



## VUT and Emfuleni Municipality partnership build up capacity



Seated(L-R): Ms Greta Hlongwane (Executive Mayor) and Professor Irene Moutlana (Vice-Chancellor & Principal of Vaal University of Technology). Standing (L-R): Mr Collins Kekana (Municipal Manager Chief Operation), Mr Bob Mthembu (ANC Regional Secretary), Cllr Msebenzi Gqeloshe (Emfuleni Speaker) and Cllr Diau Tshabalala (Chief Whip)

The Vaal University of Technology, in collaboration with the Emfuleni Local Municipality, has begun a programme to help local councillors develop their public management skills. The aim is to increase their contribution within the public sector, through equipping them with skills to better understand the handling of community issues as well as council matters.

At the same time, it is entrenched in VUT's Mission Statement that the university interact closely with industry and community to ensure the relevance of its programmes and qualifications. This platform, therefore, creates an opportunity for a two-way partnership that caters for a specialised programme that offers

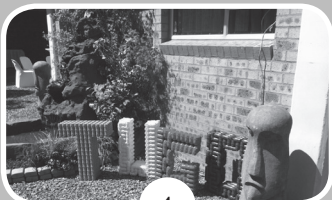
mutual benefits for both institutions. It is also hoped that the programme will serve as a model for other municipalities.

The uniquely formulated course is aimed at addressing the municipality's primary goal of building sustainable communities through building capacity.

Councillors have already begun a three-year Public Management course through the partnership programme which, it is expected, will bear fruitful results in equipping councillors with the necessary skills and knowledge in their specific fields of expertise.

Mr Klaas Mafofome, spokesperson for the Emfuleni Municipality,

said: "We are hoping to strengthen and maintain relations, and the partnership, between the two institutions, and further enhance the capacity of councillors."



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# VUT 2012 Spring Graduations

## “Seize the moment”

Spring is a season that is awaited by many, especially the VUT community as the events marked on the university's calendar bring forth many celebrations.

From 10–13 September 2012, the university celebrated eight graduation ceremonies in the Desmond Tutu Great Hall at the main campus in Vanderbijlpark. Gracing the events were management, staff, donors, members of the media and other prominent guests, including the VUT Chancellor, Advocate Pansy Tlakula.

The VUT conferred 1302 degrees and diplomas and is proud that the number has increased from 1190 during the September 2011 graduations. The 2012 number includes three honorary degrees and 23 Masters' degrees, a gradual increase from 14 Masters' degrees in September 2011.

Highlights during the graduation ceremonies included the conferring of nine Masters' degrees in Science & Technology, on five women and four men. This underscores the VUT's invaluable contribution to the sought-after skills pool in the Science and Technology fields, crucial areas which add value to the economy of the country. It also indicates that more women are not daunted by the fields that were previously dominated by men.

The VUT is also proud of its Student Representative Council (SRC) members who received degrees and diplomas, showing that the VUT produces young, dynamic and educated leaders of tomorrow.

The graduation ceremonies also recognised the executive leadership by conferring PALAMA (Public Administration Leadership and Management Academy) certificates. Seeing staff members receiving accolades is a motivation for others to educate themselves further and climb the corporate ladder.

Guest speakers from various industries shared their knowledge and emphasised that the day marked a new chapter in the graduates' journey of success. Some speakers reminded the new graduates of key principles, such as self-discipline, perseverance, self-motivation and focusing on the vision which will help them to



*VUT procession during one of spring graduation ceremonies*

succeed. Others challenged them by asking the following question: “What role will you play to ensure the betterment of the future for generations to come?”

During graduation week, campus was a buzz from morning until late afternoon as two ceremonies were held every day. One was able to identify the graduates by their designer dresses, colourful stilettos, designer suits, bow ties and creative hairstyles. These proud graduates were accompanied by their parents, family members and friends to celebrate their achievements with those that have been their source of support. The hall was filled with the sounds of ululation, blending with the golden voices of the VUT choir. Some parents praised their sons and daughters as they crossed the stage and jubilation was the order of the day.

In her congratulatory remarks, Professor Irene Moutlana: Vice-Chancellor & Principal of the VUT, said to the graduates: “Your education does not stop with this graduation. What you have achieved has merely opened new doors of learning, research, communication and collaboration. You are now empowered to demonstrate

what you are capable of. Make the very most of your life and the opportunities that you have been given by your lecturers, parents, donors, friends and families – you, too, must rise to your responsibility to give something back from what you have received.”

“As the years pass your cohort will be judged and you yourself will begin to judge yourselves, not only on what you do for yourself and your family, but on the contributions you will make to others – to the country, the community and your generation of children. The future belongs to you. Take good care of it. Your integrity is your destiny; it is the light that guides you.”

**“The future belongs to you – take good care of it. Your integrity is your destiny; it is the light that guides you.”**



# VUT honours the champions

Every year the VUT recognises people who add value through changing and bringing improvement, in their respective ways, to communities.

During the 2012 Spring graduations, on 12 September honorary degrees were conferred on people who have contributed in areas such as education and health, and the eradication of joblessness and poverty.

Those honoured by the faculty of Human Science were:

- Dr Gary Immelman, CEO: Med International
- Dr Barnabas Lekganyane, Bishop: Zion Christian Church (ZCC)
- Dr Frank Mohapi (posthumous)

A highlight for the audience and especially VUT students who are members of the ZCC church, was a march and musical display by the ZCC choir. The Bishop was welcomed by trumpet-blowing and much jubilation.

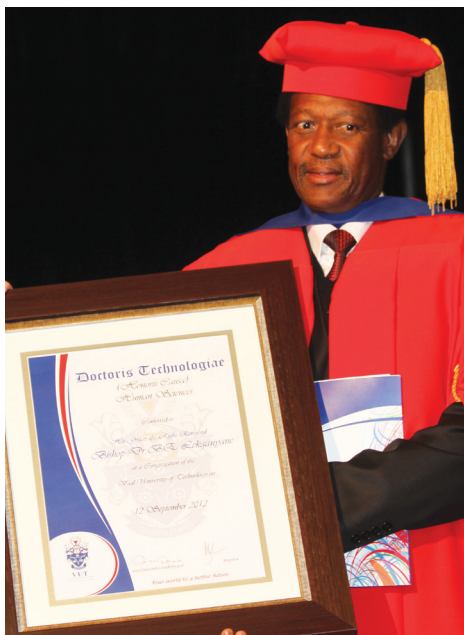
The recipients of the honorary degrees have all confronted issues that impact people's daily lives and continue to challenge our government on a national level. Below are brief extracts of the contributions of each:



Dr Gary Immelman

He has been a friend of the institution since its inception as the Vaal Triangle Technikon. He donated R100 000 towards

the building fund for the New Technology Station building, in support of what was being achieved. In response to receiving the honorary degree, this is what he had to say: "Be patient and remain focused in order to make your career a success."



Dr Barnabas Lekganyane

Like his predecessors, Dr Lekganyane saw the importance of education and in addition to the Kgotso Bursary Fund, which was established by his late father, he established the Bishop Edward Lekganyane Bursary Fund, which considers, specifically, people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

In 1995, the Bishop initiated the construction of the Evelyn Lekganyane clinic, a health centre named after his mother. The clinic caters for 400 out-patients and serves the entire community, not only members of the ZCC. The Bishop also initiated a skills training programme through the Kganya Group, where bricklaying, welding, electrical, plumbing and sewing skills, among many more, are taught. Recent statistics indicate that more than 60% of formerly illiterate people who receive training are able to earn a living. Many have created several jobs, contributing significantly towards poverty eradication.

Dr Lekganyane expressed his appreciation for receiving such an honour from the VUT. In accepting the honorary degree, he

said: "Good science and technology education is crucial for South Africa's future innovation. The humanities are important for understanding some of the difficult challenges the country faces." Challenges to be dealt with, he said, included "transformation, violence, corruption, education, service delivery, innovation, the gap between rich and poor, and the issue of race".



The Late Dr Frank Mohapi's daughter, Ms Motheba Mohapi received doctoral degree (Posthumous)

Dr Mohapi was a political activist. He regarded the Vaal area as his second home where he frequently "recharged his political batteries" when he visited his cousin, the late Dr Mokhesi in Sharpeville, as well as relatives from his mother's side, the Mahabanes, in Evaton.

During his visits, Dr Mokhesi introduced Mapetla to local political activists so as to keep the torch of the liberation struggle burning. The Sharpeville massacre of 21 March 1961 played a prominent role in the young Mapetla's political development as he, at that very young age, decided to fight for the liberation and emancipation of black people. His daughter, Ms Motheba Mohapi, on behalf of the family, accepted the honorary degree and said: "I wish to say to you, my fellow countrymen, political freedom has been achieved and with the same discipline, vision, commitment and education that drove our fathers, economic freedom can be achieved."

It was an honour for the VUT to confer these prestigious honorary doctoral degrees on leaders of such stature.

# TUGO TOYS – *The building blocks for success*

In the short time of its existence, the Sebokeng-based Technology Station (TTI) of the Vaal University of Technology (VUT) is proving a leader in this technological era. Of this we are proud – and we are honoured to present our very latest invention, a joint venture between the Technology Station, the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) and TUGO Toys.

This innovative product was initially conceived by Mr Abel Chetty, founder and managing director of TUGO Builds. While carefully observing his child at play, a spark was triggered – and the result, TUGO Blocks, was officially launched on 17 September 2012.

The function, hosted by the Science Park, was well attended by management, captains of industry, TIA representatives, the British Council, Sasol Chemcity, members of the media and the Chetty family.

The event marked the significance of the simplicity and nature of how toys aid in the development of young minds. Innovation and creativity during the manufacturing process ensued the initial idea was transformed into a complete product,

ready to be marketed. According to Mr Chetty, TUGO Builds comprises early childhood tools similar to the Lego concept.

Mr Chetty approached VUT's Technology Station with his idea of developing a product that would enable children to use toilet paper cores as building blocks and construction material. While TUGO is a TIA-funded toy development project, VUT's Technology Station developed the toy range using its state-of-the-art machinery, tools and expertise.

VUT is proud to announce that its Technology Station has formed partnerships with TIA to the tune of R5-million, with approximately 20 co-funded projects, including the TUGO Build project, which will result in the strengthening of technological innovation activities. The uniqueness of the TUGO range is that, being a product made from recyclable toilet paper rolls, it is both affordable and environmentally friendly.

TIA was instrumental in exploiting the opportunities presented by the development of a functional first-generation prototype for a commercial product. Mr Vusi Skosana, general manager of Technology

Stations at TIA, said "the VUT Technology Station is instrumental in leveraging opportunities presented by the wider entrepreneurial development agencies to address multiple challenges created by the ineffective use of limited resources available for innovation".

An E-skills Hub and Social Incubator, through an "Idea 2 Product Lab" being developed in the Science Park facilities, will further enable and assist innovators and entrepreneurs like Mr Chetty with early conceptualisation work on new products.

There is also a research spin-off for VUT – and another reason for celebrating this launch. The British Council has also joined the partnership with the TTI and TUGO. Through collaboration between Professor Dion de Beer and Dr Ian Campbell, from Loughborough University, Vaal University of Technology received an Africa Knowledge Transfer Partnership grant from the British Council to launch the second phase of the product's development. The "next stage" TUGO range is set to compete with world players such as Meccano and Lego.



*Mr Abel Chetty, Founder & Manager of TUGO Build*



# Inaugural address weighs alternative stock market tools

Using technical analysis and fuzzy logic as alternative investment tools on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) was the focus of an inaugural address by Professor Harold Campbell, HoD: Industrial Engineering & Operations Management, at the VUT's main campus on 27 August 2012.

Since we hear daily how the markets are performing, the crux of his presentation was investing in financial markets such as the JSE. Professor Campbell explained how financial market updates have "infused fibre into our humanness". He elaborated on variables that impact the market and what individuals can do to be in the market. He also identified objectives an investor can employ to "shut" or "balance" the market. Using examples drawn from JSE-listed companies, he explained how the market works.



Professor Harold Campbell, HoD: Industrial Engineering & Operations Management

ring and the Built Environment, noted that the purpose of research was to discover knowledge. He added that, as the population keeps growing, it was imperative to develop a model to accommodate all.

In her closing remarks, Professor I Moutlana congratulated Professor Campbell on an interesting and insightful presentation, and said it was hoped that all professors would follow his lead in "baring his intellect to public scrutiny, locally and internationally".

The inaugural address was "an intellectual ritual" that forms part of the heritage and academic legacy of the Vaal University of Technology.

The event was attended by members of the rectorate, academics, staff and students, as well as members of Professor Campbell's family.

The guest speaker, Professor Bhekisipho Twala from University of Johannesburg, a

professor of Artificial Intelligence and Statistical Sciences in the Faculty of Enginee-



## VUT'S Top Chefs whip culinary competition

The VUT, in partnership with Riviera on Vaal Hotel & Country Club, hosted a Top Chef competition at the hotel on 6 and 7 September 2012. The competition was open not only to the VUT's second-year hospitality students, but also to other universities around the country. The VUT competed against Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) and Tshwane University of Technology (TUT).

Participants from the competing institutions were welcomed by Professor A Nicolaidis, HoD: Hospitality, Tourism and PR Management, who wished them well during the competition. The aim of the event was to provide exposure to hospitality students and what they do.



Story continues...

Left to right: Ms Cecilia Seroke; Professor Irene Moutlana, Vice-Chancellor & Principal and Mr Thabo Rasomeni

The competition was divided into indoor and outdoor categories. The indoor category consisted of one student representing each university. They were required to prepare a three-course meal for two guests using ingredients provided in a "mystery basket", and were judged on their performances.

In the outdoor category teams of two students from each university were given the opportunity to display their creativity and skill in preparing outdoor dishes, also using the ingredients of a "mystery basket". The judges, all experts in the culinary arts, briefed competitors in a session that included the rules of the competition, judges' expectations, and tips on competing in such an event.

Participants were directed to cooking stations and their "mystery baskets", filled with surprise ingredients – some of which were unknown to the participants. This required them to use their creativity in preparing a mouth-watering menu that included a starter, main

course and dessert.

The participants, with anxiety written all over their faces, headed to the areas where they used their skills, the kitchens and an outdoor area. The first step was to compile a menu, which had to be approved by the judges. Then the cooking began. Frying, grilling, baking, tossing and turning of ingredients were everywhere to be seen in the kitchen area. The competitors had helpers to assist in making a success of the dishes. The results were impressive, with colourful, creatively presented meals that impressed the judges.

In a broad overview session that included lecturers along with the judges and participants, it was noted that a good chef knows his or her mistakes upfront. The judges then went through the mistakes the participants had made, but also mentioned the impressive and creative things they had done.

The moment everyone was waiting for finally arrived – the announcement of the winners. In the outdoor cooking cat-

egory, the VUT came out tops, followed by TUT in second place and CPUT third. The indoor cooking category saw TUT snatching first place, followed by CPUT in second place and the VUT, third.

Mr Xolani Mfeku, the Executive Chef of Riviera, mentioned that this initiative was vital for our region and would greatly benefit students from universities in the Vaal area and beyond. Professor Nicolaides said the initiative would become an annual event and there were hopes that it would spread across the nation. Participants showed exceptional creativity – especially given the inclement weather for those competing in the outdoor cooking category.

Presentations displayed culinary flair, creativity, and great ideas showing that they could think "out of the box". VUT appreciates the VUT Hospitality team that worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the success of the event, for the benefit of the students.

## NTEU Soup Day

The National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) reminded its members – and non-members – that they do, indeed, care.

Thursday, 12 September 2012 proved to be the perfect Soup Day and it can truly be said that all attendees were delighted. The day was also a reminder that NTEU exists because of the very people who attended, on a cold and rainy day.

The Branch Executive Committee (BEC) of NTEU had an opportunity to meet members of staff around the soup table and this proved to be what everyone was waiting for. NTEU Chairman, Mr Tholo Motaung assisted with the distribution of soup and team spirit was evident as Dr Marelize Bothma ensured that everyone received a cup of soup.

The BEC wishes to extend its gratitude to all staff members who made the effort worthwhile, and believe that the spirit of unity was revived.



*NTEU spoiled VUT community with a cup of soup*

'We dare to care'



# Health Awareness Week gets underway at the Vanderbijlpark Campus

The Institutional HIV and Aids unit and the Student Sub-Committee hosted Health Awareness Week at the Vanderbijlpark campus from 17 to 21 September 2012 at the Amphitheatre.

The campaign aims to address the drivers of the HIV, STI and TB epidemics and create awareness of the services offered by the unit.

The campaign also forms part of the unit's five-year goals, which are to:

- Reduce new infection rates by at

- least 50% using combined prevention approaches
- Reduce new TB infection and death rates by 50%
- Address factors that drive or fuel the spread of HIV, TB and STIs.
- Promote human rights and ensure accessibility of the legal framework
- Reduce self-reported cases of stigma related to HIV and TB by at least 50%

The unit's strategy is in line with the National Strategic Plan 2012–2016, and

members are confident that with their combined energy and efforts, the Awareness Week would represent another Action Plan of Success.

During the campaign the following services were provided:

- Free HIV testing
- Cancer testing
- Dietary advice (Tony Ferguson)
- Body Mass Index (BMI) evaluations and advice (Slater)

An inter-institutional research seminar between VUT and TUT senior graphic design students, organised by Kate Chmela-Jones (Senior Lecturer: Graphic Design), was held on 10 September 2012, at the Department of Visual Arts & Design.

The colloquium's theme, Research and Inquiry in Visual Communication, allowed students and staff to present and discuss completed research and research-in-progress, and to benchmark their work at inter-institutional level. It also presented an opportunity to open communication channels for future research collaborations with TUT.

An exhibition of VUT's BTech graphic design students' practical work was open for viewing at the BODUTU Art Gallery in K-block.

**Research and Inquiry in Visual Communication**  
an inter-institutional  
**GRAPHIC DESIGN STUDENT RESEARCH SEMINAR**

VUT's Graphic Design staff and students were joined by the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Human Sciences, Professor Riana van der Bank, and the Executive Director: Research Directorate, Dr Bernadette Johnson, in welcoming TUT's Dr Rudi de Lange, Associate Professor in Visual Communication and Mr Schalk van Staden,

Lecturer: Multimedia Design. Fourteen students, registered for DTech, MTech and BTech qualifications from various design disciplines at TUT, also attended.

Selected papers from among those presented at the colloquium will be published in an upcoming edition of the journal, NEXUS.

An expression of gratitude is extended to Professor van der Bank, Avi Sooful (Acting HOD: Visual Arts & Design) Dr Johnson and VAD technical staff for their support in making the colloquium possible.



VUT staff and students attended the research seminar

# Baby Bohlale delivered at VUT Campus Clinic

The Campus Clinic made a positive – and historic – contribution on 13 September 2012 at 12.30 pm when the nursing team delivered its first baby on the VUT campus.

When nurses attended to a student who was anxious and in pain, they found that she was in labour – and about to give birth. Although an ambulance was called immediately, the healthy baby girl arrived within 10 minutes, well before the ambulance did.

The baby was named Bohlale – “the smart one” – by her mother before both were taken by ER24 Emergency Medical Services to hospital for further examination.

This was “a challenging but fulfilling moment” for Sr MM Phondo, Head: Student Health and Wellness, and her team, Sr Julia Motete (Professional Nurse), Mrs Gloria Masithela (Enrolled Nurse) and Mr Tholo Motaung (Basic Life Support Practitioner), who successfully delivered a baby for the first time in the history of VUT.



Sr Maria Phondo(Head: Student Health & Wellness), baby Bohlale and Ms Nthabiseng Skelm



## Winners of 2012 Student2book campaign announced



Ms Phadisa Leburu, winner in Quantitative Techniques, shares the joyous moment with her classmates

Statistically, only one in three students passes each year – and only 15% of all students will ever graduate. As research by Juta Publishers shows that a main cause of student under-achievement is failure to buy textbooks, the company launched a national Student2book

campaign to encourage students to buy textbooks and, therefore, improve their pass rate.

Juta representatives visited the VUT campus in Vanderbijlpark in February 2012 to speak to students enrolled for Statistics-

related subjects offered in the Accountancy Department (Faculty: Management Science). The students were urged to take part in the competition, which required that they buy a prescribed Statistics textbook and send off an SMS containing their details and invoice number, to stand a chance of winning one of four laptops sponsored by Juta.

The lucky winners were:

- Phadisa K Leburu, Statistics (ND: Cost and Management Accounting)
- Mahlatse Molamodi, Quantitative Techniques (ND: Marketing)
- Zinzisa Mqungquto, Quantitative Techniques (ND: Safety Management)
- Matilda Modika, Descriptive Statistics (ND: Human Resource Management).

Congratulations to all, and we hope the technology help you in your studies.

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