

## CPUT unveils South Africa's first CubeSat

By: Candes Keating

CPUT has made its mark on the global space arena with the unveiling of South Africa's first CubeSat.

The CubeSat, ZACUBE-01, which measures 30x10x10 cm and weighs approximately three kilograms was unveiled at the end of September at the French South African Institute of Technology (F'SATI), a specialised unit at CPUT's Bellville campus.

Dr Sandile Malinga, CEO of the newly established South African Space Agency (SANSA), said the unveiling of the CubeSat is a significant milestone for South Africa, who is aiming to become a key player in the global space science and technology industry.

“I believe that space science has an important role”

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SPACE SCIENCE: The CPUT CubeSat, ZACUBE-01.



INNOVATION: Dr Sandile Malinga, CEO of the South African Space Agency unveils South Africa's first CubeSat.

The CubeSat was developed by 50 students following F'SATI's Satellite Engineering Programme and staff members. This postgraduate programme, which is backed by the Department of Science and Technology and the National Research Foundation, aims at developing the human potential and intellectual capacity needed to grow South Africa's space industry.

Malinga commended CPUT for the rollout of the programme and for being on the forefront of developing space and satellite skills in the country. “Our country is challenged in terms of skills and our government has set an ambitious goal of creating more jobs. I believe that space science has an important role in contributing to this goal,” he said.

Deputy Vice Chancellor of Operations Jayanthlal Bhana pointed out that CPUT aligns its research activities strategically with national needs, hence the

development of the Satellite Engineering Programme.

He said FSATI has now joined more than 60 CubeSat groups around the world and is viewed as one of the leaders in this field.

F'SATI Deputy-Director, Professor Robert van Zyl, who is driving CPUT's space activities, said students are currently involved in the development of a second CubeSat – ZACUBE-02, which will be unveiled in 2013.

If all goes as planned, ZACUBE-01 will be launched early next year and used for space science experiments. Its activities will be monitored by the ground station, which has been set up at FSATI's premises on the Bellville campus.

ZACUBE-01 was exhibited at the International Astronomical Federation Conference, which took place during October at the Cape Town International Convention Centre.

# BUMPER SPRING GRADUATION AT CPUT

By: Lauren Kansley  
Photos By: Thami Nkwanyane

CPUT's largest Spring Graduation to date saw 724 students walk away with an array of qualifications ranging from diplomas through to doctorates.

In her opening address, Vice-Chancellor Prof LV Mazwi-Tanga urged the graduates to use their qualifications wisely.

"Go forth into the community to share ideals, competencies and share the common good which have been integral to your education at CPUT," she said. "We are proud of you and are positive that the skills you acquired at the University will stand you in good stead."

Keynote speaker Judith February, who is the Head of the Political Information and Monitoring Service at Idasa, congratulated the graduates on their significant achievements and warned them the road ahead would be a challenging one.

"The society into which you go is one which is still in transition, one which is grappling with its identity and which is battling against high levels of unemployment, poverty and rising levels of inequality," she said.

"An immense responsibility rests on your shoulders and indeed on all of us who have had the benefits of a decent education. Because much will be required of you."



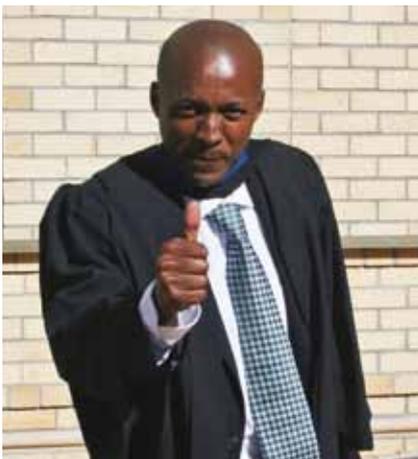
**CONGRATULATIONS:** Chancellor Trevor Manuel with Vice Chancellor Prof LV Mazwi-Tanga awarding a doctorate.



**WISE WORDS:** Key note speaker Judith February warned graduates about the tough path ahead.



**PROUD DAY:** The Doctorates of six CPUT graduates across a number of faculties were conferred during the Spring Graduation.



**NEW BEGINNINGS:** Mature student Jacob Ranyao started studying late in life but is glad he started.



**FAMILY TIES:** Mature student Jacob Ranyao says the love of family and friends pushed him through his Diploma in Entrepreneurship.

## Graduation dream come true for mature student

By: Lauren Kansley

The studying bug may have bitten this CPUT graduate late in life but he has big plans to keep his nose firmly in the books.

Jacob Ranyao graduated with a Diploma in Entrepreneurship earlier this month and his story proves it's never too late to start working on your dreams.

The 31-year-old who currently works in the Student Housing department at the Bellville campus risked everything to travel from the East Rand in Gauteng to Cape Town to pursue his studies at CPUT in 2009.

But he says the idea of enrolling at CPUT was planted almost ten years earlier when he was an active 24-year-old youth community worker back home.

"My friends would say to me 'Chief come let's go study' but I was scared to leave everything and go," he says. It was only during an internship at the Department of Health where he was

working as an administration assistant that Ranyao finally took the plunge and decided to enroll at CPUT.

"My manager was so supportive he even paid the registration fee," says Ranyao. "And my friends who were already studying told me not to worry about food or money because I had them." This generosity from family and friends continued as Ranyao completed his three year course.

"Every few months or so a friend would send me an SMS and say check your bank account and a R200 would have been deposited," he says.

"Money was always a challenge because I couldn't expect my grandparents to support me when there were younger siblings at home who needed help." Now Ranyao has adopted a similar approach and whenever he has a few rands to spare, he shares it with other struggling students.

He says graduating is only the tip of the iceberg of what he wants to achieve in life.

"I would like to complete a BA and am currently studying Business Management," he says. "One day I would like to work in International Relations for government."

# CPUT says Thank You to Industry Partners

By: Lauren Kansley



**MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL:** Blouvlei Primary School Principal Jerry Swarts with teaching colleague Gleniece Jones say their relationship with CPUT has been very rewarding.



**GUEST SPEAKER:** Former Rector Dr Franklin Sonn kept the audience in stitches with his humorous anecdotes.



**BIG THANKS:** Former Rector Dr Franklin Sonn with the Co-operative Education unit at the Excellence Awards.

Our parents always taught us the importance of saying thank you and CPUT did exactly that last month at the eagerly anticipated Excellence Awards.

The ceremony, which is organised by the Co-operative Education Unit, takes place every second year and rewards industry partners who provide our students with an experiential learning opportunity.

Work Integrated Learning is so successful and our students are of such an excellent caliber that it is little wonder many of them retain their positions after their in-service training is completed. Over the years CPUT has built strong relationships with respected brands like Woolworths, Shoprite/Checkers and Vital Health, but this year the awards were about recognizing the valuable impact the smallest business can play in the life of a student.

Deputy Vice Chancellor; Research, Technology Innovation and Partnerships, Dr Chris Nhlapo emphasised the importance of industry experience in the

growth of a student. “We are aware of the stiffness of competition,” he said. “Thank you for being mentors to our students and a friend to CPUT.”

Afterwards former Rector Dr Franklin Sonn delved into the relationship between conventional universities and CPUT and warned his former colleagues not to be complacent. “Once the knowledge has been created by universities we put that knowledge to work,” he said. “This is the type of education that the country needs for growth and development.”

Interior Decorator Michele Rhoda who collected an award on behalf of Antoni Associates is an example of how the Experiential Learning model breeds success.

“This is the type of education that the country needs for growth and development.”

She impressed her boss so much during her one month learnership that it led to a

permanent job and her six-year-long career in an extremely competitive industry. Michele now has the honour of training other CPUT students and hasn't forgotten how it felt to be an intimidated young student.

“We get a lot of students from all over but the CPUT bunch are a lot more practical because their course includes everything from how to build right through to decorating. “In the end they are able to utilize their skills much better.”

Blouvlei Primary School Principal Jerry Swarts has developed a double sided relationship with CPUT.

On one hand the school opens its doors to student teachers and on the other many of the staff members are enrolled at CPUT and being trained in the Multigrade Approach which encourages rural schools to teach a variety of ages in one class.

“I also went to the Netherlands recently through CPUT so it has been a very good relationship for me,” says Jones.



# Centre for Multigrade Education leads teacher training

By: Candes Keating



*CLASSROOM PRACTICES: The Centre for Multigrade Education is leading multigrade teaching in South Africa.*

South Africa's largest multigrade teacher training programme, spearheaded by CPUT academics, is changing the face of teaching.

Earlier this year academics at the Centre for Multigrade Education, rolled out a large scale teacher training programme, aimed at transforming teaching methods at multigrade schools.

Although close to three million learners attend multigrade schools, training of teachers in this unique teaching environment has remained unaddressed, resulting in the poor academic performance of learners.

However, the delivery of education in these schools, primarily located in rural areas, is being transformed, with the help of CPUT academics who are at the forefront of multigrade education. Although only several months into the training programme, schools are already reporting a significant change in their classrooms.

Adrienne van As, a researcher at the Wellington based centre, said the course covers various aspects of multigrade teaching from classroom management to reading skills.

"It is an intense short-course, consisting of several contact sessions. There is the orientation session, several on-site training sessions, which are then

followed by implementation of the methods in the classroom," said van As.

According to the researchers, multigrade teachers have a tougher task than their counterparts at conventional graded schools. The multigrade classroom is labour intensive and requires more planning and professional development than the conventional classroom. Teachers have to write multiple lesson plans for each day, set up multiple tests and have the appropriate management skills to address learners' individual needs.

## Teachers can now better facilitate teaching in multigrade classrooms

However, van As said with the appropriate skills provided through the training programme, teachers can now better facilitate teaching in multigrade classrooms.

Due to the success of the initiative, Van As said the training programme, which is being funded by the Department of Education, will continue next year. Already a large number of schools have been identified to participate in the 2012 training programme.

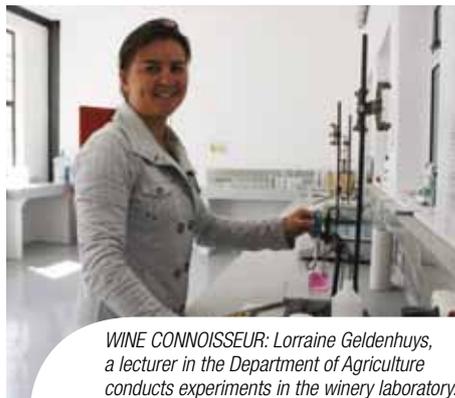
# Big plans for CPUT winery

By: Candes Keating

CPUT is establishing itself as one of the leading centers of training and research in viticulture and oenology in South Africa.

With the recent completion of a state-of-the-art experimental wine cellar at the picturesque Wellington campus, CPUT is set to become a key role-player in the provision of highly skilled individuals to South Africa's multi-million rand wine industry.

The winery is fitted with a high-tech laboratory, a wine press, bottling equipment, teaching space and several staff offices. Students following the National Diploma in Agriculture - Viticulture and Oenology are already utilizing the laboratory and teaching areas. However, Lorraine Geldenhuys, a lecturer in the department, said additional funding is needed to install several other pieces of equipment, which are necessary to operate according to the scale of the winery.



*WINE CONNOISSEUR: Lorraine Geldenhuys, a lecturer in the Department of Agriculture conducts experiments in the winery laboratory.*

"We also need a cooling system and a bigger press. With the right equipment in place, we can make a lot of wine," she said.

However, Geldenhuys is optimistic about the potential of the winery.

Due to its ideal location in the heart of the winelands, the department could easily work closely with wine farms, which could provide on-site learning opportunities for students and possible employment opportunities after graduation.

Currently the winery lacks several industrial wine tanks, which carry a price-tag of R40 000 each. The tanks form part of the most crucial operational elements in the winery, as it is used for storing the grapes during the fermentation process.

The winery also has the potential to manufacture CPUT branded wines, which could be sold nationally and internationally. Geldenhuys said students are already producing red and white wine on an experimental scale.

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# Functional Food Unit leads innovation at CPUT

By: Candes Keating



*INNOVATORS: Prof Spinney Benade and Dr Maretha Opperman who are leading innovators at CPUT.*

Researchers at the Functional Food Unit have taken their research outcomes one step further, converting it into sellable products.

After an injection of R3.2 million from the CPUT Innovation Fund in 2009, researchers at the unit embarked on various studies focusing on ways and means of increasing human intake of omega -3 fish oil, which plays a vital role in the prevention of several chronic diseases.

Now, three years later, the researchers' efforts have paid off with the patenting of a fish-oil supplement capsule and a food supplement premix, which can be added to various products. Head of the Bellville based unit Prof Spinney Benade says their products are unique.

“The capsules are unique as it contains a distinctive combination of vitamin E, which is derived from natural sources. The capsules currently on the market only have one form of vitamin E, which is synthetic,” he says.

The food supplement premix, boasting similar characteristics to that of the capsule, can be mixed into cereals and several other food products. The pre-mix does not act as food flavoring but as an omega -3 fish oil supplement aimed at preventing micronutrient deficiencies.

“The capsules are unique as it contains a distinctive combination of vitamin E, which is derived from natural sources.”

Dr Maretha Opperman who works alongside Prof Benade said commercializing research is a lengthy procedure, which has to be meticulously followed. Apart from research, clinical trials and other scientific processes, the unit also had to deal with the legalities of patenting.

However, with continued support from CPUT's Technology Transfer Office, they are now in the final stages of the commercialisation process and hope to launch the products early next year.

Opperman said in addition to the commercialisation aspects, they produced several journal articles and identified other research ventures related to omega-3 fish oil.

# Snazzy chair designs clinch top spots

By: Lauren Kansley  
Photos By: Shawn Uys

**FOUR CPUT Industrial Design students are sitting pretty after the chairs they created won the Klooftique young designer competition.**

Second year students were asked to create their take on a uniquely South African dining room chair which complements Klooftique's sophisticated style.

Doring, the winning chair created by Adriaan Louw, pricked its way to the top with its distinctive dark wood finish.

In second place Andile Myaluza's Purlee outshone the rest with its sleek finish and slat effect base in Purple Heart wood.

While third place winner Jonathan Erne, 21, proved that less is often more and his chair called Ash used the bare minimum to stunning effect.

Johan van Greunen, 23, edged his way into the winners circle with his comfortable yet chic Plaasjapie/Stadsjapie chair which bears more than a striking resemblance to an old fashioned Riempie chair. "The lines of the leather represent the crop fields," says Johan.

"I think my chair won most beautiful because it is clean and simple but nostalgic at the same time."

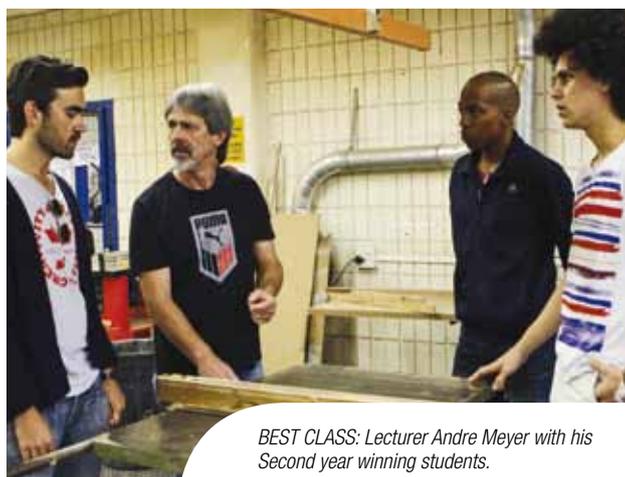
As first prize winner Adriaan's chair will go into production soon and be available for purchase at Klooftique's Kloof Street shop. However Andile's design is proving equally popular. "I've been told there are already pre-orders for the chair," he says proudly. "I am still struggling to accept that my very first chair has won this prize. I can only go higher!"

Jonathan says he went back in time to give his chair its clean and simple look. "I used traditional wood joints so that there were no screws," he says, "I am so stoked to have won because I put a lot of work into it."

Their lecturer Andre Meyer says Adriaan, Andile, Jonathan and Johan are part of a very talented class who have their eye firmly on the small details. "This is one of the best second year classes in chair design in my 30 years of teaching," he says. "Their attention to detail is extraordinary. They deserved to win."



*WINNING COMBINATION: CPUT Industrial Design students (left to right) Jonathan Erne, Johan van Greunen and Andile Myaluza won big in the Klooftique young designers competition.*



*BEST CLASS: Lecturer Andre Meyer with his Second year winning students.*



# CPUT provides skilled staff for national energy sector

By: Candes Keating  
Photos by: David Evans

CPUT is positioning itself to be a key player in South Africa's energy sector with the establishment of the Centre for Substation Automation and Energy Management Systems (CSAEMS).

Based at the Bellville campus, the centre is earmarked for specialised training, testing, research and development in new technologies, which will improve power systems in South Africa.

Speaking at the opening of the centre on 27 September 2011, acting Deputy Director-General for Socio Economic Partnerships in the Department of Science and Technology, Imraam Patel, commended CPUT for playing a crucial role in the development of skilled staff for the national energy sector.

"We can see a lot of opportunities this centre can offer. It can contribute to the growth of a skilled workforce," said Patel.

Currently South Africa has a shortage of skilled workers in the energy sector, particularly in the area of Substation Automation Systems. These systems are highly complex computer programmes, which are used by electrical engineers to operate substations and ensure an uninterrupted power service to consumers.

With the establishment of the centre, students will have access to a state-of-the-art substation automation laboratory environment, which will provide them with the necessary tools for training, research and testing.



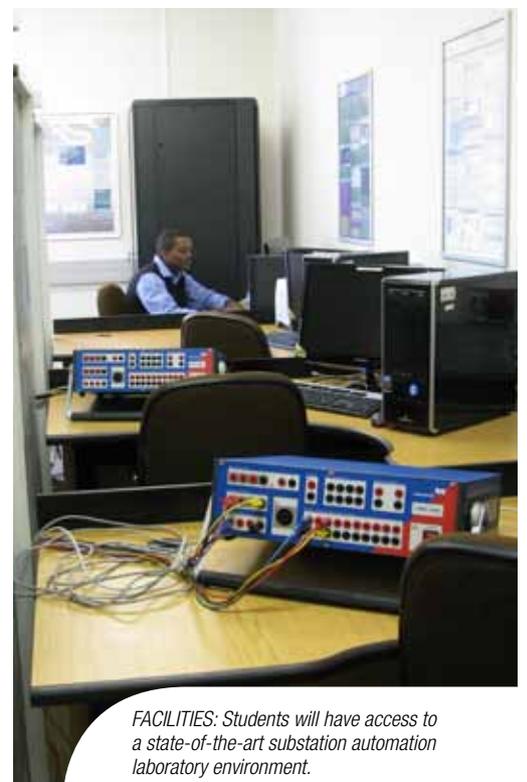
*ENERGY SECTOR: Representatives from CPUT and the Department of Science and Technology at the launch of the Centre for Substation Automation and Energy Management.*

CPUT Prof Raynitchka Tzoneva, who is spearheading activities in this specialised area of electrical engineering, said the Bellville based centre is already in full operation.

The centre, which was funded by the Department of Science and Technology and the National Research Foundation, will also receive support and guidance from leading world class specialist in Substation Automation, Prof Alexander Apostolov.

Prof Apostolov, who has accepted an adjunct professorship at CPUT, will also play a crucial role in the supervision of Electrical Engineering postgraduate students, who are being skilled in Substation Automation.

CPUT Vice-Chancellor said as a leading University of Technology, the centre will be responsible for creating new research areas in this highly specialised field and also for ensuring that the curriculum is updated in order to meet the needs of industry.



*FACILITIES: Students will have access to a state-of-the-art substation automation laboratory environment.*

# CTT hosts annual Open Day

By: Sonia Koopman

The Design and Informatics Faculty on the Bellville campus was a hub of activity when the Clothing and Textile Technology (CTT) Department hosted their annual Open Day in late August.

Around 300 Grade 12 learners from across the Western Cape got a taste of the “student life” as they filled the corridors of the CTT department for an informative and exciting tour.

Charlene Parenzee, Department Secretary and Open Day planning co-ordinator said the 70 schools who attended came from as far as George, Worcester and Saldanha.

“The schools which attended were particularly invited because of the subjects that they offer at their schools such as consumer studies. The Open Day was a huge success and the learners showed a lot of enthusiasm. We were extremely pleased with the positive response we received from the schools,” she said.

Lecturers and students chaperoned the inquisitive learners through the sewing, pattern and scanning rooms and assisted them with fun activities during an introductory lesson about the course.

“After this visit I am really looking forward to my future”

Grade 12 teacher from Worcester High, Gizela Noble, said this event not only serves as an educational excursion, but also as an eye-opener for the school’s learners.

“Our school has been attending the CTT open day for the past three years and every year we jump at the opportunity to be apart of it. Teenage pregnancy, unemployment and drug abuse is on the rise in so many communities. Visiting higher education institutions such as CPUT, enables them to be exposed to more opportunities in life other than what they



*ON DISPLAY: Some of the garments made by the Clothing and Textile Technology students are placed on display at their annual open day.*



*LEARNING THROUGH EXAMPLE: Learners and students share a moment of skills sharing during an exercise.*

experience and see on a daily basis. The learners always leave the open day feeling so motivated and inspired to achieve their goals,” she said.

Lwandile Mputuma from Manzomthombo Secondary School in Mfuleni was one of the many learners who enjoyed practical aspect of the course and said the Open Day motivated him to pursue a career in textile design.

“Although we have done some of the work in class, it was interesting to see the different machines and how it all comes together. After this visit I am really looking forward to my future,” he said.

# New Business Faculty Dean settles in well

By: Thando J. Moiloa

With just over sixty days at the helm of the Business Faculty, Professor Mzikayise Shakespeare Binza is taking his role as the new Dean well in his stride.

Formerly Professor of Public Administration at Unisa and past director of the Raymond Mhlaba Institute of Public Administration and Leadership, Prof Binza first cut his higher education teeth working as senior lecturer in Public Administration at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU).

Born and raised in the Eastern Cape, Prof Binza holds a PhD in Public Administration in a field of political economy, with specific reference to public-private partnerships and local economic development. His research areas are politics & economics of Public Administration; leadership for development and governance; public policy; local government and performance auditing.

“Growing up, I had a dream of helping others; and although my first career started in the private sector as a banker, I think that by landing up as a Lecturer in Public Administration at the former University of Port Elizabeth, now NMMU still helps me to realise my vision. I embraced the world of academia and didn't look back; challenging as it may be; as I want to make a contribution towards generating and disseminating knowledge”, says Prof Binza.

Being a frequent media commentator for the SABC, Prof Binza has been heard rendering his opinion on several radio stations on topics such as elections, service delivery, public policy and reports; as well as the annual performance of government departments.

In March 2010 he was appointed as Rapporteur by the European Union &

CAAST-NET on the EU-Africa Research Collaboration Workshop on the Social Sciences and Humanities. Also last year, Prof Binza was elected to the position of National Treasurer for the Association of Schools and Departments of Public Administration and Management of Southern Africa (ASSUDPAM) and has served as Secretary for the Eastern Cape Chapter of the South African Public Administration and Management Association (SAAPAM-EC) for over nine years.

“Growing up, I had a dream of helping others”

This past October, he received an Y2 rating from the National Research Foundation (NRF) in recognition of his research work. He was also in the top twenty researchers at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) for 2006-2008 periods.

During 2006 and 2007, Prof Binza was awarded an Emerging Researcher of the year by NMMU and again in 2007 was awarded as the South African top researcher in the Thuthuka Programme under the National Research Foundation (NRF). He has published a book and 22 papers in international and local accredited journals and conference proceedings, whilst having presented nearly 60 scientific papers.

He serves as a member of the Editorial Boards of the US-China Public Administration Journal, the Journal of Public Administration and is also a reviewer for NRF research projects. He was also a member of the Editorial Board for the Administratio Publica journal. In addition, he is a member of the Worldwide Forum on Forces and Forms of Change in Doctoral Education. In addition, Prof Binza



Business Faculty Dean, Prof M.S. Binza

serves as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Raymond Mhlaba Trust Fund; RMTF Investments Pty (Ltd) and St. Francis Hospice.

Having provided research, training, and consultancy services to the leadership and public servants of various South African ministries and departments respectively; as well as to international embassies, Prof Binza intends to make research and development priorities within the Faculty.

“I would like to introduce several programmes to encourage and support lecturers, researchers and managers in achieving great outcomes for the Faculty. I also plan to strengthen ties with the other Deans and Unit heads to have better cohesion between us. I think that I can share my experiences from the merged institutions where I've worked. I want the Faculty to be respected by the rest of the community because of its academic integrity and let it resonate an open, developmental character”, adds Prof Binza.

Having recently relocated from Pretoria, Prof Binza enjoys reading and athletics, having participated in the Comrades Marathon in years prior. He is a devoted father and counts himself as fortunate, being the first member of his family to have graduated with a postgraduate degree.

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# Regional Education students' conference tackles research issues

By: Thando J. Moiloa

The annual Education Student's Regional Research Conference called for the aspiring minds and veterans in Higher Education Institutions across the province to track progress on issues of research pertaining to teaching and learning.

Now in its eleventh year, the conference brought together senior Education students and established academics from the Universities of Cape Town, Western Cape, Stellenbosch and CPUT, which played host on Friday, 30 September to Saturday, 01 October 2011 at the Mowbray campus, where the Education Faculty is housed.

CPUT's Education Faculty Dean, Professor Maureen Robinson, officially welcome the delegates, encouraging them to engage on constructive debates and sharing of ideas to make the most of the gathering.

Guest speakers included Stellenbosch University's Prof Yusef Waghid and UCT's Dr Heather Jacklin, with reflections from Prof Beverly Thaver of UWC, Prof Johan Anker and Prof Cornelis Vermeulen both from CPUT.

In his address on the topic of 'Reconstructing the place of critique and skepticism through postgraduate student supervision', Prof Waghid made some pertinent points, saying:

"If students and staff are willing to take more risks, what seems impossible can very well be achieved. We, as academics, should aim to build and not diminish, those that will continue to light the way for others".

Apart from students' poster presentations, the delegates were able to participate in afternoon breakaway seminars which centred on themes of Special Education, Language and Literacy in schools, Education Studies, Maths and Science Education and Higher Education studies.

During the thematic group discussions, topical issues such as corporal punishment, school administration challenges, home-schooling and multilingual teaching, were touched upon.

## Education faculty pioneers with EU funded Foundation Phase project

By: Thando J. Moiloa

The Education Faculty is leading the way in highlighting renewed teaching methods for the Foundation Phase, which incorporates learners from Grades R to Grade 3, through their involvement in a three-year initiative supported by the European Union (EU).

The Foundation Phase Teacher Education Programme is a joint project between the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and is intended to strengthen Foundation Phase teacher education in public universities in South Africa.

The programme has two main objectives, namely to increase the number of graduates who specialise as Foundation Phase (FP) teachers, particularly African language FP teachers; and to increase the number of public universities that offer FP initial teachers education programmes. CPUT's project team, made up of

around ten academics, is headed by Education lecturer and researcher Nici Rousseau and its focus centers on FP teacher preparation with an emphasis on the Grade R to Grade 1 learning phase.

"Although this project was recently launched (in July), it gives us as academics, an opportunity to polish up the grey areas of FP teaching, thereby giving learners a fair chance as understanding what they are taught", says Rousseau.

Rousseau, who is passionate about FP teaching, also forms part of the South African Research Association for Early Childhood Teaching and sits as the first founding member of the programme's Board.

According to the programme overview, a holistic approach has been adopted in order to ultimately achieve these quantitative objectives focusing on a recruitment/ advocacy campaign designed to enhance the status and image of FP teaching as a career, and to encourage a high calibre of matriculants to consider this as a career choice.

A bursary programme has also been set up to support up to 200 high achieving African language school leavers, particularly from the country's rural areas, to complete a Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree specialising in FP teaching. Due to research being an integral part of all higher education, the programme is also designed to develop interest amongst students, as they experience the classroom environment.

Dean Prof. Maureen Robinson adds that the programme fits compliments with the vision and outputs that her faculty stands for; having already placed a strong focus on FP teaching, research and increasing African language instruction in years past.

"CPUT is positioned at the forefront of Foundation Phase teaching, as it is the only University of Technology with a stand-alone project for this niche and the most FP trained teachers in the province, with its key areas being mathematics and languages", says Prof. Robinson.

"This national project not only promotes the work that we are doing on the grass-roots levels with our students and researchers, but it gives the FP educators a voice and much needed visibility to address the daily challenges".

# Language Indaba encourages debate on multilingualism in Higher Education

By: Sonia Koopman

On Thursday 22 September 2011, CPUT's Bellville Campus IT Centre played host the second annual Language Indaba, which brings together faculty language experts and local and international students alike to discuss language successes and challenges in the academic environment.

Language Co-ordinator for the Faculty of Health and Wellness, Dr Jennifer Wright, facilitated the proceedings along with Radiography lecturer at Groote Schuur Hospital, Bridget Wyrley-Birch, ensuring that attendees walked away with more insight on the central discussion topic, 'Multilingualism in Higher Education'.

Following a welcome and introduction, the panel discussions kicked off with students, representing their various departments and faculties, speaking on their perspective on language, teaching and learning.

International students, Thompson Adango, Natalino Domingos and Bruno Dias, and Ping Ping Yang from Ghana, Angola and China respectively, spoke candidly about the difficulties they faced in acclimatizing and integrating into a predominantly English-speaking learning environment.

Adango, a first-year MTech: Mechanical Engineering student and tutor said he found it particularly testing to understand the different accents of his classmates and lecturers, as they had their own non-English mother-tongue influence.

"I think this is a great platform to present how the different vernacular dialects and intonations can influence the way we speak and understand English", shared Adango.

Angolans Domingos and Dias said that amongst their countrymen, they predominantly spoke Portuguese outside of the classroom environment, which delayed their comprehension of English, which is vastly different. Yang said sometimes the lecturers were harsh and unaccommodating to students' multilingual requests.

"For us who struggle with mixing languages, it helps to have group discussions in class to better express and understand concepts when peers explain them", said Domingos. Two local Accounting students, Siphesande Qeke and Zukiswa Mbadu also gave insight into the challenges Xhosa speakers face.

"When we don't understand the lectures, we get depressed and withdraw, which results in us failing the course just because we couldn't interpret what the academic language meant", said Qeke.

Accountancy and Economic Law lecturer, Noleen Leach, spoke about introducing mother-tongue tutorials to her students to assist in the comprehension of an already complex subject such as Economic Law. Wyrley-Birch shared her experiences with the multilingual education environment and teaching a technical subject in only one language of instruction; English. She said this was particularly difficult when teaching students to interact with hospital patients during practicals and there's little understanding, which could result in frustrating the patients.

Information and Design Faculty Officer, Maurice Dassah, also presented his views on introducing language teaching software in the Faculty, named the 'Learning 100 language teaching system'.

Dr Wright expressed her viewpoint saying that multilingualism tends to be overlooked in institutions of higher education.

"This event gives us a moment to reflect on the successes and challenges whilst raising awareness on the various facets of multilingualism".

A follow up Indaba is being planned for early in 2012, to continue to debate and even implement some of the outcomes of the discussions.

## Dr Reedwaan Ismail appointed as member of the Research Policy Expert Forum

By: Sonia Koopman



NEW RPEF MEMBER:  
Dr Reedwaan Ismail

The HOD for Strategic Projects & Initiatives in the Faculty of Business, Dr Reedwaan Ismail, has been appointed by the National Minister of Tourism, Marthinus van Schalkwyk as a member of the Research Policy Expert Forum (RPEF) for a period of two years.

The establishment of the Research Policy Expert Forum is in response to the draft National Tourism Sector Strategy that identified a lack of a clear tourism research agenda in the country as well as policy gaps in relation to the development of the Tourism sector.

The aim of the Forum is to create a peer review platform for the National Department of Tourism's Research, Policy Development and Knowledge Management to ensure credibility of the research information, policy development and knowledge management practices.

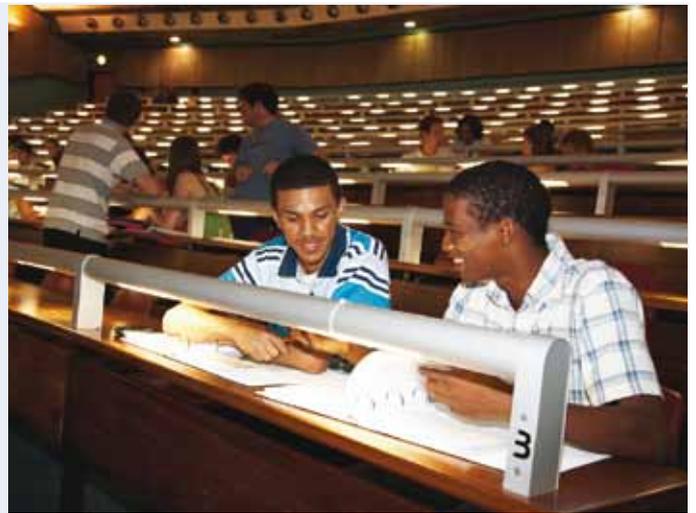
A further aim of the Forum is to facilitate and promote relevant, reliable, accessible, timeous and quality research and knowledge management, to inform planning and decision-making at all levels in the tourism sector.

The objectives of the Forum will be to ensure a best practice approach for research, policy development and knowledge management within the Tourism Department.

The Forum will create a platform for knowledge sharing with experts in research, policy development and knowledge management and provide expert opinion and peer review.

# Disability Unit's new short course leads the way

By: Thando J. Moiloa



*ENABLING OTHERS: Beatrice Koopman, Short Course co-ordinator and Business for Good's Human Resource Director.*

The Disability Unit, headed by Dr Nina Du Toit, is working in partnership with Business for Good, a non-profit training consultancy, to bring the first-of-its-kind short course aimed at addressing issues relating to the disabled.

The course, which piloted in July, primarily looks at training human resource practitioners in the practices around recruiting and retaining people with disabilities.

Although the course is not restricted to recruiters, it has a strong focus on training and development, with six full-time participants ranging from private Corporates to other non-profit organisations and government

departments; from recruitment officer to middle managers.

Thus far, the pilot is run over 13 weeks, with classes taking place on Thursday evenings for three hours with participants needing to complete 30 hours and submit a substantial portfolio of evidence in order to receive a CPUT-endorsed course certificate.

The course administration is done through the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE), headed by Mike Du Plessis and currently holds a National Qualifications Framework (NQF) 5 rating with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).

Course co-ordinator and Business for Good's Human Resource Director, Beatrice Koopman, says that the course is accessible to anyone who has an interest in issues of people with disabilities.

We offer knowledge and information to the potential or current employer

"For the pilot course offering, we identified participants in industry and

government who we felt could benefit from the information we gathered and hope to develop confident 'job coaches' who can assist people with disabilities in finding suitable, fulfilling employment", says Koopman.

"We offer knowledge and information to the potential or current employer about reasonable accommodation and legislation adherence, and some key benefits include creating sustainability, diversity and tolerance for the disabled members of our society to find their place in industry or public service".

According to Dr Du Toit, who is also a moderator and one of the four course lecturers, potential students need to have either a grade 12 certificate or have grade 10 with at least five years experience in disability work placements. The course, although offered primarily in English, can be translated into Afrikaans, where needed.

She says: "So far the programme been well-received and we hope to run it again next year in February, so anyone who's interested can contact the Disability Unit (via the CPUT website) for more information".

# Radiography students reach out to needy communities

By: Sonia Koopman



*GIVING BACK: The third-year Radiography students poses with their lecturer, Saaiga Ismail (far left holding the yellow poster), displaying posters which depict activities done during their community outreach projects.*

“To develop and sustain an empowering environment where, through teaching, learning and scholarship students and staff, in partnership with the community and industry, are able to create and apply knowledge that contributes to development.”

This is the motto CPUT prides itself in, and a group of third-year Radiography students recently did well to uphold this noble vision.

Several safe houses in and around Cape Town now boast a cleaner and more efficient working environment thanks to a group of 42 third-year Radiography students who recently visited the various organisations during a community outreach project, as part of their civic engagement responsibilities.

Radiography lecturer, Saaiga Ismail, said the project formed part of the students' syllabus for the subject, Radiography Management.

She said the aim of the assignment was for the students to learn planning skills, team work and through exposure to the plight of others, realise how many people were in desperate need of assistance.

“It was a humbling experience and definitely felt good to give back.”

“Every year the project becomes more satisfactory. It's a wonderful initiative from CPUT and enables the students to be exposed to the different side of the patients they come into contact with daily. One can already see the growth and maturity in the work they produce.” Saaiga explained that students were divided into seven groups and were all required to choose an organisation within Cape Town. The task was to identify areas where they could lend a helping hand, either through doing refurbishments, giving donations or conducting workshops.

However for students, Qaanita Isaacs and Lindi de Vos, this project meant more than just scoring good marks for their report. They spent three weeks uplifting children at the Masiphumelele Educare in Fishhoek in the process.

“At first we didn't understand how the project was relevant to our course, but after being exposed to their living conditions, we forgot about our problems and concentrated on theirs. It was a humbling experience and definitely felt good to give back,” they said. Another pair that enjoyed giving back to the community were Chulumanco Majola and Tahnee Stoffels, who donated books, clothes, perishables and stationary to the Solomon's Haven in Mitchells Plain. They also painted the floors and designed new information boards for the premises.

“It was an eye-opening experience and made us more appreciative of what we have. Working with these abandoned children also made us more passionate about our work as radiographers.”

moja

# Student Counselling promotes No Drinking and Driving Campaign

The Student Counselling Department once again wowed students at this year's Market Day, held on the 26th of September. The theme for this year was Health and Wellness, which promotes healthy lifestyles.

As per usual, the Student Counselling went all out to honour the prescribed theme. Since October is Alcohol Abuse Awareness month, we decided that Market Day would be a great opportunity to prepare students for what to expect during this month.

We decided to focus mainly on the campaign by the South Africans Against Drunk Driving (SADD). With posters supporting this worthy cause, our stall proved to be quite popular with the students.

Our display consisted of empty beer bottles, which seemed to attract a numerous number of students, and, in commemoration of victims of drinking and driving, crosses with pictures of people that were killed as a result of drinking and driving. We were quite honoured to have Traffic Officer Josh Manewal as part of our campaign.

He exhibited the most feared Breathalyser scanner, which tests and monitors the amount of alcohol in a person's blood system. Students were very eager and excited to have their "alcohol volumes" tested. Later on we were joined by Officer Harold Williams, who is spokesperson for the Western Cape Road Safety Department.

The Student Peer Helpers carried out this magnificent campaign in a very professional manner, as they had attended an intense training session on

the SADD campaign. They confidently educated students about the implications of drinking and driving, and offered information about the units of alcohol found in various alcoholic products.

Students were also required to complete pre- and post-consumption tests, based on the different units of alcohol. The Peer Helpers also cleared some issues regarding the myths around alcohol, for instance, the use of energy drinks in order to "sober up" quickly.

We were also surprised to hear that Mr Williams had organized a photographer from the Cape Argus to cover this prestigious campaign. The most exhilaration came when Ms Annette Grobler, Student Development Practitioner, announced that Student Counselling's stall had won first prize, together with 'Shweet Cakes', for the best stall.

## Mowbray heritage day celebrated in spirited fashion

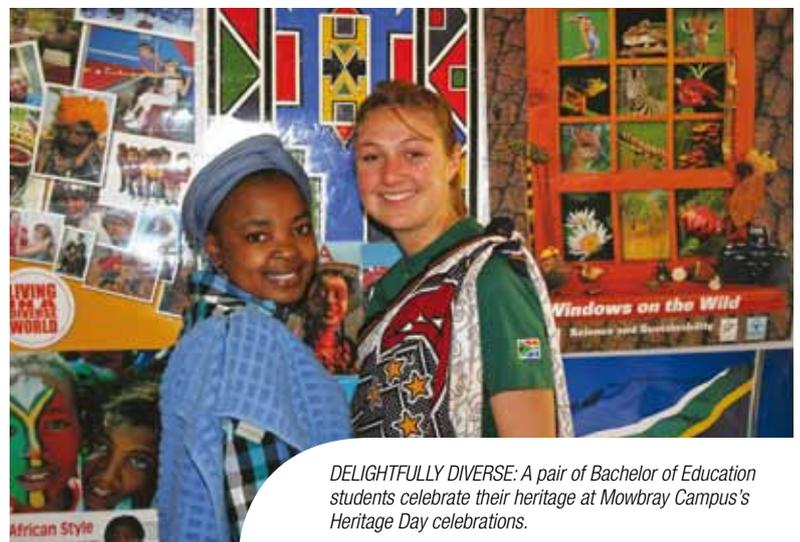
By: Thando J. Moiloa

Mowbray was the first of CPU's campuses to get in the heritage day spirit.

The annual event sees the campus come alight with bright colours, vibrant singing, joyful dancing and traditional South African cuisine, in commemoration of Heritage Day celebrated annually on 24 September.

This year the Diversity Task Team of the Faculty of Education & Social Sciences made an extra special effort to acknowledge the multicultural learning environment in which they work and teach.

Both staff and students were treated to an array of cultural items ranging from traditional folk songs, to modern dance and poetry as well as Cape Minstrel group, the All Stars, entertaining the audience with their Ghoema music. MCs Education student Vincent Belu and Local SRC Deputy Chairperson Thandeka Thabi who is also studying Education, did their campus proud lead the audience in choral Xhosa songs. Later guest speaker, Aysha Abrahams, shared her perceptions of celebrating one's heritage and accepting cultural differences within the educational environment.



*DELIGHTFULLY DIVERSE: A pair of Bachelor of Education students celebrate their heritage at Mowbray Campus's Heritage Day celebrations.*

Dean of Education and Social Sciences Prof. Maureen Robinson commented on how important it was to think positively about heritage and culture taking the country's historical landscape into account.

"It is wonderful to see the efforts that have been made to out today's

event together, meaning that we can work well even with all our diverse cultures," she says.

"I believe that heritage and culture should be used to unite us and this commemorative day is about recognising that though we are culturally different but yet the same."

# The DSA brings two golden acts: GoldFish and Zahara

By: Mampho Mizilikazi (2nd year PR intern at Student Counselling)  
Photo By: Clive Galant

It might have been Monday, but the only thing that was blue on the day was the clear skies above.

On the 26th September thousands of CPUT students were seen jamming along to the beats of one of South Africa's most popular bands, Goldfish at the Piazza on the Cape Town campus.

This local electronic duo wowed the crowd with their fresh new mix of live instruments and house beats, keeping the students on their feet throughout the hour long performance. The concert was held in conjunction with the Student Counselling department's Market Day, which was, again, a huge success.

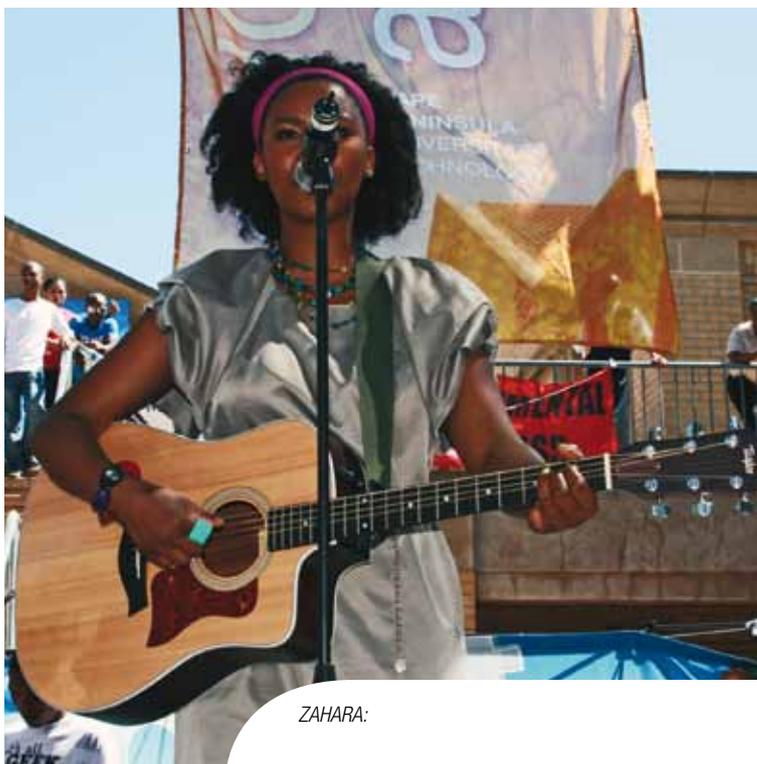
Band members, Dominic Peters and David Poole said they thoroughly enjoyed their visit to CPUT.

"The fact that so many students turned up during class time already serves as a huge compliment. It's always fun performing to a younger audience. Thank you everyone who took time out of their day to support us," they said.



A WINNING TEAM: Goldfish featuring vocalist Sakhile Moleshe, with who they collaborate on their latest album.

First year Jewellery Design student, Shiraj Andrews, said the concert served as a perfect distraction from his academics. "It's always refreshing to just relax and be free from one's studies, even if it's just for an hour. The vibe was just awesome. What a great start to my week!"



ZAHARA:

By: Thami Nkwanyane | Photo By: Shawn Uys

## Zahara mesmerises CPUT audience

The Bellville Campus Quad was brought to a standstill in early October 2011, when South Africa's new singing sensation, Zahara, sang and strummed her guitar to the jubilation of scores of music revelers who came to witness her talent. Brought to CPUT courtesy of the Department of Student Affairs as part of its Wellness Day entertainment programme on the campus, the songstress hypnotised her fans with songs from her new album, Loliwe.

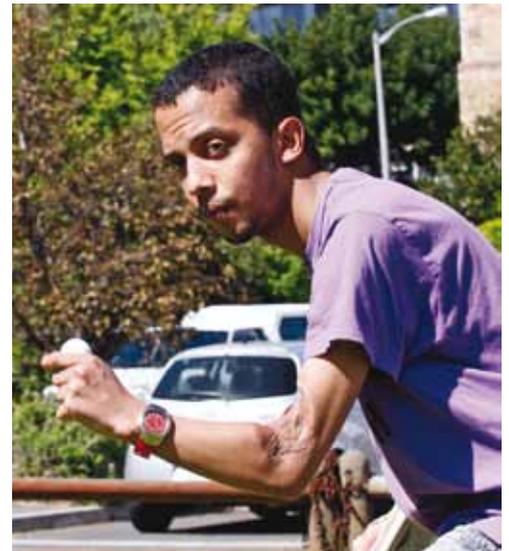
'Zahara', whose real name is Bulelwa Mkutukana, has catapulted to iconic status all over the country after the release of her album earlier this year, which went double platinum within two weeks of its release. Her popularity could be witnessed by students and staff singing along with her during the renditions.

Student Development Officer, Lindi Gayiza, who was involved in organising the event, said it was for the first time that the Quad got to be packed as it was during this event. Zahara told Moja she was overwhelmed by the manner in which she was received by the CPUT community and described her show here as quite fulfilling.

moja

# CPUT STUDENT IS **SA TABLE TENNIS CHAMP**

By Lauren Kansley



*ON TARGET: CPUT student Mark Skippers is determined to take part in the next Paralympics.*

**AFTER** years of being left on the bench because of his disability this sports loving CPUT student has had the last laugh when he was crowned the SA under 20 Paraplegic Table Tennis Champ.

Matthew Skippers was born with dislocated elbows which meant his arms crooked at 90 degree angles for much of his life.

A series of painful operations in his teenage years have managed to straighten them, leaving Matthew open to explore a world of new sporting opportunities.

In 2007 he started playing table tennis and after a few short years his sheer drive and determination has recently seen him being chosen as the Paraplegic Table Tennis Junior Captain, score a gold medal and make

both his Western Province and South African colours. Not a bad achievement considering the 20-year-old IT student says his entire high school career was an endless disappointment of never getting picked for rugby, soccer or other team sports.

"I always loved all sports and used to be good at it but when it came to choosing teams they would never select me," says Matthew.

Adding to his frustration was school officials who struggled to grasp the complexity of Matthew's disability meaning he almost failed one year. "My arm would get very tired during exams and I struggled to finish the paper but they refused to allow me to type my paper," he says. However all this changed when Matthew started at CPUT and now makes use of the facilities at the Disability Unit which caters to the unique requirements of all disabled students.

Now that he is on a level footing with other students academically Matthew has been able to dedicate more time to his beloved table tennis.

"Table tennis needs a lot of practice. You can't just practice today then leave it for a week, you need constant practice or else small boys will be beating you," he laughs.

Matthew says being part of the Western Province Paraplegic team and competing in national competitions has helped his game and made him a better person. "One of my teammates always says 'I may be a paraplegic but I'm not disabled'," he says.

"He is such an inspiration to me and competing in para-competitions has taught me humility, hard work and determination.

"The able bodied will never fully comprehend how paraplegics struggle." And while the London Olympics will happen next year without him Matthew has his sights firmly on 2016 when he hopes to represent South Africa on an international stage.