



Central University of  
Technology, Free State

# GRATIA

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*Skills development*

Empowering the nation to move forward

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THROUGH **SKILLS DEVELOPMENT** WE ARE **ABLE TO**  
**MOVE FORWARD**, ENSURING A BETTER SKILLED  
WORKFORCE WITH AN **IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE** AND  
**GREATER PROSPECTS**. ULTIMATELY, THE AIM IS  
TO INCREASE LABOUR MOBILITY, **IMPROVE WORKPLACE**  
**PRODUCTIVITY**, AND **ENCOURAGE** ENTREPRENEURSHIP.  
AS SUCH, SOCIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL **INNOVATION** IS THE  
**FOCUS** OF THE UNIVERSITY'S ACADEMIC,  
**SKILLS DEVELOPMENT** AND RESEARCH PROGRAMMES."



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# Editorial

What an exciting time to be a South African! For me, the World Cup delivered some memorable moments at the hands of foreign visitors. Not only did I have English football fans running after my car in excitement (with the police in hot pursuit!), but my feet survived a trampling by some Swiss supporters (so much for Switzerland being a neutral country)! At our beautiful Bloemfontein stadium, I also witnessed some hardy Greek fans, brave (or crazy?) enough to go shirtless on what could arguably have been the coldest evening of the year so far. All of this, just so we can say: WE WERE THERE!

Although the World Cup has now come to an end, world leaders have committed to ensure that the power of football has a lasting impact on the education sector in the form of a global campaign called 1GOAL: Education for All.

This Gratia issue is focused on Skills Development. The topic is a broad and complex one, and I therefore thought it best to illustrate with an example of what skills development can do for a country.

In the 1960s, a smallish European country called Ireland – probably best known at the time for emigration, tragic poets, potato famine, civil war and leprechauns – succeeded in changing its future. The Irish took the surprising step of making a substantial investment in education, and today Ireland is the second richest country in the European Union (after Luxembourg). In less than 50 years, Ireland went from rags to riches in true Cinderella fashion! Their investment in education attracted large companies seeking to take advantage of the highly skilled workforce, which laid the foundations for their phenomenal economic development. (Read more about this in Thomas L. Friedman's book, *The World is Flat*.)

As South Africa envisions moving towards a knowledge-based economy, the development of a highly skilled workforce becomes imperative. For this reason, CUT has recently opened up scholarships for postgraduate students and is investing in the STEPS project to revise the current curriculum (read more about STEPS on page 26).

In this issue, you can read more about our new Faculty of Humanities. We also look at various CUT projects and programmes that have been launched, our partnerships with national and international organisations, as well as recent advancements in research and innovation. Last but not least, the articles acknowledging our staff members and students who have excelled in their respective fields are sure to leave you with a sense of pride.

May the winter sun warm your heart and home.

*Leandra Jordaan*





# Message from the Vice-Chancellor & Principal

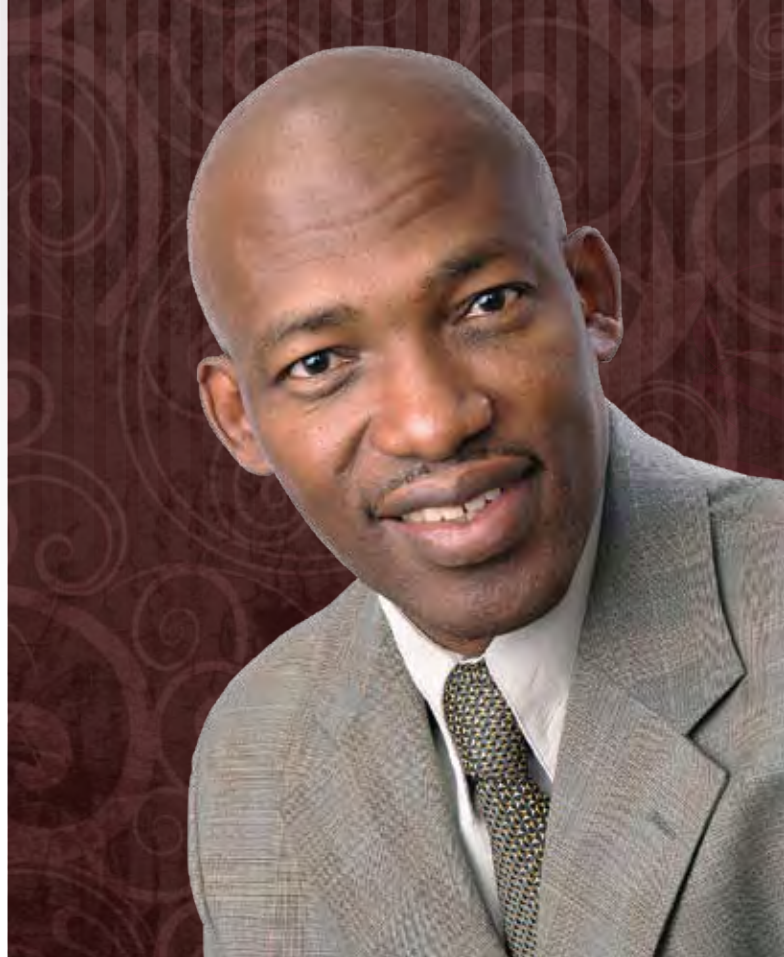
The last *Gratia* issue of 2009 was dedicated to innovation, and in particular new partnership projects being initiated by CUT. In a sense, this issue continues along that same theme with articles on some of these projects, including those relating to skills development, launched during the first semester of 2010.

One may wonder whether using innovation to move into the socio-economic development space in partnership with government, business and industry is our primary role. More pointedly, one may ask whether we are not abandoning what many would see as our primary purpose: providing university education to thousands of students and ensuring that such education is relevant, competitive and of the highest quality. Allow me to explain exactly what we are doing in this important area, and how it all depends on CUT remaining on course academically. You see, without high-quality and relevant education, there can be no innovation and, in turn, no societal development.

Being innovative and making a contribution to the socio-economic development of our region can never happen in a vacuum. This suggests that in order to produce high-quality outcomes, a great deal of internal capacity must be built. The programmes we offer and the modalities in which we offer them must be beyond reproach. The students we teach, and the lecturers we employ to teach them, must perform excellently in their respective roles in the educational process. All of this can help to ensure that we achieve appreciable outcomes and that our interventions have the necessary impact.

In this respect, early this year we embarked on a major institutional project called the Strategic Transformation of Educational Programmes and Structures (STEPS). As its name suggests, this is about our programmes and our curricula in general. As a university of technology, we face a major challenge in that our educational outcomes must be felt in the workplace through research and innovation in business and industrial processes, and through the collective and individual impact that our graduates can have in terms of the high-level intellectual, social and technological skills they possess. Outcomes and impact require relevance, synergy and coherence with the outside world, which is the marketplace for our products. Our programmes can therefore never stop evolving in step with the ever-changing world around us.

The STEPS process is designed to produce a new blueprint for our programmes, by means of the following actions: designing a new and appropriate **philosophy** that undergirds our curricula; ensuring that curriculum **content and structure** align with this philosophy; ensuring that the teaching and learning **methodologies** and **social and technological environments** required in our classrooms are fit for purpose; ensuring that **graduate attributes, skills and outcomes** can be developed and subsequently felt in the workplace; and ensuring broad



**user-oriented outcomes or impacts in socio-economic development** through our innovations and products.

The STEPS process therefore promises to revolutionise our curricula and enable us to stake our claim as a relevant, engaged, responsive and user-oriented university of technology.

We are already seeing instances this year of the implementation of curricula that fit snugly within this new paradigm. In fact, this issue contains an article on the Accounting Technician programme that was launched recently in partnership with, and on behalf of, the Association of Accounting Technicians (South Africa), which is the accreditation body for such programmes. By taking this step, we are making a significant contribution towards Operation Clean Audit 2014, a government programme that seeks to ensure clean audits within municipalities and at other levels of government. We are confident that our graduates will possess all the relevant high-level skills in this field and will be up to the task of contributing to the efficient management of municipal and other accounting systems.

In closing, I must acknowledge the appointment and recent inauguration of our second Chancellor, Dr Boet Troskie. This issue does include a relatively detailed report on Dr Troskie, but on a more personal note I would like to add that he is a man who epitomises purposefulness, visionary leadership, innovation, resourcefulness, and many other attributes relevant to our 2020 Vision as a university. He knows full well how to build something from nothing and make it a force to be reckoned with, both nationally and internationally. He is passionate about using his knowledge, influence and networks to make CUT a "CUT above the rest". We welcome his generous, hearty and innovative spirit.

*Prof. Thandwa Mthembu*  
Vice-Chancellor and Principal



# CUT OFFICIALLY OPENS DOORS FOR 2010



CUT officially reopened for the 2010 academic year on 9 January 2010 at the Bloemfontein Campus and on 15 January 2010 at the Welkom Campus.

Prof. Thandwa Mthembu, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, warmly welcomed all parties – students, their parents, academic and support staff and Council members – to CUT, whether there for the first time or returning for another year. He had a special word of welcome for first-year students, stating that “You are now beyond matric; you are now officially students.” The students’ parents and guardians were commended for their role in nurturing the youth, because they are investing not only in their children, but also in the future of our country. Prof. Mthembu referred to Asian countries such as South Korea and Singapore, which have managed to overcome their previously dire circumstances through education, and said that Africa can do the same.

*“Innovation means to learn in your own way,”* says Prof. Mthembu, and he encourages students to do just that – by reading more than the prescribed work and by looking at information from different angles.

Prof. Thandwa Mthembu



Photographer: Johan Roux





# POSTGRADUATE CANDIDATES IN THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD THE WAY AND SOAR ABOVE THE STARS

Photographer: Johan Roux



*The Transformation Projects Office team, from left: Ms Didi Setlhare, Ms Marlene Bossett, Ms Saroleen Jankowski, and seated Prof. Benito Khotseng.*

The Central University of Technology, Free State has opened the door for postgraduate candidates to pursue their studies with two new bursary programmes that have been established in a flagship project called the Higher Education and Leadership Skills Academy (HELKA), which is being run by the Transformation Projects Office under the management of Ms Marlene Bossett.

Prof. Benito Khotseng, a leader, mentor and academic of note who joined CUT as a consultant at the beginning of March 2010, is heading up the HELKA Project. If his name rings a bell, you might be thinking of the Benito Khotseng Building on the campus of the University of

the Free State (UFS), where Prof. Khotseng was Vice-Rector for Student Affairs before heading off to a new position as Vice-Rector for Student Affairs and Transformation at the University of Cape Town. However, it seems that not even beautiful Table Mountain, the wine routes and the ocean could keep him from returning to the Free State and its biltong, maize fields, sunshine, and perhaps most of all the warm-hearted people.

The HELKA Project consists of two strategic leadership programmes, the first of which is Stars of Academe and Research (SoAR), which aims to make scholarships available to promising master's and doctoral candidates across the country, affording them the opportunity to be part of the next generation of academics seeking to creatively contribute to teaching, research and innovation, as well as to the diffusion and transfer of the technologies and skills needed to advance the University's contribution to South Africa's socio-economic development.

The second programme, namely Leaders in Education and Development (LEAD), seeks to give young, passionate and vibrant academics and researchers, who aspire to academic careers, the opportunity to identify and develop their leadership and developmental trajectory, and in doing so further their careers and contribute more to the higher education sector. According to Prof. Khotseng, passionate and experienced supervisors and promoters will be appointed, and those individuals already in possession of such qualifications will also be encouraged to make use of this opportunity and undergo professional training in research, innovation, teaching and facilitating.

The principal aim of the HELKA Project is to give adequate support to young master's and doctoral candidates in the higher education sector, thus ensuring that we uplift and support the academics of the future.





# AHA BOKAMOSO

## *Joining minds for skills development*

One bright and sunny Saturday morning early in February 2010, the Central University of Technology, Free State (CUT) hosted the launch of various partnership projects with the Free State Provincial Government (FSPG), collectively named AHA Bokamoso (*Build the Future*) – Joining minds for skills development. These projects are the Information Technology (IT) Hub, Saturday School Project, Human Resource (HR) Training Programme, and Regional Innovation Centre (RIC).



## MORE ABOUT THE PROJECTS

- ◆ The IT Hub is an Information Technology (IT) centre, which will be located on the Welkom Campus of CUT. To ensure long-term sustainability, added value and employability of IT graduates, the IT Hub will host four categories: training, train-the-trainer, work-integrated learning, and research and innovation.
- ◆ The Saturday School Project offers learners additional help with Mathematics, Physical Science, Life Science and English to improve their comprehension and grades. The expectation is that these learners' chances of acceptance at reputable institutions of higher education will be enhanced.





- ◆ The HR Training Project is aimed at building capacity in the human resources units of the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and is offered as part of the DHET's skills development programme.
- ◆ The RIC encompasses a formal innovation programme to alleviate the socio-economic plight of the FSPG constituency. It is geared towards stimulating the level of economic development and innovation in the region through the active utilisation of available national and regional support programmes.

The programme for the day included a walkabout on the Bloemfontein Campus of CUT to allow delegates to see the projects in action. In the Boet Troskie Hall, filled with school learners participating in the



Mr Gerrie Booysen present CUT technology to walkabout group.



Saturday School Project



Saturday School Project, Prof. Thandwa Mthembu, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of CUT, welcomed the partnership with FSPG and thanked the newly appointed government for following through on this endeavour with a greater sense of urgency. The partnership initiatives have been in progress for almost three years, and Prof. Mthembu acknowledged all the intellectual contributions made by the various individuals. Mr Thabo Manyoni, Police, Road and Transport MEC, in his capacity as Acting Premier, stated that skills development is linked to job creation, which in turn reduces poverty and also sustains economic growth.

Photographer: Johan Roux



Mr Tate Makgoe, HOD, Free State Department of Education, Prof. Thandwa Mthembu, Mr Thabo Manyoni, MEC, Free State Department of Police, Roads and Transport.



# AUTUMN GRADUATION CEREMONY

March 2010 saw the annual autumn graduation ceremony, during which CUT acknowledged the achievements of our graduates by conferring a total of 2 092 certificates, diplomas and degrees, 17 master's degrees, and one doctoral degree.

For an entire week every year, CUT focuses on the graduates and pays tribute to them, as well as their families and friends who have proudly

Mr Werné Strydom not only received his Baccalaureus Technologiae (BTech) degree in Internal Auditing on 17 March 2010, but he was also presented with the Vice-Chancellor's Award for best academic performance at BTech level.

## DOUBLE THE FUN AS TWIN BROTHERS RECEIVE QUALIFICATIONS ON THE SAME DAY

Twin brothers Brendan and Declan Coughlan both received the National Diploma in Hospitality Management during the graduation ceremony of the Faculty of Management Sciences on 16 March 2010.



*Mr Werné Strydom and Prof. Thandwa Mthembu.*

supported them throughout, and of course not forgetting the CUT staff members – both academic and support staff – who have assisted and guided the graduates on their journey through higher education. In the annals of South African history, 2010 will be noted as a year to remember – a year in which we as a nation showed the world what we are made of! Our hospitality, sportsmanship and friendliness during the World Cup surely won the hearts of many. CUT contributed towards the success of the World Cup in various ways, but delivering qualified graduates is perhaps our greatest contribution. As an institution of higher learning, CUT prides itself on producing high-quality practuandi – students of excellence, with a strong theoretical and research-based education, as well as extensive practical knowledge.

The next few pages reflect some of the highlights of this year's ceremony, as well as some of the achievements recognised and awards presented – congratulations to all our practuandi!

CUT graduation week kicked off on Friday, 12 March 2010 at the Welkom Campus, where more than 350 certificates, diplomas and degrees were awarded, along with two master's degrees.



*Academic procession entering the hall.*



*Brendan and Declan Coughlan.*



An astounding 17 Magister Technologiae (MTech) degrees were awarded during this year's autumn graduation ceremony.

The Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology conferred seven MTech degrees: three in Electrical Engineering, one in Mechanical Engineering, two in Graphic Design, and one in Information Technology.

The Faculty of Management Sciences conferred three MTech degrees: two in Education and one in Marketing.



*Patrick Moremoholo – MTech: Graphic Design The role of animation in the comprehension of visually illustrated instructional messages.*

*Pictured above from left to right: Rijnan Li – MTech: Education Problems encountered with the teaching of Computer Application Technology and Information Technology at secondary school level: A managerial approach.*

*Wani Senoge – Mtech: Education The impact of HIV/AIDS on learners in intermediate and secondary schools in the Botshabelo area.*

*Photograph on the right: Rijnan Li is declared a Master in her field by Prof. Thandwa Mthembu.*



The Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences conferred five MTech degrees: two in Agricultural Management, two in Environmental Health, and one in Radiography. Prof. Pieter Fourie supervised both MTech: Agricultural Management degrees – that of Pieter Andreas (The effect of supplementary light on the productive performance of Dorper lambs fed intensively) and that of Liesel Foster (Effect of heat stress on six beef breeds in the Zastron district: The significance of breed, coat colour and coat type).

## ACADEMIC CURRENT RUNS THROUGH THE FAMILY

Dr Nicolaas Luwes, one of the youngest ever recipients of the DTech: Electrical Engineering in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology, is following in the impressive academic footsteps of his father, Prof. Nico Luwes.

In 2003, Luwes obtained his BTech: Electrical Engineering at the then Technikon Free State and in the same year won the National Student Paper Competition of the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers (SAIEE). He was also named best BTech student in the Faculty of Engineering (as it was known at the time). Luwes went on to earn his MTech in 2006 at CUT, which paved the way for his current achievement.

With his thesis, titled Artificial intelligence machine vision grading system, Luwes presented his design for an artificial intelligence machine vision grading system that can be used to grade biological produce and manufactured products.



*Pieter Andreas, Prof. Pieter Fourie, and Liesel Foster.*



*Dr Pierre Hertzog, Senior Lecturer in Electrical Engineering and promoter of the study, Dr Nicolaas Luwes, and Prof. Johnson Kinyua, former Acting Dean: Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology.*



The system has the ability to grade biological produce by making predictions, as a human would, on samples that belong to the same class but which may not appear similar. The decision-making neural network also enables the system to be retrained easily and quickly in the event of changes to the manufactured product or the biological produce in season.

*From left to right: Prof. Thandwa Mthembu caps Dr Nicolaas Luwes, Dr Gift Vinger, Registrar, completes the official proceedings.*



# A Feast to behold



## DOCTORANDI DINNER

Dr Nicolaas Luwes and his family and friends were guests of honour at the doctorandi dinner on the occasion of the autumn graduation ceremony. A veritable feast was prepared for the event, and a centre table was covered with dishes appealing to every taste.



Above: Dr Nicolaas Luwes and his parents, Prof. Nico Luwes and Mrs Alet Luwes.

Right: Prof. Johnson Kinyua, former Acting Dean: Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology, Dr Solomon Makola, Welkom Campus Manager, and Prof. Nicky Morgan, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Resources and Operations.

Photographer: Johan Roux





# HUMANITIES NEW FACULTY AT CUT



Photographer: Johan Roux

At the beginning of 2010, the Central University of Technology, Free State saw the inception of a new faculty, namely the Faculty of Humanities. The Faculty offices, which are situated in the *Humanitas* Building, are a flurry of activity, and the staff and students are working up a storm. Along with the faculties of Engineering and Information Technology, Health and Environmental Sciences and Management Sciences, this brings the number of CUT faculties to four.

Humanities is a field of science that is equally as complex and intriguing as engineering, mathematics, geology, physics and so on, but the focus is more on the human side of things. A science that is close to our hearts and souls, it impassions people and focuses on areas that make us stand up and make our voices heard. Such fields of study include languages, the arts, philosophy, religion, history, and communication. The Faculty

currently houses the following programmes: Language Practice, Teacher Education, Graphic Design, Fine Art, Clothing, Ceramic Design, Photography, and Jewellery Design and Manufacturing. The decision to establish a fourth faculty rather than continue with the former three-faculty structure was taken to ensure that the human sciences are allowed the same space and opportunity to grow. Two strong branches of knowledge that will enjoy particular attention in the Faculty are logic and ethics, which encompass the ability to think and reason in a logical and critical manner, and the ability to reveal and apply honest work ethics. These two branches of knowledge will be grown and nurtured so as to ultimately extend to and infiltrate the other programmes offered at CUT and in doing so, enrich their curriculums.

The question that might be asked is: “Why make provision for humanities at a university of technology?” The fact of the matter is that technology is so much more than computers, cellular phones and other (electronic) equipment. It applies to everything that we use or apply in order to make our lives easier. For instance, the way in which you arrange the chairs in your office is a form of technology, as are dictionaries (an older form of technology, perhaps, but technology nonetheless). Thus, the human sciences are perfectly at home in the realm of a university of technology such as ours, and CUT would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the staff and students who now form part of the Faculty of Humanities and, as such, are making a valuable contribution to the success of our institution.





*Pictured are Mpeuoa Siimane-Moeletsi, Joseph Lerotholi Theko, Thandi Majola, and Nomvuyo Busakwe.*

## FOUR CUT STUDENTS GET OFF TO A FLYING START

Germany beckoned to four of our students this year, and they bid CUT *Auf Wiedersehen* in March. They will be stationed in various parts of Germany for a period of five to six months, during which they will be studying and gaining experience within their respective fields.

This exchange programme is part of the co-operation agreements between CUT, ULM University and Aalen University respectively. Two of the students are studying towards their MTech degrees, namely Joseph Lerotholi Theko in Mechanical Engineering and Mpepuoa Siimane-Moeletsi in Electrical Engineering. Thandi Majola and Nomvuyo Busakwe are both studying towards their BTech degrees in Marketing. The Landesstiftung Baden-Württemberg awarded the four scholarships totalling 10 600 Euros.

In recognition of their achievement, CUT has generously sponsored their return airfares, visa expenses and health insurance. These students are sure to make us proud and keep us *thinking beyond*.

## TOURISM MANAGEMENT STUDENTS WRITE THEMSELVES INTO HISTORY

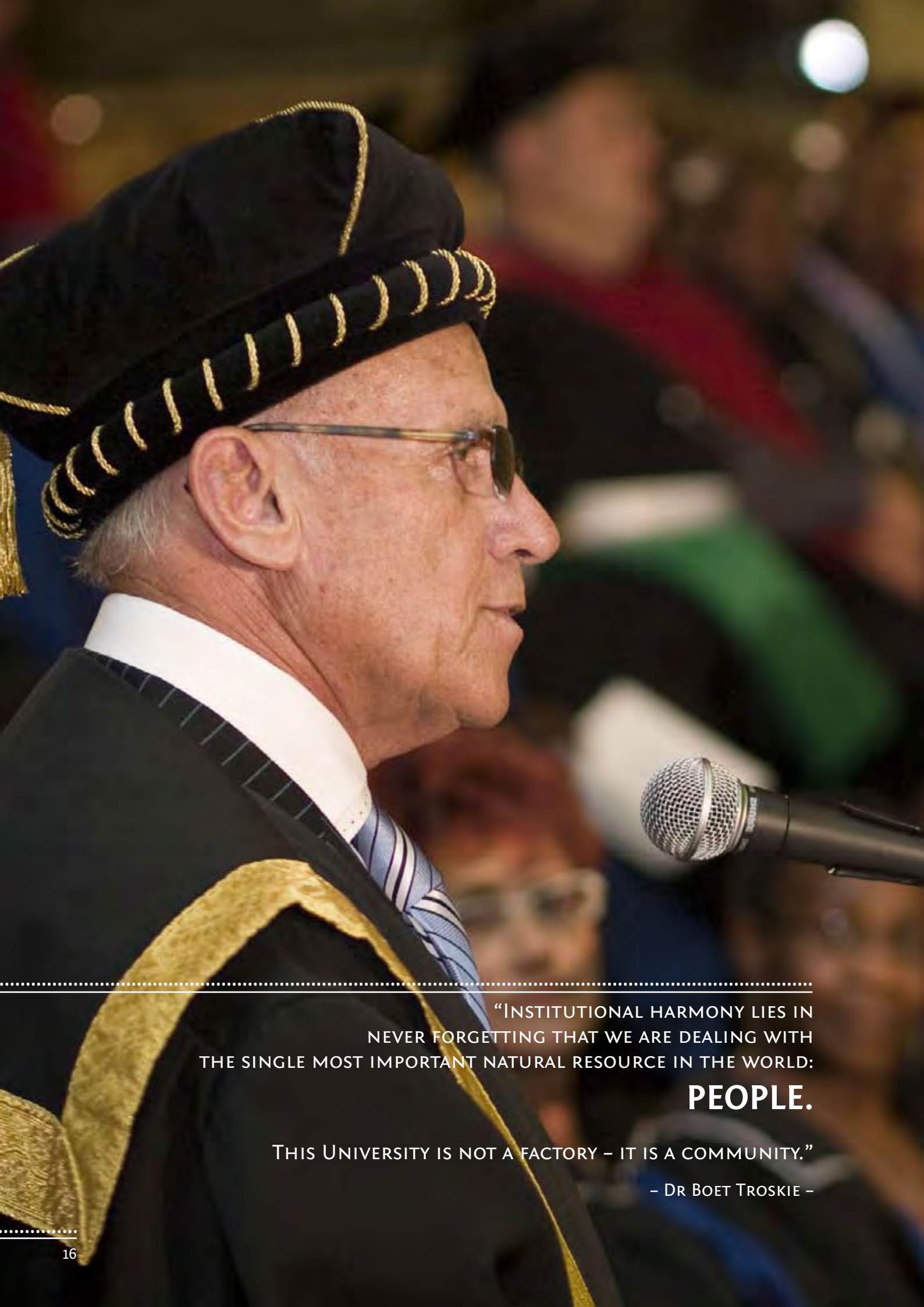
Third-year Tourism Management students made history this semester when, for the first time in ten years, all students passed the Galileo examination.

The Galileo course is an external, internationally recognised offering that focuses on training in the Global Distribution System (GDS) for, amongst other things, the reservation of flights, hotels, vehicles, and even London theatre tickets. This year, the course was presented by Dr René Haaroff, one of only 17 accredited presenters in South Africa.

Students require a minimum of 80% to pass the exam for the internationally recognised certificate, which is endorsed by the International Air Transport Association (IATA). Galileo training is specifically aimed at people in the tourism industry, and the students will definitely be able to utilise their knowledge in the workplace.







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“INSTITUTIONAL HARMONY LIES IN  
NEVER FORGETTING THAT WE ARE DEALING WITH  
THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT NATURAL RESOURCE IN THE WORLD:  
**PEOPLE.**

THIS UNIVERSITY IS NOT A FACTORY – IT IS A COMMUNITY.”

– DR BOET TROSKIE –



# Dr Boet Troskie

Chancellor of the Central University of Technology, Free State

The 16<sup>th</sup> of April 2010 was a proud day for the CUT, when a very extraordinary and legendary man officially took the office of Chancellor, Dr Boet Troskie. Now, let it be known that he is such a humble man that one of the first things he says to you – regardless of your age – is “please, call me Boet” and with those words he opens the doors to immediate and unrepentant reverence.

As a well-known business man who stationed himself in Bloemfontein – although he could live anywhere in the world – he has had ties to the CUT since the 1980’s and was elected as Chancellor by the Senate and Institutional Forum at the end of 2009. Dr Troskie was awarded an honorary doctorate from the CUT in Management Sciences for his economic contribution to the community.

Various institutional bodies namely, council, senate, the institutional forum and convocation, congratulated Dr Troskie and wished him all the best on his new journey as Chancellor of the CUT. Dr Sylvan Seane, chairperson of Council, performed the official investiture and inaugurated Dr Troskie as the Chancellor.







WHILE SO MANY OF US PONDER THE  
MEANING OF LIFE, BOET INSTEAD ASKS:  
‘WHAT IS THE – **PURPOSE** – OF MY LIFE?’

– DR JAN-AD STEMMET –



In his inaugural address, (his first speech made as Chancellor of the CUT) Dr Troskie said that *“when we accept that we are ordinary we will obtain that extraordinary ability to rise above the race of competition – because of our ordinariness. There will be no need to fulfill the expectations of other people – no need to have the upper hand over somebody – no need to impress other people, and no need to suffer from an inferiority complex, and the best is that we will not be attracted to politics. Take note: ‘Ordinary’ does not mean empty clones. It means that we are all equal souls. It means that we all have tremendous talents and basic shortcomings; greatness within us – as well as – fallibility.*



*It means that instead of trying to impress or defeat other ordinary people – you focus on being the best that you can be.”* The proceedings were concluded with the Anthem and Dr Troskie performed his first official duty as Chancellor by dissolving the congregation.

At the dinner, after the formalities of the evening had been concluded, the Grey College Boere -Orkes welcomed guests, followed by Thabo Pitsi and Band who took over from the boys with renditions of *Pata Pata* and *My way*. Thabo requested that the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor (as well as guests) join him in a performance of *Liefing* - they really surprised all present by taking up the challenge and showing us how it is done.

Congratulations to our newly installed Chancellor – we are proud and honoured to have you.



Photographer: Rian Horn





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# VISION 2020

## WHAT IS VISION 2020?

*By 2020, Central University of Technology, Free State, shall be an engaged university that focuses on producing quality social and technological innovations in socio-economic developments, primarily in the Central region of South Africa.*

## WHAT ARE CUT'S GOALS IN ACHIEVING VISION 2020?

1. **Institutional Advancement:** To continuously advance the concept of a University of Technology.
2. **Campus Development:** To develop the campuses of the CUT.
3. **Teaching and Learning:** To shape and ensure the highest quality, niche focused academic future of the CUT - that will set us apart as a University of Technology.
4. **Research:** To establish the CUT as a research informed university of technology that has distinct pockets of research, excellence and value-adding links with government, business and industry.
5. **University Life:** To create and institution that encourages a diverse, democratic and academic way of life.
6. **People:** To unlock staff potential.
7. **Operational, Effectiveness, Efficiency and Quality:** To optimise the key processes that has an impact on institutional performance.
8. **Financial Sustainability:** To ensure financial sustainability.
9. **Student Experience:** To create a value-adding student experience whilst studying at the CUT.



# WHAT WILL LEAD US TOWARDS ACHIEVING VISION 2020 AND THE GOALS?

THE CUT MUST BE AN **ISLE** OF INNOVATION:

- ◆ **I**NNOVATION: the main focus of our academic, skills development and research programmes shall be social and technological innovation;
- ◆ **I**MIMPACT AND OUTCOMES: we will have definable factors to measure our success rather than systems and processes.
- ◆ **S**OCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: CUT chooses an active approach and socio-economic development shall be the ultimate outcome of our endeavours;
- ◆ **L**OCATION: the uniqueness and resources our location offers, gives us a comparative advantage; and
- ◆ **E**XCELLENCE: the most important drivers of a successful organisation are quality and excellence.



# INNOVATIVE PROJECTS CELEBRATED ON AFRICAN UNIVERSITY DAY



Photographer: Mandie Fourie

*Pictured are Prof. Jorrie Jordaan and  
Prof. Sospeter Muhongo*

The Association of African Universities (AAU) has since 1994 been commemorating African University Day on 12 November annually as a means of celebrating and highlighting higher education in Africa and its contribution towards development on the continent.

In 2009, CUT celebrated the occasion with an exhibition in the Art Gallery of the Library and Information Centre on the main campus, showcasing the various innovative projects undertaken by the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology.

Prof. Jorrie Jordaan, Director of Technology and Innovation, discussed the issue of innovation and manufacturing in support of economic development, and touched on what is needed in the Free State Province in order to make this happen. According to Prof. Jordaan, the economic development of a community can be improved in a number of ways, particularly through the use of applied

science to facilitate increased productivity amongst workers and the development of new products.

CUT invited the director of the International Council for Science (ICSU), Prof. Sospeter Muhongo, to join the festivities. Although slightly jetlagged from his recent trip to Portugal, Prof. Muhongo spoke passionately about a topic close to CUT's heart – higher education and research for sustainable growth and socio-economic development in Africa. Shock statistics reveal that 35 of the world's least-developed countries are on the African continent and that 50% of the sub-Saharan African population is still living in extreme poverty. Through the use of science, universities can bring about economic development that can help to reduce poverty. One way in which this can be achieved, according to Prof. Muhongo, is for African universities to form partnerships with business and industry – a belief that is supported by CUT and clearly stipulated as a key aspect in the Vision 2020 document.



# Information Technology

INNOVATION BROUGHT TO THE FREE STATE VIA IT HUB



A delegation consisting of representatives of several Information Technology (IT) companies and CUT, including Prof. Thandwa Mthembu, vice-chancellor and principal, and Prof. Johnson Kinyua, former acting dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology, visited India at the end of November 2009.

The objective of the visit was to explore the feasibility of partnerships with regard to the establishment of an IT Hub in the Free State, as part of the greater Regional Innovation Centre project.

The IT Hub concept is not only about training students, but also ensuring long-term sustainability, added value, and the employability of graduates. The proposal for the IT Hub highlighted four categories of activities:

- ◆ Firstly, the Hub will offer *training* in a number of key IT technologies such as Microsoft, Cisco and Oracle certification, as well as various other types of training.
- ◆ Secondly, this training will include a *train-the-trainer* component. The ultimate outcome is that the people of the Free State and South Africa at large – and not only the trainees or graduates – will see and feel the IT Hub making a difference in their lives.
- ◆ Thirdly, the Work-integrated Learning (WIL) component will offer students the opportunity to be exposed to real-life or simulated working environments based on IT projects at the Hub.

The Hub will establish partnerships with several IT companies where these students could receive in-house training and potentially be employed. Small, medium and micro enterprise (SMME) *incubation* is the fourth component of the IT Hub development plan and will support spin-off SMMEs to operate in a technological and efficient manner in their business functions for a certain period of time before becoming self-sustaining. The IT Hub will not only be about training students, but also ensuring the sustainability of projects and the delivery of value-added elements to the community.

- ◆ Lastly, *research and innovation* will be important components of the IT Hub's activities in terms of technology transfer and the nurturing of new ideas. Students and graduates will be expected to apply their minds in order to produce patents and new IT solutions.

The presentation of the concept in India proved to be a major success, paving the way for 40 students from the Free State to be dispatched to Mahindra Satyam in India, where they will join project groups working on real IT projects for a six-month period in 2010. Upon their return to South Africa, these students will rejoin the IT Hub for more training and WIL, based on local IT projects. The IT Hub will be situated on the Welkom Campus of CUT.

The IT Hub project was launched on 13 February 2010 as part of the AHA Bokamoso (*Build the Future*) Project – Joining Minds for Skills Development.





## JEWELLERY SCHOOL STUDENTS AHEAD OF THE PACK



The Jewellery School of the Central University of Technology, Free State undertook an educational visit to Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Oro Africa, the Design Indaba, Fine Gold Laboratories, and Global Gold Manufacturing and Distribution (Pty) Ltd. The tours of the Fine Gold Laboratories and Global Gold facilities were highlights for the students, as they were afforded the very rare opportunity to witness their theory being implemented in practice in the industry.

The Fine Gold Laboratories company refines, manufactures and supplies various precious metals and also offers a myriad of other services. The company CEO, Mr Graham Lennox, explained the procedures involved in the refining processes, including acid procedures. Another interesting stop on the educational visit was Global Gold, which manufactures and distributes various types of jewellery, but specialises in the production of coins.



A group of second- and third-year Jewellery School students also attended two highly informative workshops during their vacation period (forgoing some of their well-deserved rest days!). The themes of the two workshops were *Determinants and Competencies Required for Managing a Jewellery Studio* and *Facilitating Teaching and Learning to Creative Students at a University of Technology*, respectively. The purpose of the workshops was to equip the students with additional skills they can use in their future careers.

*Left: Pictured are the best students in Jewellery Design and Manufacturing for 2009, Siphon Kuzwayo and Mpho Helepi, both third-year students. They are standing next to the largest plate rollers in the country.*



## SOMATOLOGY IN FACE-OFF

The Somatology students and lecturers at the CUT usually only show us their best side, but at their teambuilding initiative they proved exactly how competitive they are. Their “gloves came off” and they kicked off the day’s activities with a Sing-Star competition amongst the different year groups, followed by various “boer-esport” events. The nail-biting semi-final saw the qualifying teams competing to become the day’s ultimate winners, after which the day’s activities culminated in a well-deserved picnic.

# Team Spirit



Palesa Maketsi





# CUT TAKES **STEPS** TOWARDS THE FUTURE

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In May 2010, academics at CUT gathered to share their knowledge and engage in discussions during the Strategic Transformation of Educational Programmes and Structures (STEPS) Conference held at the Bloemfontein Campus. STEPS is a project that entails the review of the programmes offered at CUT to ensure that, as an institution of higher learning, we deliver on our core business of teaching, learning, research and innovation.

The STEPS Conference took place at a pivotal moment in the academic transformation of CUT as it seeks to implement its Vision 2020 in the context of the new Higher Education Qualifications Framework (HEQF). The objective of the Vision is to produce innovations for business/industry, government and the broader society, thereby contributing to socio-economic development. "By 2020, CUT shall produce quality social and technological innovations for engagement in socio-economic development, primarily in the central region of South Africa," said Prof. Thandwa Mthembu, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, in his opening address at the conference.



During the conference Dr Charles Nwaila, Director-General of the Free State Provincial Government, applauded CUT's vision and encouraged the University to respond efficiently and effectively to the needs of our people. Another delegate of note was Prof. Mary Metcalfe, Director-General of the Department of Higher Education and Training. Prof. Metcalfe suggested better co-ordination amongst FET colleges and universities of technology, but she commended CUT and the provincial government for their success in finding ways to collaborate.



Photographer: Johan Roux

*Dr Bethuel Sehlapelo of Rand Water, Prof. Thandwa Mthembu, Dr Lulu Makhubela, a member of the CUT Senate and Council, and Dr Mark Orkin, STEPS Project Consultant.*

International speakers included Prof. Neil Garrod, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Thames Valley University in London, and Prof. Ulrich Teichler from the International Centre for Higher Education Research in Kassel, Germany, who were both participants in the International Perspectives and Implications session.

The next step for CUT is a STEPS workshop, scheduled for August 2010.

*Photographs on the right, from top to bottom: Prof. Rocky Ralebipi-Simela, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic, Prof. Ulrich Teichler, and Dr Molapo Qhobela from the Department of Science and Technology.*

*Prof. Ulrich Teichler, Prof. Mary Metcalfe, Ms Trish Gibbon from the University of Johannesburg, and Prof. Neil Garrod.*

*Registration process.*





## WELKOM STUDENTS GET THE SHOW ON THE ROAD

As a university of technology, CUT encourages students to broaden their learning experience and develop their skills by exploring different avenues of possibilities. A group of third-year BEd Science students at the CUT Welkom Campus seized the opportunity and took a road trip to Grahamstown to attend the Scifest Africa Festival at Rhodes University.

Scifest Africa was launched in 1997 and has since become an annual “must see” for many students, teachers, business and industry people, universities, as well as the general public. By highlighting Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM), Scifest has helped shape the way people talk and feel about STEM.

The festival provides a platform for sharing information about these fields, and affords higher education institutions the opportunity to contribute by sharing their current science and technology activities with various groups of learners (pre-, primary and high school) from across South Africa.



*Pictured is the group of Welkom Campus students in front of the Scifest 2010 venue at Rhodes University in Grahamstown.*

## CUT'S CRPM ASSISTS IN BUILDING AN INNOVATIVE PROTOTYPE AIRCRAFT ENGINE

The latest Additive Manufacturing technology at CUT's Centre for Rapid Prototyping and Manufacturing (CRPM) – acquired through a Technology and Human Resources for Industry Programme (THRIP) partnership with ADEPT and EOS in Germany – was recently used by ADEPT Airmotive, a local company based in Durban, in the initial development of their brand-new light aircraft engine. Tshumisano Trust, which is now a Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) programme, also made a substantial contribution towards the funding of the project.

This advanced specification general aviation aircraft engine, which was launched at the Virginia Airport near Durban on 17 May 2010, is based on the 120-degree wide-angle V6 architecture pioneered by the ADEPT design team. The accuracy



and speed of the CRPM's facilities supported their design and development phases by growing the sand moulds for prototype castings, which enabled the casting of engine components for the development and testing of the aircraft engine prior to vast sums of money being spent on production tooling. Access to this technology enabled



prototyping and initial low-volume production targets that are remarkable by contemporary industry standards.

The state-of-the-art engine is lightweight and fuel efficient, featuring the latest in engine management systems and the best power-to-weight ratio in its class.



## NORTHERN CAPE SCHOOL WEARS CUT HIGH-SCHOOL QUIZ CROWN

At the 12<sup>th</sup> annual High School Quiz, hosted by the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology (FEIT), CBC St Patrick's College in Kimberley was for the first time named the overall winner with a comfortable 39-point lead over their closest rivals, Grey College with 30 points and Diamantveld High School with 22 points. The CBC St. Patrick's College learners not only won first place in the quiz, but also walked away with prizes to the value of R51 000.

During the finals, Prof. Thandwa Mthembu, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of CUT, announced a considerable increase in the overall prize value from R18 000 to a massive R146 000. "It is time to show our youth that CUT is indeed serious about youth development in Science and Technology. What better way to show this commitment than to increase the prize value of this noteworthy Faculty initiative?" said Prof. Mthembu.



*Pictured are Gareth Allen, CBC St. Patrick's College, Mr Carel Korff, quiz organiser for CUT, Roscoe Jampies and Matthew Welham, both from CBC St. Patrick's College.*



# CUT AND PARTNERS OFFICIALLY LAUNCH THE ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN QUALIFICATION

CUT, in partnership with the South African Institute for Chartered Accountants (SAICA) and the Association of Accounting Technicians in South Africa AAT(SA), officially launched the AAT(SA) qualification on 11 May 2010. Role-players in the field of accounting, as well as various educational and professional bodies involved in the AAT(SA) qualification, attended the launch function.

AAT(SA) is a joint venture between SAICA and AAT worldwide. The two bodies have been involved in the education and development of accounting and financial staff for more than 20 years. With the backing of two world-renowned institutions, AAT(SA) regards itself as the premier professional body in South Africa dedicated to the education, development, regulation and support of accounting technicians.

As such, AAT(SA) offers a practical qualification, accredited by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), which is targeted at all staff levels – from clerical-administrative to professional accounting positions – ensuring that accounting and financial employees are provided with the skills they need to make a truly positive contribution to a business or financial department. The qualification offers three certificate levels: the first year culminates in a Certificate in Accounting, the second year in the Advanced Certificate in Accounting, and the final (third) year in the Diploma in Accounting. A total of 34 students (first group) enrolled for the Certificate in Accounting at CUT, and classes commenced on 1 March 2010.

In his welcoming address, Prof. Thandwa Mthembu, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of CUT, said that this project will assist our country to 'fill the gap' in the development of accounting experts. He went on to state that the decision to offer training such as this is closely linked to the strategy set out in CUT's Vision 2020.

According to Ms Chantyl Mulder, SAICA executive, SAICA continues to play a pivotal role in people development and has therefore chosen to partner with CUT in this project. She elaborated by saying that CUT was selected based on its ability to deliver a 'good product'.

Local government is also participating in the programme on certificate level, and in April 2010 a total of 15 employees of the Mangaung, Mantsopa and Naledi municipalities started their training in this regard.



*Pictured are Profs. Rocky Ralebipi-Simela, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic, and Thandwa Mthembu, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of CUT, and Ms Chantyl Mulder, SAICA executive.*



*Pictured are Mr Adriaan Taylor, Prof. Albert Strydom, Dr. André van den Berg and Prof. Rocky Ralebipi-Simela.*



## DST INFORMATIVE SESSION BRINGS CUT UP TO SPEED ON THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS ACT

On 2 March 2010, the Office of Research and Innovation hosted an information session on the recently legislated Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Act of 2008. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) provided much-needed and appreciated information regarding the new IPR Act, which has come into play specifically with regard to publicly financed research and development – a subject close to the heart of many researchers at CUT.

Ms Nomkhosi Madwe, an intellectual property and technology transfer specialist from the DST, made a presentation on the new IPR Act and guided the attendees through the new regulation that is currently in the process of being approved. The IPR Act was put in place to protect South Africa's innovation interests. In order for South Africa to meet the vision of moving from a resource-based to a knowledge-based economy, we will have to ensure the protection of our innovative ideas, since they are vital to this transformation and will play a major role in the progression to the new type of economy.



*Ms Kgomotso Rabalao, technical skills specialist from the DST, Prof. Laetus Lategan, Dean: Research and Innovation at CUT, and Ms Nomkhosi Madwe from the DST.*



*Photographer: Johan Roux*



## Football Fever

FOOTBALL FRIDAY

Feel it, it is here

# AYOBA!

Wave your Flag

DISKI DANCE

VUVUZELA


We did it! We can all stand tall and shout in union:

“We are proudly South African!”

After years of planning and hard work, we still fearfully asked ourselves: “Can we really do this?” Now, everyone will agree that not only could we do it, but we DID do it – and we did it SPECTACULARLY!







The world descended on our country in June, and we welcomed them with open arms, ready and waiting to “show dem” what we can do, who we are, and how wonderfully warm and friendly South Africa and Africa can be.



The Central University of Technology, Free State can proudly boast of being the only official FIFA-approved World Cup training venue in Bloemfontein. In addition, we hosted the FIFA Fan Park at the Boet Troskie Hall, and many of our staff members and students successfully completed a FIFA volunteer training programme that qualified them to perform various services at venues around the country during the tournament. These students and staff members, who are involved in the Hospitality Management, Sport Management, Tourism Management, Biomedical Technology, Language Practice and Photography programmes, all performed essential services of the highest quality and were instrumental to the success of the biggest event this country has ever seen.

A big “Thank You” to everyone who so proudly wore their nation’s colours, blew their vuvuzelas, and showed their undying support for the Beautiful Game in our Beautiful Country – you are what the World Cup is all about!





## PA WORKSHOP BRINGS EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES TO THE CITY OF ROSES

Personal assistants (PAs) or executive secretaries are often taken for granted. We tend to forget their worth and their value to institutions of higher learning. A core group of these “worker bees” for vice-chancellors across the country attended a PA workshop at the CUT Bloemfontein Campus. This was the ninth workshop of its kind, arranged by Higher Education South Africa (HESA) for executive secretaries and personal assistants in the offices of the vice-chancellors of the 23 public higher education institutions in the country.

The participants were treated to an array of interesting presentations and motivational talks. The aims of the PA workshop were to provide an overview of HESA's role within the higher education system and the priority focus areas for engagement, to identify ways of enhancing effective communication between the HESA Executive Office and the offices of the vice-chancellors and also among PAs, to offer networking opportunities and share experiences and expertise with peers,

and to provide an opportunity to enhance skills and competencies for professional and personal development.



*Pictured here in a lecture room at CUT's Hotel School are Ms Natasja Theron, PA to the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of CUT, Ms Jana van Wyk, project manager, Mr Christo Spies, motivational speaker, Ms Diana Cochrane-Van Eeden, Executive Secretary to the Rector of the University of Pretoria, and Ms Johanna van Niekerk, PA to the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Stellenbosch.*

## CUT STUDENTS IMPROVE THEIR EVENT-PLANNING SKILLS BY HOSTING A “CUISINE OF THE MIDDLE EAST” EVENING

On 29 April 2010, third-year Hospitality Management students held a Moroccan/Lebanese/Persian-themed evening, incorporating cultural as well as cuisine aspects. CUT prides itself as an institution that gives students the opportunity to test in practice the skills they have learned in class.

The One on Park Restaurant on campus was transformed for the evening into an exotic wonderland, where guests were wined and dined while seated on comfortable cushions around low tables.



*Photographer: Johan Roux*



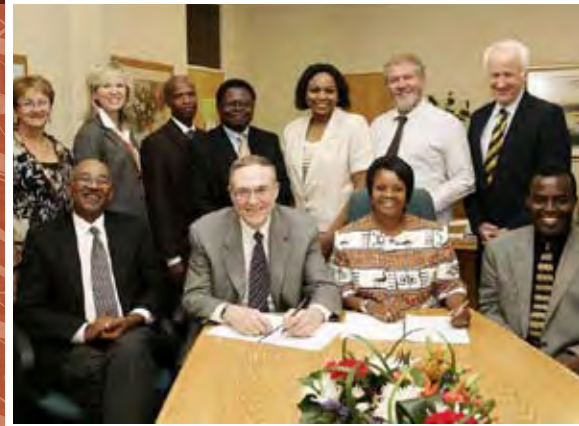
*Pictured is Cherish Wessels, third-year Hospitality Management student, serving méchoui (Moroccan roast lamb) to guests.*

The students arranged the evening as part of their Events Management programme. Not only did they serve a lovely dinner consisting of traditional dishes of the various cultures represented in the evening's theme, but they also had the responsibility of organising the entire event, including the décor, invitations and menu selection.



## CUT CONTINUES TO INVEST IN INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Part of CUT's Vision 2020 is to establish partnerships with various institutions across the world – whether academic, business or industry – in view of meaningful and lasting collaboration. To this end, CUT hosted delegations from the United States of America, Rwanda and Zimbabwe during the first semester of 2010.



*Pictured in the back row: Prof. Linda de Jager, Dean: Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences at CUT, Dr Jeanie Hofer, Director of International Affairs at Missouri SGT, Mr Molibeli Molibeli, Head: Liaison and Partnerships at CUT, Prof. Johnson Kinyua, former Acting Dean: Engineering and Information Technology at CUT, Dr Francisca Oboh-Ikuenobe, Professor and Head of Geology at Missouri SGT, Prof. Laetus Lategan, Dean: Research and Development at CUT, and Dr Stewart Gillies, Professor of Mining Engineering at Missouri SGT.*

*Front row: Prof. Talvin Schultz, Executive Director: Vice-Chancellor's Office at CUT, Dr Warren K Wray, Provost and Executive Vice-Chancellor of Missouri SGT, Prof. Rocky Ralebipi-Simela, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic at CUT, and Dr Samuel Frimpong, Department Chair of Mining and Nuclear Engineering at Missouri SGT.*



A delegation of academic staff from the Missouri University of Science and Technology (Missouri S&T) arrived in South Africa on 17 January 2010 for an official visit to CUT. One of the reasons for their visit was to sign a memorandum of academic agreement with CUT, the broad objectives of which are to promote teaching, research and consultation, to facilitate the international exchange of ideas between the two universities, and to enhance the scholarly efforts of the participants.

This was followed shortly thereafter by a visit from Dr Pardon Kuipa, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the Chinhoyi University in Zimbabwe, in order to benchmark CUT's experience in the area of community engagement and university-community collaborative projects and to explore the possibility of further collaboration between CUT and Chinhoyi University.

In April 2010, the CUT Bloemfontein Campus hosted the Rwandan Ambassador to South Africa, His Excellency Ambassador Ignatius Kamali Karegyesa. The purpose of the ambassador's visit was to familiarise himself with what CUT as an academic institution has to offer, and to meet the two staff members of the Kigali Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) in Rwanda who are currently studying at CUT. CUT and KIST have entered into a memorandum of agreement for academic collaboration, aimed at strengthening the existing co-operation between the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Rwanda. Some specific areas of this collaboration include engineering and technology, staff development for junior academic staff members, work-integrated learning and exposure to industry, applied research, and technology transfer.



*Photographer: Johan Roux*

*Dr Pardon Kuipa, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the Chinhoyi University in Zimbabwe, and Prof. Rocky Ralebipi-Simela, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic at CUT.*



*Photographer: Rian Horn*

*Pictured are Prof. Rocky Ralebipi-Simela, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic at CUT, Ambassador Karegyesa, Prof. Thandwa Mthembu, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of CUT, and Prof. Claude Nikobisanzwe, First Secretary to the Ambassador.*



## HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT STUDENTS HAVE THEIR HEARTS IN THE RIGHT PLACE

As part of the academic programmes offered at CUT, students have the opportunity to engage with the community on a number of different levels. One such window of opportunity presented itself when third-year Hospitality Management students organised a community outreach initiative that entailed collecting toiletry hampers to be donated (along with their time) to the Jean Webber House for persons living with disabilities.

These students also visited House Amelia, a home for disabled children and part of the Association for People with Disabilities, as part of their first-year orientation programme. Here the students distributed toys to the children and opened their hearts to the needs of our community. Another aspect of this type of community engagement is that students are given the opportunity to appreciate their blessings and opportunities and to share some of their good fortune with those in need.



*Pictured are the students engaging with the children at House Amelia.*



## CUT INVOLVED IN CREATING AWARENESS ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

A community engagement project undertaken at CUT as part of a service learning module has grown to include various partners.

In April this year, a group of second-year Graphic Design students were briefed on the real and immediate threat of human trafficking in South Africa, and they began brainstorming ideas on how to create awareness about the subject. Their task was to create child-friendly campaign materials in the following categories: posters, billboards, games, and promotional items such as pamphlets and T-shirts. The group winners, which were announced on 28 May 2010 at the CUT Bloemfontein Campus, were awarded prizes sponsored by various businesses and partners in the project.

This is not the end of the line, however, since the materials will be printed and dispersed across the Free State Province (with funds from the Hostage Survival Centre) to ensure that everyone hears the important message about the dangers of human trafficking.

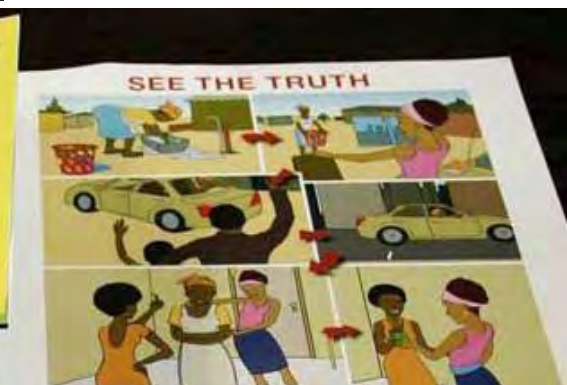


*Pictured in the back row: Liza du Plessis, Cindy van Zadelhoff, Jacques Nell, and Willie Coetzer.*

*Front row: Carl Viloria, Mohapi Khetsi, and Sheldon Venter.*



*Photographer: Johan Roux*





## AN OLD DOG WITH NEW TRICKS

An “old fogey” is described as someone who is out of touch with the times, dull, reactionary and narrow-minded. At 72, Werner Wiid is absolutely none of these things! While his peers are whiling away their time in the sun, reading or perhaps playing golf or cards, he is hard at work on his doctoral thesis.

Upon entering his office, don't expect to see only some books, papers and pens (perhaps even an old typewriter) – all the usual old-fashioned paraphernalia. Instead, one's first impression is of light infused with splashes of colour – in the

Mr Wiid describes himself as an artist, and although he has travelled an interesting career path, including stints as a farmer, laboratory worker and school teacher (Art, Mathematics and Science), he eventually found his niche in the higher education sector, where he worked as a part-time lecturer in free-hand and perspective drawing for Architecture students and then as a full-time lecturer in the Arts, before being appointed as head of the Art Department at the Technical College in Bloemfontein. An



form of paintings – and a computer set up with all the necessary technology that a modern doctoral student might need. At 72, he is in the final stages of completing his thesis titled “*Pedagogical assessment of art therapy training and practice*”. The study's primary goal is to develop a structure, or rather educational programme, for the training of art therapists in South Africa. This is the first study of its type to be undertaken in South Africa and is truly groundbreaking work.





avid reader and researcher, he has been involved in numerous art-related fields, but has also ventured outside the genre into Anatomy, for instance, which he studied for four years. He uses almost every technique of painting available, and likes to experiment with colour, texture and symbolism. He primarily uses abstract painting techniques, and although he has tried and tested the newer Process Art technique, it is not his preferred method.

“Why a doctoral degree this late in life?” was one of the first questions he was asked, and the answer he gave was truly surprising. He told the story of how his father had left home at 16 to work and make his own way. After saving 600 pounds (the currency in use at the time, when South Africa was still under British rule), he attended Stellenbosch University and qualified as a medical doctor. Years later, on his deathbed, he expressed regret that his son had not too become a doctor. Although he had no wish to follow in his father’s career footsteps, Mr Wiid decided to take the plunge and start studying towards his doctorate in honour of his father, whom he regarded as a lifelong inspiration.

Not only is Mr Wiid an accomplished artist and researcher, but by all accounts he was quite the ladies’ man in his day – engaged five times before meeting the love of his life, Ellen! They have been happily married for 44 years and have three grown-up children.







Central University of  
Technology, Free State

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