After 18 years at the institution CPUT’s very first Vice-Chancellor is retiring. Prof Vuyisa Mazwi-Tanga reflects on her role in crafting the institution into the solid brand we now know.

When you were appointed VC what was your vision for your tenure and how do you think you have achieved that?

I came to office when the two institutions merged and at that stage my key objectives was to formulate a uniform culture that would unite two unique identities.

Mergers by nature are very complex and coupled with the fact that universities are conservative it was a particularly stressful phase.

Reflecting now, ten years later, it is difficult to measure success but if we consider academic and research output, improvement in staff qualifications, sustained student enrolments and finally the financial stability of the institution, I would say it’s obvious that staff unite behind the goal of making CPUT great.

I can’t say we have succeeded and are finished because we must continuously work at improvement.

Reflect on the fact that you are part of a select number of female VCs in the country.

Finally, your message to staff and students.

Thank you for allowing me to make the contribution I have made. I am grateful for the opportunity I was afforded and it has exceeded my wildest expectations.

What I have achieved is because of the tremendous support and growth I have experienced here from staff and students alike. Continue to grow and prosper.

B E R O N N R O P C  O O U T C U G P U T  B U L L E T I N

O C T O B E R / N O V E M B E R  2 0 1 3  

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What’s Inside

What’s Inside

Success at SATN

Page 2

Cube Sat lift off

Page 3

VCD speaks

Page 5

Netball stars

Page 8

UPCOMING EVENTS

6-8 November

Science Idols

28 November

Food Product Launch

29 November

Research Day

6 December

Staff Party

LEGACY: Prof Mazwi-Tanga reflects on her tenure as Vice-Chancellor of CPUT
Students use play to learn

To bolster reading skills, lecturer Gail Bohle opted for less conventional teaching methods and students are now reaping the rewards.

From Scrabble to 30 Seconds, board games are proving to be a huge success in improving the reading skills of students following the extended reading of students. Bohle, a Communication lecturer in the Engineering Faculty, decided to take a fun approach to teaching to help students who are battling with reading and their comprehension of text.

“To improve vocabulary, reading is vital. However, you can improve it by creating new ways for your brain to think,” she says.

Bohle then put her ideas on paper, which saw her clinch funding from the university’s Research and Innovation Fund for Teaching and Learning. A few months later she set up the Reading Lab on the third floor of the ABC Building on the Bellville Campus.

A reading retreat, the lab resembles a library and has ample working space for students. Once a week, students meet with Bohle and are allowed to play a variety of board games aimed at improving their vocabulary.

“Funny enough, scrabble is the favourite pick for students.” Bohle has also developed a Language Lab Workbook that contains puzzles, word games and word searches that have an engineering feel to it.

“I have just one year with the students and try to make a difference,” she says.

And Bohle’s efforts are paying off. Students Wendy Vusani says the games are a fun way to learn.

“30 Seconds is my favourite because it makes you think on your toes,” says Wendy.

Her classmate, Graham Joseph, prefers Scrabble.

“With scrabble you get a limited amount of words at a time and this forces you to think about creating words,” he says.

CPUT trumps at SATN Conference

CPUT has cemented its position as a leading University of Technology in terms of community engagement. The institution was lauded at the annual South African Technology Network conference for its innovative community engagement (CE) projects and snatched an award for one of the three best papers to be presented at the event.

SATN is a highlight on the calendar of all Universities of Technology since it is a rare opportunity for management from the various institutions to network and share experiences.

Director of the Community Engagement and WIL unit, Associate Prof Joyce Nduna, played a pivotal role in the conference since she is the only grant holder for the NRF’s CE project at UoT’s and acted as a project leader at the event.

Advocate Ashley Searle, Director: Office of the Consumer Protector, Department of Economic Development and Tourism, along with Manager of the Service-Learning Unit, Jacqui Scheepers, was awarded a prize for their combined paper on service-learning partnerships which explored the interconnectedness between the aims and objectives of government, community and higher education stakeholders.

Nduna says CPUT led the pack with six papers presented in the CE theme and all of them are scheduled for journal publication.

“We have managed to profile CE and demonstrated that a scholarship of engagement is possible through community engagement practices,” says Nduna.

Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research, Technology Innovation and Partnerships Dr Chris Nhlapo commended the CE and WIL team for their hard work and for flying the CPUT flag high.

“They are addressing a key mission of the institution and building scholarship in community engagement,” he says.

“We wish that they keep up the momentum and CPUT continues to live up to its unique brand.”
This November CPUT is set to make history with the launch of Africa’s first CubeSat, ZACUBE-1.

The CubeSat, developed by postgraduate students following F’SATI’s CubeSat programme will be launched from Vany Launch Base in Russia and be placed in orbit at an altitude of 600km.

ZACUBE-1 will orbit earth up to 15 times a day and its main mission will be to gather data on space weather for the South African National Space Agency (SANSA).

In a message engraved on the CubeSat, SANSA Director, Dr Sandile Malinga says ZACUBE-1 “may be a small step for South Africa, but it is certain to inspire a large transformation of our space technologies and education.”

Currently F’SATI is at the forefront of developing the human skill capacity in satellite production for South Africa and the rest of the African continent.

Director of F’SATI, Prof Robert Van Zyl, says the strength of the F’SATI CubeSat Programme is its utilisation of CubeSats as technology platforms for practical, hands-on skills training and applied research.

“This approach offers our students a unique learning experience and prepares them very well to participate in the South African space industry,” he says.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Technology Innovation and Partnerships Dr Chris Nhlapo, says the development of the CubeSat indicates that research and innovation at CPUT is on the right track.

Over a period of just three-years, the CubeSat programme has graduated 22 Master’s students and the mission has also contributed to 10 conference papers, 3 scientific journal papers, the development of the African Space Innovation Centre and a Research Chair.

SANDILE MALINGA: SanSA Director, says this is a significant milestone for Africa.

Leon Steenkamp was the last person to see ZACUBE-1 before it was launched into space.

Etnard Louw, who is leading the outreach missions.

“At this is a fun way to introduce children to satellites,” he says.

The device is attached to a helium balloon which carries it several metres into the sky.

Fitted with a radio-link, the device transmits information to a laptop, such as photographs and weather data. Once the mission is completed, Etnard activities a simple device which severs the Cansat from the balloon and activates a parachute that safely carries it back to ground.

Etnard says the programme has been a huge success, with one school now incorporating it into their curriculum.

The CubeSat was then flown to Russia.

Steenkamp says it has been an exciting scientific journey.

“it is a really great opportunity to be part of something so significant,” he says.

F’SATI Alumnus and CPUT staff member Leon Steenkamp will be the last person to see ZACUBE-1, before it is launched into space.

Steenkamp, who has been involved in the development of the CubeSat since its inception, will travel to Russia this month and do the final checks on ZACUBE-1.

ZACUBE-1 left the African continent in September for the Netherlands, where it was packaged in a pod, along with two other CubeSats at Innovative Solutions In Space (ISIS), a launching agent in Delft.

The CubeSat was then flown to Russia.

Steenkamp says it has been an exciting scientific journey.

Once in orbit, the CubeSat will be controlled by F’SATI staff members and students at the ground station located on the Bellville Campus.

Did you know that ZACUBE-1 is:

- Africa’s first cubesat
- It will collect data on space weather which will be used in a variety of scientific projects
- Weighs 1.2kg and measures 10x10x10cm
- Is about 100 times smaller than the first satellite launched to space
- Took 18 months to build and 30 000 hours of manpower
- It runs on the same amount of power of a 5-watt bulb
- Will orbit the earth 15 times a day
- Contains 4 000 electronic components

Final checks

Etnard Louw does a Cansat demonstration at a school in Namibia
An inaugural lecture and the opportunity it provides to share years of research is a pivotal career highlight for any academic.

In October it was the turn of respected scholar Prof Jeanine Marnewick to take the spotlight as she delivered her address—Rooibos phytochemicals: A complementary approach in the war against chronic diseases.

Marnewick did an excellent job of condensing her 16 years of research into the health promoting properties of Rooibos for the audience which consisted of her own family, friends, colleagues and fellow researchers.

The Centre is both a testing facility for industry as well as being a training unit for postgraduates. Deputy Vice Chancellor-Research and Innovation Dr Chris Nhlapo commended Marnewick’s contribution to the institution’s research output saying she was an asset to CPUT.

Under her watchful guidance 9 masters and 5 doctoral candidates have successfully graduated and at the moment she is supervising another 7.

Dean of the Health and Wellness Faculty Prof Dhino Gihwala says Marnewick’s dedication to Rooibos research is infectious.

“Rooibos is Jeanine’s passion, she enjoys working with this proudly South African product and is looking forward to unravelling more scientific wonders in future,” he says.

After nearly two decades of dedication to Rooibos Marnewick says her enthusiasm is even stronger.

“We look forward to having this humble herbal tea for the next few decades in our laboratories,” she says.

“May Rooibos become our own elixir of life in South Africa.”

By LAUREN KANSLEY

ELIXIR OF LIFE

Rooibos researcher commended

Culture Day

The Education Faculty held a Culture Day as part of Heritage month celebrations during which Xhosa and Zulu customs were showcased.

The students dramatized customs such as Ukukhulukhwa kwekwekwe (boy’s homecoming) and lobola negotiations between a Zulu and a Xhosa family. Dressed in traditional regalia, they also displayed traditional dishes and beverages such as samp and tripe, sorghum beer and samshewu.

Communication lecturer Vuyo Mntuyedwa says that apart from students celebrating their heritage they were also allocated marks for their performances.

“We want students to be proud of their heritage by reviving the use of indigenous languages because the medium of instruction at universities is English,” says Mntuyedwa.

SRC member Loyiso Meyiseli says the SRC donated the foods, attire and other cultural items to show their support for the event.

By KWANELE BUTANA

No break for Public Management students

In a move to prepare its students for the final examinations the Department of Public Management hosted a Spring School for its students during the recent recess.

Facilitator, Dr Stanford Cronje, told students that passing was easy if they worked diligently towards their exams. He also emphasised the importance of relaxation during the three-day bootcamp.

The programme was attended by first-years, third years and B-Tech students on different days.

Cronje says the school’s objective was to give the students an idea of how to prepare for exams.

Working in groups, the students were taught to identify key outcomes for the respective courses as well as preparing standard answers to each outcome. The students were also given an opportunity to reflect on the activities of the day.

SAB invest in Food Technology Department

The state-of-the-art micro-brewery has been set up at the Pilot Plant on the Bellville Campus. The welcome donation forms part of tertiary brewing programme run by SABMiller, which sees the company fund the construction of micro-breweries at universities that serve as teaching aids for students involved in science and engineering programmes.

Head of the department, Prof Jessey van Wyk, says they are looking forward to this new venture that will open many new career opportunities for graduates skilled in brewing.

By CANDIES KEATING

Thanks to a donation from brewing giant SABMiller, the Food Technology Department will be setting up a Postgraduate Brewing Group.

A first for CPUT, the state-of-the-art micro-brewery has been set up at the Pilot Plant on the Bellville Campus.

This welcome donation forms part of tertiary brewing programme run by SABMiller, which sees the company fund the construction of micro-breweries at universities that serve as teaching aids for students involved in science and engineering programmes.

The Postgraduate Brewing Group will be run by postgraduate students Bryan Monke and Gareth Williams, under the guidance of Food Technology Department staff member Owen Hendricks.

The duo were the first to try their hand at brewing when they entered the SAB Inter-University Beer Brewing Challenge that took place earlier this year in Johannesburg.

Bryan says the group has a number of tasks lined up for 2014, which includes the development of several unique beer types. They will also conduct research in various areas of brewing.

By KWANELE BUTANA

Spring School

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Image
NEVHUTALU’S VISION

VCD chats about his plans for CPUT

BY KWANELE BUTANA

Vice-chancellor designate, Dr Prins Nevhutalu, is calling on all members of the CPUT community to rally behind the university’s Vision 2020 and begin to identify and implement activities that will catapult the institution to greatness.

What attracted you to CPUT? I have been in the University of Technology sector for quite some time. I’ve had the experience of interacting with CPUT leadership and came to understand the full potential of this university. With the opportunity to lead it, I will create the best of this good institution.

What do you hope to achieve with CPUT? Firstly, I want to provide credible and visionary leadership so that the team can gain a sense of direction and pull together. Secondly, in making a great institution I want to improve our efficiencies, our business processes can be better. Thirdly, I will work very hard to improve the university’s image so that it is not seen as step-child of other tertiary institutions in the Western Cape.

Lastly, we need to increase our research output as well as our student throughput.

Were you perturbed by the negative media reports which accompanied the selection process prior to your appointment? Not in the least, I have a proven track record in the Higher Education sector. I was an innocent applicant, that’s why I didn’t even bother to comment on the reports at the time. I accepted the university’s rules and played by them.

I could not be a player and the referee at the same time, in fact doing so would be unethical.

BELGIUM CONNECTION

BY LAUREN KANSLEY

A visit to CPUT from a delegation from Antwerp University is the first step in the strengthening of relations between the two institutions.

The pair already share a profitable relationship through the EUROSA mobility programme which encourages SA Masters, Doctorate and PhD students to apply for scholarships to study at partner universities in Europe.

The meet and greet visit was aimed at carving a way for similar partnerships to develop which will enable more students and staff to study abroad.

The delegation was met by Head of International Affairs Merle Hodges as well as Dean of the Informatics and Design programme Prof Johannes Cronje and Head of the Disability unit Dr Nina Du Toit.

Du Toit visited Antwerp University two years ago as a EUROSA recipient and Cronje is scheduled to visit Europe soon on a similar programme.

Thesis workshop

Academic shares his knowledge

BY CANDES KEATING

A true researcher must have the capacity for hard work, a desire to know the truth, broad interest and an ability to challenge paradigms.

These are the wise words of renowned researcher Prof Raj Chhabra, from the Indian Institute of Technology in Kanpur, who presented at a three-day Engineering Postgraduate Student Research Seminar.

With over 300 publications in peer-reviewed journals and six books, Chhabra knows exactly how to navigate the research sector and was more than willing to show CPUT postgraduate students how to make their mark in this challenging sector.

During the seminar that took place at the Bellville Campus, Chhabra encouraged students to think out of the box when approaching their research.

He also broke down each step of the research process and shared his views on the purpose of a well-constructed thesis.

“A good thesis is measured by how many new questions it opens and not just by the questions it answers,” he says.

“You can also do the best research, but if you don’t share it with others, then it is all pointless.”
PERFECT FIT
Student turned staff member is happy to be back

BY LAUREN KANSLEY
A rewarding career as a leading expert on both disability and youth development issues has recently culminated in Ghalieb Essop joining the CPUT community.

Essop is the first person to be appointed as Project Officer: Student Success and Retention in the Business faculty and his biggest task is ensuring the throughput of undergraduates through the variety of courses on offer.

The position was established as a response to the growing number of talented students dropping out and Essop, with his decades of experience working with the youth of Cape Town, was a perfect fit for the position.

He left a fulfilling job as the chairman of the Western Cape branch of the National Youth Development Agency to take up the new challenge and says he can’t wait to get his hands dirty.

“Youth development is my passion and this job gives me the chance to cherry pick the very best experiences I have had so far and plough it back into an institution which is all about the youth,” he says.

Essop has been disabled since he was injured in a diving accident at Clifton beach when he was 15-years old.

After an intensive year of rehabilitation his keen interest in news and government policies saw him offered a position at the National Department of Land Affairs. He then impressed so much that they offered him a full bursary to study Public Management at the then Cape Technikon.

After over 10 years away Essop says it feels good to be back as a staff member.

“Other education institutions can learn from CPUT about how to deal with the physically disabled. I have been overwhelmed by the level of support I have received as a student and now a staff member,” he says.

Student turned staff member is happy to be back

Market Day success

BY KWANELE BUTANA
Marketing students demonstrated the knowledge they learnt this year when they ran profitable food stalls during a recent Market Day on Cape Town Campus.

Personal Selling lecturer Tania Petersen, who co-ordinated the event, says the initiative was for academic assessment and that the proceeds from the sales would be donated to a charity organisation.

The event challenged the students to apply all the skills they acquired from their subjects such as marketing, personal selling, accounting, and End User Computing.

Working in groups of between 10 and 15 students relied on their mastery of skills like entrepreneurship, project management, team building and conflict management.

Petersen says students would also have to prepare income and expenditure statements after the event, so their knowledge of accounting was also tested.

It took the students two months to conceptualize and plan for their projects. They also had to do the branding and advertising of their projects using posters and social network sites.

The groups erected stalls around the Piazza and sold different foods, snacks, sweets and meat products to staff and students.

The Market Day was held in conjunction with the Department of Student Affairs’ Green Week which boasted the Micasa performance.

Productive selling to staff and students during the Market Day

Welcome aboard

BY LAUREN KANSLEY
A year and a half long quest to find the perfect Faculty Manager for Health and Wellness has finally ended.

With her past experience in both academics and administration Dr Sanette Angloher was a natural fit for the position and assumed her responsibilities in October.

Angloher left her position at the Milpark Business School where she was HOD of Commerce to join the CPUT community. Prior to that she was Managing Principal at the International Hotel School.

Her love of systems and order has always seen her gravitate towards positions of organisation and her current one is no different with the bulk of her responsibilities including leading and managing the administration portfolio for the faculty.

Angloher, who is currently completing a Masters in Education, says studying opened her eyes to the academic world and made her consider a career at CPUT.

“The institution has a good name is extremely stable and I believe in the product we are selling here,” she says.

“I know what the academics want and need. This is the perfect position for me.”

IN HONOUR OF WOMEN

BY KWANELE BUTANA
The Diversity and Transformation Committee of the Faculty of Education and Social Sciences recently honoured women in the faculty by giving them food vouchers and inspirational messages at an empowering ceremony.

Lecturer Naseema Shaik says the ceremony was a celebration of women’s strengths and contributions not only in academia but also in support services. Female staff members came from all campuses to attend the event which took place at Mowbray Campus.

The event was also attended by Vice-chancellor, Prof Vuyisa Mazwi-Tanga and the faculty’s Dean, Prof Thobekile Mda. Delivering the keynote address, Prof Zubeda Desai from the University of the Western Cape emphasized the importance of education as an empowering tool in women’s lives.
Moulded into greatness
Alumnus thanks staff programmes for achievements

BY KWANELE BUTANA

CPUT alumnus Lusani Vhangani is the ideal version of what good mentoring and support can do for a student.

This month she was appointed as a permanent lecturer in the Food Technology Department after a stint as a junior lecturer.

Vhangani, a product of CPUT’s Khula Programme, says teaching has always been her childhood dream. The Khula Programme is aimed at diversifying the university’s academic staff profile through equity and transformation.

The multi-million rand programme, which was launched in 2009, recruits and trains talented students to become academics. At the end of this year, CPUT will have spent close to R10 million in the programme.

Vhangani completed her M-Tech in 2011, the same year in which she joined the Khula Programme. As a Khula candidate she also completed the Fundani CHED Teaching Development Programme (TDP) last year.

“It opened my eyes to things you might not think are important, I learnt about different and recent teaching methods. I also learnt how to approach the class as well as the use of technology in teaching,” she says.

Vhangani says teaching is a dynamic profession and thanks both the TDP and Khula programme for identifying and moulding her.

History inspires design
CPUT student clinches top Graphic Design prize

BY CANDES KEATING

When tasked to come up with a design for a local school’s ground in just three weeks, BTech Landscape students, Christiaan Jonker and Pieter Esterhuizen jumped at the opportunity to hone their skills on such a challenging project.

The brief was to design a unique and cost-effective landscape for Oaklands Secondary in Lansdowne. The school was originally housed in a wooden chipboard structure up until 2011, when the prefabs were replaced with a modern school building.

Boasting a new building, the school called on CPUT’s award winning Landscape Department to turn their premises into an oasis.

For design inspiration, Christiaan and Pieter drew on the school’s history and came up with a winning concept.

CONCEPT

“We used the history of Oaklands Secondary to base our concept upon. This has given the design a sense of meaning and culture in a way that people can experience and understand,” says Christiaan.

The duo used the footprint of the old building for their design, which features walkways, seating areas, indigenous plants and a cycle route.

Pieter says they also added some interesting elements to the design, like a time capsule where messages from staff and students are to be placed and read in the future.

Design Duo: BTech Landscape students, Christiaan Jonker and Pieter Esterhuizen, designed a landscape for a local high school
**Champs of champs**

**CPUT wins Western Cape Basketball league**

*By Candes Keating*

The CATS Basketball team has been crowned the 2013 Western Cape Basketball League Champions.

Both the Cats ladies and men’s basketball teams displayed excellent skills on the basketball court, and dominated the Western Cape League this year.

In the final games, the Cats ladies defeated their opponents, the Lethal Ladies 85-70, and the Cats Men’s team beat the CPUT Alumni team 46-37, says Assistant Coach Matome Mokoena.

And this year, the teams’ hard work and excellent skills did not go unnoticed. The team was recognized at the Western Cape Basketball Association’s Annual Awards, where six of our players walked off with trophies.

Nomtsi Rewu, Vuyelwa Gamka, Junior Ongenda and Michael Makanda were recognized as “All Star” players for their excellent performance this season, while Sophy Ngbeni and Sternard Mapurisi scooped this year’s Most Valuable Player of the season award.

Junior and Bonga Kalipa, have also been selected to represent the province on the newly formed Basketball National League Franchise Cape Mountaineers team. Junior was selected as the team’s captain.

Mokoena says they are proud of the team’s performance and are looking forward to another successful basketball season.

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**Putting women first**

*By Candes Keating*

CPUT’s Railien Neilson is set to bring about big changes for women participating in sports in the Western Cape.

The Sports Administrator at the Cape Town Campus, Neilson, who is actively involved in various sporting codes in the province, says she is looking forward to creating many opportunities for women.

“My goal is to promote social inclusion, equity, education and leadership opportunities for women residing in the province,” she says.

Neilson says one of her major tasks will be to create more awareness about women in sport and to increase the support base.

“In South Africa the focus is still mainly on male sports. Females are not given enough exposure,” she says.

Neilson will also spend the next year developing Handball, after being elected as the chairperson of the Western Cape Handball Association.

A European sport, Handball is gaining popularity in South Africa, with CPUT already boasting a team that recently clinched second place at the South African Senior Championships.

She is also getting to work on the establishment of a structured programme for handball league fixtures.

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**Winning streak**

**Netball team remains unbeaten**

*By Candes Keating*

The Cape Town Campus netball team has done it again. The team won the Super League division of the Tygerberg League for the fourth consecutive year.

Thanks to a strong defense line, sharp shooters and relentless attack players, the team clinched a winning score of 36 -31 during their final match against the Durbanville netball team.

Cape Town Campus Sports Coordinator, Annelie Swartz says teamwork and team spirit coupled with excellent skills is the secret to their winning streak.

The team is also highly skilled, boasting some of the country’s strongest and most talented players who have made a name for themselves both nationally and internationally.

This year, the team’s star player, Rochelle Lawson, was the vice-captain of South Africa’s U21 team that participated at the World Youth Netball Championships 2013, which took place in Glasgow during August.

First-year Sport Management student, Janine Bresler, captained the U/19 Western Province Team while Sonja Barnard captained the Western Province A-Team.

Swartz says nine of the eleven players also played for Western Province this year, while Rochelle and Melanie van Gunten were part of the South African U21 team. The team is now enjoying a much needed break before the start of the netball season in February 2014.

Swartz says they hope to recruit new players for both the first and second team and also to continue their winning streak.