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### MAJOR CONFERENCES SET TO BOOST DUT'S IMAGE

The Durban University of Technology will host and partner (in hosting) major conferences this year, all set to assist the University in building important relations whilst placing it on the map.

Just recently, the University hosted the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa business communities) Academic Forum at the DUT Hotel School Conference Centre, Ritson Road Campus, from Monday March 11, 2013 to Wednesday March 13, 2013. DUT Vice-Chancellor Professor Ahmed Bawa was appointed by the SA Department of International Relations and Co-operation to sit on the Advisory Committee of the forum which comprised of experts and scholars from the research and academic institutions of all five countries. The Forum worked towards generating ideas and proposals that were submitted to the attending heads of state for further consideration.

Speaking before the Forum, Prof Bawa said hosting China's leader, His Excellency Xi Jinping, in his first visit to Africa since becoming President was a great honour. "This will be an opportunity for us to build deeper relationships and connections between our nations. Perhaps more importantly, it will be an opportunity to see how much we can begin to integrate our economies and to understand the importance of focusing on industrialisation. The theme of the Summit is also about Africa and the BRICS countries and so this will be an important angle to explore. As always, what matters is what happens after the summit and to understand whether there are opportunities for universities to work together in building the intellectual connections between our societies so that they can have an impact on the quality of life of people and to deal with the large, difficult global challenges that we face in public health, climate change and so on," said Prof Bawa.

DUT will also partner in hosting the World Federation of Chiropractic (WFC) conference. The conference will take place at the Blue Waters Hotel, Marine Parade, from April 6, 2013 to April 10, 2013. Here, attendees will intermingle with people that make the chiropractic profession tick.

In July, the DUT based International Centre of Nonviolence (ICON) will partner with MIET Africa and the Association of Bahá'í Studies (Southern Africa) in hosting a three-day conference titled "Developing Strategies for Nonviolence in South African Education" which, among others, aims to develop a strategy document for addressing violence within all levels of education. MIET Africa is a non-profit organisation based in South Africa with a strong presence in the SADC Region.



Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga, UCT Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Crain Soudien as well as Mark Potterton, the national director of the Catholic Institute of Education (CIE) are expected to deliver keynote addresses at the conference. "The conference is designed to lead into the development of a specific strategy document that draws on the thinking of those participating in the conference, and that gives a clear direction to the work of all those committed to a safe and productive South African education system," said Crispin Hemson, ICON Director.

The University will also host the World Association for Co-operative Education's (WACE) 2013 Congress. The sessions will be spread between the Inkosi Albert Luthuli ICC, Durban, as well as DUT. Different companies and universities from around the world will attend the event where discussions will centre around work-integrated learning.





# EDITOR'S CORNER

This being the first edition for the year, the ConDUiT team welcomes everyone within the DUT community and wishes them well in 2013.

DUT has seen a tough start to the year. The University can now however focus on the business of teaching, learning as well as research. I'm very excited about the year 2013, and our lead (on page I) details exactly why. Not only will these important conferences assist us to cement important relationships and partnerships with international role-players, they will also boost our image as the Durban University of Technology and the City of Durban.

And while we had a bumpy start to the year as a University, there have been pockets of success. One of them is reported on page 3 under the headline "Prof Bawa Honours DUT Teaching Excellence Awardees". Roshnee Sunder and Cassim Vanker have done the University proud. We hope to see more accomplishments from them in future.

The Communications team will be launching the University's student magazine "The Edge" soon. We are extremely excited about the imminent addition to our "family" and would like to hear your views and comments about the project once it's launched.

#### SINEGUGU NDLOVU

Communications Manager

Editorial Team: Sinegugu Ndlovu, Naledi Hlefane, Nkosinathi Wanda, Nikita Morgen-Smith Proofing: Andile Khambule and the editorial team

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## MARITIME STUDIES DEPARTMENT COLLABORATES WITH SA NAVY

NALEDI HLEFANE

DUT is the new base for teaching South African Navy students basic navigation skills.



Looking dashing in their uniform, this is the first group of SA Navy students to enroll for the general navigation course now offered at DUT as part of an agreement between the SA Navy and the DUT Maritime Studies Department as from the beginning of this year (2013).

The University's Maritime Studies Department was recently entrusted to handle this task by the SA Navy effective from January 2013.

In the past, the SA Navy would accept approximately 25 students in its programme. The number of candidates has since doubled, making it difficult for the navy to accommodate all candidates. To lighten the weight, the Navy then

### DUT INTERIOR DESIGN STUDENTS REFURBISH CITY CAMPUS

**NKOSINATHI WANDA** 

The My Campus project, an initiative aimed at designing and revamping public spaces of the DUT City Campus, officially kicked off at the beginning of this year and promises a fresher, more revived look to the campus's targeted spaces.



Pictured: Second and third-year students in the Interior Design Programme who had been tasked with revamping public spaces of the DUT City Campus work on the campus student cafeteria. The My Campus project officially started in January 2013.

The project, which will be officially handed over soon, involved second and third-year students in the Interior Design Programme. These students were tasked with thinking of creative ways to improve the appearance of the staff and student courtyards as well as the canteen area. Additionally, the students had to source their own sponsorship for the refurbishment.

The project was the brainchild of Faculty of Arts and Design Executive Dean Dr Kenneth Netshiombo.

Michelle Hankinson, a Lecturer in the Interior Design Programme said "like many staff and students at City Campus Dr Netshiombo believed that the public spaces were in dire need of an injection of creativity". She added that the targeted spaces were lifeless and dreary and did not reflect the dynamic and artistic personalities that make the faculty what it is.

The refurbishment of these areas will therefore restore vibrancy on campus. "This project will make the campus beautiful and attractive. A magnificent environment is conducive to studying," said third-year student Ndabezinhle Ncube.

Another third-year student, Nkululeko Nzuza added that the campus will also look attractive to visitors.

approached the DUT Department of Maritime Studies to develop a short general navigation course.

"The arrangement is such that DUT will offer basic navigation while the SA Navy looks after the military part of the training," said the Department's Lecturer Leon Govender. The DUT course will run for a semester. In the first term, the institution will take on 25 students while the other half of the group goes for military training in the Navy base in Simon's Town, Cape Town. The process will be reversed in the second term to accommodate the group at Simon's Town.

Four DUT Maritime Studies Lecturers have been appointed to teach the students daily. The time schedule for this course does not interfere with that of the national diploma, explained Govender. By the end of the programme, the students will be awarded DUT certificates.

"At the moment, the course is running informally. But, hopefully it will be offered as a formal Higher Certificate (NQF 5) by 2015," Govender added. Facilitating this course provides a third-stream income for the Maritime Studies Department, with funds raised from this set to go towards staff and students.

### PROF BAWA HONOURS DUT TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDEES

NALEDI HLEFANE AND SINEGUGU NDLOVU

Professor Ahmed Bawa, the DUT Vice-Chancellor had a special meeting with the two DUT teaching excellence awardees for 2012 at his office, Milenna Court, DUT Steve Biko Campus, on Monday February 18, 2013, where he congratulated them for their commendable work.

The awardees, who will be honoured formally during the DUT Autumn graduation ceremony, received DUT trophies for their excellence in the interim.

IT Lecturer Cassim Vanker received the DUT Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence while Roshnee Sunder, a Lecturer in the Department of Radiography received the DUT Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence as well as the Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Award. Sunder had also received a Teaching Excellence Award from the Higher Education Learning and Training Association of Southern Africa (HELTASA) for her exceptional teaching technique late last year (2012).



Pictured: IT Lecturer Cassim Vanker (centre) who received the DUT Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence is pictured with DVC: Academic, Prof Nomthandazo Gwele (left) and DUT Vice-Chancellor Prof Ahmed Bawa moments after receiving his award.

The DUT Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence is conferred to lecturers who have made a substantial contribution towards enhancing the quality of learning and teaching in the University. The Vice-Chancellor's award is conferred to one awardee in the aforementioned area.

Prof Bawa said teaching and learning is a fundamental part of the institution, adding that awardees have played immense roles in this regard. Commending the two, he called them "shinning lights" in terms of teaching excellence.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic, Professor Nomthandazo Gwele said the awardees have set the bar high for their successors.

Vanker attributed his success to the University's "ecosystem" which he said ensures that teaching and learning is given the necessary support while Sunder said she is passionate about teaching and learning.



Here, Roshnee Sunder, Radiography Lecturer, is pictured whilst receiving the DUT Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence as well as the Vice Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Award. Sunder also received a Teaching Excellence Award from the Higher Education Learning and Training Association of Southern Africa (HELTASA) for her exceptional teaching technique late last year (2012).

#### DUT DRAMA STUDIES DEPARTMENT BRINGS KARL VALENTIN TO AFRICA

**NALEDI HLEFANE** 

The DUT Drama Studies Department recently brought - to the Courtyard Theatre - an exclusive production titled "Karl Valentin in Africa". Staging rights for the work, granted by Drei Masken Verlag GmbH München, saw "Karl Valentin in Africa" staged nightly at 7 pm from Saturday, 23 February to Friday, I March 2013.

The production featured physical slapstick in scenes and sketches written by Bavarian writer Karl Valentin. The compilation of four scenes from Valentin's work was translated into English by Dr Pamela Tancsik, a Senior Lecturer in the DUT Drama Studies programme, and Durban playwright Gisele Turner. Dr Tancsik also wrote a fifth scene for the production. The cast included students from the first, second and third-year groups.

Valentin, although not well known outside of Bavaria, was a master of absurd comedy and satire. His style inspired German poet, playwright and theatre director Bertolt Brecht. "Valentin was once described as the mathematician of humour - the reason why his work is hardly known outside of Bavaria is the language which is difficult to translate into another idiom. This is the first attempt to translate Valentin into English but as humour is international, laughter knows no borders," said Dr Tancsik.

This was the first selection of Valentin's scenes to be presented on the African continent.



Pictured: Absurd comedy at its best. Drama studies students replay a scene by Bavarian writer Karl Valentin where a photographer takes pictures of a baby while his camera lens is closed.

### THIRD-YEAR IT STUDENTS GET FIRST HAND EXPERIENCE ON NEW SOFTWARE

NIKITA SMITH-MORGAN

Third-year IT students at DUT received a practical demonstration on how to use the new software development practice called TDD (Test Driven Development) during a workshop on Thursday February 14, 2013.

Held at the Ritson Road Campus, the programme was introduced to students by Brett Powell who is the Operations Director of Chilli Soft, a software development house that uses TDD. Test Driven Development is a new method of programming that relies on the repetition of a very short development cycle. First the developer writes an (initially failing) automated test case that defines a preferred improvement or new function, then produces the minimum amount of code to pass that test and finally improves the new code to acceptable

"Learning to use this development programme will allow them (the students) to pick up on a new skill that their potential employees can benefit from," said third-year IT Lecturer Cassim Vanker.

Chilli Soft is always eager to suggest new techniques and training programmes to the DUT IT Department. In turn, lecturers implement them into the course.

The software development house is always keen to welcome DUT graduates into its company. Powell is hoping to introduce this new software development practice to first-year students in the near future. "Having this knowledge will help the students in the working industry and also put them at an advantage over other applicants," he said.



Pictured: Brett Powell, Operations Director of Chilli Soft - a software development house that uses Test Driven Development (TDD) - demonstrates how to use TDD to DUT third-year students during a workshop recently held at the DUT Ritson Road Campus.

### DUT ECOTOURISM GRADUATES JET OFF TO FLORIDA

NKOSINATHI WANDA

Four DUT Ecotourism graduates could not hold their excitement when they were selected to work at the Ritz Carlton, Naples, a high class hotel in Florida, USA, as part of an international exchange programme in December 2012.

Because the trip was made possible by Awesometravel in association with the Ubuntu Institute, the graduates only paid for their passports.

Sabelo Njoko, 24, Ayanda Skhosana, 26, Khetha Mnyandu, 26, and Lindokuhle Mkhize, 23, are spending time abroad for a period of six months.

Ecotourism Lecturer Ngcebo Nsele, who also coordinated the programme, said the programme will equip the graduates with skills and work experience that will help them when they return to South Africa.

Since their departure, the graduates have had positive feedback.

Speaking about her experience, Skhosana said she was overjoyed. "I work as a server assistant and bar attendant and I'm enjoying every moment. This opportunity is going to open many doors for me in terms of jobs as I have been struggling (to find employment) previously. I will also come back home with great experience that will better my country", she said.

The breadwinner at her home, Mnyandu intends to apply knowledge gained abroad in South African hotels upon her return.

The DUT Ecotourism Department will be sending more graduates abroad through this programme.

#### TOWN PLANNING STUDENTS TOUR THE CITY

NIKITA SMITH-MORGAN

The Department of Town and Regional Planning at DUT welcomed 159 candidates onto its programme this year which included first-year, third-year and BTech students.

This year's joint orientation was especially exciting for students. "We (the department) wanted students to get to know each other and to see the city (of Durban)," said Robynne Hansmann, Town and Regional Planning Head of Department.

The faculty office (Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment) teamed up with the eThekwini Municipality to give students a tour of the city in the local Rickshaw Bus. The three-hour long trip took students throughout the city and ended off at the Botanic Gardens where students enjoyed bunny chows. Hansmann believes that this tour was essential since "most students are not from the city".

The Municipality assists the department with orientation programmes and is often eager to lecture students on topical issues.

The tour was not just fun and games but involved the students' first assignment for 2013 in which they had to locate themselves on the maps given to them as well as trace the entire route they had traveled.

Sivuyile Ngumbela, a third-year Town and Regional Planning student said his passion for geography and population dynamics in secondary school is what prompted him to study towards the profession. "I look forward to realising the relevance of what I have learned and applying it when working in this field," said the student.

Hansmann said the greatest attributes of a Town and Regional Planning student are "looking after the public's well-being, being motivated to work with the community, being sensitive to issues of poverty as well as the desire to improve the city."

She added that one of the highlights of the year will be working with the first-years of 2013 since every student is "born free" (born post 1994).

"The faculty is looking forward to working with this new generation of students," said Hansmann.

#### **DUT ACADEMIC REACHES HER CAREER PEAK**

**NALEDI HLEFANE** 

The Head of DUT's Biomedical and Clinical Technology Department Prof Jamila K. Adam was promoted to full professorship by the institution earlier this year (2013) for her stupendous work and accomplishments in her department, the University, nationally and internationally.

Prof Adam is beside herself with excitement and feels she has reached her ultimate goal. She has presented and published research papers at national and international levels covering Clinical Intervention Studies in, amongst others, Cardiology, Nephrology, Critical Care and Cardiovascular Perfusion.

Adding to her excitement, Prof Adam also received four awards in India in December 2012. She attended the Executive Council of the Association of Biotechnology and Pharmacy's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention and International Conference from 20-22 December 2012. There an international Honorary Fellowship award was conferred upon her. Prior to the conferment, she delivered a lecture titled "The effect of Optimising Cerebral Tissue Oxygen's Saturation on Markers of Neurological Injury During Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery" which discussed the importance of keeping oxygen saturation in the body at a constant level during a bypass surgery in the coronary artery. Her talk was based on a research study undertaken by one of her PhD students. Prof Adam was invited to another seminar held on December 18, 2012 at Vikrama Simhapuri University, India. Here, she received two awards for delivering a motivational speech to post graduate students and for chairing one of the seminar's sessions.



Apart from the enriching knowledge she gained at both events, Prof Adam said she had a memorable time in India. "The treatment and hospitality of the people in India was superb. I felt like a queen," she added.

As the road to success is seldom travelled in solitude, Prof Adam acknowledged the impactful roles played by both her parents, her immediate family as well as by Prof Otienno and Prof Moyo of DUT.

She now plans to motivate her subordinates to take up post graduate studies in order to reach her level.



Pictured: Town and Regional Planning students at DUT get a tour of the city of Durban during their orientation.

#### **SONGEZO'S TALENT CONTINUES TO AMAZE**

SINEGUGU NDLOVU

He made history last year when he became the first student at the Durban University of Technology's Jewellery Design Programme to score 100 percent on his portfolio.

On Monday February 4, 2013, he made history again after becoming part of the Emma Smith Scholarship Award's 82 year old legacy. Baleni, who is currently lecturing Computer-aided Design (CAD) and Setting on a part time basis to second-year Jewellery Design students at DUT was announced as the 2012 Emma Smith Scholarship Award winner at a ceremony held at the DUT City Campus - walking away with a R40 000 cash prize.

"Judges look at four things (when evaluating the contestants' work)," said DUT Arts and Design Faculty Deputy Dean Professor Graham Stewart who was also the chairman of the judging panel. "These are, the good presentation of the work, how (well) the candidate (orally) put forward the idea, the impact of the artist's work on society and the impact (of the prize) on the individual," said Prof Stewart.

The originality of his designs and the sense he had of his South African heritage - which shows through his designs which are the best of local and global - are what made Baleni this year's winner, said Prof Stewart. "The judges faced an extraordinarily difficult decision; all candidates did well," he said.

Baleni completed his BTech degree in Jewellery Design last year (2012) where he performed exceptionally well. He applies traditional weaving techniques using precious metals in creating and manufacturing his designs, a skill he says he developed using his heritage. He describes his style as high-end commercial but distinctive, saying he draws his inspiration from his heritage as well as his passion to create.

"The competition was tough; I didn't think I'd win. I developed something using my heritage which has become a distinctive piece of jewellery," said Baleni.

Chris de Beer, Associate Director in the Jewellery Design Programme said Baleni did not work towards winning the Emma Smith Scholarship, but won because he is constantly learning. De Beer said Baleni spends the majority of his time, including Saturdays, on campus.

Pictured below: Songezo Baleni, the 2012 Emma Smith Scholarship Award winner shows DUT DVC:Academic Professor Nomthandazo Gwele one of his jewellery pieces. Baleni, 27, won R40 000. Also pictured, on the far right, are some of his creations.

### **DUT TOURISM STUDENTS ATTEND MAJOR TOURISM CONFERENCE**

SINEGUGU NDLOVU

Four DUT Tourism students recently jetted off to Johannesburg after being chosen to participate in the IMEX-MCI-MPI Future Leaders Forum which offers participating students a once in a lifetime opportunity to enrich their curriculum further to building a network of peers as well as continued opportunities and career guidance.



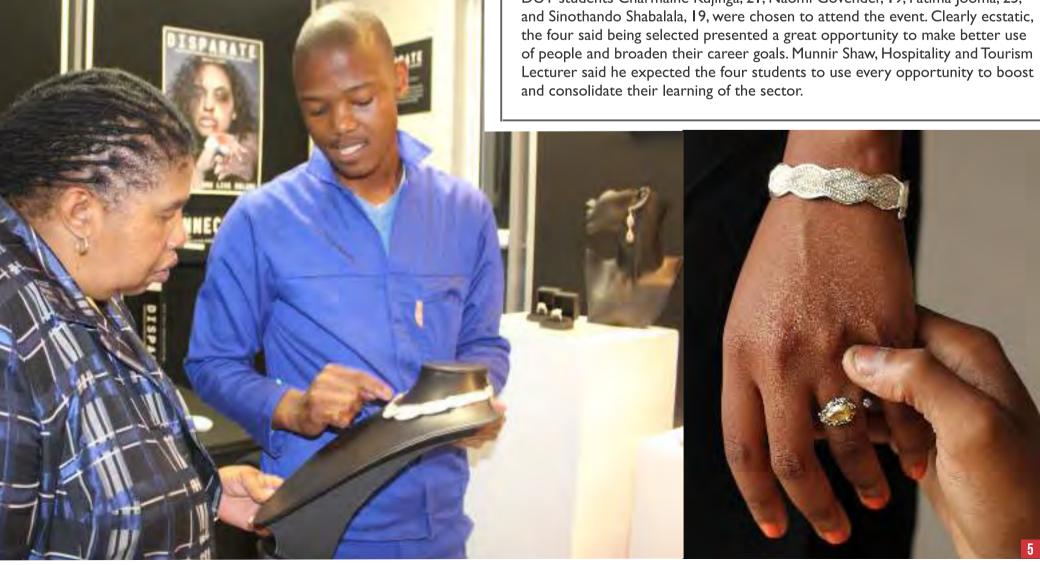
Pictured above: The four students with their lecturer Munnir Shaw (centre) soon before heading to Johannesburg to participate in the IMEX-MCI-MPI Future Leaders Forum.

From left: Charmaine Kujinga, Fatima Jooma, Sinothando Shabalala and Naomi Govender.

Hosted by the SA National Convention Bureau (SANCB) and IMEX-MCI (an independent, global communications and event management company)-MPI (Meeting Professionals and International), the Forum was hosted at this year's Meetings Africa held on Monday February 18, 2013 in JHB.

Meetings Africa is the Continent's premier business trade show. Here, Africa's business leaders gather with local, regional and international corporate, government and incentive business event buyers or decision makers. The event also showcases Africa's diverse offering of services and products. The Forum was developed to encourage the best and brightest students to enter the meetings and incentive travel industry. Top four third-year event students are selected to participate in the event by tourism academics. Students must perform well academically and must demonstrate learning and potential for future involvement in the Business Events industry in order to be selected.

DUT students Charmaine Kujinga, 21, Naomi Govender, 19, Fatima Jooma, 25,



### DUT STANDS UP AGAINST RAPE AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

**NKOSINATHI WANDA** 

The rampant sexual abuse of women and children in South Africa and around the world, recently prompted the Academic Development Office within the Faculty of Arts and Design to stand up and raise awareness about this scourge.



The "End Rape in SA Protest" was held at the DUT City Campus on Valentine's Day (Thursday February 14, 2013). The protest resonated with the international 'One Billion Rising' campaign. The event organisers worked in collaboration with the Women in Action SA. Hajira Vahed-Greer, the programme co-ordinator said women all over the world need to take control of their lives and respond to sexual and gender based violence with a solid and clear programme of action. She said women abuse is destroying South Africa, adding that people must be educated about rape.

City Campus and stood up against rape and gender based violence in a united

front.

Fine Art Lecturer, Themba Shibase, said an urgent intervention is needed to fight against women abuse. The intervention would include workshops, campaigns and dialogues between men and women. He added that families must not hide gender based violence under the carpet and that perpetrators must be ostracised. A tree was planted to serve as a visual and constant reminder that rape and violence must be rejected in the strongest of terms. Professor Graham Stewart, DUT Arts and Design Faculty Deputy Dean said he hoped that the flower (that would bloom from the tree) would remind us of the love that we need to show towards each other and the self love missing from many people's lives.

### SUSTAINED ROLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS SCORES DUT AN AWARD

NKOSINATHI WANDA AND NIKITA MORGAN

DUT HIV/AIDS Centre's continued and exceptional performance in continuing the fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS at the institution has earned it a special award from the Department of Higher Education and Training.



Pictured: DUT HIV/AIDS Centre Manager, Thobile Zulu (left) and Naseem Haniff, (right) the Director of Student Counselling & Health at DUT hand over the HIV/AIDS award to Prof Ahmed Bawa, DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal.

Centre Manager, Thobile Zulu, presented this award to DUT Vice-Chancellor Professor Ahmed Bawa earlier this year. The award was first conferred to DUT during an HIV/AIDS conference held in Cape Town (November 2012). Here, DUT promoted the success of the Centre. "We were given the award because we sustained the HIV/AIDS programme despite no longer being assisted by the European Union Funding. It was their (Department of Higher Education and Training) way of saying 'thank you'," said Zulu.

Speaking after receiving the award, Prof Bawa said he was proud, however adding that the University cannot deal with HIV/AIDS alone. "Students must also participate," he said.

Zulu said the number of students at the University getting tested for HIV had increased. "They take the issue of HIV/AIDS seriously. Last year, about 8000 students got tested for HIV. We'll keep the programme going," she said.

#### **DUT'S ADOPT-A-SCHOOL PROJECT FORGES AHEAD**

It is a new year and the Faculty of Arts and Design (FAD) is looking to implement new ideas to its Adopt-a-School project.

**NALEDI HLEFANE** 

Established in March 2011, the project aims to improve the matric pass rate of its current beneficiary, iLanga Secondary School, KwaDabeka, by offering support and implementing effective teaching techniques. FAD Deputy Dean, Professor Graham Stewart and lecturers Dr Sylvia Zulu and Odette Swift, who are the project facilitators, recently met the school's executive staff to discuss a way forward for the initiative.

One of the ideas presented was to expand the Saturday tutoring programme by offering extra classes for Life Sciences, Natural Science and Accounting which pupils struggle in. The school has also struggled to improve its poor below-average matric pass rate because of lacking resources. The past two years have been difficult. Dr Zulu remembers not knowing where to begin. A trip to Spain however gave her the necessary direction. "I had gone to present a (research) paper (in Spain) when I heard Professor Lucy Haagen's presentation on mobile learning in South Africa. I was fascinated," said Dr Zulu. Prof Haagen's *M-Ubuntu* project, a mobile learning programme aiming to address South Africa's literacy crisis, helped launch the project. The launch took place in September 2011 and was also attended by Dr Nkosinathi Sishi, the KZN Education Department HOD.

Before the launch, second-hand mobile phones from the US were donated towards the project, leading to the e-learning programme starting at the school. Pupils and teachers were trained in using the mobile phones whilst being familiarised with the notion of e-learning. Whilst funding has temporarily stopped the e-learning programme, there have been huge positives. The school's matric results improved from 43 percent in 2011 to 70 percent in 2012, an encouraging sign that the project is bearing fruit. With the Saturday tutoring programme being expanded, project facilitators hope to see an improvement in the number of matriculants and subject marks.



Pictured: The DUT Adopt-A-School Project team's visit at iLanga Secondary School, KwaDabeka, earlier this year. From left: Vusi Nhlanzi, iLanga Secondary School Deputy Principal; Nkululeko Hlakanyana, iLanga Secondary School Principal; Dr Kenneth Netshiombo, DUT FAD Executive Dean; Dr Sylvia Zulu, Project co-ordinator; Professor Graham Stewart, FAD Deputy Dean and Ntokazi Dlamini, iLanga Secondary School Deputy Principal.