Thousands of first year students were urged to make a success of their studies in order to play a vital role in South Africa’s economy.

Addressing first year students during a Welcome Ceremony at the Bellville campus on 20 January 2010, Vice-Chancellor Prof Vuyisa Mazwi-Tanga said: “You are the building blocks of our country’s democracy and economy. This means that those who make a success of the time spent at universities and centres of learning will become valuable assets to South Africa, your communities and your families.”

This Welcome Ceremony, which was also attended by parents, was one of three that took place during Orientation week. The first was held on Cape Town Campus on 18 January 2010, followed by a ceremony at the Wellington Campus on 19 January 2010.

Referring to first years as “valued members” of the CPUT community, the Vice-Chancellor assured them and their parents, that they had chosen a wonderful place of learning.

“All our activities, including our extra-mural activities, are designed to help our students to achieve academic success and to develop into mature and well-balanced individuals who can confidently take their rightful place in the world of work and in general,” she said.

With CPUT boasting a list of prominent persons who were former students of the institution, she said many of the first years will “become captains of industry and A-rated researchers.”

However, Prof Mazwi-Tanga said success can only be achieved if students make a commitment to their studies.

Although students will be supported by CPUT staff members and have access to support facilities, the Vice-Chancellor said it is students’ willingness to work hard that will yield success.

She also drew the audience’s attention to the threat of HIV/AIDS and encouraged the first years to make use of support systems and participate in programmes that are in place at CPUT.

Prof Mazwi-Tanga pointed out the importance of participation in extramural activities and involvement in student structures.

She also appealed to those who will become involved in student leadership to use these platforms responsibly.

“This level of maturity will enable us to work together in a spirit of trust, respect and ubuntu,” she said.

“I am hopeful that each one of you will make Ubuntu one of the fundamental values that will govern your behavior while you are part of CPUT’s community and beyond your stay on this campus.”
NEW BEGINNINGS: Vice-Chancellor, Prof Vuyisa Mazwi-Tanga addressing first year students and their parents at the Wellington Campus Welcome Ceremony.

FUN: Wellington first year students participated in a number of activities, including trolley races, during their orientation programme.

MUSICAL: Mowbray first year students participated in a drumming session.

OPEN AIR: First year students at the Mowbray campus were taken on a tour around the Cape Peninsula on an open bus.

DESIGN: First year Informatics and Design students register at the Cape Town campus.

HELP AT HAND: Third year students who participated in the Bellville campus orientation programme.
This year CPUT pulled out all the stops to ensure that first years felt at home in their new environment.

The jam packed 2010 Orientation programme included campus tours, sporting events to fun games.

Coordinated by the Department of Student Affairs and Faculties, orientation activities kicked off on 11 January and culminated on 22 January.

Sport Development Officer Annelie Swarts said activities at the Cape Town and Mowbray campus got off to a good start during the second week of term.

Activities included a line up of presentations which saw first years meet their lecturers, members of the Student Representative Council (SRC) and representatives of campus societies.

They also attended course orientation seminars and were informed of all the facilities available to them at CPUT.

Student Development Officer Mastura Jardine, who coordinated activities at Bellville campus, said they hosted seminars at the auditorium from 18 to 22 January. The seminars, which included performances by local musicians, provided first years with the basic tools to ensure they cope with university life.

This included presentations covering areas such as financial aid, transformation, campus life to health issues.

“The students were also taken on a tour of the campus by peer helpers,” said Jardine.

At the Wellington campus the orientation programme allowed students to have a few days of fun before classes commenced.

Chairperson of the Wellington SRC, Wihan Esterhuysen said: “We had a lot of activities. We hired out the local swimming pool for a fun day. We also organised a fun sports evening for the first years.”

First years also participated in trolley races and a McDonalds evening, which saw the SRC manning the local takeout and serving first years.

Amidst all the fun, first year were also made aware of CPUT’s commitment to community engagement.

Esterhuysen said first years also participated in a “blikskud”, which will saw them collect money in the streets of Wellington. The proceeds were donated to a local charity.

Various other units also presented programmes at all the campuses.

The HIV/AIDS Unit conducted half-hour HIV/AIDS Orientation Sessions on the various campuses, while Student Counselling ran a programme themed “Facing the challenges of transition into higher education.”

This programme, which was presented in the form of a short presentation took students beyond the basic orientation and assisted them in preparing for both the academic and social challenges facing them at university.
CPUT Libraries is celebrating the success of its Digital Knowledge (DK) site, with the number of academic text downloads registered by the site sailing well past the 10,000 milestone.

The site was launched in September last year as a means for CPUT staff members and students to publish theses, academic papers and other publications to a digital library that could be accessed by both a local and an international audience.

By 11 January 2010, the site reported that users had downloaded academic texts 12,000 times. A report by Google Analytics tracking site visits since the September launch stated that the site had been visited by users from 109 countries, including the US, UK and India.

According to DK’s reporting systems, the most popular CPUT item hosted by Digital Knowledge is the result of the efforts of Faculty staff members, who have contributed poster presentations, articles, conference proceedings and speeches, and Library staff members who have assisted academic staff, and undertaken the laborious process of scanning documents for the collection.

The item was accessed 201 times in the four-week period.

According to Deborah Becker, who serves as the Digital Knowledge co-ordinator for CPUT Libraries, the University has digitised most of its collection of pre-2005 Peninsula Technikon theses and loaded them into the Digital Knowledge database.

“12,000 downloads emphasises the visibility Digital Knowledge offers and the value of adding items to the collection,” said Becker.

“The library would like to thank staff and students who are contributing to the development of the database.”

The Library is still scanning its collection of Cape Technikon and CPUT theses. Becker, and fellow Library staff member Imraan Baderoen plan to have these texts uploaded by the end of 2010.

Other plans for 2010 include growing the site’s collection of historical photographs and documents and rolling out a means of recording citations in DK.

The Library recently also added a number of e-books to the DK site, which are available for free to staff and students.

The CPUT DK site is hosted by USA-based online publisher Berkeley Electronic Press and is based on the organisation’s Digital Commons platform.

Students and staff members wishing to contribute items to DK can access the site directly at http://dk.cput.ac.za or contact Imraan Baderoen at baderoeni@cput.ac.za for further assistance. For technical enquiries, contact meyerc@cput.ac.za.

Note that to access Digital Knowledge, some users may need to adjust their browser settings.
Research output at CPUT can no longer be confined to journals. With the establishment of the Technology Transfer and Industry Linkages Unit, research output, where feasible, will be commercialised.

At the helm of the new unit is Theo Hendrickse, who joined CPUT earlier this year. Hendrickse holds several qualifications and brings his wide ranging professional experience, which includes, academia, legal and business, to this new position.

He holds a Masters Degree in Science (Chemistry) from the University of Cape Town, a B.Proc Degree from the University of the Western Cape and a post-graduate qualification in Intellectual Property and Competition Law from the University of London.

A former member of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Intellectual Property and Chairman of the Patent Examination Board, Hendrickse will provide the guidance and support to academic and research staff on matters pertaining to the protection of Intellectual Property (IP) and exploitation of commercial opportunities arising from their work.

The establishment of the unit will also enable CPUT to comply with new legislation which outlines how intellectual property generated from public funded research should be managed.

During the next few months Hendrickse plans to focus his energy on establishing the Technology Transfer and Industry Linkages Unit on the Bellville campus and securing a visible presence on Cape Town campus.

“IP protection and commercialization of research output has not been a focus for CPUT in the past, and, if we are to ensure a sustainable approach, we must do the ground work,” he said.

Dr Chris Nhlapo, DVC Research, Technology Innovation and Partnerships said he is excited about the unit as it is going to add the necessary impetus to CPUT’s quest of being a leading innovation academy in Africa.

“At present, there is little appreciation of IP as an instrument of growth and wealth creation in South African Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). It is therefore imperative for HEIs to create proper policies and frameworks in line with the IPR Act 51 of 2008 for the management of intellectual property arising from publicly financed research,” he said.

According to this legislation, institutions own intellectual property generated from public funded research.

“Therefore, I think this office is a critical resource to assist CPUT in managing its intellectual assets as there is now an obligation on employees and students to disclose IP to the institution,” said Dr Nhlapo.

“IP protection and commercialization of research output has not been a focus for CPUT in the past, and, if we are to ensure a sustainable approach, we must do the ground work,”

INNOVATION: Theo Hendrickse, the Director of the newly formed Technology Transfer and Industry Linkages Unit.
CCE INTRODUCES FOUR NEW PROGRAMMES

The Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) is putting into practice one of CPUT’s core values, responsiveness, by adding four more programmes to its curriculum this year.

Supply Chain Management, Personal Money Management, Basic Script Writing and Public Relations (PR) Writing / Media Crisis are the titles of the new offerings.

In total, CCE now offers 47 programmes. As part of being responsive, the unit saw the need to improve and add more programmes to its curriculum.

Mike Du Plessis, Director of the CCE, said: “As responsiveness is one of our institution’s values, we seek to improve our programmes in order to serve our communities better.”

“Supply Chain Management has become a buzzword in the industry as employees can’t be good at one process, but have got to have synergy on all the functions required to successfully service the market,” said Du Plessis.

Personal Money Management is a self-improvement course and is designed to empower people to become responsible with their own finances.

Du Plessis said it is often assumed that people are able to take care of their money, but that it has been proven that financial stress can be one of the worst problems people experience. He said that the best solution is for people to empower themselves.

The Basic Script Writing programme is designed for artists who are already in the industry and who want to improve their writing.

CCE also offers tailor-made courses to corporate clients.

Most short courses run for a period of between six to fourteen weeks, and there are also five-month courses. However, the Business Development Programme (BDP) and Credit Management are exceptions.

The BDP, which is a year-long programme, has a new curriculum with effect from 2010, in order to align it with one of the institution’s formal programmes; ND: Management.

According to Lucy Smith, BDP Coordinator and Office Manager at the Bellville office, the course is like a stepping stone.

Even though the course’s duration is one year, it gives students access to the third and final level of ND: Management once they have completed the programme.

The PR Writing / Media Crisis programme will focus on how companies should deal with the media, should something that has the potential to jeopardise the company’s brand strike.

“When an emergency crisis strikes, the company’s reputation and image are at risk. During this time, what matters is what people think. PR people need to be taught how to deal with such situations,” he said.

She said: “We have students who started with us who are currently doing PhD and Masters Degrees.”

Only students with relevant work experience of more than five years and who never got an opportunity to study at a higher education institution are accepted on the course.

The Credit Management programme is sequential as it has three levels of advancement. Students are required to do three levels of study in order to hold a qualification.

CCE is also recognised by one of the credit rating companies, TransUnion. Each year, TransUnion issues a bursary to a promising student to study for two semesters.

Nomakwezi Cele, Office Manager at CCE’s Cape Town campus and Promotions Coordinator, said: “The Credit Management programme is in demand considering the National Credit Act that is currently in place in our country. We have so many people registering for the programme and that tells us that we are relevant.”

CCE holds a Certificate Awards Ceremony twice a year for the Credit Management Programme, in which about 120 students receive qualifications.
The Sport Management Department is not only expanding but planning to tap into the adrenaline-pumping adventure sports industry.

The department, which only had offices at the Mowbray campus, has now set up shop at the Wellington Campus.

With a first year intake of just over 40 students, lecturers at the Wellington campus say the programme is off to a good start.

However, opening a department at the Wellington campus is not the only plans lecturers have in store for this popular course.

As from 2011 students studying Sports Management will have the opportunity to specialise in adventure sports.

From white river rafting to windsurfing, adventure sport is one of the fastest growing industries in the world.

Across the globe, adventurers of all ages are signing up for adventure holidays, adventure tours, extreme sports and adrenalin experiences.

With a global demand in this type of activity, there are now opportunities for extreme sport enthusiasts to start up adventure sports businesses.

The adventure sports module, which is the brainchild of Etienne Joubert, a Sports Management lecturer and adventure sports enthusiasts, will be offered to students in their second and third year.

Joubert, who is coordinating the Sports Management course at the Wellington Campus, said he saw the need to enhance the skills of CPUT students.

“Adventure studies will be an extra module that will give students skills which they can use to specialise in adventure sports...”

However, adventure sports at the Wellington campus will not only be limited to those studying Sports Management.

Earlier this month, the Student Affairs Department launched the Adventure Club.

Sports Development Officer, Tyrone Africa said the club will allow students who are not interested in mainstream sport the opportunity to participate in outdoor activities.

Working hand in hand with Joubert, the club will also benefit those studying Sports Management and give them an opportunity to take their sporting to another level.

Africa said the Adventure Club will not only be for social purposes.

“We want this to be a competitive club,” he said.

Africa said the club will not be limited to a specific sport and that students will have an opportunity to participate in a range of adventure sports, from land to water based activities.
CPUT’s Engineering Department held a Fitting Losses progress meeting with United Kingdom-based partners at the Cape Town campus recently.

On 27 January 2010, lecturers and senior students at the Engineering Department reported back on progress since CPUT and the Engineering Science Data Unit (ESDU) collaborations were initiated in 2008.

As a result of the collaboration, CPUT now offers a course on Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) to senior students.

Dr David Philpott, a Senior Engineer at the ESDU, represented the partner company at the meeting.

The students presented the work they have done since the collaboration.

Mahabubur Rahman Chowdhury, an MTech: Chemical Engineering student, presented on Determination of non-Newtonian loss coefficients for long-square edged orifices.

Chowdhury also works as a part-time lecturer at the Chemical Engineering Department.

“The experience I am getting from my studies is great. We have great lecturers, environment and resources. Our study environment is excellent as the institution is well-resourced,” said Chowdhury.

According to Dr Veruscha Fester, one of the research supervisors, there is no work in the literature for the type of orifice of Beta ratio 0.5 and thickness to diameter ratio of 5.

She said: “This research work, done by the students, is therefore central to completing the international literature base of experimental results.”

Butteur Ntamba, an MTech: Mechanical Engineering student, presented on Determination of non-Newton loss coefficient for short-square edged orifice plates.

He is studying viscous fluid flows through short orifices and his work will fill the gaps in that area.

Ntamba hails from the Democratic Republic of Congo and has completed his Bachelor of Engineering with the University of Lubumbashi prior to joining CPUT in 2009.

“It feels good to study what I am studying as everything is according to my expectations. We have good laboratories here, library and internet connection 365 days a year, and that makes my student life easy,” said Ntamba.

Dr Philpott also did a presentation on Methods and Data for the Industry.

“We decided to visit the institution to check the progress of the work the department is doing. I am really impressed with what the students and lecturers are doing, they are doing very well.

“I hope the association with CPUT continues and we hope that there would be more similar partnerships like these in the future,” said Dr Philpott.

The department has received R1.4 million funding from the National Research Foundation since 2001 when research work in the department was formalised as Loss in Pipe Fittings for non-Newtonian Fluids.

Dr Fester said: “Although ESDU does not contribute financially towards the programme, they are essentially scrutinising the research results for quality and in disseminating it to industrial design engineers in the form of design software.”

SHOWCASING: Dr David Philpott (middle) takes a look at CPUT facilities with Dr Veruscha Fester.
NEW WINE CELLAR FOR WELLINGTON CAMPUS

“We plan to extend the laboratory as soon as we move into the new cellar. The new cellar will enable us to extend the number of wine styles made,” said Theron.

Students who are being trained in the art of winemaking will soon have access to a state of the art experimental wine cellar.

The wine cellar, which is earmarked to open its doors later this year, is currently being constructed at the Wellington campus.

The facility will allow students following the National Diploma in Agriculture-Viticulture and Oenology, to have access to facilities that are on par with that in industry.

The facility will also allow CPUT to increase its intake of students in this field after a recent study revealed a need for more Viticulturists and Oenologists at a national diploma level.

Hanle Theron, a lecturer in the department said they are looking forward to taking occupation of the wine cellar, which is being funded by the national Department of Education.

Currently the laboratories and other facilities used by the students are being housed in containers at the Wellington campus.

“For the time being it is sufficient, since we do not do any experiments, but perform standard winemaking analyses. We, of course, plan to extend the laboratory as soon as we move into the new cellar,” said Theron.

She said students are already producing red and white wine on an experimental scale.

However, Theron said the facility will have a positive impact on their practical activities.

“The new cellar will enable us to extend the number of wine styles made,” she said.

Meanwhile, Theron said they are also planning to celebrate the graduation of the first cohort of National Diploma in Agriculture-Viticulture and Oenology students.

The group of seven, who completed their course at the end of 2009, will graduate at the April ceremony.
Students take on DESIGN CHALLENGE

Top design students from Britain and South Africa are set to work cross continent on The Creative Entrepreneurs Challenge.

This unique challenge, which will give students a real world experience of enterprise start up in the design industry, is part of The International Entrepreneur – Design for Africa Project.

The project, which is funded by the British Council, is aimed at empowering South African design students, by exposing them to international learning opportunities in order to help them achieve their entrepreneurial ambitions.

The project, which was launched last year, is the brainchild of Shaun Borstrock, Head of Design and Business Development in the Faculty of Science, Technology and Creative Arts at the University of Hertfordshire.

At the helm of the project in South Africa is Bryan Ramkilawan, a CPUT Fashion lecturer and Vice Chairman of the Cape Town Fashion Council.

Ramkilawan said The Creative Entrepreneurs Challenge pilot is a collaboration between the Cape Town based Ruth Prowse School of Art, Bh Design School, CPUT and the British based University of Hertfordshire.

He said the challenge, which takes place in February, will see students develop business concepts alongside their British counterparts. Four South African students will be paired up with four British students and be required to complete a number of entrepreneurial tasks. The students, all who are in their third year of study, will use social media, such as Skype to communicate.

Of the 400 students’ participating in the challenge, 48 are from CPUT. Students, who were selected to participate, include those studying Fashion, Industrial Design Fine Art, Interior Design and Photography.

New machines for TECHNOLOGY STATION

The Clothing and Textile Technology Station is gearing up to introduce new technology to the local industry after they acquired three hi-tech machines.

This includes a 3D body scanner, a welder and a jet pocket machine.

Of the machines, the body scanner is the most sought after in the local and international clothing industry.

Donated to CPUT by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the body scanner has the ability to gather the exact measurement of an individual. This data can then be used to improve the sizing of clothing.

Researcher Reena Pandarum, from the University of South Africa, who recently trained CPUT staff members on how to use the machine, said there are problems in the industry with regards to sizing.

Pandarum, who has conducted extensive research using the body scanner said, “In South Africa we don’t have our own garment sizing system. We are using the American and British sizing model.”

These models do not take into consideration the different shapes and body profiles of South Africans.

Pandarum said in order to obtain measurements, an individual steps into a chamber, similar to a clothing cubicle that houses the scanner.

The scanner then projects white light on to the individual in order to obtain the exact measurements. It then puts together a computerised image of the individual.

Manager of the station, Shamil Isaacs, said with the scanner located in Cape Town, they are now in a position to assist the local clothing and textile industry with improving their sizing models. Isaacs said the welder and jet pocket machine will also play a vital role in the services offered to industry by the station.

The welding machine, which was imported from the United States, is one of the latest developments in the industry. Instead of utilising thread to sew garments, the welder generates heat from within the fabric, and makes use of a specialised wheel to weld the garments together.

Isaacs said it is ideal for the manufacturing of outdoor and medical wear.

The station is also working with the Engineering Department to develop different wheels for the machines. Several well-known clothing producers have also visited the station to test the machine.

The impressive jet pocket machine has also caught the attention of industry. Isaacs said to manufacture pockets manually takes 13 minutes, whereas the machine takes seven seconds.

He said all the machines will be utilised for research purposes by CPUT staff members.
SUPPORT FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

Postgraduate students at CPUT will receive the necessary support to ensure they achieve their goals of becoming academics, researchers or expert practitioners in their chosen field of study.

Addressing students at a welcome and orientation session hosted by The Centre for Postgraduate Studies on 9 February at the Bellville campus, Prof Stephanie Burton said the centre is a “visible, dedicated and interested point of contact” for all postgraduate students.

Established in 2009, the centre aims to enhance the profile of postgraduate activity at CPUT and attract students into the institution’s research community.

Prof Burton, who is at the helm of the centre, said they are also tasked with raising awareness of potential technology innovation as an outcome of postgraduate research.

However, the main task of the centre is to provide a range of support services to postgraduate students.

Prof Burton said pursuing a postgraduate degree is hard work and the skills required are different from those needed to complete an undergraduate degree or diploma.

“Postgraduate students need a wide vision and broad integrated training to understand what it means to be a researcher and what it means to be an academic,” said Prof Burton.

Referring to the centre as a “one-stop-shop” point of contact for postgraduate students, Prof Burton said they offer dedicated support and assistance in all of the processes involved in postgraduate study.

The support services include workshops, seminars, training, mentoring, bursaries and assistance with administration linked to postgraduate studies.

The centre is currently in the process of putting in place policies to ensure that their activities are in line with the priorities of CPUT and establishing committees that will oversee postgraduate activities.

Dr Chris Nhlapo, DVC Research, Technology Innovation and Partnerships encouraged students to make use of the services offered by the centre.

He said it is vital for South Africa to increase the number of doctorate graduates.

Currently South African produces only 1100 doctorate graduates a year.

However, Dr Nhlapo said he is positive, that with the help of the centre, CPUT will play a vital role in South Africa by producing highly skilled individuals.

ACCESSIBILITY COMES UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

Accessibility at CPUT will come under the spotlight, with the establishment of the Universal Access Task Team.

The team, which is currently being put together by Dr Nina du Toit, head of the Disability Unit, will be tasked with improving and monitoring accessibility at the CPUT campuses.

The move to create the task team comes after the Disability Unit roped in the help of outside consultants to conduct an accessibility audit of the CPUT campuses.

The audit, which took place in November and December 2009, examined facilities at CPUT campuses in a bid to determine what infrastructure changes would need to take place, to ensure that all students, including students and staff members with disabilities have access to all facilities.

The consultants looked at various aspects, including accessibility of buildings, restroom facilities, parking and signage.

“We are still waiting for the consultants’ final report. This will assist us in mapping out the way forward,” said Dr du Toit.

The task team, which will include representatives from several CPUT departments, will also be required to raise awareness on Universal accessibility issues amongst staff members and students.

Dr du Toit stressed the importance of buy in of the entire CPUT community into the new Universal Access paradigm. She said ensuring accessibility at all campuses is a huge task and one that cannot be completed within a short period.

In the meantime, the Disability Unit is extending its support services to students with disabilities at all campuses.

There are units at Bellville and Cape Town campuses and support services are provided at all the satellite campuses.

The units feature state of the art assistive technology equipment, which is designed to meet the needs of students with disabilities.

This ranges from a Braille printer to computers with large text and software programmes.

The support services on the satellite campuses are housed in the libraries.

According to Dr du Toit there has been an increase in the number of students that make use of their facilities and services.
FOOTBALL FRENZY CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF

As the Fifa 2010 World Cup ™ draws closer, CPUT staff and students will get the chance to show their soccer spirit by participating in the University’s multi-campus Football Frenzy campaign.

The campaign, a joint initiative between the Sport Management, Student Affairs and Marketing and Communication Departments, was launched on 5 February on Mowbray Campus, with over sixty energetic staff and students participating in a mass Diski dance.

The dance, developed by South African Tourism as a way of building fellowship among local and international soccer fans, pays tribute to the special flare, found in local football. The steps incorporate football-style moves such as the ‘Header’, ‘Juggle’ and ‘Table Mountain.’

The Diski dance has been performed in international locations from London’s Trafalgar Square to Hong Kong’s Times Square, as well as at local landmarks, such as the top of Table Mountain.

Mowbray-based Sport Management Lecturer Brendon Knott, one of the Football Frenzy campaign coordinators, was among the CPUT Diski participants. His campaign team, which includes coordinators representing Bellville, Cape Town, Wellington and Granger Bay, will roll out similar football support events on other campuses over the course of the World Cup run-up period.

Knott said CPUT’s initiative was part of the Western Cape’s campaign to engage all citizens in the province around the 2010 World Cup.

“It also aims to promote a sense of national pride and broaden knowledge and awareness of the event and sport in general,” he said.

Knott added the campaign will additionally benefit the University by promoting health awareness and physical activity and will provide opportunities for teambuilding and cohesion among staff and students, as well as between campuses.

He also noted that some of the events will be coordinated by Sport Management students, who will use the opportunity to practise some of the organisational skills they will need in their future careers.

A major part of the campaign is the weekly Football Friday Frenzy, in which staff and students are encouraged to come to campus dressed in soccer supporters’ gear. Specially designed Football Frenzy T-shirts will be available from campaign coordinators from the beginning of next month.

On 1 March 2010 Student Affairs will hold a CPUT Football Frenzy Market and Fun Day on Cape Town campus. The event will tie in with there being 100 days to go until the start of the World Cup and will include food stalls, activities and a concert by guest artists.

CPUT welcomes new staff

It was not only first year students who recently received a warm welcome to CPUT, but also new staff members. During the third week of the term, 51 new staff members participated in a three day induction programme.

Organised by the Learning and Development Department, new academic and administration staff attended information packed workshops and were also given a tour of the CPUT campuses. Head of Learning and Development, Thelo Wakefield said: “At CPUT we regard induction as a very important function. It gives new staff members an idea of how we function, what they can expect and what CPUT expects from them.”

Mr Wakefield said the programme was carefully put together to ensure that all areas were covered. On Wednesday, 20 January, new staff members attended a one day information session at the Bellville campus.

“On the first day we had quite an intensive six hour session, where we looked at employer relations at CPUT, health and safety, conditions of service and performance management. We also discussed learning and development opportunities,” he said. New staff members also met the Executive Management and directors of various strategic units.

Day two of the programme took place at the Cape Town Campus and was only attended by academics. This session was coordinated by Prof Chris Winberg. On the last day of the programme, the new staff members were given a tour of the CPUT campuses. However, Wakefield said induction does not stop after the three day programme.

“Great emphasis is placed on departmental induction. It is the duty of the heads of departments to take the induction process further,” he said.

Wakefield said they will follow up the induction process and write a report, which is submitted to Executive Management.

“If there is no proper induction, then you will find ill-informed and unhappy staff members. This is not what we want at CPUT,” said Wakefield.
CPUT mountaineers, Annette Grobler and Ntlaletseng Ramohlola recently attempted to summit Mount Aconcagua, the highest mountain in South America.

Grobler, a Student Development Officer and alumnus Ramohlola, who is employed as a Chemical Engineer on an oil rig off the coast of Nigeria, began their mountaineering ventures several years ago.

Whilst studying at CPUT, Ramohlola, with the support of Grobler, summated Mount Kilimanjaro in 2005. The following year Ramohlola returned to CPUT and invited Grobler to travel with him to Russia and summit Mount Elbrus. The alumnus covered Grobler’s expenses as a token of appreciation for the role she played in his life whilst he was studying at CPUT.

After a short break from mountaineering the duo decided to take on Mount Aconcagua, which is situated in Argentina, during the December holidays.

The expedition, which included several other climbers and Spanish guides, was led by well known mountaineer Sean Disney.

Grobler said despite their best efforts, they were unable to summit and fly the CPUT flag on top of Mount Aconcagua.

A mere 500m from the summit, the group was forced to turn around. Due to two climbers who had developed altitude sickness, they had moved too slowly and could not reach the summit before 3pm.

“Due to the fact that the weather at 7000m can change in a second, the Spanish guides that escorted us, have strict instructions to summit with their groups before 3pm. If people are not at the top by this time, then the guides have to take them down,” said Grobler.

“The first 20 steps back to camp were the most difficult steps I had ever made. Defeat is all you think about. I was defeated by the mountain,” she said.

However, with winds speeds up to 65 km per hour in minus 23 degrees, blizzards, nausea, insomnia, acute mountain sickness, and waiting in tents for up to three days on end, Grobler said she is happy to be home.

She said there is still a possibility of flying CPUT’s flag on Mount Aconcagua as Ramohlola plans to travel back to South America and make a second attempt to summit.

“We had forgotten that the mountain still holds the master card, that it will grant success only in its own good time. Why else does mountaineering retain its deep fascination”

Eric Shipton
CPUT’s Business Faculty has enrolled at least 30 exchange students this year from different countries.

The students are doing various courses within the Business Faculty.

Twenty one students are from Ravensburg University while two students are from Fonty’s University, both in Germany.

Three students come from Hogeschool Kaho St Lieven in Aalst, Belgium, while two students are from Carinth in Austria.

This year, two BTech students from Anhalt University, also in Germany, will join the Marketing and Project Management Departments for their studies.

Ivan Charles van der Heever, one of the acting deans at the Business Faculty, and also responsible for both staff and student exchange programmes, originally went over to Germany to negotiate partnerships with the institutions that are currently involved.

“The number of students coming to our institution has increased tremendously,” said van der Heever.

According to Diane Bell from the Business Faculty and also the Exchange Programme coordinator, for the first time, in 2009 CPUT staff went to lecture for two weeks at Anhalt University.

“I was one of the lecturers who went and taught German students. We were lecturing students who were doing the International MBA Programme, which is the only English programme offered at that university,” said Bell.

The students that were taught by CPUT lectures were from 11 countries worldwide.

Bell said: “The experience of having to deal with other students from various countries was very good for us.”

According to Bell German students are extremely focused “and it is just nice to work with them because generally Germans love Africa and are always positive about everything that hails from our continent”.

Every year German professors visit the Business Faculty and lecture in various departments.

This year, Prof Daniel Nicholas from Anhalt University will join the Marketing Department in February to lecture 2nd year students for two weeks.

The Business Faculty will be sending three Marketing students to Belgium in order to complete their in-service training.

Van der Heever said: “In order for the programme to be a viable exchange, we need to send more students to these overseas universities.”

The faculty usually sends two BTech students to Germany every year, but the challenge is always communication as most Germans do not speak English.

As from this year, the faculty will send students to complete a six-month German course before embarking on an exchange programme.

“The experience of having to deal with other students from various countries was very good for us.”

“The fact that Germans hardly speak English limits our students. We are already organising for our students to attend the language course,” said Bell.

The students are required to apply in order to qualify for the exchange programme. Bell said: “We try and send deserving students who have never flown in an airplane.”

In October, the faculty is sending two staff members to Anhalt University.

“My vision has always been that staff should be given opportunity to network with colleagues abroad while students are getting an opportunity to study.

“Hopefully, we’ll create lots of opportunities for staff and students this year. Staff needs to be able to broaden their horizon,” concluded van der Heever.
FOOD TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS go behind the scenes

The Food Technology Department is making history as it is embarking on a service learning programme for the first time ever in this department.

Eleven second year Extended Curriculum Programme (ECP) students will participate in the project within several farming communities.

The department plans to kick-start the programme by taking students for a factory visit to Three Streams Smoker House in Franschhoek in order to bring the students into contact with the trout and fish processing industry.

The visit will take place either at the end of February or beginning of March.

They will specifically work with farm workers on several wine, fruit and olive farms.

Sune St. Clair Botha, one of the Food Technology lecturers, is driving the project and has recently been appointed as Service Learning coordinator.

According to Botha, the project will involve activities such as site visits to several farms.

Botha said: “The department felt the need to bring students in contact with the food industry and giving them the experience and opportunity to see how end products are manufactured from the raw materials.”

The ultimate goal for the department is to visit the Small Scale Trout Farmer’s cages, where the trout is being farmed, and train these small-scale farmers in basic food hygiene and safety.

The project will address the need of giving the Small Scale Trout Farmers the necessary information, knowledge, skills and opportunities to ensure sustained quality of fresh trout to be sold to different fish processing facilities.

Botha said: “Another major objective of this programme is to train the food-handlers who will be working in the fishing processing facility in Basic Food Technology principles.

“This will aid Hands-On Co-operation to process and manufacture safe food; which will assist in business sustainability, right down to the Small-Scale Trout Farmers.

“The students will then be trained in Basic Food Hygiene and Personal Hygiene, and how these two aspects are of great concern for Trout farmers.”

The students will later be asked to develop course material in the form of a Power Point presentation, which they will then use to train the Small Scale Trout Farmers at a formal training session.

The students will also make use of some simple microbiology practices to demonstrate food contamination as well as basic food and personal hygiene.

According to Botha, the students will receive training in a more practical manner and the project will give them that opportunity to better understand how all the knowledge they obtained in Food Technology course are combined to address challenges and practicality in the food industry. The project will further teach the students basic and advanced communication skills.

The department hopes to continue with more projects in the future should other opportunities exist. Botha said the manager of Hands-On Trout Co-operation intends to build its own processing facility in Stellenbosch.

“The owner will later need people to work there and those people will need training and that is where our students will come in. Because by that time we would already have a relationship with the corporation, our students might need to train the workers,” concluded Botha.
EXCITING SPORTS LINE-UP FOR 2010

CPUT students and staff members can look forward to an exciting sports line up this year.

The Sports Department, which has coordinators based at the Wellington, Cape Town and Bellville campuses, say they are looking forward to the sporting activities lined up for 2010.

At the Wellington Campus, students have started pre-season preparation in rugby, hockey, athletics and netball. The cricket and golf leagues are also continuing this year.

Sports Development Officer (SDO) Tyrone Africa said he is planning to introduce several new sporting codes this year.

“We want to introduce soccer, kickboxing and dance sport,” he said.

To date more than 100 students have signed up for dance sport.

Africa said a large number of students at the campus are involved in sport activities.

The campus boasts four netball teams, three hockey teams, an established golf and tennis team and over 70 rugby players.

Sports facilities at the Wellington campus will also be revamped this year, after the institution received R4.5m from the Lotto.

The funds will be used to resurface the six tennis and netball courts. Lighting will also be installed in the courts. However, the bulk of the funds will be used for the installation of high mast lighting on the two rugby fields.

Sport activities at the Bellville campus, which boasts some of the best sporting facilities are already underway.

Meanwhile, SDO at the Cape Town campus, Annelie Swarts said they are hoping to have an even better year than last year.

In 2009, a number of sporting codes based at the Cape Town campus clinched top spots in several national tertiary events.

The Cape Town campus female basketball team won the Western Cape League, while the male team clinched second place. The male team also came third at the USSA championship.

“The CPUT athletics team won gold medals for the second consecutive year in the 21.1 km road race at USSA.

The dance club also came first at the USSA tournament,” said Swarts.

She said they introduced a number of new activities last year and are hoping that more students will sign up this year.

“It (sports) is good for a student’s general well being. It not only maintains their physical well being, but they get to socialize with and meet new friends and they learn general life skills such as good sportsmanship, determination and discipline,” she said.

“Some clubs like for instance the netball has changed their league schedule, and their league matches are now being played on Thursdays and not Saturdays anymore, to accommodate

SDO at the Cape Town campus, Quinton Summers said they are also looking at introducing a gym at the Cape Town campus.