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Pictured: Professor Nokuthula Sibiyi receives the DUT Health Science's Top Researcher Award from US Consul General in Durban, Frances Chisholm, at the DUT Research Awards.

Being passionate about people and having the drive to become a nurse has always been DUT's Professor Nokuthula Sibiyi's dream.

The dynamic and charismatic Nursing Department Head has recently been given a C3 rating in research, thanks to her great dedication and passion in the field of research. She is now recognised as the only African researcher at DUT to have such a rating.

Upon receiving the good news about her rating at the University's Annual Research Awards, Prof Sibiyi was over the moon. "I am humbled and excited, however, it did not take me by surprise. It was a lot of hard work, dedication and sacrifice," she said.

Prof Sibiyi believes that nurturing students, especially in research is important as they are future leaders. "From 2011 to date, I am proud to say that I have successfully supervised four Doctoral and 36 Master's students," she added.

The esteemed researcher said having systems in place for postgraduates is vital and nurturing the young, enquiring researchers has always been important to her. "I just can't

PROF SIBIYA, DUT'S TOP AFRICAN RESEARCHER

WAHEEDA PETERS

say no to the students. If they need help, I try to be there for them as I always start work early in the morning until late into the night. Even on Sundays after lunch with my family, I am here at work," she said.

Commenting on Prof Sibiyi's achievement, Professor Thandwa Mthembu, DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal, said Prof Sibiyi's C3 rating was excellent. "This is a remarkable achievement for DUT for being the first organically grown researcher to reach this milestone giving hope to many aspiring researchers to do the same," he said.

Besides being a passionate researcher, Prof Sibiyi is also KwaZulu-Natal's lead researcher in a FUNDISA initiated collaborative research that is exploring an increased uptake of cervical cancer screening in South Africa. She is also the Principal Investigator of DUT's Faculty of Health Sciences MRC Project on 'A multidisciplinary approach to reducing maternal mortality rates in a selected district in KwaZulu-Natal', a proposal that was accepted and granted R500 000 annually for three years from 2014 to date. Although her primary focus is on primary healthcare, Prof Sibiyi felt it was worth conducting the two projects that would enhance teaching and learning within her Department of Nursing.

No stranger to accolades, Prof Sibiyi also received awards in research in 2012 and 2013. "In 2012, I obtained the DUT top Junior Research Award. In 2013, I received the DUT Research Award as the top DUT Female Researcher of the

Year, and a certificate of recognition of being one of the top DUT Publishers," she said.

Prof Sibiyi is also a member of the Faculty Research Committee and has been a member of the Institutional Research Ethics Committee since 2011. In 2013, she was elected as the Deputy Chair of the Institutional Research Ethics Committee and in 2015, was inaugurated as a Fellow of the Academy of Nursing of South Africa. She is the first Fellow to be inaugurated for the Primary Health Care Specialisation.

Prof Sibiyi believes having a supervisor like Professor Nomthandazo Gwele, DUT's Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic, inspired her to be who she is today, adding that she is instilling that same drive in her students, especially the young female researchers. "As women, we need to empower and support each other and create opportunities for our young researchers and pave the way for them to be the best they can be," she said.



EDITOR'S CORNER

They say "the only thing constant is change" and this has been true for each and every one of us at the Durban University of Technology. In October 2016, Professor Thandwa Mthembu was appointed as the University's Vice-Chancellor and Principal.

In March 2017 we were joined by the interim Director for Human Resources, Mr Ngidi who brings vast experience in shaping people and systems in the corporate sector. Mr Ngidi will only be with DUT for six months, and in those months, DUT Executive management has entrusted him to convert the HR Report from the Auditors into a well-thought-out technical plan and to see its implementation and that it is matched with the right source (resources).

In April we also welcomed Professor Khehla Ndlovu who has taken over from the Acting DVC: People and Operations, Professor Theo Andrew. Professor Ndlovu will ensure that the University is a reliable, efficient, competent and productive system. Unfortunately in the midst of all these new changes, Communications had to bid farewell to its Communications Manager, Miss Sinegugu Ndlovu. Now with all these changes, many might be anxious, depressed or even angry as these are common reactions conjured up in a changing environment.

Richard Marcinko (Change Management 101) once said: "Change hurts. It makes people insecure, confused and angry. People want things to be the same as they have always been, because that makes life easier. But, if you are a leader, you cannot let your people hang on to the past".

Marcinko's words fit best with the current chain of events at DUT where we are facing a lot of change particularly in Management. Many might fear change, but let's not forget that leadership is about change and while change is never without ubiquitous resistance, when embraced however, it can present new opportunities, encourage skills and personal growth and compel us to think in new and exciting ways for the betterment of not only the University but ourselves too.

We, as the communications team, can proudly attest that the first issue for 2017 of the CONDUIT is packed with stories that demonstrate our excellence as DUT. Change and problems are not unique to us as a University only but, DUT will not be immune to issues and problems, like many other institutions around the country. There is plenty of excellent work done by the University staff, in our laboratories, offices, lecture rooms around the country and the world by both students and staff. Therefore we must embrace, celebrate and boast about these accomplishments.

We welcome Mr Ngidi and hope he will enjoy his short stay at DUT. We also welcome Prof Ndlovu and can assure him as a community we will work together as a team for the image of the University. We thank our communications Manager, Miss Ndlovu and wish her all the best in her journey.

The current setup at Communications from April to July is, I (Noxolo Memela) will act as the Communications Manager for April and May. Thereafter, my colleague Waheeda Peters, will act as the Communications Manager for June and July. We urge you to consult us on any DUT Communications related matters at noxolom@dut.ac.za or 031 373 2899 and waheedap@dut.ac.za or 031 373 2113.

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DUT APPOINTS PROFESSOR KHEHLA NDLOVU AS DVC: PEOPLE AND OPERATIONS

NOXOLO MEMELA



Meet Professor Khehla Ndlovu, the new Deputy Vice Chancellor: People and Operations at the Durban University of Technology.

The former Mangosuthu University of Technology DVC: Resources and Planning joined the DUT family on the 1st of April 2017. Professor Ndlovu will be responsible for strategic leadership, planning, management, operations, and people supportive to DUT's broader academic endeavours. His current role includes development of high quality risk informed planning and support systems and services.

"I ensure that the university is a reliable, efficient, competent and a productive system. I manage strategical Risk Management, Estates Management and Logistics, as

well as Human Capital, Corporate Affairs and the planning of the university," said Professor Ndlovu.

Professor Ndlovu holds degrees in D Ed, M Ed, B Ed and B Paed. He has also acquired specialist training as Cognisant Technical Officer and in Financial Management from the USA Government funded by USAID. He has over 26 years of work experience, more of those years were in senior management of universities, governments' higher education policy development and implementation environment as well as foreign development assistance organisations.

MAKING MATHEMATICS BEAUTIFUL

SINEGUGU NDLOVU



Pictured: Dr Thama Duba in class.

Much anxiety and negative attitude exists around Mathematics as a subject; and with 10% being the average mark scored by South Africa's Grade 9 pupils on the subject in the 2014 annual national assessment (ANA) results, this anxiety and negative perception around the subject is understandable.

However, Dr Thama Duba, a DUT senior lecturer in Mathematics is working towards changing these negative attitudes around the subject by, in her own words, making "Mathematics beautiful" when she teaches it to her students in class.

Dr Duba, who completed her PhD last year (2016), has been "in love" with the subject since her days as a Grade 10 pupil in high school.

Her research focus is on ocean and atmosphere dynamics which is relevant to meteorologists and oceanographers. Her decision to focus on this area as a researcher came about while she was introduced to the area while completing her Master's degree which focused on ocean wave dynamics.

"Completing my Master's degree in nonlinear wave dynamics was interesting because at the time, it was an area of Mathematics that was still developing and I enjoyed it. We have different waves in the oceans and atmosphere like freak waves, the most recent being in March (2017) which crashed over the promenade along Durban's Golden Mile. We are also experiencing a lot of cyclones and earthquakes, and when earthquakes happen in the ocean, you get tsunamis. Freak waves have the capacity to capsize ships which has a direct impact on maritime so someone must study this area. There are also other ocean and atmosphere waves like the Rossby waves which were the focus of my PhD studies. These affect weather and climate conditions," she said.

While some may ask what the oceans and atmosphere have to do with Mathematics, Dr Duba says she models wave dynamics and ocean processes mathematically. "One of the things I study is mixing processes in the ocean. For example, what happens (to the ocean) when temperatures increase. For example, I am studying Thermohaline Convection which is likened to a conveyer belt that transports nutrient rich water and heat from one area to the next under variable temperature and conducting stability analysis," she said.

After Dr Duba discovered her love for Maths in high school, she says she practiced it until it became enjoyable. This same love is now being instilled in her students. "I call Maths 'beautiful'. We call it 'the beautiful Mathematics' in class. We (the Department) teach it in such a way that students can understand it and make it meaningful to their lives. As a teacher, you must be exuberant about teaching a subject," she said.

Speaking about her future plans, Dr Duba said she hopes to continue collaborating with meteorologists and oceanographers to build her research niche in this area. She also hopes to one-day work with teachers and parents in improving the teaching and learning of the subject.

DUT'S REAL LIFE HERO!

WAHEEDA PETERS

Facing danger, often sacrificing his own personal concerns for some greater good is one way to describe Durban University of Technology's, charismatic Travis Trower, whose utmost passion in life is being involved in local and international rescue operations.

Trower is a renowned specialist in the technical medical rescue arena, with over 15 years of experience in the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) field. He is also one of the only qualified rescue technicians in KwaZulu-Natal.

Trower is a respected lecturer at the Department of Emergency Medical Care & Rescue at DUT where he teaches DUT students on practical aspects regarding actual rescue components. "We (DUT) train students to be fit and ready so it always looks exciting because the students are hanging off ropes from buildings which require lots of training, endurance and hard work. They also go to the Oribi Gorge and get a real life scenario which is time sensitive to save the patient, so students that don't finish the rescue in time have to pack-up, get debriefed to establish where the problems are and then do the rescue all over again," he stressed.

For Trower, being passionate about his job and his department is what he strives to do. At the tender age of nine years, he was an avid rock climber like his father. As a teenager, he joined the Mountain Climbing Association of South Africa, where he would actively go out and do rescues. "This is when I obtained the passion for rescues and decided it's for me. I didn't want to be a paramedic but to only do the rescues but the only way to do the rescues was to become a paramedic and therefore I studied at DUT in 2005 to become one," he said.

After studying at DUT, he worked at ER24 and returned to DUT as a tutor specifically for rescues. In 2009, he became a specialist technician at DUT and never looked

Pictured: Travis and other rescue personnel during the operation to free the two men from a trench on a collapsed construction site. Also pictured is Trower holding a baby he had freed from a vehicle in a different rescue.

Picture credit: www.arrivealive.co.za and [Travis Trower](#)



back. "I love being part of such a wonderful department under the helm of Simpiwe Sobuwa, who currently coordinates the fourth year of Bachelor of Health Sciences in Emergency Medical Care.

Trower's job extends to arranging vehicles for doing actual practical scenarios getting permission for his students to be at actual demolitions so that students can get an authentic experience on how to remove patients out as if it was an earthquake.

Trower also reiterated that physically students have to go through a stringent process, get a physical assessment which includes running, push-ups, standard tests as points are allocated for each component and that's how students are selected for the first year. "For the first year, it is vital to get them physical throughout the four years continuous physical assessment which they must pass, so the students we are getting at DUT are always of a high calibre," he added.

Trower also has to keep fit, doing the physical training aspects with his students and going for extra swimming courses. "I have to keep fit I don't expect the students to do what I can't do physically. So, I do physical training with

them, but in my personal time I go surfing and mountain climbing and jogging with my dog," he said.

Last year, 2016, Trower was part of the Gift of the Givers Rescue team that went over to Nepal to assist in search and rescue activities. He and some DUT students also assisted at the annual Duzi canoe race early this year. Recently, Trower and his students were in the local newspapers when a family of three including a month old baby was involved in a motor vehicle accident. The students and Trower actively extricated the patient out of the mangled vehicle and continued to give them the best medical treatment possible.

"The students love coming along to the rescues as they gain extensive, hands-on experience working alongside these vital emergency services in Durban and are able to perform confidently in such rescue operations because DUT has standby rescue equipment, stored on our vehicle and allowing us to immediately go out," said Trower.

Trower vows to continue doing what he loves best teaching at DUT and continuing performing daring rescues of people and animals with his students.

DUT'S FIRST PHD STAFF IN EMERGENCY CARE

WAHEEDA PETERS



Pictured: Dr Kevin Govender, DUT's First PhD staffer in the Emergency Care Rescue Department at DUT.

Dr Kevin Govender, Senior Lecturer at the DUT Emergency Care Rescue (EMR) Department recently made history at the University when he became the first staffer within the Department to obtain a PhD in in the field (EMR).

Dr Govender, who wants to drive change in the profession, obtained his PhD from the University of Cape Town.

For Dr Govender, his achievement of being the first staff member in his Department, under the helm of HoD Simpiwe Sobuwa, to complete a PhD since the Department's inception almost 30 years ago, is a feat on its own. "The department offers Bachelor's, Master's and of recent note, PhD degrees. My primary role is to co-ordinate and lecture final year students enrolled on the Bachelor of Health Sciences degree. However within my remit of responsibility is also driving research capacity across all program offerings, so this includes recruitment and supervision of Master's and PhD students," said Dr Govender.

Dr Govender has also worked in a variety of clinical settings across many countries such as Mozambique, Sudan, Chad, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Qatar, UK, Gibraltar, Norway, Malta and the Canary Islands; in remote war torn locations as well as oil and gas installation platforms across all five oceans. He is currently settling down as one of only three consultant paramedics in Qatar. "As a consultant paramedic in Qatar, I was primarily responsible for developing, monitoring and revising constructs of a clinical governance system. The thrill

of being in such dangerous but exciting countries was to ensure patients that received the services of the ambulance service received consistent high quality care that was always safe, compassionate and effective," he said.

Speaking on EMR as a vital academic course at DUT and why students should study it, Dr Govender said in developed and largely urban countries with short pre-hospital transportation times, the role and benefit of having overtly qualified and skilled paramedics was often argued. "In a country like South Africa where huge disparities exist in and across the provision of health services, where the largest subsets of our populations live in rural areas, where level 1 medical and trauma centres are grossly lacking and where communities are in many ways dependent on basic and rural primary health care centres, the role and benefit of the South Africa paramedic cannot be over stated," he remarked.

Dr Govender further added that the EMR Department was not just a tool for academic teaching, but also a Department that helps the SAPS and other rescue services with regards to rescues at sea and on land. "The incentive that really keeps you coming back and to stay in the profession is the appreciation and longing to help people," he said.

CENTRE OF AFRIKOLOGY CREATING KNOWLEDGE FOR STUDENTS

NOXOLO MEMELA



Pictured: Sabelo Xaba, Silindele Kunene, Ashantewaa Archer-Ngidi and Nomvula Manele.

Encouraging and exploring the importance of self-consciousness in a conceptualised collective perspective within an African centred perspective is what the institute of Afrikology at DUT aims to cater to students.

The institute of Afrikology is an off shoot of the Karaites Institute of Afrikology which was founded in 2005. It is an educational non-governmental institute committed to reconstruction and practical implementation of African Renaissance initiatives.

Situated within the offices of Student Governance, the centre has been operating at DUT for over a year. This centre is often visited by students who are eager to know more about their African roots, who want to understand African Renaissance, their identity and other issues relating to social cohesion consciousness.

“We are a team of three people who were fortunate to be accommodated by the department of Student Governance. The reception from both students and staff has been amazing,” said Mrs Ashenteewa Archer-Ngidi.

The institute is also a platform for research studies, information, capacity building and education within a wide range of subjects related to African History, traditions, spirituality and experiences. “Our activities are based on an inclusive understanding of the “past-present-future” paradigm, which is also called the SANKOFA principle- in order to go forward, you must know where you have been,” added Archer-Ngidi.

Whilst the centre is catering for DUT community, it is also deeply involved in social cohesion and outreach programmes in schools in and around Kwa-Zulu Natal. However, the Institute always has a monthly lecture, and the Africa and Heritage month lectures.

The institute creates knowledge by playing the role of being a mobilisation agent on the basis of articulating an African agenda for knowledge production that is not just relevant to African conditions, but also sets an agenda for the reclaiming of African originality of knowledge and wisdom, which sets the rest of human society on the road of civilisation with Ubuntu as its bedrock.

DUT'S FIRST STUDENT LEADERSHIP INDABA A SUCCESS

Students at the Durban University of Technology are an integral part of the University and their contribution towards advancing fresh ideas and innovation from the institution must be recognised.

This was the message by Professor Thandwa Mthembu, DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal, at DUT's first Student Leadership Indaba which was organised by the Department of Student Services and Development at the Mansfield Hall, Ritson Campus, DUT, on the 23rd of March 2017.

“I'm appealing to our staff that we must review the manner in which we treat our students”, urged Prof Mthembu. “Students are not customers to DUT but are an integral part of this University because they assist us in the laboratories when we formulate new ideas and innovation that come out of DUT,” he said.

Prof Mthembu said part of the reason he wanted the Indaba to happen was so he could understand the daily challenges that students at the University are faced with. These include accommodation, university facilities, security as well as the attitude of staff members. He said although the Central University of Technology, of which he was VC before coming to DUT, also had similar problems as DUT. He hoped that the Indaba would help

BONGANI GEMA

him further understand not just DUT's problems, but that of other universities in KwaZulu-Natal.

Prof Mthembu said he was glad that the Indaba went through all its proceedings without any mayhem breaking out as has been the norm at similar gatherings between students and university management in universities around the country. This, he added, shows that DUT student leadership and management have a good working relationship and if they continue to engage carefully, there was enough room for all problems to be resolved.

Prof Mthembu also stressed to student leaders (SRC, clubs and societies) that it was very difficult for him respond instantly to every statement and concern raised. However he added that he had taken notes and will figure out if the problems could be solved in the short or long term and categorise them as such before passing them on to the relevant people who would be tasked with resolving them.

He also warned students against provoking chaos for no valid reasons. He said students who undermine management and the elected SRC to fulfil their own ambitions would not be tolerated.

“We need to understand hierarchies here simply because we need to avoid chaos. You cannot undermine



Pictured: Professor Thandwa Mthembu, DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal, at DUT's first Student Leadership Indaba.

management and the elected SRC and go behind our backs to emerge with your organisation's jacket claiming to be a leader. I will not allow that,” Prof Mthembu emphasised.

AWARD AND GREAT RECEPTION FOR DUT'S ENERGYDRIVE PROJECT

SINEGUGU NDLOVU



In December last year (2016), DUT's Technology Transfer and Innovation unit (TTI) as well as the KZN Industrial Energy Efficient Training & Resource Centre (IEETR), also at DUT, under the University's Applied Sciences Faculty, launched a major energy project in a bid to help mitigate South Africa's power shortage crisis through knowledge.

Called the energyDRIVE Project, the initiative- which has cost R3 million since take-off and is the first globally- comprises of a custom-built truck that is being currently used in a national roadshow targeting rural schools as well as technical and vocational education and training colleges to inform communities about the benefits and uses of renewable energy technologies. So far, the project has conducted roadshows in Johannesburg and has successfully exhibited at two major energy conventions; winning an award in one. Overall, the energyDRIVE Project has set its sights on targeting approximately 500 000 pupils nationwide.

"The project had its first roadshow in February", said Professor Ian Lazarus, energyDRIVE Project Leader. "We successfully exhibited the truck at the Africa Energy Indaba Conference at the Sandton Convention Centre. The truck drew a lot of attention from key role-players in South Africa as well as many local and international organisations. The energyDRIVE truck was the most exhibited and received a runner-up award at the conference", said Prof Lazarus, adding that Thembisa West Secondary, KwaDukathole Secondary as well as CJ Botha Secondary schools were visited during the JHB roadshow where pupils were given alternative energy demonstrations and were also taught about climate change. About 600 pupils were reached at the three schools and both teachers and pupils enjoyed the demonstrations.

The framework of the truck's container was designed by the Energy Technology staff and features a solar roof structure and wind turbine mounting system, bio-digester, photovoltaic panel display unit as well as a solar hot water display unit. The walls of the container are occupied by a battery bank, photovoltaic components, TV and display cupboards. Interactive demonstration models, alternative solar energy display wall units, and an energy efficiency unit are also featured in the container.

The project will also promote skills training courses in energy-related fields.

The truck will travel back to JHB for the National Skills Authority Conference and the Power Supply and Electricity Conference. "We still want to improve the truck, one of the things being the energy efficiency booth. We are also developing photovoltaic kits to hand out at schools. The kits will demonstrate to pupils that solar energy can be used as an alternative energy source and also plant a seed in young minds about possible alternative energy innovation ideas," said Prof Lazarus.

After JHB, the project will set its sights on KwaZulu-Natal for the remainder of the year (2017). "To see the project doing so well after a difficult year and a half worth of planning is very exciting. We were actually surprised about the effect it had on energy experts, pupils and many other people. DUT management has also seen the truck and is very supportive of the project, especially the Faculty of Applied Sciences," said Prof Lazarus.

STUDENTS FROM DUT AND FUJIAN AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY UNIVERSITY GET TOGETHER IN AN ONLINE COURSE

GRAHAM STEWART

A lecturer exchange programme in China last year provided Prof Graham Stewart with the opportunity of bringing together students from DUT and the Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University (FAFU). FAFU is situated in the city of Fuzhou on the South East coast of China, and is a DUT partner university. The online course aimed to make participating students aware of the larger world and deepen their understanding of themselves, their culture, how they are perceived, and how they perceive others.

The course was modelled on the lines of the Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) developed by the State University of New York (SUNY). COIL fosters cross-cultural student competence through development of multicultural learning environments that link university or college classes in different countries. Students from different cultures enroll in shared courses with faculty members from each country as facilitators. The classes may be fully online, or offered in blended formats with traditional face-to-face sessions taking place at both universities, while collaborative student work takes place online.

The essence of good collaborative online international learning is a seamless continuum between course content and intercultural dialogue. Prof Stewart was inspired by an exciting initiative between Tshwane University of Technology and SUNY Rockland in the USA, where graphic design students discovered similarities and extraordinary misconceptions between their cultures while creating posters around themes like xenophobia, escalating university fees and gun control.

Prof Stewart, with the help of Durban-based facilitators Andrea Alcock (FAD Writing Centre) and Prinavin Govender (Adjunct e-Learning Coordinator) planned the course in early 2016, before Prof Stewart's departure for China. The course ran over six weeks, from September to November. The first live online student meeting took place at 9am South African time (3pm China time) on Friday 30 September 2016. This session was just for meeting and greeting, and to test the QQ online platform. Over the previous two weeks, facilitators and students from both FAFU and DUT had been testing the online platforms chosen for the programme: DUT's TLZ/Blackboard Learn and QQ Messenger, used by all the Chinese students.

Prof Stewart said "By 29 September 2016, Durban participants had worked together to download and install QQ International, and join the QQ Group that had been created for the purpose. We were set to go. There were unexpected delays, though. Our start date coincided with unanticipated events in both countries that limited the number of students with access to the Internet. In China, many students left the university early to travel home for the Chinese National Day vacation and in South Africa, DUT had closed because of



Pictured: FAFU Students with Prof Graham Stewart

disruptions related to tuition fee protests, and some DUT student participants, dependent on the university Wi Fi for access, did not have Internet connections."

Not all the course content was live online. Students from each of the two universities formed groups and started by making and sharing short group videos to introduce themselves and show the campus environment in each country. After online discussions, students made more short videos about their local culture. The theme for the videos was: "This is our favourite place in our city/town (in SA or China). We would like you to visit it because ...". The chosen places should be of cultural, historical, social, or environmental interest.

In spite of some inevitable technical frustrations, students from both countries enjoyed the course, and appreciated the opportunity for cross-cultural communication. Here is a selection of comments from the participants:

"Firstly, thank you for allowing us to be part of this international collaboration. It was a fun experience and I also learnt a lot about the Asian culture!"

"All in all, it was an enjoyable experience and I am glad I made some international friends and learnt about academics in another part of the world. It put a lot in perspective for me and humbled me to show me that there is so much out there and we need to grow and learn and experience more while we are still young. These were really great memories."

"I like the video part. Because it provides a more intuitive way to know about each other. We can know more about Durban. It's enjoyable to learn about particular lifestyle for me."

"It really gives us a wonderful opportunity to get in touch with the people and moreover the culture of South Africa. We all appreciate it! ... I like those videos from SA best, because it allows me to have a look at the stunning scenery of SA without physically being there."

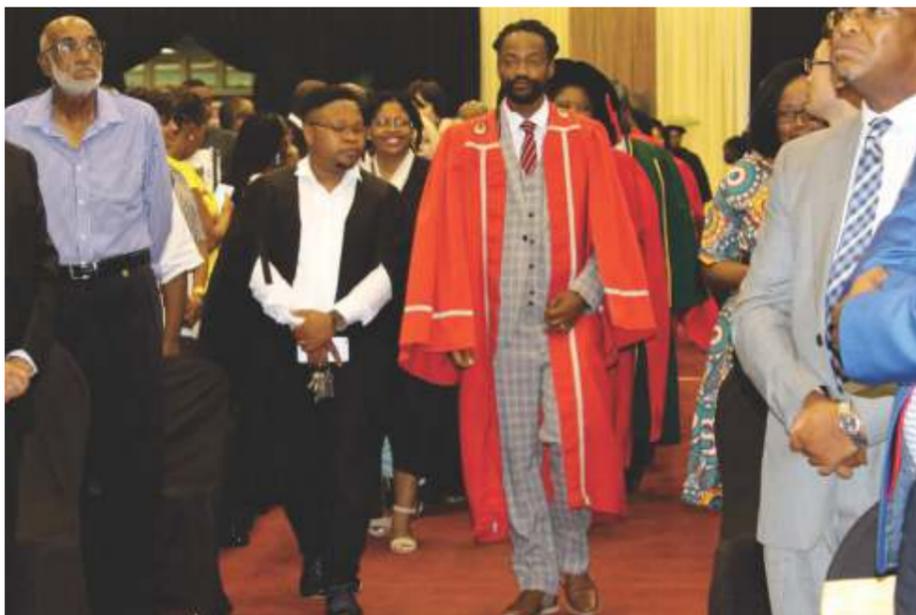
"I think what I like best about COIL is the interaction between two colleges or even two countries. We share beautiful sights. We share different cultures."

"I also think that the program should be introduced in mandarin classes, and students can do short presentation videos about their countries and culture. Students may even compete for the best video and win a prize as form of motivation for their participation."

All the participants said they hoped there would be more COIL courses in the future.

PROF MTHEMBU TALKS ON TRANSFORMATION CHALLENGES AT DUT

WAHEEDA PETERS



Pictured: Procession walking in during Professor Thandwa Mthembu's inauguration.

On the 18th of March 2017, the Durban University of Technology inaugurated its Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Thandwa Mthembu, in a ceremony that was attended by more than 400 guests.

Prof Mthembu, an accomplished and celebrated academic with a PhD in Mathematics, was appointed by DUT Council as Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University as of 1st of October 2016 on a five-year renewable term.

Prof Mthembu's family and friends, DUT staff as well as high profile guests such as Lindiwe Sisulu, Human Settlements Minister; Judge Vuka Tshabalala, current DUT Chancellor; Frances Chisholm, U.S. Consul General in Durban; Wang Jianzhou, Chinese Consul General in Durban; Professor Ahmed Bawa, former DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal and now Universities South Africa CEO and Ela Gandhi, social activist and former DUT Chancellor, were present to celebrate the prestigious event both at DUT Steve Biko Campus and at a gala dinner held at the Durban ICC, congratulating him on his appointment, and also pledging their support in his role as the University's highest ranking officer.

Speaking at the dinner, Prof Mthembu spoke about how he hopes to tackle issues on transforming, upscaling and developing DUT. "Transforming our University fundamentally is one of our challenges. Counting the number of African staff employed at DUT is not qualitative transformation, but it is ensuring that our academics are producing high quality research and innovations that DUT has ever achieved," said Prof Mthembu.

He also added that plans of upscaling teaching and learning programmes, research and innovation programmes, how deeply engaged DUT shall be with the cities and the region it serves, and what outcomes DUT will achieve in the broader society, needed the proverbial throwing of the javelin so as to measure how far DUT throws it and how farther DUT could throw it. "Developing our young people intellectually is our main business as a University. I focus on this aspect because DUT has declared one of its DNA strands to be student-centredness," he stressed.

Prof Mthembu also added that to transform, upscale and develop, DUT needed a caring, competent, deliberative, empowering, nurturing, productive and disciplined leadership.

"I, therefore invite all of us to work together, focusing on what will make our collective future bright. I hope there will be no inertia against change and transformation, against upscaling and developing this University. I am confident that sooner than later DUT will be a proud model for our local, regional and national development," said Prof Mthembu.

DUT ART GRADUATE IMMORTALISES LATE LEADER ANTON LEMBEDE

STHABILE GWALA

Earlier this year, Urban Lime, an innovative commercial property regeneration company that transforms and regenerates urban landscapes that have fallen out of fashion into vibrant communities for people, business and enterprise to thrive-commissioned Sakhile Mhlongo, a DUT Fine Art graduate to create a 600sqm portrait of the late Anton Lembede.

Lembede's portrait, who was the first ANC Youth League President, scholar, philosopher and lawyer, was installed on the corner of Anton Lembede (former Smith) Street and 6 Durban Club Place, a building of great importance to the Durban law and judicial system as the development houses the majority of legal practices in the City.

Lembede passed away at the age of 33 while studying towards a doctorate in Law. In his portrait, as drawn by Mhlongo, he is dressed in a charcoal suit and is carrying a briefcase while walking towards the courthouse.

Urban Lime approached Mhlongo after seeing his work in various art galleries and museums, some of which include portraits of prominent figures in the City of Durban including that of Moses Mabhidha, a cadre of the South African liberation movement who rose through the ranks to become a giant of the struggle.

Mhlongo has also won fifth place at the Sanlam portrait awards in 2016. He has also worked on street art, murals and portraits all over Durban with well-known artists such as Mookie Lion and Sphephelo Mnguni, who are also DUT Fine Art graduates; Dane Stops, DUT Graphic Design Lecturer and artists, as well as Faith 47 who is renowned for her graffiti art.

Mhlongo says he draws inspiration from his surroundings, experiences as well as his upbringing. "My paintings focus mainly on the stereotypical views of African males and females within my culture where man are seen as gangsters and women as submissive. But at the same time, I'm really questioning the way Africans are viewed through my art", said Mhlongo.

Mhlongo's love for art began in primary school. While he did not take his talent seriously at the time, his science teacher used to ask him to draw illustrations, diagrams and sketches on the chalkboard to help students visualise what was being taught in class. Mhlongo then started going to shopping malls and other places laden with foot traffic in order to make and save money to study Fine Art at DUT.

Currently, Mhlongo is preparing for his solo show which will take place in June at a museum in Cape Town. He is also part of the Artists in Residence Programme which is commissioned by the eThekweni Municipality.



Pictured: The 600sqm portrait of the late Anton Lembede on the corner of Anton Lembede (former Smith) Street and 6 Durban Club Place.

"I do art because I want to express what is inside me for the rest of the world to see. God is the artist. I'm only his paintbrush and He uses me to show people what he wants them to see through art", he said.

DUT WELCOMES MR SIPHO NGIDI AS INTERIM DIRECTOR: HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

NOXOLO MEMELA



Pictured: The interim HR Director Mr Siphon Ngidi

Mr Siphon Cyprian Ngidi was recently appointed as the Durban University of Technology's interim Director for Human Resources. He has vast experience in shaping people and systems in the corporate sector.

In his career, Ngidi has worked in a number of disciplines with Human Resources Management being the main one. The appointment of Ngidi is for him to lead and shape DUT's Human Resources Services, in line with the University's strategic objectives.

Although he (Ngidi) retired from Corporate Employment in 2010, he said he was delighted to be back in Durban. "It is truly an honour to be appointed to guide DUT for a period of six months, it is even more exciting for me because I am back in Durban," he said.

Speaking about his current position, Ngidi said his role was to ensure that the report from the Auditors on the University's department of Human Resources was

implemented and packaged properly. "My role is to convert the report into a well thought out technical plan and to see the initial phases of its implementation and to make sure that the technical plan are matched with the right source".

According to Ngidi, DUT was being renewed and developing new energy and he aims to ensure that the team is properly resourced. Furthermore, he hopes the plan will take shape while he is still serving the University.

The father of three (two sons and a daughter) hails from Northern KwaZulu-Natal's Maphumulo but grew up in Umlazi Township. He holds a B Administration from the University of Zululand and a B Com Economics (Honours) from the University of Natal. He is a board member of the University of Witswatersrand Council and is the Chairperson of the Fibre Processing and Manufacturing SETA, Ithala Limited Human Resources Social and Ethics Committee; Reatile Timrite Human Resources Social and Ethics Committee to name but a few.

DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS AWARDS BURSARIES TO ACADEMICALLY DESERVING STUDENTS

NOXOLO MEMELA

The Durban University of Technology's Development and Alumni Relations Department awarded bursaries to 10 students. The bursaries will support their tuition fees.

The Development and Alumni Relations office has two initiatives aimed at providing support to DUT students. The first is named the "Missing Middle Bursary Fund" which supports students who are "too well off" to qualify for funding by the National Student Financial Aid Scheme but are still "too poor" to fund themselves. The second is the Food Security fund which supports students who struggle with securing meals for themselves on a regular basis.

The 10 students who received bursaries are from the departments of Analytical Chemistry, Information Technology and Medical Orthotics and Prosthetics. Each one of these students had applied for NSFAS financial support but were unable to secure funding due to a shortage of funds. Although not all of the students who were awarded bursaries were raised by single parents, their parents are either unemployed or deceased.

Mlamuli Ntshangase of Nongoma, who is a 3rd year Analytical Chemistry student, only had registration fees when he arrived at DUT. Although he is the last born of four children, he is the first to attend University. "My parents are unemployed and last year when I received feedback from NSFAS that I do qualify for funding but will not be able to get financial aid due to lack of funds, I saw my life crumbling before my eyes and thought I will never complete my studies. I am happy that through prayer, the Development and Alumni Relations Department at DUT was sent to lend a helping hand. I am truly grateful," he said.



Mr Ngubane, who is the acting Director of the Development and Alumni Relations Department, expressed great joy and gratitude to all those staff members and alumni of DUT who contribute towards the fund on a regular basis. "It's only through continued support from DUT staff, alumni and the greater University community that such assistance can be provided to our deserving students," he said.

Meanwhile speaking on behalf of the students who have been awarded the bursaries, Luvo Gugwana said they were grateful that there were people who cared about their education beside themselves. "We just want to thank all those individuals who have opened their hearts to contribute towards our education. I know had it not been because of the love they had for education and the well-being of DUT students, we wouldn't be here. We are truly grateful and we will not disappoint them. We will give off our best in all we do when it comes to our studies". Before studying at DUT, Gugwana had to drop out due to financial reasons. In 2016 when Gugwana received a response from NSFAS that there was a shortage of funds,

he thought that he will be forced to drop out again but the bursary fund came to his rescue.

Faculties and departments that would like to find out more about the selection of awarding bursaries to academically deserving students can contact Miss Ntombizandile Ndlovu (Coordinator Alumni Relations) at zandilen@dut.ac.za or 031 373 2479

More details on how to donate can be obtained on the departments website: www.dutalumni.com or www.dut.ac.za/Alumni and follow the guidelines. Alumni Relations team consists of Mr Zwakele Ngubane who is the Acting Director for Development and Alumni Relations and he can be contacted at zwakelen@dut.ac.za or 031 373 3020. Mr Zipho Chamane who is the systems and data base officer can be contacted at ziphoc@dut.ac.za or 031 373 3019. Mrs Nishie Govender who is the Senior Convocation Officer can be contacted at nishieg@dut.ac.za or 031 373 2549 and Miss Nokulunga Zulu who is the Fundraising Officer can be contacted at prettyz@dut.ac.za or 031 373 3018.



MIDLANDS DUT GCI

Enforcing the importance of preserving water and going green, The Midlands DUT Green Campus Initiative (GCI) team attended the 2017 World Water Day Summit, held at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli Convention Centre (ICC). Pictured is the Midlands DUT GCI team outside ICC.



HENGWANG

Heng Wang, who is part of the Confucius Institute at DUT (DUT CI) and is affectionately known by her English and Zulu names Doris or Mbalenhle, could never have imagined dance would bring her to South Africa. Yet, her passion for ballet and Chinese folk dancing has enabled her to take on a critical role in bridging understanding between Durban's youth and their contemporaries in China. Wang has discovered that while language barriers are real, dance is universal. Her students are a mixed group - some from neighbouring countries - but all fascinated by China and its cultural heritage.



DUT VC INAUGURATION

In March, the Durban University of Technology inaugurated Professor Thandwa Mthembu as Vice-Chancellor and Principal. Pictured here is Professor Thandwa Mthembu, DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal; Judge Vuka Tshabalala, DUT Chancellor; Professor Thenjiwe Meyiwa, DUT Registrar and Wiseman Madinane, DUT Chair of Council.



GENDER FORUM

The Gender Forum and DUT community celebrated International Women's Day at the University's Hotel School, Ritson Campus. Women were encouraged to not only be bold for change, but be the same in celebrating their achievements and in loving each other.



DUT INSPIRES YOUNG LEADER TO AIM HIGH

It was DUT that set the foundation for what One Day Leader candidate Sakhile Mngadi is yet to achieve through his fierce debating and leadership skills. The third-year DUT Architecture student made it to the top six of the South African reality show, One Day Leader which is aired on SABC 1. It (the show) aims to identify and equip young leaders with innovative ways of addressing social issues while exposing them to the kinds of challenges that leaders are faced with.



UFC TALKS DRUG SOLUTIONS TO STOP THE HARM

Looking at alternative approaches to drug use disorders was the aim behind the public lecture: Let's talk about drug solutions, and stop the harm!, that was held by the Urban Futures Centre (UFC), in partnership with the TB/HIV Care Association, at DUT. Here, Prof Monique Marks delivers her address at the lecture which aimed to find solutions to reduce harm caused by drugs and the way laws are enforced in our city.



DUT BIDS FAREWELL TO ITS DEAN OF STUDENTS

It was a bitter-sweet moment when colleagues at the Durban University of Technology had to bid farewell to the University's Dean of Students, Amar Singh, who announced his retirement from the University after 33 years of service. As colleagues honoured Singh during his farewell ceremony which was held in February 2017, at the Walsingham Student Resident's hall, Singh's reliability to his professional responsibilities was in the beam of spotlight.



FASHION DESIGNER AND UNAIDS AMBASSADOR VISITS DUT

Global fashion designer and UNAIDS International Goodwill Ambassador, Kenneth Cole, visited the Durban University of Technology on Tuesday, 07 March 2017, where he spoke about his success as a fashion brand and most importantly, the role he plays in raising awareness and sharing knowledge about HIV/AIDS worldwide. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) leads and inspires the world to achieve its shared vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. UNAIDS unites the efforts of 11 United Nations organisations- UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank- and works closely with global and national partners towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.



FRENCH STUDENTS

The IEP office arranged the orientation programme for the excited German and French Exchange students who are at the University for a semester period. Developing partnerships with international universities is evident through exchange programmes that exist between the DUT's IEP International Education and Partnerships (IEP) office and various European universities in a bid to promote teaching innovation, learning and research. Seen seated are German and French international students during their orientation.