his BTech Degree in Public Management this year (2019), and is very excited to be able to make use of the new, revamped lecture venues. I am now able to get to class with no assistance or carrying from my friends because the new venues are wheelchair-friendly, so attending classes is easier now," he said.

He cannot wait to finish his BTech and possibly pursue a Master's degree.

He advises all students to cherish what they have and study hard. "It has been a difficult journey for me but if I can do it with all the obstacles and changes to my life that I had to make and adjust to, other students have no excuse and they can do it – so study hard," he said.

Waheeda Peters

KUNENE'S STAY IN FRANCE HAS BEEN ENLIGHTENING

DUT PhD candidate Kwanele Kunene said that her experience in Montpellier, France has been eye-opening and fascinating.

Kunene was based at the prestigious Montpellier University in France from September 2018 to January 2019 for a fellowship, which is linked to her PhD in Chemistry. She returned to South Africa in January 2019 and went back to France again in September 2019.

"I love France because of the warm research environment, which encourages me to continue with my research work. And to continue my French lessons that I've started this year at DUT," she said.

She added that the level of cooperation between the students and supervisors at Montpellier is impressive. "For instance, the IEM have a number of scientific research groups, namely: Interface-Physicochemistry-Polymers (IP2), Membrane Process Engineering (GPM) and Membrane Materials Design and Multifunctional Systems (DM3). Although I was based in DM3, we worked together with the other two departments. My research project has two parts: (1) the synthesis of nanoparticles and (2) electrochemistry. My supervisor, Dr Mikhael Bechelany (DM3), helps me in the synthesis and characterisation of nanoparticles, while Dr Damien Voiry (IP2) helps me on the electrochemistry part without any difficulties," she said.

Kunene shared some of the lessons she learnt during her time in France. "The French people are very punctual. I remember it was my second meeting with our research group; it was at 10h00 but I was four minutes late, and when I entered the venue everyone was looking at me and I was so embarrassed when I realised that I was the only one who was late," said Kunene.

"They also have a good memory; it was the welcome party for all PhD students and PDF with our supervisors at Institut Europeen des Membranes (IEM). Students introduce their countries and provide a brief description of their research work. When I mentioned that I'm from DUT in South Africa, one of the professors disturbed me and asked "do you know the short guy who use to be in this institution a while ago?" I tried to think of that short guy, but I quickly realised that he was referring to my current co-supervisor Dr M. Sabela. To my surprise and shock he managed



Pictured: Kwanele Kunene in France.

to remember him after five years and he kept asking me many questions about him. This professor has been travelling around the world supervising different students but he still remembered him," she added.

She said that the language barrier was initially her biggest challenge in France, but she is working on improving her French proficiency. "It was very difficult to communicate with other people or to make friends because most of them speak French. I tried to overcome this challenge by making friends with three French speakers, Pelage, Nazym and Jamie from Nigeria, Kazakhstan and France respectively. They were helpful during my stay and I am very thankful to them for making sure that I enjoy being in France to the fullest," she said.

One of her highlights during her stay in France was travelling to other famous European cities and meeting South African-born, France-based soccer players. "I met two South African players (Keagan Dolly and Lebo Mathiba) in the soccer match between Montpellier HSC and Strasbourg at the Stade de la Mosson. I have also realised my dreams of visiting Spain, Barcelona and Paris (the City of Love). It was always my dream to visit the City of Love," she said.

Nduduzo Ndlovu

DLAMINI AIMS TO MAKE IT BIG IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

The support I got from my family is what made me pass with excellent results,” said Lihle Dlamini.

The 23-year-old Dlamini, who hails from Kokstad, describes herself as a diligent person who always pays attention and puts a lot of effort in whatever she does. She is currently working at LTE Consulting Pty Ltd as a construction and programme manager intern.

Lihle was conferred her Bachelor of Technology in Construction Management and Deans Merit Award on 6 May 2019 at the Fred Crookes Indoor Sports Centre, Steve Biko Campus.

It has been an emotional rollercoaster for her to be a DUT student because at first it was not easy. It was her first time leaving home, therefore, she struggled to live on her own, be responsible and take care of herself. But as time went by, she got on track. For her to be at DUT has made her an open-minded person as she has had to interact with different and diverse individuals. Her confidence has thus grown because she grew up in a township and never went to multi-racial schools.

Furthering her studies at DUT has been a great experience towards her career development. She has met amazing and interesting people and she has learnt about different cultures through her journey. Doing Construction Management was her personal interest. She always wanted to see, witness and know how to start and finish a construction project and how it comes to life from nothing to something. “Seeing plain land transform into a building or any construction, knowing that you had played a part brings satisfaction into my life,” she said.

Dlamini intends to register at SACPCMP so that one day she can be a qualified as a professional construction manager. Also, she had no background in and experience of this course. She had to go the



Pictured: Lihle Dlamini

extra mile to understand the basics of it as it is a very practical and male-dominated course. “I had to work twice as hard to prove myself and to show that women can also work in the construction industry,” she added.

The people who inspired her to study tirelessly are her parents. Her father is still studying, taking care of the family and handling work even though he is close to retirement. “Education has always been a number one priority in my family. Once I get a permanent job, I want to do my Master’s degree to expand my knowledge through studying,” she said.

She thanks God and emphasised that if one wants to pass with good marks, one needs to put in the effort in whatever one does.

Nomkhuleko Thutshini

PROF MTHEMBU APPOINTED TO THE BOARD OF UMGENI WATER

DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Thandwa Mthembu said that his appointment to serve as the Board Member of Umgeni Water is a great opportunity for deepening DUT's partnerships with government, its agencies and enterprises.

Prof Mthembu was appointed to the Board of the second largest water Board in the country alongside 11 other new members. The new Board will serve a term of four years.

“Quad-Helix of partnerships are about universities entering into partnerships with government (and its agencies and enterprises), business/industry and the broader society. This appointment demonstrates just that,” said Prof Mthembu.

“DUT already has a partnership with Umgeni Water, a state-owned entity. A number of our teaching-learning and research-innovation programmes actually serve the interests of Umgeni Water and various other entities. Thus, being on the Board is just one way of strengthening this partnership and it allows us to demonstrate the impact we are making in the water sector, especially through our Institute for Water and Wastewater Technology,” he added.

Prof Mthembu said that he hopes to use his extensive experience in executive management to contribute towards sound management of the institution. “I hope to contribute to, among others, good corporate governance, strategic management, organisational sustainability, and efficiency and effectiveness of service to Umgeni Water’s stakeholders,” he said.



Pictured: Prof Thandwa Mthembu

He added that it is important for leaders in academia to contribute towards the development of various structures of our society, including government entities. “For optimal impact, academics should be out there where they want to make a mark. We also need specialists in government and industry to engage with academia, all for the benefit of our broader society,” he added.

Nduduzo Ndlovu

ENTREPRENEURSHIP BUSINESS

START-UP BOOT CAMP

The DUT Midlands Entrepreneurship and Student Desk held an Entrepreneurship Business Start-up Boot camp at Hella Hella Adventure Centre (Richmond) – the first of its kind at DUT.

The boot camp was divided into two sessions: The first session was on 16-17 May 2019 with DUT Midlands Students from the Department of Public Management. The second session was on 20-21 May 2019 with students from the Department of Public Management (Supply Chain), DUT Durban.

The main objective of the Entrepreneurship Boot Camp was to teach entrepreneurship in a fun, impactful, engaging and practical manner that was slightly different from the traditional method of teaching and learning. “I Hear and I Forget, I See and I Remember, I Do and I Understand”. Entrepreneurship is all about being practical.

On their first day, the two groups played a variety of educational entrepreneurial and teambuilding games. Entrepreneurial games included the Levels of Start-up, Spaghetti and Marshmallow Tower Challenge and Navquard. These games taught students quite a number of imperative things about entrepreneurship. Consistency, competitiveness, drawing up a business plan, a feasibility study, idea generation, creative thinking and other innumerable things, are part of what the students gained from the games.

Subsequently, they played teambuilding games, namely the foofie slide, hiking, soccer and wall climbing. However, the evening was all about the presentations based on a six-week business start-up training that was facilitated by the DUT Midlands Entrepreneurship Centre.



Pictured: Pupils playing teambuilding games at the boot camp.

The boot camp was an experience of a lifetime to the DUT Public Management students, as they were exposed to a wide spectrum of information about entrepreneurship. This boot camp was the very first one for the DUT Midlands Entrepreneurship Centre, however, it was phenomenally executed.

Sindisiwe Ndlovu

The main objective of the Entrepreneurship Boot Camp was to teach entrepreneurship in a fun, impactful, engaging and practical manner that was slightly different from the traditional method of teaching and learning. ‘I Hear and I Forget, I See and I Remember, I Do and I Understand’. Entrepreneurship is all about being practical.

DUT DELEGATION ATTEND PRESTIGIOUS

LUBAN WORKSHOP IN CHINA

A DUT delegation consisting of staff from Mechanical Engineering, IT and the Entrepreneurial Centre and Desk offices attended the prestigious Luban Workshop Seminar that took place at the Tianjin Vocational Institute in China from 6-12 May 2019.

The Tianjin Vocational Institute is the first one among those ordinary higher education institutions in Tianjin that implement higher vocational education.

The Luban Workshop has been named after Chinese craftsman and inventor Lu Ban of the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 BC), who was revered as the embodiment of professional and technical excellence.

The Luban Workshop is basically a vocational cooperation model designed and established by vocational colleges and supported by the municipal government of Tianjin. The purpose of the workshop is to share the latest vocational education developments, provide teaching and training, and promote mutual understanding and exchange by introducing the latest vocational education knowledge and technical training experiences to the local and international delegates in attendance. Also, many exchanges have also been conducted under the programme, with representatives from other countries observing and learning from the sessions.

Through mutual understanding, it has been confirmed that there will be a Luban Workshop jointly established in both campuses at DUT and the Tianjin Vocational Institute with equal technical equipment designed for the teaching and training purpose in areas of common selected specialties. DUT's Entrepreneurial Centre



Pictured: The DUT delegation with Huawei China representatives at the Tianjin Vocational Institute.

and Desk Centre Manager Nonhlanhla Khanyile strongly believes that the technical skills programme will benefit DUT students, staff and the community of KwaZulu-Natal throughout the year, also covering mechanical and electrical maintenance multi-skilling, welding, machining pneumatics and hydraulics. "This is a start of a new journey and it is a proposed collaboration between DUT, Huawei and the Tianjin Vocational Institute," she said.

Waheeda Peters

MNCWANGO IS AWARDED THE FULBRIGHT

SCHOLARSHIP IN CHEMISTRY

DUT student Thandazile Mncwango was awarded the Fulbright Scholarship to pursue a Master of Science (MSc) in Chemistry at the University of Toledo in Ohio, USA, which began in August 2019.

Speaking on her achievement, DUT's Dr Myalo Sabela, said: "As a Department of Chemistry, we are very delighted and proud to have one of our graduates selected for such a prestigious scholarship and, therefore, we believe that it is a perfect example and an eye-opener to other potential candidates."

The scholarship is all-inclusive and covers her round-trip airfare, tuition fees, accommodation, living allowance, book allowance and health insurance. Also, she has never been overseas so she is already anticipating the culture shock.

Sharing her joy on her achievement, Mncwango said ecstatically, "I feel extremely honoured just considering the global scale and impact of the Fulbright programme. I have had to pinch myself a few times but reality is sinking in as the departure date is on the horizon."

The Science fundi completed her National Diploma in Analytical Chemistry in 2017 followed with her BTech in Chemistry in 2018. She is passionate about catalysis research and applications and looks forward to furthering her understanding of the field by pursuing her Master's degree, which has a duration of two years. Mncwango found out about the scholarship through a flyer that



Pictured: Thandazile Mncwango

was posted by one of her lecturers, and made the decision to apply, motivated by the fact that she had nothing to lose. "It was only when I was shortlisted for the interview that I realised that I actually stood a chance to continue my studies in the US," she said.

Besides studying, she aims to do some sightseeing. "There is a general American influence within South Africa and I hope to get a chance to experience the iconic locations I grew up watching in movies such as enjoying an event at Madison Square Garden or walking the streets of Manhattan in New York, or perhaps bumping into celebrities in Los Angeles," she added.

In terms of what she hopes to get from this experience, she added that she is hoping to gain a deeper insight into catalysis and learning the industry-specific best practices from the US.

Going forward, her future plans include working in research and development in the consulting or private sector, utilising the skills gained through international study to optimise current processes in South Africa.

Mncwango stressed that her journey would not be complete if she did not thank the entire Chemistry department, which, as a unit functions very efficiently in ensuring that a student's potential is unlocked.

Waheeda Peters

STUDENT-LED LEVEL SIX PROJECT

SHOWCASED AT DESIGN INDABA

Thabiso Joyisa is determined to see the realisation of the Level Six project – a student-led initiative that he showcased during the prestigious Design Indaba Festival earlier in 2019.

The Design Indaba Festival is an annual celebration of design and creativity, showcasing the hottest and most relevant talents across the creative sectors. Conference attendees are privy to the absolute vanguard of the industry, experiencing the work, ideas, thought leadership and design thinking that permeates a cross-section of current creativity.

“I was selected as the Emerging Creatives Class of 2019, which was an opportunity for me to be among the world’s best designers and creatives. My participation was to exhibit my work and ideas that I was selected for, which was a project called Level Six that I started back in 2015 when I was doing my second year at DUT. My participation in South Africa’s and an international prestigious platform was a dream for me to share my ideas with the world,” said Joyisa.

The DUT Architectural Technology alumnus said that he was inspired and empowered by the exposure and valuable knowledge that he acquired through his participation in the Design Indaba Festival. “I have always wanted to be part of these creative, explorative, engaging stories that push the boundaries of innovation, with the attempt to make the world better through design. Besides the architectural part of Design Indaba, it is also a platform for a multidisciplinary process, which has been close to my heart because design is complex but centred around essential core fundamentals, which is nature and humans,” he stressed.

Joyisa said that the Level Six project is an Architectural student movement aimed at transforming the current academic and social space within our institutional surroundings. He added that this project is synergistic with the Department of Architecture’s long-term vision in addressing the social problems and lack of collaboration in the Department, particularly between the students in the different years and across different disciplines.



Pictured: An artistic impression of the proposed Level Six project that was showcased at Design Indaba Festival earlier this year.

“Our vision is to build a new Floor on the existing S block at DUT connected to the University’s DNA strand of student-centeredness and the Strategic Plan’s Strategic Focus Area, which is to improve facilities and infrastructure. We believe that this is an innovative idea, and with the right sponsorship, it can improve the student experience and offer more opportunities and resources to create a conducive environment for the broader DUT community,” he said.

He added that even though this project is still at the preliminary stage, they are encouraged by the support they are getting from DUT management. “We are pleased to know that our vision was considered by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of People and Operations Dr Isaac Machi. We are pleased that our project was approved and included in the master plan of the Institution. We also want to acknowledge Dr David Mohale; he was very helpful at the early stages of the project to get us where we are,” he added.

He also added that they are working with the University’s Advancement and Alumni Relations Department to consolidate fundraising efforts for this project.

Nduduzo Ndlovu

DUT'S DR THAKUR IS PART OF THE FOURTH INDUSTRIAL MINISTERIAL TASK TEAM

The world is experiencing the rapid integration of physical, digital and biological technologies, now termed the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). With this new revolution comes great opportunities as well as concerns regarding such rapid integration in the fields of artificial intelligence (AI), automation, biotechnology and nanotechnology, to name but a few.

In order to deal with the 4IR and with the challenges and opportunities it poses, a ministerial task team has been established to advise the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dr Blade Nzimande, on FIR in post-school education and training.

The eight-member task team was appointed by the former Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology Dr Naledi Pandor, which was one of her final official stints in that portfolio before she was reshuffled to her new post as Minister of International Affairs and Co-operation.

Making the task team list is DUT's Dr Surendra (Colin) Thakur, who holds the BankSeta Research Chair in Digitalisation. Dr Thakur is also the Director of the NEMISA KZN e-Skills CoLab, which is tasked with e-skills in general, and particularly on the e-enablement of government services for effective service delivery, with a focus on e-democracy and e-participation. He has also conceptualised and introduced InvoTech, an innovation incubator at DUT, where one of his patents is being registered. Dr Thakur is also an international e-voting expert, emerging expert in social media and national authority on big data.

When asked how he feels on being selected to be part of the task team, he said he considered the appointment to be an honour and a privilege. "It is an affirmation that the technology advocacy work that I do is aligned with national priorities. We at DUT, along with the IT department, are already preparing 200 KwaZulu-Natal educators for the Internet of Things, through a skills transfer that is matched with an innovative resource and technology transfer. It shows that DUT is relevant and an active member within the technology space. The hard work begins," he said.



*Pictured: Dr Surendra
(Colin) Thakur*

Speaking more on his role as part of the task team, Dr Thakur added that he will await the direction of the Minister with regard to each person's specific roles and timeframes.

"The 4IR is characterised by a fusion of technologies that is blurring the lines between the physical, digital and biological sphere, often collectively called cyber-physical systems," he said. Dr Thakur added that the challenge of the 4IR is that the rate of technology is proceeding at a rate that is beyond one's ability to comprehend. The 4IR will have some dire consequences unless and until everyone changes the way they think and function.

"Consider that two major banks, a telecommunications company and Neotel will respectively lose over 1 300, 800 and 500 skilled employees. What do we do with these skills? How do we repurpose or cross-train these folk? Can we proactively anticipate such changes in other verticals? On the other hand, the 4IR will demand a new kind of critical and creative thinking and create new jobs in Data Science, Robotics, Cloud Computing, the Internet of Things and AI. It's about ICT, but also about interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary modes. This opportunity is to repurpose our skills," he said.

According to the *Government Gazette* published in June 2019, the task team is expected to identify current 4IR initiatives in institutions in the PSET system as well as external initiatives impacting on the PSET system; analyse the impact of 4IR on the PSET system; identify priority areas and interventions that should be taken by the Minister of Higher Education and Training in order to advance digital skills and absorption by industry.

The team has been given until January 2020 to submit its report to the Minister on their findings.

Waheeda Peters

NKULULEKO MBATHA IS

MR INTERNATIONAL SOUTH AFRICA 2019

DUT's alumnus Nkululeko Mbatha was crowned Mr International South Africa 2019 at Emperors Palace, Johannesburg on 16 June 2019.

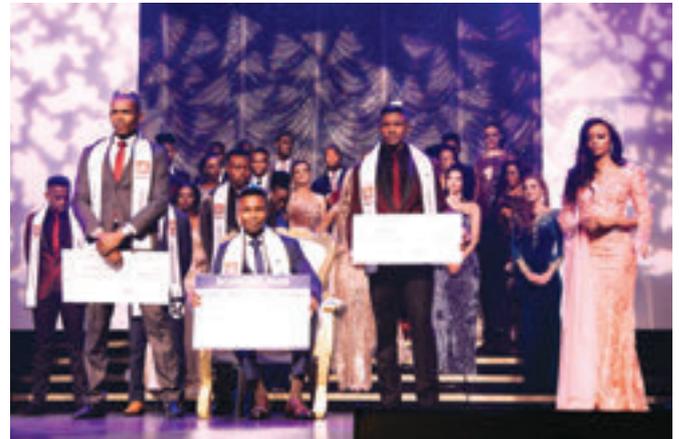
The BTech Public Relations and Communication Management graduate is no stranger to receiving modelling accolades as he also holds the title of Mr DUT 2017.

He was over the moon with his triumph, saying that nothing beats hard work and perseverance. He also added that this was the easiest journey for him because of the support system he had from his 'cyber' friends, family and everyone else who gave him strength and supported him in everything he did.

"I am honoured to win such an amazing title and it is not something that was wanted by me only, but also by people who are around me. This is what I have dreamt of and I thank God for this great opportunity he has given to me," he said excitedly.

"The support that people have given me means a lot to me. I would like to thank everyone – from the sponsors and the judges. Thank you for trusting me with your brand. This title is for everyone and I promise to be the greatest brand ambassador," he said.

Sanele Xaba



Pictured: Nkululeko Mbatha

“ I am honoured to win such an amazing title and it is not something that was wanted by me only, but also by people who are around me. This is what I have dreamt of and I thank God for this great opportunity he has given to me. ” – Nkululeko Mbatha

ZABELO HLABISA IS CROWNED FIRST PRINCESS AT THE MISS INTERNATIONAL SOUTH AFRICA 2019

DUT's BTech: Office Management graduate and Miss DUT 2018/2019 Zabelo Hlabisa was crowned First Princess for the Miss International South Africa 2019. The prestigious event took place at Emperors Palace, Johannesburg on 16 June 2019.

The Miss Queen of South Africa pageant attracts hundreds of beauties from across the nation and has a fundamental part within South African communities. The main focus and commitment for this title is to empower and groom future ambassadors of South Africa.

Speaking of being crowned first princess at the event, Hlabisa said that everything happened for a reason. "Being in the modelling field requires a



*Pictured: Zabelo Hlabisa at
Miss International South
Africa 2019.*

lot of hard work, and I am glad that although I did not win, it has been a great platform for me to bring about change to my community and peers through my non-profit organisation called Zabelo Foundation," she said.

She expressed her appreciation to every person who took the time to vote for her. Hlabisa also expressed her gratitude for the support that she received from her Facebook and Instagram friends.

"My main focus right now is on my academic commitments and I will also be focusing on my foundation and mentoring young ladies at DUT. I also want to start preparing them for the Miss DUT 2019/2020 competitions," she added.

Sanele Xaba

“Being in the modelling field requires a lot of hard work, and I am glad that although I did not win, it has been a great platform for me to bring about change to my community and peers through my non-profit organisation called Zabelo Foundation.” – Zabelo Hlabisa

DR MACHI APPOINTED TO THE NTRF BOARD

DUT's Deputy Vice-Chancellor: People and Operations Dr Isaac Machi has been appointed to serve on the Board of the National Tertiary Retirement Fund (NTRF) for a term of five years.

Dr Machi said that he feels honoured by this appointment and aims to make a meaningful contribution during his tenure. "It is a privilege for me to be entrusted with this enormous responsibility of being part of a team of Board members who will ensure good governance within the NTRF. I am looking forward to serving the Board in a very professional manner and ensuring that the NTRF's credibility is maintained at all times," he said.

He added that he was approached through a nomination process, which he accepted. "I guess after scrutiny by other Board members, there was a sense that I was a suitable candidate to make a contribution," he added.

Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Thandwa Mthembu congratulated Dr Machi on his appointment. "Congratulations on this important appointment to the Board of the NTRF. It's Board appointment season at DUT," he said.



Pictured: Dr Isaac Machi.

According to the NTRF, the Board members are responsible for all the Fund's decisions that are made. They also ensure that members and beneficiaries' interests are protected at all times.

Nduduzo Ndlovu

“It is a privilege for me to be entrusted with this enormous responsibility of being part of a team of Board members who will ensure good governance within the NTRF. I am looking forward to serving the Board in a very professional manner and ensuring that the NTRF's credibility is maintained at all times.” – Dr Isaac Machi

DUT'S MTHIYANE IS SELECTED AS ONE OF 20 'OBAMA LEADERS' FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Making DUT proud is alumnus and part-time DUT Architecture lecturer Wandile Mthiyane, who has been selected as one of 20 'Obama Leaders' from South Africa, to be part of the prestigious Obama Foundation cohort that convened in Johannesburg from 10-15 July 2019 for the Obama Foundation Leaders: Africa Programme.

The programme supports emerging leaders from across the continent through a one-year leadership development and civic engagement programme. This is the second year of the programme. It kicks off with a five-day convention, featuring President Obama and more than 50 speakers from across Africa.

Mthiyane is one of the 20 South Africans selected from 21 000 applications from around the world, a feat he is thoroughly excited about.

"I was ecstatic, I have always admired Obama and Nelson Mandela and I had just been rejected by the Nelson Mandela fellowship a week before I was accepted into the Obama Leaders: Africa Programme. Growing up in KwaMashu, I did not have a lot of opportunities to grow as a leader and entrepreneur, so to be a part of this programme is a dream come true," he said.

When asked what he hopes to achieve from the prestigious programme, he added that he is interested in several opportunities that come with the fellowship that will challenge his world view, expand his knowledge on community development and make him a better person, leader and entrepreneur.

"This fellowship will also connect me with a cohort of some of the most talented and passionate young world leaders who will be my partners and support group in this daunting task to make this world a better place. I would be delighted to have the opportunity



Pictured: Wandile Mthiyane

to learn and share my experiences and expertise with such a great cohort of world changers," he stressed.

Mthiyane is also greatly inspired by the creativity of his community and is determined to improve the safety and quality of life in low-income communities across South Africa. He is also the founder of Ubuntu Design Group, an architectural design and micro-mortgage organisation. Its mission is to provide entrepreneurial low-income families within the gap housing market that currently do not qualify for an RDP or a bank mortgage/bond with a lower interest rate than a typical bank.

His future goals also entail him working with his Ubuntu team to partner with local banks and investors in South Africa through his micro-mortgage plan for low-income entrepreneurial Ubuntu- screened families. "Our target is to build 50 homes a year and increase that number by 10 homes every year. We are piloting this unique initiative in South Africa and based on the lessons learnt and experience gained, we want to scale our work to other developing countries and then developed countries adapting it to the context, finance and design laws of each area we expand to! Our plan is to end the global housing crisis by 2060 through architectural and financial inclusion," he said excitedly.

Having grown up in KwaMashu, he feels indebted to make the most of every opportunity to come back and help develop his community. "I'm currently under self-induced pressure to excel because I know millions of kids growing up in the townships would die to have half the opportunities I have and that's why I'm building them a bridge to come over," said Mthiyane.

To learn more about Mthiyane's work, visit www.ubuntudesigngroup.com.

Waheeda Peters

DUT HOSTS CAREER GUIDANCE WORKSHOP FOR HIGH SCHOOL PUPILS

DUT mentors from various faculties recently visited the Wiggins Secondary School to host a Career Guidance Workshop and to prepare pupils to apply for various academic courses at university level.

The pilot workshop was aimed to prepare Grade 9 to 10 pupils to decide their career paths and make sound choices in preparation for life after matric.

Pearl Mdluli, DUT's Social Entrepreneurship mentor, said: "We have noted that it's quite a problem that pupils don't really know what to do, and how to choose a career path. We are here to assist them to choose what is best for them and in the best conceivable way," she said.

The mentors prepared fun activities to help the pupils to understand the meaning of 'knowing themselves'. They also tackled how to apply for courses, university options, how to formulate a CV, as well as advised them on how to become entrepreneurs.

Thubelihle Shozi, a Grade 9 pupil, said that the mentors helped him a lot because he now understood that he needed to think very intensively about the career path he wanted to pursue. "There are also things that we need to know before choosing our careers. Life is never easy, so we have to make sure that we are aware of life after matric. We have to start now to pave the way for our career because the outside world can be hard," he said.

Raymond Padya, another DUT mentor, highlighted that the mentors were happy that they had managed to talk with pupils on various aspects on life after matric. "We have seen that most of the students have no idea about financial opportunities like applying for NSFAS. Sometimes you find pupils don't really know which universities they would like to go to. We took this time to actually let them know the kind of universities to apply to that will be beneficial to them," he said.

Sanele Xaba



Pictured: Mentors at Wiggins Secondary School.

“We have noted that it's quite a problem that pupils don't really know what to do, and how to choose a career path. We are here to assist them to choose what is best for them and in the best conceivable way.”

– Pearl Mdluli

PASSION AND FORTITUDE PROPELS DUT ALUMNA TO THE LIST OF 200 TOP YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS

“This is an industry that you will never survive if you are not passionate about what you do and who you work with. My passion is for television broadcasting. My passion for football and the people I work with keeps me going,” said the current Football Production Manager at Supersport International Zodumo Maphumulo, following her inclusion in the prestigious *Mail and Guardian* Top 200 Young South Africans.

The *Mail and Guardian’s* annual feature of eminent 200 Young South Africans has become a hallmark of the South African calendar, and is now in its thirteenth year. A listing in the Top 200 Young South Africans supplement is now a feature of the best CVs in the country.

The DUT Journalism alumna said that she is honoured by this remarkable accolade. “To be part of the chosen 200 from a whopping 6 000 nominations nationwide indeed is a huge accomplishment for me. I am hoping that it will open a few more doors for me in the near future. After all, this is not just any list... it’s THE list,” she said excitedly.

She believes that her ability to tell her unique story about her humble beginnings and her journey to where she is today is possibly what gave her the edge. “I guess the impression I have made on certain individuals, peers, and colleagues within my field, caused me to be nominated as trailblazing future leader,” she said.

In her 11-year stint with Supersport, she has worked on some prestigious international tournaments, including the FIFA 2010 Football World Cup in South Africa, the FIFA 2017 Confederation Cup and the FIFA 2018 Football World Cup in Russia. She is currently working on the AFCON 2019 Egypt production.

The hardworking Maphumulo said that despite the demanding nature of her job, she always enjoys the challenge that it presents to her because she is very passionate about what she does. “I



Pictured: Zodumo Maphumulo.

work within the live television broadcast industry, which can be extremely time-demanding and challenging as it is a forever changing work environment. So, I would say that I enjoy exactly that; constantly being challenged with new projects, new events and tournaments. I also enjoy working with people as a production manager; you are pretty much the nucleus of a production or a project so relating well with people is a good skill to possess,” she stressed.

She added that she would like to broaden her experience even further within international sporting federations such as FIFA, CAF or international broadcasters such as Sky Sports, ESPN and Fox Sports.

She urged aspiring and upcoming media professionals never to be intimidated by the prestige and demands of the industry. “Working within a male-dominated industry has always driven me to work harder, do better and push the glass ceiling even further. So my advice to any young female and male potentials out there is that ‘don’t let fear get in the way of your success’,” she advised.

Nduduzo Ndlovu

DUT'S BUDDING STUDENT ENTREPRENEUR

CREATES UNIQUE BEADED ACCESSORIES

For Busani Mnyandu, using his hands for beading various accessories such as watches, earrings and necklaces is liberating and it allows him to express his artistic passion.

The DUT) Public Relations and Communication Management third-year student said that he began beading since he was nine years old. "I was exposed to beading through my mother, who used to sell beaded accessories. When I was about 15 years old, I started beading and selling my own accessories. This also helped a great deal with pocket money," he said.

In 2018, he started making beaded watches, and the demand for this product has been growing immensely. "To be honest, I have been overwhelmed by the growing demand for beaded watches, and at times I don't have time to work on the watches since I am still a full-time student," said Mnyandu.

Due to the growing demand, Mnyandu is now working with local women from his community in Botha's Hill and in Umtata in order to meet the demand. "I also want to assist them with promoting their own products. I would like to uplift my community and have a platform where their work can also be showcased, and help them make a living," he said.

The 23-year-old Mnyandu said that he reaches the bulk of his clientele through social media and he plans to open an online platform where people can access his products.

The budding entrepreneur said that he plans to focus on his business full-time once he completes his qualification at DUT.

"I have already engaged with DUT's Centre for Social Entrepreneurship and they have encouraged me to formalise my business in order to access funding opportunities that can enable me to grow my business," he said.

Mnyandu added that what sets him apart from other people who



Pictured: Busani Mnyandu showcasing his beaded watches.

are producing beaded accessories is that his products are unique and neat. "I'm able to do customised products for my clients and that is what they like the most," he added.

He also added that he wants to create a legacy that is linked to his heritage through his beaded products.

Meanwhile, DUT recently co-hosted the Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE) Lekgotla where various stakeholders and experts met to discuss the evolution of entrepreneurship in Higher Education.

Nduduzo Ndlovu

DUT'S HLONGWANE SELECTED AS AN AMBASSADOR FOR 'LET YOUR ACT BE THE IMPACT' MOVEMENT

DUT's Master of Management Science: Administration and Management student and Centre for Social Entrepreneurship Office: Marketing and Communication officer Snelisiwe Hlongwane has been chosen as the South African ambassador for the movement called 'Let Your Act Be the Impact'.

This movement was established by Kimberly B. Phillips from Columbia and it aims to help and inspire others to learn more about their differences and how to embrace each other's diversity without discrimination. It also aims to teach people to learn more about mental illness, HIV and AIDS, LGBTI as well as teenage pregnancy.

"This movement aims to promote and acknowledge acts of kindness, live positively and teach people to be the best version of themselves. It includes great ways to support the individuals who are living with mental illness, HIV and Aids, and giving love to homeless people and supporting the LGBTI group. It is also ensuring that everyone is dealt with similarly and nobody is being discriminated against because of their sexual orientation or because they are living with disabilities," said Hlongwane.

Hlongwane expressed her excitement on being given this opportunity as she will be working with different organisations across South Africa and ambassadors from across the world to change people's lives. She stated that some of the ambassadors she



Pictured: Snelisiwe Hlongwane.

will be working with originate from various countries such as Ghana, Brazil, India, United States, China and Australia. "I am really humbled and honoured to make it onto this prominent list and looking forward to begin my journey into making our country a better place," she said.

The 25-year-old Hlongwane's enthusiasm, network and positive energy inspired her to enter for this movement. "I began building up this enthusiasm through network commitment that I used to do during my studies for my Public Relations and Communications Management Diploma, where we were normally entrusted to work in various NPOs to get introduction and experience. During that time, I was doing it to complete the requirements of my diploma, however, in my final year, I began to take an interest in structural networking and advancement interests in making the world a better place," she said.

She has worked with various structures at DUT, including the DUT Writing Centre, Student Counselling and Health, HIV and Aids Centre and Isolempilo Clinic, Invotech Business Incubator, all of which shaped her to be the individual that she is today. She is currently based at the Centre for Social Entrepreneurship where she is the Marketing and Communication Officer.

Sanele Xaba

IWWT APPLAUDED FOR ITS RESEARCH OUTPUT DURING LAUNCH OF ITS BUILDING

The Institute for Water and Wastewater Technology (IWWT) building at DUT was officially launched at the Steve Biko Campus in Durban on 18 July 2019.

Speaking during the event, Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Thandwa Mthembu thanked all partners and stakeholders who contributed immensely towards the realisation of this project. “Support to the University is very important because through that contribution we are able to focus our resources to institutes like this one,” he said.

Prof Mthembu remarked that he is always encouraging the DUT community to imagine a DUT that is not just good but to imagine a DUT that is great, highlighting that initiatives such as the IWWT building are in line with that line of thinking. “Many people and organisations are happy when they know that they are just good, and as Jim Collins says, ‘good is the enemy of great’ in that when you rest on your laurels because you are good, you allow your peers to leapfrog themselves to greatness, leaving you behind in your goodness. So good is the enemy because it makes you complacent,” he said.

He applauded the launch of the IWWT building as being a testimony of DUT’s desire to increase the University’s innovation and research capacity. “We want to become the first port of call in the region on matters of innovation and entrepreneurship, and certainly on matters of water and wastewater – and not only in the region but in the world,” he added.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagement Professor Sibusiso Moyo said that the launch of the IWWT building

is a celebration of successful collaboration between DUT and its various partners and stakeholders.

“While this facility is a culmination of years of resourcing and planning, we also aim to have this facility opened to the public. It will not only provide training to our students and staff, but it will also provide specialised services in collaboration with our partners that go beyond testing the quality of the water we drink to providing evidence-based research to inform intervention and developing appropriate technologies to address society needs,” she said.

Prof Moyo added that through this institute, they are confident that more students will engage in water research.

The Chief Executive Officer of the National Research Foundation Dr Molapo Qhobela, who delivered the keynote address, commended DUT for its remarkable strides in the area of research and innovation.

He highlighted the importance of water research in coming up with interventions to preserve this precious resource. “We as human beings cannot live without water, while the right to access water is threatened by many issues. Water scarcity is a big issue; 40% of the global population don’t have access to clean water. So, unless we do something different, this problem will persist,” he said.

Dr Qhobela also announced that following a rigorous review of the South African Research Chair Initiative (SARChI), a panel has unanimously agreed that the IWWT at DUT will be awarded another cycle of five years as a SARChI Chair. “This is a testament to the quality of research that has been undertaken

“We want to become the first port of call in the region on matters of innovation and entrepreneurship, and certainly on matters of water and wastewater – and not only in the region but in the world.” – Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Thandwa Mthembu



Pictured: Professor Faizal Bux, Professor Thandwa Mthembu, Professor Sibusiso Moyo and Dr Molapo Qhobela.

in this University. We need to debunk the myth that only certain institutions can produce cutting-edge research,” he added.

The new building comprises well-equipped laboratories with high-end equipment. It consists of four floors of approximately 450sqm each, two floors holding 14 laboratories, two cold rooms and a walk-in incubator. The other two floors contain offices, a seminar room, a boardroom and a 49-seater postgraduate student seating facility. The Institute has a 100m² greenhouse on the roof containing 4 x 3 000L raceway ponds for algae experimentation. It includes dedicated laboratories for high-end instrumentation (including Gas Chromatographs, an Elemental Analyser, Ion Chromatograph, Flow Cytometer, Atomic Absorption Spectrometer, Droplet Digital PCR and Sanger Sequencer) supported by a UPS and a backup generator.

The Institute is host to one of two NRF SARCHI research chairs in wastewater treatment in South Africa. Since 2012, the Institute has published in excess of 150 journal articles and 85 conference presentations nationally and internationally. To date, the IWWT has hosted 29 Post-doctoral Fellows from reputable international institutions, 29 doctoral students, 42 Masters and 64 BTech students.

The multi-award-winning Director of IWWT Professor Faizal Bux expressed his excitement about the monumental growth of the IWWT since its inception in 1994. He also thanked stakeholders and partners for their valuable contribution.

After the formal proceedings of the event, guests undertook a guided tour of the new state-of-the-art building.

Nduduzo Ndlovu

NHLENYAMA ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO LEARN MANDARIN AT DUT'S CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

Obtaining various sustainable and cultural opportunities is what DUT thrives to provide to its students.

For third-year Language Practice student Ntsikelelo Nhlenyama, being part of DUT has seen him grow in leaps and bounds, especially in terms of learning new languages such as Mandarin.

“Ever since high school, I dreamt of becoming a multi-linguist (language practitioner) because growing up I was surrounded by people of diverse cultures, languages and nationalities. My main interest grew in languages because I believe it is very important in every aspect of our lives as it brings together people from all over the world, allowing people to communicate in a manner that enables the sharing of common ideas,” he said.

Nhlenyama chose to study Mandarin, which is offered by the DUT Confucius Institute (CI), because it is the most widely spoken language in the world. “Mandarin is an official language in Singapore, and with globalisation, it is essential to grow and learn more languages like Mandarin. When you learn Mandarin, you will set yourself apart from the rest. Therefore, when seeking for international employment opportunities you stand a better chance and believe me, it will make you highly valuable,” he said.

The CI is currently located at the DUT ML Sultan campus with a Chinese Culture Experience Centre, a library and a dedicated Chinese language lab. The HSK Test Centre and the International Chinese Language Teacher Examination Centre, which is the only one on the African Continent, have also been established at the DUT Confucius Institute.

As a characteristic of the global CIs, the DUT CI works as a bridge to promote cooperation between DUT and Chinese universities to advance collaborations in various fields. Moreover, the DUT CI has been dedicated to ‘Mandarin plus vocational and technical training,



Pictured: Ntsikelelo Nhlenyama is learning more about the Chinese culture from a student in China.

contributing to the economic development of local communities by exploiting the discipline advantages of DUT and the Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University (FAFU) in Fuzhou, China.

He further added that his experience at the CI had been amazing, and during the course of his study, he discovered that Mandarin is a language for all students to consider learning. “My understanding was that you can master anything as long as you have the passion and dedication for it,” he said.

In 2017, he completed his basic conversational Mandarin course from which

he was awarded a certificate of attendance and certificate of voluntary work during the open week expo and the fourth Chinese winter camp organised and sponsored by the Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University in Fuzhou, China.

“Having learnt the Chinese culture, I realised that I should teach what I have been taught to others, that is why I am considering starting my own non-profit organisation that will encourage and inspire young and the old to learn more about the Chinese culture, language, food and other Chinese festivals,” said Nhlenyama.

Besides taking time out to learn Mandarin, Nhlenyama is also currently serving as the Central Housing Committee (CHC) President, a governing structure representing all students residing at DUT residences for both Durban and the Midlands campuses. He is a representative of the CHC at the SRC in all residence matters; head of all CHC chairpersons’ Central Housing Council, including the House Committee, Central Housing Forum (CHF), working alongside substructures such as the Green Campus initiative, Chakaza and Insika.

To find out more about learning Mandarin, call 031 373 5814/5844.

Waheeda Peters

SHABALALA IS DETERMINED TO MAKE IT AS A WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL PLAYER

Following his involvement in a serious car accident as a four-year-old toddler, Simngaye Shabalala had to endure a challenging childhood as his leg was amputated and he had to use an artificial leg, which he still uses today.

However, the 21-year-old Human Resources Management first-year student at DUT was not deterred by his disability to live his life and participate in a sport that he loves.

“When I was still in primary school, I was ashamed of my disability and I tried to hide it from my peers. But one day when we were playing soccer, my artificial leg was dislocated and I was so embarrassed that I had to change schools due to victimisation and peer pressure,” he said.

“But when I enrolled at the Open Air School for Grade 6, that is where I was able to regain my confidence because I could relate to other learners who were living with different disabilities. This is where I was introduced to wheelchair basketball and I was fascinated by the sport from that point until today,” he added.

The current eThekweni Spears player has won many accolades in his career as a wheelchair basketball player. “In 2017, I was named the ‘Best Under-23 Player’ in the Supersport league. I was also part of the South African Under-23 wheelchair basketball team that played in the International Championships in Canada back in 2017, where I was also named Man of the Match in one of the games,” he said.

He added that striking a balance between his sporting commitments and academics has been a challenge but he is grateful for the support that he has been getting from DUT in terms of transport to training and games. “My academic department has also been very supportive,” he said.



Pictured: Simngaye Shabalala playing against Great Britain in the Under-23 Championships in Canada.

Shabalala said that he feels that basketball and wheelchair basketball in particular do not get sufficient support in terms of sponsorships. “At times we have to use our own money for certain requirements because we are playing this sport out of passion,” he added.

The talented Shabalala added that he would like to play for an international team because he feels that this could propel his career to greater heights.

Shabalala also encouraged other people living with disabilities to pursue their dreams despite their disabilities.

Nduduzo Ndlovu

BECOMING A HOMOEOPATHIC DOCTOR IS

A DREAM COME TRUE FOR MINENHLE ZONDI

Becoming a homoeopathic practitioner is a dream come true for the dynamic Dr Minenhle Zondi (MTech: Homoeopathy), director and owner of Phikelela Health Solutions PTY (LTD), a medical practice in Berea Centre, Durban.

“It hasn’t sunk in me that I finally have my own practice. Because of my humble background, I never thought I will finally be able to open my own practice as a homoeopathic practitioner and be able to stand tall because of the financial challenges I had to go through,” she said elatedly.

Her academic journey was not a pleasant one; it took her 11 years to complete a programme of six years. Her first four years were ravaged with illness. However, she survived and succeeded against all odds. Consequently, her sickness shaped the basis of her perseverance towards achieving an in-depth knowledge in the field of homoeopathy. She has proven to herself and family, mentors and friends that determination and focus in achieving one’s goal is not determined by the obstacles that we are faced with, but how one can overcome such. Her doctors and specialists are still amazed that she is alive and well with no sign of backing down.

Dr Zondi believes that she plays a vital role in society as a homoeopathic doctor as homoeopathy is still not a well-known and popular profession; many people still confuse it with other professions such as allopathic practitioners and herbalists. “Most of the medication people take cause aggravations, others cause organ impairment but homoeopathy medication is holistic, safe and has no side effects; instead it stimulates one’s vital force to fight against any infection causing a disease,” she said.

Dr Zondi’s main goal as a homoeopathic doctor is to make more people aware of homoeopathy and for homoeopathy to be recognised in communities, to also introduce it to different



*Pictured:
Dr Minenhle Zondi*

communities especially in the rural areas. She added that a medical practice cannot be successful if no patients patronise it, therefore, her other main goal is to run a successful practice, expand and introduce other procedures under the scope of homoeopathy that might assist the community and create jobs as the practice successfully develops.

She added that traditional medicine plays a vital role in the medical field, especially in African countries. Dr Zondi stressed that according to the World Health Organization, about 80% of the African population uses traditional medicine. “This may be due to the fact that before the establishment or the introduction of science-based medicine/ Western medicine, traditional medicine was ideal

and dominant and it has always been part of the African culture and beliefs,” she said.

Speaking more about how DUT enhanced her as an academic, Dr Zondi stated that DUT prepared her as an academic because of the institution’s capacity-efficient and effective lecturers coupled with a conducive environment to learn, research and develop herself as a potential academic. “I was tutored by great supervisors and lecturers who greatly impacted me and I will forever be happy for being an alumnus of DUT,” she said proudly.

Her advice to future homoeopathic students wishing to study at DUT is to be focused on their studies and understand their struggles as individuals without comparison to others and believe that everything is possible. “They should be zealous, driven and have a big heart for people of any race and background,” she said.

Going forward, Dr Zondi aims to further her studies and render wellness services to disadvantaged communities.

Waheeda Peters

DUT HOSTED MIT STUDENTS AS PART OF THE MIT- AFRICA AND SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

PROGRAMME

DUT is pleased to announce its participation as one of the key partners on the MIT-Africa and South African Universities Programme. This link aims to foster problem-solving and innovation approaches among South African students; enhance innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystems in universities; develop among faculty competencies in state-of-the-art educational approaches, and encourage an entrepreneurial outlook that promotes high impact research. As part of the framework, the programme uses a multifaceted framework that includes several units at MIT and multiple South African universities.

The first part of this programme includes DUT, KwaZulu-Natal, Central University of Technology, Free State (CUT) and University of South Africa (UNISA). The MIT students Nailah Smith and Nadia Waid, who visited DUT in July 2019, are focusing on a project to develop a new interferometer. To this end, DUT has its hosts through the Engineering Faculty: Prof I.E. Davidson, Head of Electrical Engineering and Malesela Moutlana in Mechanical Engineering.

DVC: Research, Innovation and Engagement Professor Sibusiso Moyo, said: "DUT is proud to be part of this initiative, which involves student exchange, participation in the Global start-up labs entrepreneurship workshop, an opportunity to join the J-WEL higher education initiative, co-hosting and participation in MIT-Africa short courses and Faculty Fellowships."

“DUT is proud to be part of this initiative, which involves student exchange, participation in the Global start-up labs entrepreneurship workshop, an opportunity to join the J-WEL higher education initiative, co-hosting and participation in MIT-Africa short courses and Faculty Fellowships.” – *DVC: Research, Innovation and Engagement Professor Sibusiso Moyo*



Pictured left to right: DUT's DVC: Research, Innovation and Engagement Professor Sibusiso Moyo, Nailah Smith (MIT student), Nadia Waid (MIT student), DUT's Malesela Moutlana and Simphiwe Duma (Admond Capitol).

She also welcomed both the visiting interns to DUT and thanked both DUT hosting departments. "My gratitude also extends to Mr Simphiwe Duma from Admond Capitol who is managing this relationship and Professor Hazel Sive from MIT for this initiative," she said.

Professor Sibusiso Moyo

THAI STUDENTS ENJOY THEIR WIL EXPERIENCE AT DUT



Pictured: The three Thai students from Kasetsart University.

DUT's Co-Operative Education hosted a farewell lunch on 26 July 2019 for three Thai students from the Kasetsart University in Thailand at Sastri College.

Ananya Srisai, Suracha Thansrichai and Phusanisa Tosak, who are Industrial Engineering students, were part of the exchange programme between DUT and Kasetsart University. The students arrived in South Africa on 28 May 2019 to complete their Work Integrated Learning (WIL) for a period of two months, as part of their curriculum.

In his address, Mr Shakeel, Director of DUT Co-Operative Education, said, "It is nice to see more Thai students joining us here at DUT. It was good to have the three female Industrial Engineering students because we are still battling to get more women in the Engineering Department here in South Africa," he said.

Dr Thabede, Campus Director (Midlands), said, "To our lovely guests, you have experienced Durban hospitality. We hate goodbyes, we love hello's, so it is sad that you are now leaving us. Once you

have graduated, consider relocating to South Africa, especially Durban. Consider making it your future homes," he said.

He further highlighted that the world is too small and these exchange programmes are extremely significant. "It's important that we do this cross pollination. The future is in your hands young people, you will have to shape it longer once we have left and live a good legacy," he stressed.

Speaking about their experience, Thansrichai said that she had learnt a lot from WIL. "We now know how to communicate with different people in the workplace. One of the challenges we had encountered was the language barrier between us and those who we were working with, which sometimes led to miscommunication. However, we tried working hand-in-hand to complete the tasks that we were given. We thank DUT for this great opportunity because we were able to explore new things," she said happily.

Nomkhuleko Thutshini

DUT SIGNS MOU WITH THE TIANJIN VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE TO ESTABLISH THE FIRST LUBAN WORKSHOP IN SOUTH AFRICA

The collaboration between DUT, Huawei and the Tianjin Vocational Institute has resulted in the official signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Tianjin Vocational Institute (TVI), China and DUT, on the co-establishment of the first Luban Workshop in South Africa at DUT on 5 August 2019.

This MOU came into being after the DUT delegation consisting of staff from Mechanical Engineering, IT and the Entrepreneurial Centre, had attended the prestigious Luban Workshop Seminar at the Tianjin Vocational Institute in China in May 2019.

The purpose of the workshop was to share the latest vocational education developments, provide training and promote mutual understanding and exchange by introducing the latest vocational education knowledge and technical training experiences to the local and international delegates in attendance.

A Luban Workshop will be jointly established in both campuses at DUT and the Tianjin Vocational Institute with equal technical equipment designed for the teaching and training purpose in areas of common selected specialties.

Also, both TVI and DUT have agreed to add the Internet of Things (IOT) as a new specialisation/qualification in Information Technology.

TVI and DUT will co-develop relevant teaching resources for the Luban Workshop, taking the local and regional relevance into account, and TVI will also provide training sessions for selected DUT faculty staff in Tianjin.

The activation of the Luban Workshop is proposed for the end of November 2019.

In attendance at the signing were the Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Thandwa Mthembu, Professor Shen Jiang (Secretary of CPC), Ms Yang Rongmin (Vice-President, TVI), Professor Sibusiso



Pictured: Professor Shen Jiang (Secretary of CPC) and DUT's Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Thandwa Mthembu at the signing of the MOU.

Moyo in absentia, Dr Lin WU in absentia, Professor O. Olugbara, Professor P. Musonge, Dr Surendra Thakur, Dr Mtshali, Dr Festus Mwangi, Ms Nonhlanhla Khanyile, Mr Ebrahim Asmal and the Chinese delegation respectively.

Jiang expressed her elation at the wonderful interactions her and her team had received from the dedicated DUT staff of the various faculties, and also looked forward to future collaborations between Tianjin Vocational Institute and DUT.

Prof Mthembu also welcomed the partnership and hopes to expand it beyond the workshop going forward. "I'm confident it will be one of the successful partnerships at DUT," he said.

DUT's Dr Surendra Thakur also said there is a dire need for technological giants to pull DUT through the 4IR technology obstacles.

“China is an exemplar partner to pull us. What China will do for DUT, DUT will do for South Africa. What DUT will do for South Africa, South Africa will do for Africa and so we shall pass knowledge upward and forward. As you (China) mentor us (DUT), we shall learn. But we promise that we shall also contribute to the knowledge creation through applied research,” he said.

Thanking both the Chinese and DUT delegations for their dedication and hard work was IT's Asmal, who added that the signing of the MOU is the beginning of a long and prosperous partnership between DUT and TVI educating DUT students, especially for the 4IR.

Waheeda Peters

“China is an exemplar partner to pull us. What China will do for DUT, DUT will do for South Africa. What DUT will do for South Africa, South Africa will do for Africa and so we shall pass knowledge upward and forward. As you (China) mentor us (DUT), we shall learn. But we promise that we shall also contribute to the knowledge creation through applied research.”

– Dr Surendra Thakur

FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCES HOSTS A SUCCESSFUL INAUGURAL STATE OF THE FACULTY ADDRESS

DUT's Faculty of Applied Sciences Executive Dean Professor Suren Singh delivered the faculty's inaugural State of the Faculty Address on 2 August 2019 at the Steve Biko Campus. His address reviewed the performance of the faculty over a period of five years (2014-2018).

Prof Singh began his address by giving an in-depth analysis of the then state of affairs when he assumed his responsibility as the Executive Dean of the faculty back in 2014. He highlighted some of the faculty's challenges, which required his immediate attention, including teaching and learning, staff qualifications, drop-out rate, graduation rate, research output, postgraduate enrolments and the faculty's sustainability.

"Sustainability was a huge thing because this faculty was operating at such a huge loss and nobody wanted to invest in it. We were called the house of negatives literally because almost every department was running at a loss. So we asked ourselves, 'How do we get out of this?' We had to come up with interventions for sustainability," he said.

"We started the journey in 2014, essentially what we did five years ago, we went in as a team and we did a lot of strategic planning and team-building – and I was in the face of every department and staff member. Eventually, every department bought in to the principle of being performance driven. We met every year for the past five years, and we took the entire strategic plan and converted it into numbers. We revised it in terms of all the focus areas and reviewed it constantly every year. And our total revenue was over R400 million over the last five years. As of this year, our net surplus is R46 million. In order to turn the situation around, we needed to have the right team to execute this, but you have to push hard in order to have people operating as a team," he added.

He applauded the growth in terms of the number of staff with PhDs within the faculty. "When we started five years ago, 56% of the staff had PhDs and if you look at the growth of that, it's 56% in the last five years. There is no faculty that comes close to this, so this is great," said Prof Singh.



Pictured: Prof Suren Singh.

Prof Singh also touched on their extensive faculty awareness drive which has yielded tangible returns in the form of improved enrolment numbers. "When finance looks at you they look at enrolment numbers because that is your revenue. Right now we are looking at around 3 000 in terms of enrolments. We have grown in leaps and bounds over the last five years," he said.

Prof Singh said the drop in postgraduate enrolments and the increase in postgraduate drop-outs is worrisome for the faculty, and added that going forward they have introduced a tracking system that will assist them to curb this trend.

He also touched on some of the key interventions required in order to steer the faculty towards achieving its vision. "Are we driving a team mentality within the faculty, especially in departments? Are we doing enough, especially through my office, in terms staff transformation agenda? There is also the simple P transformation, which I call PhD versus Professor versus Productivity – how do we change that, how do we entrench performance in the faculty through all of this? Are we doing enough

as the Applied Sciences Faculty in terms of innovation across the faculty? Those are the key elements we need to assess and change,” he stressed.

Faculty of Applied Sciences Deputy Dean Professor Tukayi Kudanga presented the Faculty’s Teaching and Learning Awards, which were awarded to a representative from each of the faculty’s programmes. While Prof Singh presented the faculty’s Research Awards, which were awarded to three professors who the faculty promoted.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning, Professor Nomthandazo Gwele congratulated the Faculty of Applied Sciences for its remarkable improvement and growth. She also commended the faculty’s Executive Dean for his commendable leadership.

The Faculty of Applied Sciences is the first faculty within DUT to host the State of the Faculty Address – this follows the inaugural State of the University Address, which was delivered by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Thandwa Mthembu earlier this year.

Nduduzo Ndlovu

“Are we driving a team mentality within the faculty, especially in departments? Are we doing enough, especially through my office, in terms staff transformation agenda? There is also the simple P transformation, which I call PhD versus Professor versus Productivity; how do we change that, how do we entrench performance in the faculty through all of this? Are we doing enough as the Applied Sciences Faculty in terms of innovation across the faculty? Those are the key elements we need to assess and change.”

– Prof Suren Singh

DUT LAUNCHES A WELLNESS PROGRAMME

FOR INFORMAL TRADERS

Health is a key concern for informal workers because ill-health often results in a loss of income. Informal traders often work on street corners, pavements, and landfills. In their workplaces, they are exposed to many urban health hazards, including chemical pollutants, physical hazards, and poor urban infrastructure. There are also the ergonomic health hazards associated with work tools and processes, and which often take a significant toll on the musculoskeletal health of informal workers.

The protection of the health and well-being of workers in the informal economy is a challenge that needs to be faced with a coherent and integrated approach involving policies for occupational safety and health (OSH) and health promotion, skills development, social protection and employment creation. For these reasons, DUT's Community Engagement Office, in partnership with the Health and Applied Sciences faculties, developed a wellness programme for informal traders.

The purpose of the programme is to offer a caring environment where traders can gain support from a dedicated team of wellness practitioners and student volunteers representing various departments from DUT Health and Applied Sciences faculties.

DUT recently hosted a wellness day for informal traders in Warwick Junction. The services offered on the day included basic health screening for blood pressure, sugar diabetes, BMI and TB screening. Other services were Somatology and Chiropractic therapy.



Pictured: One of the informal traders receiving chiropractic treatment from a DUT student.

The event was hosted in partnership with Asiye eTafuleni, a local non-profit organisation, and the eThekweni Municipality through the office the iTrump ABM. Other partners were the Jes Foord Foundation, Durban and Coastal Mental Health, and Marie Stopes South Africa, offering advice on reproductive health, pregnancy prevention and safe abortions.

The event was well supported by informal traders, students and staff. Participants were asked to evaluate their experience and complete a survey indicating if they were happy with the services received. Some indicated that they would like eye testing and dental screenings at future events.

Professor Sibusiso, Moyo-DVC of Research, Innovation and Engagement, added that the wellness programme for informal traders is a first of its kind at DUT. "The programme forms part of the community engagement activity where the University is using its skills and facilities for the benefit of its local communities. The programme also creates a meaningful learning experience for the students. Students are valuable contributors to the development of community engagement, and the utilisation of students during community engagement ensures academic transformation, as students are exposed to a variety of communities to ensure cross-cultural interaction and real-life societal enlightenment," she said.

The event will be held on an annual basis going forward.

Phumzile Xulu

DUT WORLD OF WORK (WOW) EXHIBITION APPLAUDED BY EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR RELATIONS MINISTRY

DUT has been highly praised by the Employment and Labour Relations Ministry for its immense contribution and initiative towards equipping its students for the World of Work (WoW).

Minister Thulas Nxesi expressed his gratitude for the work done by the University and its Cooperative Education Unit in ensuring that DUT students and graduates are granted the opportunity to practice what they have been theoretically taught in the classroom. “Thank you for this opportunity to engage and exchange information. Firstly, allow me to congratulate the organisers of this important event now in its 12th year. You (DUT) are doing a great job as employers; you have devoted time and resources to informing the students of the many careers and training opportunities that exist out there. This is a mutually beneficial engagement for all those concerned; the students get an insight into what is expected of them in the labour market and the opportunities that exist. Employers get an opportunity to know what the students are thinking and what they can bring to the party. The relationship between the World of Work and the academy is vital for producing graduates that can add value and bring to birth the relevant skills when they find employment,” said Minister Nxesi.

Minister Nxesi attended the DUT WoW gala dinner on 14 August 2019, which was held at the Durban Exhibition Centre. On 15 August 2019, the Minister and his Deputy Minister Boitumelo Molo, also visited the various exhibitors at the exhibition that was held at DUT’s Ritson Campus.

Speaking at the event today, Minister Nxesi congratulated the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of DUT, Professor Thandwa Mthembu and the Department of Cooperative Education for managing to increase the number of companies and organisations that are now part of WoW. “There were many other departments involved in making this day happen, and in a spectacular way. The number of companies and many organisations have been increasing and we appreciate that,” added Prof Mthembu.



Pictured left to right: DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal: Professor Thandwa Mthembu, Deputy Minister Employment and Labour Relations: Boitumelo Molo, the Minister of Employment and Labour Relations, Thulas Nxesi with Moses Kotane Institute’s Mthokozisi Buthelezi during the Ministerial visit at DUT’s WoW exhibition.

The two-day annual event was attended by 175 companies with over 700 representatives from different companies and partners from industry. WoW is organised by DUT’s department of Cooperative Education. Various companies in sectors ranging from retail, municipalities, government, Seta Education and Training Authorities (SETAs), SMMEs and engineering exhibited at the event. These companies are potential employers of DUT students after graduation. Over the 22 years since its inception, many University students have immensely benefited from the two-day affair.

Noxolo Memela, Nomkhuleko Thutshini and Sanele Xaba

DUT SCOOPS GOLD AT PMR AFRICA AWARDS

The DUT brand continues to be rated among winners. This was once again reflected when the institution scooped gold during the Professional Market Research Africa (PMR) Awards ceremony held on 19 August 2019 at the Elangeni Maharani Hotel in Durban.

DUT was awarded the Gold Arrow Award for Leaders and Achievers in KwaZulu-Natal. The University secured the gold status over the past 12 months for stimulating economic growth and development of the province. The PMR Africa Awards are held annually and acknowledge contributions and initiatives, strategies, effort and hard work done by companies. PMR Africa does this by looking at a company's vision, integrity, values, competence and 'empathy' that contributes to ethical and sustainable business practices.

Acknowledging the award, Senior Director of Corporate Affairs: Alan Khan said that the University was honoured to receive the award. "Our University is delighted that PMR Africa has recognised the leading role that we are playing in the development of KwaZulu-Natal. What makes this award so meaningful is that it is presented by PMR Africa following feedback that they had received from CEOs, MDs, business owners, company directors,



Pictured: Kareeshma Gayaparsad (Administrative Assistant: DUT Division of Corporate Affairs) and Noxolo Memela (Manager: Communications at DUT, Division of Corporate Affairs) receive the award on behalf of the University.

managers and senior government officials in the Province. DUT will continue the journey of developing leadership in technology and productive citizenship. The University appreciates the award from PMR Africa and we celebrate this honour with all students, staff and alumni of DUT," said Khan.

PMR Africa conducts its research telephonically and it is not pre-coded, meaning that it is up to the respondents to nominate and rate the candidates in the various categories on a certain criterion. The whole research and survey process is independently funded by PMR Africa so that the integrity

and independence of the research is reserved. Surveys are done annually and this year was the seventeenth year.

In his closing remarks, PMR Africa Chief Executive Officer (CEO): Johan Hattingh congratulated all the winners and encouraged them to continue striving for excellence and emphasised the importance of encouraging and acknowledging excellence of all personnel for their hard work and for contributing to a winning company or institution.

Noxolo Memela

“What makes this award so meaningful is that it is presented by PMR Africa following feedback that they had received from CEOs, MDs, business owners, company directors, managers and senior government officials in the Province.”

– Senior Director of Corporate Affairs: Alan Khan

ENACTUS DUT REACH SEMI-FINALS

AT THE ENACTUS WORLD CUP IN USA

Enactus DUT are flying the University flag high, reaching the semi-final round at the Enactus World Cup in USA on 18 September 2019.

Through diverse and fresh perspectives, Enactus DUT focus on the positive power of business, entrepreneurial action and social innovation to address the most important issues affecting the world. Enactus DUT were the first University of Technology to be crowned national champions in 2018 in the annual Enactus national competition event. Impressing the judges with their positive impact they achieved through entrepreneurial action throughout the year, the DUT team successfully defended their title in July 2019 after winning the competition for the second consecutive year.

Every year, the national champions from participating countries meet at the Enactus World Cup to showcase and celebrate the collective impact created by its global network of student, business and academic leaders across industries and geographies. The Enactus team from DUT represented South Africa at the 2019 Enactus World Cup Competition in San José, California from 16-18 September where they showcased the entrepreneurial action and innovation of their community projects highlighting their progress in key areas that align with the framework of the 17 Sustainable Global Goals.

The team progressed to the semifinal round of the competition. Although they did not make it to the top four winning teams, the energy created when world business leaders and influencers intersect with student innovators will continue to fuel the students'



Pictured: Some members of the DUT Enactus team.

experience, motivate personal change and drive new ideas in their quest to transform lives and create a better future.

Speaking on their accomplishment, Senior Director, Division of Corporate Affairs, Alan Khan, said: "The DUT Enactus Team qualified for the semi-final round of the 2019 Enactus World Cup. While they did not win the World Cup, our talented and inspirational Enactus team finished in the Top 16, which is a great accomplishment. DUT is immensely proud of our Enactus team, who are the South African champions for the second consecutive year."

Nontokozo Ngcobo/Waheeda Peters

“While they did not win the World Cup, our talented and inspirational Enactus team finished in the Top 16, which is a great accomplishment. DUT is immensely proud of our Enactus team, who are the South African champions for the second consecutive year.”

– Senior Director, Division of Corporate Affairs, Alan Khan

DUT'S DR KUMARI RECEIVES FIRST RUNNER-UP AT THE 2019 SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN IN SCIENCE AWARDS

The Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Dr Blade Nzimande hosted the 2019 South African Women in Science Awards (SAWiSA) to recognise the contribution of women in research at the Boardwalk Hotel in Port Elizabeth recently.

This year's awards were held under the theme 'Making the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) work for women'.

"The 4IR is a new era in technological development that blurs the lines between physical, digital and biological systems. It integrates cyber physical systems and the Internet of Things, big data and cloud computing, robotics, artificial intelligence and additive manufacturing," said Minister Nzimande.

Awards in the categories of Distinguished Women Researchers and Distinguished Young Women Researchers were awarded for research in the Natural (Life and Physical) and Engineering Sciences, the Human and Social Sciences, Research and Innovation, and the awards in the Research and Innovation category were awarded in the areas aligned to the 4IR, confirmed the Minister.

DUT's Dr Sheena Kumari was chosen as first runner-up in the Distinguished Young Women Researchers for research in the Natural (Life and Physical) and Engineering Sciences; recognising and rewarding excellence by women scientists and researchers, and profiling them as role models for young women. The award was also given for her outstanding contribution to building South Africa's scientific and research knowledge base.

Dr Kumari is the Senior Researcher at the Institute for Water and Wastewater Technology (IWWT). Her current research focuses on biological wastewater treatment, emerging pollutants and pathogens in wastewater; and bioenergy production from waste. She is currently leading the wastewater research group at the institute and serving as the South African coordinator for a multi-institutional collaborative project between South Africa and The Netherlands funded through the Orange Knowledge Programme (Nuffic).



Pictured left to right: Dr Santhosh Pillai, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Biotechnology and Food Technology, Professor Faizal Bux, Director of the Institute for Water and Wastewater Technology, Dr Sheena Kumari, (first runner up) and DVC: Research, Innovation and Engagement Professor Sibusiso Moyo, at the event.

support throughout my career at DUT. I am also thankful to all the postgraduate students, postdoctoral fellows, collaborators and my colleagues at IWWT for their valuable contributions in my research. I am indebted to the relentless support of my family, who motivates me to pursue my dreams," added Dr Kumari.

Most of her current research projects align to the theme of 4IR, where digital online platforms are used for generating and sharing knowledge with researchers and stakeholders across the globe. "Water/sanitation has been identified as the one of the foremost crises that the world is going to face in the coming years. Over the last 10 years, my research has primarily focused on biological wastewater treatment systems, giving emphasis on understanding the contribution of key functional microbial communities using advanced molecular techniques and bioenergy production

from waste. Through these projects, collaboration with leading universities, municipalities and research institutions at national and international levels was established,” she added.

Dr Kumari is also serving as an academic member of the Global Water Microbial Consortium (GWMC), an initiative led by the University of Oklahoma’s (USA) co-investigator in Grand Challenges Project and Joint Programme Initiative on Water (JPI-water) funded by the European Union and also involved in active collaborations with many other leading international institutions (Aalborg University- Denmark, Columbia University-USA, Gdansk University of Technology- Poland) for various institute projects. She is also engaged in collaborations with national institutions such as UKZN, CPUT, CSIR, NICD and various municipalities and water utilities.

With an NRF C3 rating obtained in 2016, she has published over 52 peer-reviewed articles in leading ISI journals, co-authored seven book chapters and four technical reports. Dr Kumari has also presented her research at more than 60 conference platforms and serves as a reviewer for over 15 ISI journals. She has successfully mentored Postdoctoral fellows, supervised four PhD, five Masters and 15 honours students and is currently supervising 10 doctoral and 12 Masters’ students.

Waheeda Peters

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– Dr Sheena Kumari

EXPERTS TACKLE DECOLONISING LANGUAGE

POLICIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Renowned language experts tackled the importance of decolonising language policies in higher education and training institutions at the annual DUT Faculty of Arts and Design Dean's Lecture held at the ML Sultan Campus recently.

Panelists Professor Sihawu Ngubane (University of KwaZulu-Natal), Dr Dianne Moodley (DUT) and Dr Hlezi Kunju (Rhodes University) shared their language expertise in achieving what they described as a barrier of indigenous languages throughout the country.

Sociolinguist Dr Moodley presented her own study on UKZN isiZulu-speaking students titled: 'Towards awakening latent language in South Africa', where she discovered a lack of preference in indigenous languages being used as a medium of instruction. "It's left to its speakers to promote the language," she said as she continued to explain why students view IsiZulu and other indigenous languages as not yet intellectualised to be used academically.

She offered a list of recommendations that can help improve indigenous language preference among students such as curriculum upgrades and enforcing more financial support by "Channelling financial means towards students in the form of bursaries; get them to see the benefits of their own language."

Dr Hlezi Kunju who was named as one of Avance Media's 2018 Most Influential Young South African in the Personal Development and Academia category pointed out the extent of westernisation in higher education institutions. He also talked about how these institutions can be used to promote indigenous languages.

"Universities should do more in complementing African languages," he said. His objective of making African people realise the value and worth of their own language was phenomenal as he soothed the crowd to his very own IsiXhosa poem before concluding his presentation.



Pictured: Panellists and staff members at the FoAD Dean's Lecture.

Dr Kunju became the first student to submit an IsiXhosa written doctoral thesis at Rhodes University, which has been described as a 'a milestone' for Xhosa academic writing and progressive in decolonising and transforming the education system in the country.

Professor Ngubane mentioned events in South African history that contribute to the current unequal state existing in our country, saying, "Ethnicity was the order of the day in segregating the same tribes," before engaging in current university curriculums.

"Our curriculum should reflect who we are," he explained UKZN's achievement of implementing a language policy that made it compulsory for students to major in IsiZulu, which came into place in 2014.

He stressed the importance of enabling bilingualism between students and staff members. "Universities should use language to challenge and eradicate colonialism," Ngubane added.

Mncedisi Jiyane

DUT PHD CANDIDATE RECEIVES

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH ACCOLADE IN ITALY

The DUT PhD candidate within the Chemical Engineering Department, Emmanuel Kweiyor Tetteh, was confirmed as the winner of the coveted ENI-awards for the Young Talent from Africa.

The ENI Awards, since their inception in 2007, have rewarded hardworking researchers across the globe. The awards, which seek to promote the better use of energy resources and encourage new generation researchers, have received immense international recognition. This year, the awards ceremony was held on 10 October 2019 at the Quirinal Palace in Rome, Italy. This ceremony was graced by the presence of the President of the Republic of Italy, His Excellency Sergio Mattarella.

Tetteh also obtained his BTech at DUT and he graduated *cum laude* at the Masters level under the supervision of Prof Sudesh Rathilal. For this, he received the Dean's Merit Award for academic excellence as the best *cum laude* student for his Master of Engineering for the 2018 batch of graduates. He holds many other accolades, including: Top Academic Achiever and the Most Outstanding Performance in his department. Emmanuel is highly passionate and motivated to contribute his quota to solving industrial water pollution through cutting edge research. He is also determined to leverage all opportunities to make an impact in industrial wastewater treatment.

Tetteh's award-winning research focused on the recovery of oil from oily wastewater. The research optimised the operating conditions for acidification, coagulation and dissolved air flotation for a local oil refinery's effluent treatment plant to enhance



Pictured: Emmanuel Kweiyor Tetteh.

maximum residual oil recovery. Again, the research developed a predictive model that can be applied to different operating conditions for oil recovery in oily wastewater treatment.

“I am really humbled and extremely thankful to God for this great opportunity to receive the highly esteemed ENI Award for Young Talent from Africa. This award serves as a compliment and recognition of our efforts as young researchers to work hard and find solutions to the problems of society. I dedicate this award to my supervisor Prof Sudesh Rathilal, FFS Refiners, Umgeni Water, my parents and siblings, the entire Chemical Engineering Department, as well as Pastor Obed Obeng-Addae (CCI) for their kind support and prayers,” he said.

“Ultimately, I give all glory and honour to God for making this a possibility in my life. I am very energised to work harder to contribute my quota in finding solutions to the water, energy and environmental problems that the world is faced with,” he added.

Prof Rathilal (Masters and doctoral supervisor) complemented Tetteh on receiving this prestigious international award. “Emmanuel has already been recognised nationally and internationally with his impactful contribution to the world of knowledge through his many journal and international conference papers. He is an excellent researcher and I am very proud to have him under my supervision. He certainly deserves this accolade and I wish him all the best for the future,” he said.

Nduduzo Ndlovu

ECP STUDENTS SHOWCASE DESIGNS

FROM RECYCLED MATERIAL

The Faculty of Arts and Design's Extended Curriculum Programme (ECP) students impressed onlookers with their charming designs made from recycled material at their fashion show hosted at City Campus' Courtyard on 20 August 2019.

This year, the annual fashion show, which is always a spectacle, saw 31 ECP students strutting their stuff on the runway to model creations they made from materials such as newspapers, plastic bags and feathers.

The colourful fashion parade, which is always filled with gales of laughter and cheers, is an important fixture in the ECP's calendar, and it forms part of the students' continuous assessment.

ECP's 3D lecturer Karla Nixon said that the brief was for students to use recyclable materials and draw inspiration from any heritage from Africa.

Nixon explained that students were given the choice of creating



Pictured: ECP Students wearing creations made from recycled materials.

Another student, Asemahle Mekuto commented that even though the assignment was challenging, she enjoyed the experience of working with recycled materials.

“What was fulfilling about this assignment was knowing that we are looking out for the environment,” said Mekuto.

Nondumiso Mchunu

any fashionable piece they wanted without having to spend money. She emphasised that the significance of this project is to teach students about the importance of the environment's recyclability and sustainability.

ECP student Sibusisiwe Mtshala, who created a Xibelani skirt that is traditionally worn by Tsonga women, said that her creation was inspired by award winning rapper, Sho Madjozi's signature look, which often incorporates traditional Tsonga wear with modern pieces.

“What was fulfilling about this assignment was knowing that we are looking out for the environment.” – Asemahle Mekuto

DUT DRAMA STUDENTS SHINE AT THE 11TH CHINA INTERNATIONAL FOLK ARTS FESTIVAL

DUT's students from the Drama and Production Studies Programme were invited for the first time to participate in the 11th China International Folk Arts Festival, at Hohhot, Inner Mongolia autonomous region from 23-29 August 2019. Under the recommendation of the DUT Confucius Institute (CI), 18 students and two staff members represented DUT, showcasing traditional Zulu dances to the Chinese audience, who were deeply impressed by the amalgamation of the various cultures.

The China International Folk Arts Festival, founded in 1990, is held every three years, and is the only large-scale international folk arts festival in China approved by the State Council and sponsored by the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles. This year's festival saw 300 artists from 13 countries participate under the theme of promoting and showcasing the richness and diversity of folk art.

Two Zulu dances, *Indlamu* and *Ingoma*, which reflected the South African culture, history and national beliefs of the ancient Zulu people, formed part of the opening ceremony and dances such as *Umzansi* and the Gumboots dance, reflecting the daily life and customs of the South African people, were performed at the closing ceremony.

Speaking more on the event, Frank Wu, the Co-Dean of the Confucius Institute of DUT, said: "The world will be a harmonious place if people appreciate their own beauty and that of others, and work together to create beauty in the world." He also added that this is the reason why the CI at DUT holds various cultural exchanges every year to promote the friendly exchanges and mutual understanding between China and Africa.

Frank WU



Pictured: DUT Drama students showcasing traditional Zulu dances at the 11th China International Folk Arts Festival.

“The world will be a harmonious place if people appreciate their own beauty and that of others, and work together to create beauty in the world.”

– The Co-Dean of the Confucius Institute of DUT Frank Wu

DUT AIMS TO MAKE MORE EMPLOYABLE GRADUATES



Pictured: DUT students with Dr Mahmoud Youssef-Baker, Advocate Mahomed Vahed, Ujir Soni, Phumzile Xulu and team at the event.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research Innovation and Engagement Professor Sibusiso Moyo, in partnership with IQRAA Trust's Young Leaders Academy, held its Second Certification Ceremony: Work Readiness Training, at DUT's Hotel School, Ritson Campus, on 9 September 2019.

The event was well attended by DUT staff, students, external stakeholders and sponsors. To date, there are 71 DUT students who have already completed the programme, 35 are Chiropractic students and a further 36 students received their certificates on recently.

Speaking more about the ceremony was DUT's Phumzile Xulu from the DUT Community Engagement Office, who welcomed the guests on behalf of Professor Sibusiso Moyo, DVC: Research, Innovation and Engagement, in absentia. She spoke on the Office of the DVC: Research Innovation and Engagement, which launched the DUT Community Engagement (CE) Cluster in November 2018. She added that its primary role is to facilitate community engagements throughout the whole University. She applauded the guests and sponsor, IQRAA Trust under the helm of Dr Mahmoud Youssef-

Baker, as well as Advocate Mahomed Vahed and his facilitators from The Young Leaders Academy, who are passionate about developing more employable graduates.

"I want to thank you (IQRAA Trust and the Young Leaders Academy) for showing us (DUT) that initiatives like this are important, initiatives like this still have space, especially now that we are heading towards the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Things are changing and students still need to be ready for work to address the needs of the 21st century's employment demands," said Xulu.

She further added that she had the privilege to sit in for two sessions with the students, adding that she was impressed to see them learning the importance of shaking hands, which is important and are the little things that sets one apart. "I was very happy to see that learning to shake hands is part of learning at the training, as well as learning to make a CV and preparing for interviews. I really hope you (students) practice what you are taught, as everything is relevant, and lastly, these are the skills you will also need when you are running your own business," she said.

Dr Baker from the IQRAA Trust spoke more on the role of the non-profit organisation that offers donations as a means to uplift the quality of life of all South Africans by promoting and supporting humanitarian programmes that are designed to help those who are most in need, to help themselves.

“We want to equip you so that you can contribute to the growth and development in South Africa and to share in the benefits of building a better society for all. We have partnered with DUT to offer our support in such programmes as the Work Readiness Training Programme, as well as a programme on sustainability. This programme in particular, is very important. Advocate Mahomed Vahed from the Youth Leaders Academy went to the US and approached me about the programme, and I liked it and said, ‘Let’s start it together,’ which we did at DUT. It’s a very unique and important programme; we added the Accounting dimension, basic Corporate Governance aspect, how to prepare a CV, and preparing for an interview, which needs to be taken seriously,” he said.

Further explaining the programme was Advocate Vahed, who said that recent studies have found that between 50-78% of employers who had job openings did not hire recent graduates because they were not prepared for the job. He further added that the intensive 16-hour programme targeted tertiary institution students in KwaZulu-Natal.

“The programme comprises core coursework, together with team-building activities, to enhance their problem-solving, critical thinking skills. We utilise the internationally acclaimed Habitudes Leadership Development Programme material used in 70 countries and developed by Growing Leaders in the US. The topics covered included effective communication, managing finances, effective CVs, to name but a few,” he said.

The general consensus from many students was that it was really beneficial and they wished that every student gets the opportunity to do the programme.

Advocate Vahed’s hope is that the Workplace Readiness Programme becomes part of DUT’s Work Integrated Learning (WIL) Programme and a compulsory module for all DUT students.

Xulu said that she hopes to continue and grow the relationship with the IQRAA Trust and the Young Leadership Academy, as well as take the recommendations made by students in considering the programme as a possible general education module going forward.

Waheeda Peters

“I want to thank you (Iqraa Trust and the Young Leaders Academy) for showing us (DUT) that initiatives like this are important and still have space, especially now that we are heading towards the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Things are changing and students still need to be ready for work to address the needs of the 21st century’s employment demands.” – Phumzile Zulu

DR MACHI LAUDS THE IAUP LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

DUT's Deputy Vice-Chancellor: People and Operations Dr Isaac Machi recently participated in the International Association of University Presidents' (IAUP) Leadership Workshop held in Aalborg, Denmark.

Some of the topics that were covered in the Workshop included: Governance of Colleges and Universities, Financial and Managerial Challenges, Institutional Innovation and the Role of Technology, Data Analytics and Institutional Responsiveness, Internationalization I – A Focus on Student Mobility and Institutional Advancement I: Friend Raising and Fundraising.

The three-day Leadership Development Programme was designed for new and emerging university presidents (vice-chancellors). Dr Machi said that this programme was unique and an enlightening experience as it explored the complexities of leading a university globally.

“One of the key lessons was that as leaders, we need to be very clear about what needs to be done and communicate it effectively to those who we are leading. Another key lesson was that as leaders of universities, we are the pillars that are holding all the functionaries of the University together in execution of their respective responsibilities. University leaders should also be able to relate to a large number of constituencies, namely students, alumni, staff, parents, funders, etc.,” he said.

Dr Machi said that the aspect of being accommodating of different University constituencies resonated well with his portfolio as they are currently prioritising stakeholder management interventions for labour and students.

They also visited the Aalborg University where they were exposed to the University's impressive model of how they deliver their programmes to students. “Their model of programme delivery is designed for group discussions, and lecturers are there to give guidance; even beyond the lecture rooms, students are encouraged to engage as groups in other University activities. I think if we were



Pictured: DUT's Deputy Vice-Chancellor: People and Operations, Dr Isaac Machi flanked by other delegates at the IAUP Leadership Workshop.

to adopt this model it would assist our students not to have spare time, which ends up tempting them to engage in activities that are not good for their academic development,” he stressed.

He added that he was impressed to discover that the approach that has been adopted by DUT's Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Thandwa Mthembu to engage extensively with University stakeholders on the new strategic plan, is an internationally-endorsed practice across global universities.

Nduduzo Ndlovu

JACOBS IS THE PROUD RECIPIENT OF THE 2019 ABE BAILEY TRAVEL BURSARY

“Being a leader is not a job profile, it is a lifestyle. It is what comes naturally to me, what I enjoy doing and it is what gives meaning to my life. I believe the Abe Bailey Travel Bursary provides young leaders with an incredible opportunity to not only grow as leaders but also to bring change,” said an elated Izanne Jacobs.

The charismatic fifth-year DUT Chiropractic Master’s student is the proud recipient of the esteemed 2019 Abe Bailey Travel Bursary. DUT hosted a celebratory tea for Jacobs in honour of her outstanding triumph at the Health Science Boardroom, on 12 September 2019.

DUT Health Science staff, International Education and Partnerships staff, external stakeholders, Jacob’s proud parents, friends and siblings were also in attendance to congratulate her on her success.

The Abe Bailey Travel Bursary is awarded to outstanding students who have shown exceptional leadership qualities with strong service ethics, qualities that Jacobs undoubtedly possesses, which were clearly evident in her winning the award.

The objective of the Travel Bursary Scholarship is to broaden the views of young South Africans by enabling outstanding students who show exceptional leadership qualities and a strong service ethic to effect greater understanding and co-operation among those with various language and cultural backgrounds; to foster enterprise, commitment and effective participation in a common future as well as to promote South African unity.

Jacobs thanked the DUT Director of the International Education and Partnerships Dr Lavern Samuels and his team for making this wonderful opportunity possible.

“An opportunity like the Abe Bailey travel bursary will help every leader to be able to be authentic about who they are and stand for what they believe in. Leadership programmes such as the Abe Bailey Trust enable leaders to develop their skills, to be different from the rest of the world and to bring change to their communities by



Pictured: At the celebratory tea are Dr Lavern Samuels, and Izanne Jacobs, (recipient of the 2019 Abe Bailey Travel Bursary).

including all individuals and seeing every single person for who they are and the potential they have. As a leader, it is my responsibility to grab hold of any opportunity that comes my way to better myself and help grow a better future for generations to come,” she said.

Dr Lavern Samuels, DUT Director of the International Education and Partnerships, said that DUT is really proud of her and as an Abe Bailey winner, she is now following in the footsteps of previous winners such as Judge Richard Goldstone, Dr Zach De Beer and the late Phillip Tobias, to name but a few.

“Jacobs now also has the privilege to be part of such a legacy with such stalwarts and become a great ambassador for South Africa and

DUT. Also, this is a very prestigious travel bursary that has opened up possibilities for many South Africans for the past 40 years. Their academic and leadership achievements need to be clearly demonstrated in their application as the selection is done purely on details provided on the paper application,” he said.

He also thanked his former staff Lalitha Singh for her tremendous dedication and contribution to their office, especially towards the Abe Bailey Travel Bursary.

Also congratulating Jacobs was Dr Jerry Mohape: Acting Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, who said that her winning such a prestigious award was quite life-changing, and she made DUT extremely proud.

Jacobs further added that being awarded the Abe Bailey Travel Bursary will equip her to be able to inspire people and lead them in a way that will cultivate a victory mindset and boldness in each individual whom she may lead in her lifetime.

Jacobs leaves for the United Kingdom in November 2019.

Waheeda Peters

“Leadership programmes such as the Abe Bailey Trust enable leaders to develop their skills, to be different from the rest of the world and to bring change to their communities by including all individuals and seeing every single person for who they are and the potential they have. As a leader, it is my responsibility to grab hold of any opportunity that comes my way to better myself and help grow a better future for generations to come.”

– Izanne Jacobs

IF YOU CAN DREAM IT THEN YOU CAN LIVE IT!

“Amazing! The whole experience exceeded my expectations. I have never seen nor felt so much love in one place,” said an excited Nqobile Hlekwayo. She recently returned from a 10-day trip to the United States of America (USA) after being successfully afforded an opportunity to try out her ‘acting talents’ at the ARTS 2019 Showcase in the USA.

The jubilant DUT third-year Information Technology student gained the chance to audition in front of international scout and Executive Director of the Applause Rising Talent Showcase (ARTS) International Kimberly Myers, and was extended an official invitation to perform at the ARTS 2019 Showcase in the USA.

“The Just You Agency and ARTS International visited every province in the country in search of new talent and I was privileged enough to have auditioned in Durban in February 2018. It is unbelievable that a township girl who has always wanted to embrace her talent is finally getting somewhere with it,” she said happily.

Hlekwayo spoke of her ‘dream come true experience,’ saying that from the time she stepped onto the plane from South Africa to New York, she was really humbled to have been given such an opportunity.

“I registered for four categories, namely monologues, commercials, photography and creative runway. I did a dramatic monologue from the movie *Never been Kissed – I’m not Josie Grosey Anymore*. For commercials, I was given scripts to follow, but you were expected to show your creative side and sense of style and creativity as artists,” she said.

Hlekwayo said that she was awarded three call backs, one from Zeena Entertainment, which is based in New York City, and the other two were from educational institutions. “I had the opportunity to make connections with some of the most successful agencies, producers and casting directors from Los Angeles and New York City like Rhayann Drummer from Tyler Perry Studios/Nickelodeon and Debra-Lynn Findonn. I am excited for the opportunity they have given me to work with them in the near future as they were happy to exchange contacts with me and clearly stated that I should inform them if I was in the USA again,” she said.



Pictured: Nqobile Hlekwayo

Besides getting recognition for her talent, Hlekwayo was equally thrilled with the training she had received. The event did not only give her worthwhile international exposure and recognition but also intensive international training. Hlekwayo said that the workshops were held by industry professionals such as Chelsea Ricketts, Abbie Cobb, Aaron Marcus, Blaze Johnson, Lawrence Moore and many other amazing professionals.

For Hlekwayo, her most exciting highlights were getting the chance to visit the New York Film Academy campus, the city tour, Hilton Times Square and the mind-blowing experience of seeing a group picture, featuring herself, on one of the Times Square billboards.

“I have never had any formal training as an artist, following my acceptance and partial sponsorship at one of the best film institutions in America, New York Film Academy. I am extremely excited at what the future holds. International is not impossible; if you can dream it than you can live it,” she said.

Waheeda Peters

DUT ENGINEERING STUDENT CROWNED AMONG TOP 10 FINEST STUDENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

After contending with thousands of entries from across the country, talented Engineering student Yeshveer Manawar from DUT made his way onto the list of South Africa's top 10 finest university students, gleaned from across the country.

The top 10 were crowned at the 2019 GradStar Awards, which took place at Indaba Hotel, Johannesburg on 19 September 2019.

Chosen from the top 100 students identified by the GradStar Programme, which is now in its fourth year, are university students who showed the best potential as the country's future leaders. Students were assessed on multiple academic, personality and behavioural tests consisting of problem-solving, team-building and leadership by assessment providers, namely 3C Leadership, employers and universities.

The rigorous four-stage assessment ultimately decided on the top 10 based on their skills and readiness for the workplace. Engineering student Yeshveer Manawar said that being selected as one of the top 10 finest students in the country feels surreal. "I am so humbled and grateful to be considered as one of the top 10 students in South Africa and I am very excited for the possibilities this programme has opened up for me. I hope to be able to make beneficial contributions to this country in the future," said Manawar.

Furthermore, he shared his gained experiences, which he regards as boundless. He said that networking opportunities were endless and growth was promoted from every angle for the next generation of leaders to learn from.

"We were privileged to meet numerous professionals in various aspects of the business environment. Networking and creating



Pictured: DUT Engineering student Yeshveer Manawar and Human Resource professional Naledi Mokoena at the GradStar Awards.

strong friendships with the top 100 students and some of the greatest minds in the country was a priceless experience," he said.

The GradStar Programme is a uniquely developed programme that focuses on quality connections, and complements existing employer programmes. It is designed to provide previously unrecognised students with opportunities for employment and allows them to contribute positively to South Africa's future growth.

The GradStar Awards process is designed to emulate the process that top employers use to find their future talent, and uses behavioural testing and personal interviewing, among other methods, as measurement tools.

The process of the programme allows students to familiarise themselves with the formal graduate programme application process, and enables them to identify their own strengths and weaknesses along the way. The GradStar Programme is made possible by headline sponsor Absa and employer sponsors Accenture, DHL, Epiroc and Fasken, and is set up by BlackBark Productions (creators of the Rising Star Awards).

Additionally, among the top 100 students identified in the GradStar Programme were four other DUT students from various faculties, namely Helper Zhou, who is looking to obtain his PhD in Entrepreneurial and Management Studies, Nikita Singh, a BTech in Chemical Engineering student, Sboniso Ngcobo, who is studying towards his BTech in Food and Nutrition, and Zama Dabula, who is studying towards her Diploma in Human Resource Management.

Nomfundo Ngcobo

CELT'S ANNUAL LEARNING AND TEACHING CONFERENCE TACKLES CURRICULUM

TRANSFORMATION IN THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

The Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT) hosted its first fully-fledged Annual Learning and Teaching Conference 2019 at the Coastlands Musgrave Hotel on 3 October 2019.

The aim of the conference was to focus on the dynamic relationship between knowledge and epistemic justice in the context of African higher education.

Sub-themes such as the scholarship of teaching and learning in relation to curriculum transformation, internalisation of the curriculum, desirable graduate attributes, African world views and higher education curricula, were tackled at the conference.

In attendance were keynote speakers such as Professor Rozeena Maart (Research Ambassador at UKZN), Dr Kasturi Behari-Leak (Senior Lecturer in the Centre for Higher Education Development at UCT), Professor Sabelo Ndlovu-Gatsheni (Acting Director of the Change Management Unit in the VC's office at UNISA), Roshnee Sunder (DUT), DUT CELT staff, external university academics, students and stakeholders.

Welcoming all the key speakers and academic delegates on the first day of the event was CELT's Professor Thengani Ngwenya, who said that he hoped that the conference would be one of many conferences where academics would reflect on their role as teachers, researchers and scholars.

"This conference is the beginning of a longer process of critiquing the notion of epistemic justice in African higher education. The focus of this ongoing critique is the dynamic relationship between knowledge in its various forms and social justice. In particular, we (academics) want to interrogate the role of social and cultural groups in Africa in knowledge production. It is our hope that you will enjoy the conference and that you will leave armed with potent ideas for tackling the urgent task of curriculum transformation in the African continent," he said.



Pictured (left): CELT's Professor Thengani Ngwenya and (right) keynote speaker Professor Rozeena Maart (Research Ambassador at UKZN).

Day One entailed a series of workshops that saw Professor Rozeena Maart tackling the issue of Race, Writing and Difference.

Her presentation looked at the four corners of the African continent and asked questions about the absence of the knowledge of African systems of thinking as she journeyed through the decolonialised learning and teaching decade in South Africa.

She further elaborated on the central themes in the history of knowledge creation and knowledge production, which was key to her discussion on epistemic justice.

The second workshop, under the helm of DUT's Dr Penny Orton, Bwalya Lungu and Lesley Cooke, focused on Collaborative Online International Education (COIL) and virtual engagement.

Day Two focused on key note addresses by Dr Behari-Leak and Prof Ndlovu-Gatsheni. Dr Behari-Leak spoke on: African Higher Educators first know thyself, then act on what you know!

The keynote speaker addressed the challenge of epistemic justice by asserting that while social justice is a necessary condition for redressing the many injustices that prevail and persist in African higher education, what is needed now is an epistemic activism that academics and students, vigilant and awake to who they are and how knowledge alienates, silences and marginalises the voice, views and being of the other.

“We (academics) have an epistemic responsibility to act on what we know, to influence what we do and to consciously reshape and reconstruct higher education as socially inclusive and socially just for all,” she said.

Prof Ndlovu-Gatsheni delved into the politics of knowledge and the implications for learning and teaching in Africa.

“It is important now more than ever before because of the present epistemic and systemic crises facing not only Africa but the world as a whole. The knowledge that carried the world over 500 years is today exhausted. There is a clear uncertainty of knowledge. This is both a challenge and an opportunity to ‘rethink’ and even ‘unthink’ thinking itself, including pedagogical practices,” he said.

Day Three concluded with the deliverance of the final keynote address from Prof Maart on: Unearthing African thinking by examining African histories of knowledge production.

There were also further academic presentations, critical reflections and evaluations on the debate about curriculum transformation in South African universities going forward.

Waheeda Peters

“The focus of this ongoing critique is the dynamic relationship between knowledge in its various forms and social justice. In particular, we (academics) want to interrogate the role of social and cultural groups in Africa in knowledge production. It is our hope that you will enjoy the conference and that you will leave it armed with potent ideas for tackling the urgent task of curriculum transformation in the African continent.”

– Prof Thengani Ngwenya

DUT STUDENT DESIGNERS SHOWCASE THEIR FINAL DURBAN CULTURAL DESIGNS AT ANNUAL FASHION SHOW

Durban cultural and sub-cultural designs graced the runway on the final day of the Annual Fashion Show by DUT's Fashion and Textiles Department held on 4 October 2019, at the Station Urban Event Space in Durban.

After two days of showcasing innovative and urban-inspired designs by 41 DUT students and two invited student designers from Minjiang University in China, only 21 students made it into the final runway, where they showcased their pioneering designs that shape the city of Durban.

Speaking on behalf of DUT's Fashion and Textile Department was Head of Department Sunthra Moodley. She said that putting together an outstanding garment was not easy; it required full dedication and patience and that made all 41 student designers winners.

She added that as this year's theme focused on heritage and culture, students had to go on a self-discovery journey to allow them to reflect this on their designs.

Winning The Best Range on Show Award was Andile Nsele, whose range focused on the journey one takes from being a physical member of a family to a spiritual ancestor.

He said that putting this range together involved a lot of research on cultural beliefs and the afterlife. "Putting these designs together was not easy; I wanted something different and African so I had to go deeper into ancestral life and put it together into something meaningful," said Nsele.

Scooping two awards for Best Men's Wear and the Jonsson Workwear Award was third-year student Tebogo Makgope, whose range was themed: 'Point Road Gomora'. Makgope said that his range was highly influenced by the environment and culture around Point Road in Durban CBD, as it is known as 'The Gomora of Durban'.



Pictured: Best Range Award winner Andile Nsele with his model during the DUT 2019 fashion show.

He further added that he had big hopes for the future. "Winning these awards feels surreal and it is one of the moments I will treasure for the rest of my life. I have big plans for the future; hopefully one day I will showcase my range at the SA Fashion Week and internationally," he said.

Faculty of Arts and Design Executive Dean, Dr René Smith said that this year's fashion showed us how diverse the city of Durban is and how South Africa as a whole is filled with wonder and creativity.

“It is very important to celebrate design and it is nights like this that inspire me as they show us how design can bring us together,” said Dr Smith.

The winner for Best Commercial Range Award was Georgina Brink. The Most Innovative Range Award went to Babalwa Matiyela. The Recognition Award was a joint win by Hanelka Naidu and Aaliya Docrat. The Judges Award was won by Alexandra Van Heerden. Winning the Merit Award was Sicelo Maphumulo and the TFG Award went to Sibusisiwe Khona. The Best Technical Student of the Year Award went to Siyabonga Mahlaba.

Outstanding students will also be given an opportunity to fly to China to compete in one of the biggest fashion competitions and further move to The Netherlands and France to compete in international competitions.

Giving the vote of thanks, Moodley shared her gratitude to all her staff who were hands on in making the event a success. She further thanked all the sponsors who contributed immensely to this year’s fashion show.

Nomfundo Ngcobo

“Winning these awards feels surreal and it is one of the moments I will treasure for the rest of my life. I have big plans for the future; hopefully one day I will showcase my range at the SA Fashion Week and internationally.”

– Tebogo Makgope

DUT ENTREPRENEURS WIN

‘BEST ENTREPRENEUR AWARD’ IN VIENNA

DUT aims to improve the life chances and aspirations of student entrepreneurs and for them to reach their maximum potential.

Two promising entrepreneurs, Phumelele Khumalo and Nosihle Dlamini, have made DUT proud for recently winning the Best Entrepreneur Award on a global stage: Vienna Cleantech Week and GCIP Forum 2019.

The duo have a company called Get2Natural, which produces an exciting new range of proudly South African haircare and skincare products.

Speaking on their achievement, Khumalo said that winning the Best Entrepreneur Award on such a global stage is validation for the work that they do. “It makes all the hard work and sacrifices so much more worthwhile. This recognition has also given us the confidence and assurance that when we export our products, they will be well-received,” said Dlamini excitedly.

The Vienna Cleantech competition was the final stage of the Business Accelerator Programme competition, which ran over four months. The duo initially won second runner-up in the Bio-processing category in the Cape Town portion of the competition. The final stage, held in Vienna recently, was a global platform that included all previous winners from various countries, including Morocco, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and South Africa. Of the five awards, South Africa took home three.

The GCIP-SA is an annual competition-based business accelerator offering participants extensive training and mentoring to help them get their products investment-ready, and connect them to networks of local and international peers as well as potential partners and funders. The innovative pair recently participated in the GCIP-SA programme, which is part of a global initiative aimed at promoting clean technology innovation and supporting entrepreneurs in growing their SMMEs and start-ups into viable, investment-ready businesses.

Besides winning one of the awards, the duo was also selected as



Pictured: Nosihle Dlamini

one of the five businesses in KwaZulu-Natal to be groomed for exporting by Transnet Port Terminal in Durban, in partnership with the Durban Chamber of Commerce. They will be groomed over a two-year period in an effort to facilitate the removal of barriers for more SMMEs to participate in the growing of the economy.

Speaking on their win on behalf of DUT, Professor Sibusiso Moyo, DVC: Research, Innovation and Engagement, congratulated the DUT alumni entrepreneurs, Get2Natural, threefold on the opening of their hair salon situated in Pinetown; on being selected as one of the five businesses in KwaZulu-Natal to be groomed for exporting by Transnet

Port Terminal in Durban in partnership with the Durban Chamber of Commerce and for winning the Best Entrepreneur Award during Vienna Cleantech Week and GCIP Forum 2019.

“Thank you for all the hard work you put in and making the University’s incubation programmes worthwhile. We wish you the best as you both continue to refine your products. The get2natural team has been a beneficiary of DUT funding through its Entrepreneurial and Innovation entities, partially funded through Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) as well as the Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs Department (EDTEA) who are acknowledged for their respective contributions,” said Prof Moyo.

In terms of the way forward for their business, Dlamini said that their focus is on getting SAB accreditation as this would increase the credibility of both their company and brand, thus allowing them to begin the process of exporting their products, which is a significant part of their vision. In the interim, they seek to grow their Pinetown salon and customer audience.

If anyone is keen to buy their products, they view them through their website: www.get2natural.co.za.

Waheeda Peters

GAMEDE WINS PRESTIGIOUS

ACCOLADE AT ALFRED NZO AWARDS

Environmental Health final-year BTech student Nokwanda Gamede raised the name of DUT high, when she was awarded best 2019 Environmental Health Student at the Alfred Nzo Environmental Health Excellence Awards in September 2019) at Plantfontein Conference Centre in Kimberley, Northern Cape Province.

The awards are dedicated to the recognition of the hard work and extraordinary efforts by environmental health workers, students and academics who have portrayed excellence in environmental health despite the difficult conditions they face daily.

The awards were introduced in 2002 as part of the Minister of Health's Excellence in Healthcare Awards and have been held annually since 2012 as part of the commemoration of the World Environmental Health Day event. The awards are held in memory of the late Mr Alfred Baphethuxolo Nzo.

For one to obtain the prestigious award, the student needed



Pictured: Nokwanda Gamede

to have consistently achieved impressive and excellent academic results in Environmental Health studies, demonstrated good leadership skills among peers and provided guidance and assistance to others toward their studies.

Gamede was ecstatic when she was given the prestigious award. "I feel so grateful to God for this achievement. He is the one who gave me the ability to do all that I have done."

She also thanked Joy Kistnasamy, Environmental Health Head of Department, for encouraging her to put her name forward, and her mother for all her support and prayers. Gamede further added that for students to be part of such awards, they needed to enrol in the Environmental Health course, get involved in community development programmes on and outside the campus, and practice what is

being taught to better the community, as well as to work hard for the change they want to see in the world.

Nomkhuleko Thutshini

“I feel so grateful to God for this achievement. He is the one who gave me the ability to do all that I have done.”

– Nokwanda Gamede

GUGWANA IS CHOSEN TO BE PART OF THE 2019 RED BULL AMAPHIKO ACADEMY

DUT strives towards developing social entrepreneurship at the Institution through student engagement, partnerships with relevant stakeholders and research.

Making DUT proud by obtaining an entrepreneur 'dream come true' opportunity was DUT's fourth-year Bachelor of Health Sciences in Medical Orthotics and Prosthetics student Luvo Gugwana for his business (Green-Arch Innovation) that deals with aquaponics concepts. His company's aim is to bring together environmentally sustainable farming that meets the demands of a growing population. The charismatic young lad is one of the 14 local social entrepreneurs chosen to be part of the 2019 Red Bull Amaphiko Academy class.

The aim of the Red Bull Amaphiko Academy is to offer crucial support to grassroots social entrepreneurs by providing them with mentorship, coaching and assistance to unlock various business opportunities.

Upon hearing of his achievement, Gugwana said that he was elated to get a chance to enhance his entrepreneur skills at the academy. "I was filled with excitement, especially after a series of rigorous interviews and the assessment selection process. To be selected for the top 14 out of hundreds of applicants in South Africa is truly an honour and a sign of the potential my enterprise has," he said excitedly.

For Gugwana, this dream would not have been possible if he was not recommended by Lana-Ann Brady, who is the faculty advisor of Enactus DUT, to apply for the programme. "The programme called for entries from South African Social entrepreneurs. I first went through an online application, which was then followed by interviews and project visits," he said.



Pictured: Luvo Gugwana

Gugwana is also a former president of the DUT Enactus team. "Coming through the semi-finals was an outstanding highlight for the DUT team at the Enactus World Cup in the USA recently. This is also a light of hope for our country, meaning that we have young and vibrant students who seek to make a significant difference in our country," he added.

He further stressed that this meant that DUT was taking a stance towards producing competent graduates who would be productive global citizens. "Enactus has enormously contributed to my professional and leadership skills development, especially refining my business acumen," he said.

He also emphasised that DUT has shaped him as a student and entrepreneur to grow to such successes. "It all stems from the unparalleled support one receives from the DVC: Research, Innovation and Engagement office, the VC's Office, Enactus and especially the Medical Orthotics and Prosthetic Department for allowing me to do projects out of the scope of my study curriculum and provide flexibility from my busy academic schedule. DUT has set a precedence, both locally and globally, and is a classic example of what students can achieve when provided with sufficient support and guidance," he said.

In terms of his future, Gugwana said that he envisaged using the entrepreneurial approach to create opportunities for the vast majority of South Africans. "Our country is faced with a number of socio-economic issues; unemployment being one of the country's trajectories. I will pursue entrepreneurship and use it as a tool to address many challenges in our society and to foster international collaboration through entrepreneurship," he said.

Gugwana said that he also wants to divert entrepreneurship to his field of study once he qualifies as a health professional.

Waheeda Peters

DUT FASHION AND TEXTILE'S NSELE WINS 6TH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DESIGN COMPETITION

DUT Fashion and Textile's Andile Nsele was awarded the Excellence Achievement Award at the 6th International Youth Design Competition (IYDC) hosted by the Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology recently.

Nsele, who travelled to China with his fashion lecturers to showcase his winning range titled Ukuphahla, was chosen by his department to enter the competition.

IYDC formed part of the Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology's core 60th anniversary celebration. The theme for this year was 'Culture – Integration' and attracted an estimated 33 entrants from all over the world. Eight awards were given out in total: five Excellence Awards, a Bronze, Silver and Gold – Nsele was one of the five to win the Excellence Award.

Nsele said that he couldn't believe he was one of the five who took the competition's top award and that this experience taught him to believe in himself.

"Looking around at the other contestants' body of work, I was scared. I didn't even think about winning because it was that good. But I learned to believe in myself and be proud of what I have to offer," he said.

Explaining the motivation behind his designs, he said that they tell the stories of social issues Africans experience every day.

"It's very hard to try and simplify those social issue into a garment but that's what my range was about. Every line and fold that I did was a conscious decision to fulfil my duty in trying to solve these social issues that we have in our community. For me, this means



Pictured left to right: DUT Faculty of Arts and Design's Executive Dean Dr René Smith, Fashion and Textile's Simphiwe Xulu, Andile Nsele and Sunthra Moodley.

Ubuthu is alive and I can make a living without changing my values."

Fashion and Textile's Head of Department Sunthra Moodley congratulated Nsele, saying, "The award was well deserved. Andile is a self-motivated individual and worked consistently throughout the year. His range of garments were very well thought out and conceptualised. We are very proud of his accomplishment."

Andile Dube

“Looking around at the other contestants' body of work, I was scared. I didn't even think about winning because it was that good. But I learned to believe in myself and be proud of what I have to offer.” – Andile Nsele

THIRD-YEAR INTERIOR DESIGN STUDENTS

STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE

DUT's Faculty of Arts and Design recently hosted the annual Interior Design Exhibition and Awards ceremony at DUT City Campus.

Sue Barrett, lecturer of Interior Design, emphasised the importance of the third-year Interior Design student awards. "These awards are just our way of recognising the students' hard work throughout the year. They can all attest to the fact that it has been a tough year for them. We always say that every year is challenging and it seems to get harder each year," she said.

High-performing students were presented awards in eight categories to recognise their excellent work as Interior Design students.

Top-performing student Jamie Aucamp was awarded Best Interior Design Student for 2019. She stated that she was very happy with her excellent work. "It has been a very great journey and I had sleepless nights. Everyone worked hard; this really makes me feel ecstatic. I don't know what's next for me but I hope I will find a job," she said.

Runner-up was Yiovani Govender: "I did not expect to receive such an honourable award considering the amount of talent that my fellow colleagues have. It was a complete shock and I am truly proud to have shared the top three ranking with such dedicated and talented designers. After so many long hours of hard work, it all felt worth it at the end. I would like to study further so that I will be fully prepared for work in the industry," she said.

Barrett noted that students need to make sure that they work hard every year so that their portfolios do not add onto their



Pictured: Third-year Interior Design students at the exhibition.

pressure to produce work of a higher standard than they already have achieved. She added that students need to double check that their required work is presented. "All third-year students need to take industry employment as a privilege and an opportunity to grow themselves beyond what they have learned at DUT. Life is a constant learning curve," she said.

This Exhibition wouldn't have been a success if it wasn't for DUT Interior Design Programme and Belgotex Carpets.

Sanele Xaba

“These awards are just our way of recognising the students' hard work throughout the year. They can all attest to the fact that it has been a tough year for them. We always say that every year is challenging and it seems to get harder each year.” – Sue Barrett

DUT VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRINCIPAL LAUNCHES NEW SKILLS ACADEMY

As part of DUT's Grow-Our-Own-Timber programmes, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Thandwa Mthembu officially launched the DUT Hlomisa Skills Academy on 8 November 2019 at DUT's Hotel School on the Ritson Campus in a quest for deliberate and effective talent management.

Giving an overview of the Skills Academy, Prof Mthembu said that DUT will be looking into how to integrate programmes that focus on nurturing the skills of young people and alumni and focusing on nurturing other young people who many not be DUT graduates or students.

“We are just custodians of a national asset that should work for all citizens of this country, which means we cannot only think of ourselves but about this country as we are currently facing many challenges – some of us would characterise them as unemployment, poverty and inequality,” said Prof Mthembu.

He asked how we can lead our young people forward using education (being one of the oldest human activities and innovation) as it is our country's biggest challenge.

“I believe that there is so much more we could do, especially for cautious young people who have shown the neck for leadership but have not abandoned the element of excellence in what they came to do in the university. I believe that if we can focus on young people who have these two traits of focusing on excellence while they hold their



Pictured: DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal Prof Thandwa Mthembu and University of Zululand (UNIZULU) Director, Prof Ratale Kgaphola during the DUT Hlomisa Skills Academy Launch.

“We are just custodians of a national asset that should work for all citizens of this country, which means we cannot only think of ourselves but about this country as we are currently facing many challenges – some of us would characterise them as unemployment, poverty and inequality.” – Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Thandwa Mthembu

skills in leadership, we would go very far as a country,” said Prof Mthembu.

The idea behind the DUT Hlomisa Skills Academy dates back to 11 years ago, when the DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal felt that leaders could do much more in their areas of influence.

This academy is set to launch many more programmes at DUT that will ensure young people within the programme advance in their academics as well as make contributions to their communities using their skills.

Giving the keynote address was University of Zululand (UNIZULU) Director Prof Ratale Kgaphola. In his address, he spoke about the practice of leadership in the African context and the important role that young people have in society.

“We need academic and civil leaders who will use academia to reclaim the authority of knowledge generation and learning so that our young people will grow and can distinguish the differences between leaders,” said Prof Kgaphola.

He added that this country is crying for leaders in its many spheres and that they should be leaders with courage. He encouraged prospective students of the Academy to take

this opportunity and use it to resuscitate South Africa and its people.

Work Integrated Learning (WIL) Co-ordinator and recipient of the Academy programme Robert Thema, who is studying towards his masters’ degree in Tourism Management at DUT, said that in terms of academics, he hopes to grow as a leader in order to be fully equipped to occupy strategic positions in society.

“I am very grateful for this opportunity; I want to be a leader who is knowledge-based and this opportunity will help me to harness that. As one ascends through opportunities, this will inspire other students and they are most likely to follow through.”

The launch also included testimonials from graduates from the Central University of Technology (CUT) Higher Education and Leadership Skills Academy (HELSKA), where Prof Mthembu also formed part of the establishment of the programme. The CUT HELSKA graduates spoke at length on their gained experiences and achievements, having been part of the programme, and encouraged the recipients of the Academy programme to use this opportunity to foster change in society.

Nomfundo Ngcobo

“We need academic and civil leaders who will use academia to reclaim the authority of knowledge generation and learning so that our young people will grow and can distinguish the differences between leaders.” – UNIZULU Director Prof Ratale Kgaphol



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This publication was compiled by the Corporate Affairs Division of DUT.

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Design and Layout

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