

FET College Times

Volume 23

December 2010

The Official Quarterly WCED FET College Newsletter



FET COLLEGES: Stay with us, we'll take you further

IN THIS ISSUE: [Page 2](#): Opportunities abound for FET Colleges and their students | From the Chief Director's Desk [Page 3](#): West Coast College Bursary Fund launched | Prospective student attends Open Day and wins a laptop [Page 4](#): False Bay college Financial Aid Office receives NSFAS recognition award | Fashion First | Proof of quality lies in accreditation [Page 5](#): MOT International Courage2B Conference | South Cape College partners Cape Peninsula University of Technology [Page 6](#): Dynamic women benefit from bursary fund | West Coast College excels at national welding competition in Johannesburg [Page 7](#): Photography student's excellence rewarded | Hospitality student wins sought-after bursary | Safety in society programme achieves excellence [Page 8-9](#): Focus on FET College/Industry Partnerships: Partnership gives hope | Boland College and Standard Bank partnership fosters excellence | Afrox Gas & Welding Expo a FET College first | Elprom takes up the skills challenge with FET College [Page 10](#): False Bay College students benefit from American exchange | Northlink Lente Modeparade onoortreflik [Page 11](#): Nordic and African Art & Design in exchange | Northlink College engineering competes with Higher Education [Page 12](#): South Cape College Guest-house & In-training facility offers a unique education experience | Boland College produces own wine [Page 13](#): Students in internship | W&R SETA and False Bay College partners in Workplace Experience project | False Bay College strives for inclusivity [Page 14](#): Degrees for FET students | Northlink Kollege kampus toegankliker | FET Colleges Unit in partnership with College-based professionals makes an extraordinary team-effort to streamline a national examination process | [Page 14](#): Case Study: An integrated e-learning approach to addressing literacy and numeracy deficits at entry level into public Further Education and Training Colleges



Editorial Team

Editor: Keith Loynes
Rotating Assistant-Editors:

Angelique Jordaan,
Yvonne Botha

Language Editor:
Jeremy Lawrence

Design & Printing:
Dannhauser Graphic Design

Copyright: WCED FET, Private
Bag X9114, Cape Town, 8000
South Africa, December 2010

WCED FET College Website

www.fetcolleges.co.za

Cover Photograph

Foster's Manor in-training
guest house and conference
venue of South Cape College
in Oudtshoorn

Waiver

The views & opinions of
contributors do not necessarily
reflect those of WCED

FET College Times and the
WCED accept no liability
with regard to authorship
and content of articles
and photographs, and
accept these as the bona
fide contributions of
correspondents

Contributors

Nurene Jassiem, Jandr  Bakker,
Colleen Brennon, Angelique
Jordaan, Wanda M ller, Dr Adriaan
Landman, Melanie Anthony, Tina
Little, Mark Slessenger, Charlene
Beeming, Robert Daniels, Pat
Lawrence, Doep du Plessis,
Yvonne Botha, Karin Hendriks,
Kahreema Campher, Agnes Fourie,
Henk van Rooyen, Jacqui Laymen,
Adele Ebrahim, Cathy Robertson,
Danita Welgemoed, Marian Theron,
Noelene Vermeulen

Send contributions to:

Email: kloynes@pgwc.gov.za

Fax: 021 467 2487

Telephone: 021 467 2000

Closing Date: 28 January 2011

Supported by Western Cape
FET Colleges

Opportunities abound for FET Colleges and their students

As the 2011 Academic Year beckons on the horizon, public FET College managers and staff are ever optimistic that this is the year in which great strides will be made in the quest to offer an ever-widening range of skills and occupational programmes to an enthusiastic cohort of post-school, pre-employed, unemployed and employed adults – some of them young, others not so young.

Age has little relevance when all share one common goal, namely to receive education and training opportunities that open avenues for life-long learning and articulation with higher education and the workplace.

Much work is taking place behind the scenes and in various corners of the country, to ensure that the two main role-player groups in this arena – namely, public FET Colleges and Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs), and the employers that they represent – work together to achieve the imperatives for which our country

so desperately thirsts namely, those “employable skills”. In this edition of *FET College Times* we have selected (from a record number of contributions, many from first-time contributors, whom we warmly welcome) items which illustrate the breadth and depth of current Further Education and Training endeavours.

These range from the all-important raising of funds for needy students, the pursuit of excellence in diverse occupational directions and the on-going quest for quality, to international best practice in the field of life-skills education. We feature a number of student achievers in our Movers and Shakers column as well as a winning team of college programme managers.

In our Campus Matters column we focus on partnerships with business and industry, higher education, and practitioners in other countries. And we end the column on a lighter note with the up-coming holidays in mind, with a visit to the Foster's Manor in-training

guest and conference facility of the South Cape College (featured also on the cover), and a taste of wine-making at Boland College.

In Policy and Operational Shifts we look at the important practice of internships generously assisted by the Wholesale and Retail SETA, the practice of inclusivity, shifts towards bridging with Higher Education, and streamlining the national examination process.

Finally, in Intellectual Debate we examine and invite your comment on a short case study that explores how blended e-learning methodologies can help in the drive for improved numeracy and literacy at entry levels to FET Colleges, with the ultimate intention of improving student retention and through-put rates.

All in all, a festive celebration of best practice in FET College circles that will uplift your spirit as you find time to put your feet up over the holidays. Happy reading and happy holidays!

FROM THE CHIEF DIRECTOR'S DESK



I was reminded by the editor that this edition of the *FET College Times* is the last one for the year – the year that was 2010! What's going on? A year vanishes so quickly (especially when you are busy). To all staff and colleges as a whole: I'm sure that you are as shocked as I am that it really is true that 2010 is drawing to a close! So what was special about this year?

The FET colleges sector has been in a difficult “space” this year. We faced a couple of challenges and registered some achievements too. Obviously we cannot take stock for the full year in this publication, but spare me the opportunity to touch on a few highlights.

The biggest challenge is for all of us in the college sector to realise that we are working in a transitional period which will be loaded with questions and very few answers. It is business *unusual* which, as can be expected, may lead to a degree of instability. Change, never easy yet inevitable, has the potential to take us forward – but, equally, if not...

On the achievement front we have managed to draw the FET Colleges in this region very close to the SETAs with whom we generally operate. Through a concerted effort on the part

of the Western Cape SETA Cluster, the Provincial Department of Economic Development and Tourism, public FET Colleges and the Chief Directorate Further Education and Training in the Western Cape Education Department, we managed to make sense of the new “speak” that came as an urgent mandate from the Minister of Higher Education and Training.

We are proud of where we are with our partners in our serious endeavour to accelerate the skills revolution in our area. The sector is abuzz with excitement and there is a groundswell of energy. We are truly expecting wonderful things from this effort.

On a different note, I could not help noticing the theme of partnership dominating this edition. It is the new way to be relevant and responsive to the core business of our profession.

There is so much that can be achieved if we team up with those around us and direct our work to a common outcome. At international level we also have friends and partners from whom we learn so much, and I'm sure that they too find our South African solutions to challenges enlightening. Guess what? We are hosting 100 Norwegian



*Zozo Siyengo, Chief Director:
Further Education and
Training Colleges*

visitors at our first MOT South Africa conference, which will take place on 2 and 3 December. We are thrilled to be afforded this opportunity and I am sure all will go well, and maybe very soon South Africans will return the visit in their numbers to the next MOT International Conference. The FET College Sector is always trying to do things differently and better!

Lastly, let me wish everyone of you and your families a very wonderful festive season. You have worked very hard this year and you have carried your responsibilities without shame. Take a break then and relax in preparation for 2011. We shall continue from where we left off. Till then it's *adi s!*

West Coast College Bursary Fund launched

NURENE JASSIEM

“This is a historical first where a public institution such as West Coast FET College is the recipient of such generous allocations from such a wide range of partners.”

This was the reaction of Mr Keith Loynes, Chief Education Specialist and Planner at the Western Cape Education Department (WCED), at the launch of the West Coast FET College’s Financial Aid Fund on 1 October at the Mount Royal Golf Estate in Malmesbury. Mr Loynes spoke shortly after a dozen varied organisations pledged their support for the fund. The pledges amounted to a total of R189,000!

In attendance were representatives from various government departments, the college and other stakeholders. “I am at a loss for words. This support is an example of how we are beginning to realise that the onus does not solely lie on the state to bring services to the people, and that we as a South African community take joint ownership of that responsibility,” Mr Loynes said.

Ms Osma Jooste-Mokgethi, Chief Executive Officer of the West Coast College, quoted former President Nelson Mandela’s words: “Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world”. She went on:

“When Hendrik Verwoerd designed his grand plan of Apartheid he said, ‘What is the use of teaching black people mathematics when they are not going to use it.’ Apartheid was designed to make black people the perpetual slaves of the white master. In 1994 we defeated that ideology, but it is clear that the legacies of those policies still run deep.”

Quoting the provincial government’s economic review and outlook for 2009/10, Ms Jooste-Mokgethi said unemployment levels remain high, especially among Africans, Coloureds and females, with those aged 15-34 years bearing the burden of the highest levels of unemployment. “The majority of our students from the West Coast communities opt for NCV because of a dire need to be skilled and become almost immediately employable,” she said. Although the College receives funding from the Department of Higher Education and Training covering 80% of the programme fee with 20% of the fee payable by the learner, many students are from traditional rural communities and are unable to afford the fees.

“Based on an affordability test called the means test, 95% of West Coast College students qualify for full bursaries. The majority of West Coast students emanate from households with an annual income of between

R6,000 and R30,000,” Ms Jooste-Mokgethi said. The Department of Higher Education and Training bursary administered by the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), as well as the Ikapa Elihlumayo Student Support Programme, supports some students. However, these funds only partially cover the current student population needs.

“The feeding area of West Coast College is rural in nature and most of its residents are seasonal workers and farm workers. There is not a large enough concentration of students in one single town to sustain a campus and therefore we have to be innovative and combine students from different towns. This accounts for our seemingly excessive expenditure on transport and accommodation for students,” Ms Jooste-Mokgethi said.

“It is for these reasons that we have to look for additional sources of funding. The College management has therefore taken a decision to establish this Financial Aid Fund to supplement and support current financial aid programmes and to widen access to the college for students in the rural areas.” She called on all corporate citizens in the West Coast and South Africa to support the fund: “In the sixteen years of our democracy we have been able to implement significant reforms in our

education system, and bring about a more just and equitable regime. In a large part it was possible because of the support of the business community and social partners.”

The keynote speaker at the event was Mr Marius Fransman, then Chairperson of the parliamentary portfolio committee on Higher Education and Training. “We cannot continue to have an island of prosperity in a sea of poverty. We are fundamentally failing our society with regard to education,” Mr Fransman said. He described the event as the best-attended launch of its kind to date and called on the greater South African community to support the fund.

Readers who wish to make contributions to the West Coast College Bursary Fund should phone **022 482 1143**.



West Coast College Chief Executive Officer Ms Osma Jooste-Mokgethi thanks Mr Johann Heinlein for his donation of R10,000 to the college Financial Aid Fund on behalf of the Transhex mining company

Prospective student attends Open Day and wins a laptop

JANDRÉ BAKKER

The Western Cape FET Colleges Communication and Advocacy Forum is taking the lead with its various joint initiatives. The highlight annually of this collaboration is the joint Open Day, now in its third year. The theme of “Achiever” was positively received by the public.

Another contributor to the success this year was a joint competition where those attending the events at all six Western Cape Public FET Colleges stood the chance of winning a brand-new notebook computer. Each College drew a runner-up winner, who then went on to the final draw hosted at College of Cape Town.

Excitement ran high as the five finalists waited anxiously for the draw. Colleen Brennon, Marketing Manager for False Bay College and chairperson of the Communication and Advocacy Forum,

was the master of ceremonies. Mr Zozo Siyengo, Chief Director FET Colleges at the Western Cape Education Department (WCED), conducted the lucky draw.

Ray-Lee Williams (a Boland College finalist) from Cloeteville was completely speechless when her name was drawn as the winner of the new laptop computer. The other four finalists each received a goody-bag and a cash prize for participating in the Open Day competition.

“We are excited about the Western Cape inter-college collaboration and the positive effect our joint efforts and initiatives have on promoting the sector,” said Colleen. In January 2011 Ray-Lee will be studying Office Administration at the Stellenbosch Campus (Drukkerslaan site). She says her new laptop will come in very handy as she begins her studies at Boland College.



From left to right: Mr Zozo Siyengo, Chief Director FET Colleges at WCED, with the finalists, Benett Nomganga who visited False Bay College during the Open Day, Greashan Classen who visited Northlink College during the Open Day, and Ray-Lee Williams, the winner, who visited Boland College during Open Day 2010

False Bay College Financial Aid Office receives NSFAS recognition award

Editor's Note:

Mr Ashley Seymour is the Chief Executive Officer of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), and the following is a transcribed extract from the letter which he authored and addressed to False Bay College.

COLLEEN BRENNON

Annually the NSFAS (National Student Financial Aid Scheme) hosts an awards dinner to not only acknowledge the contribution of financial aid practitioners in higher education institutions and further education and training colleges across the country as a whole, but more critically to recognise excellence at both an institutional and individual level. While these awards carry little financial value, they are deeply regarded by practitioners in the field, and are highly sought after.

Over the years NSFAS has introduced greater structure and science to

the process of determining which institutions deserve this recognition, and at our recent Gala dinner hosted by the University of Johannesburg in September 2010 a number of awards in this sector were presented.

The criteria for determining which colleges are deserving of an award include the percentage of claims submitted by the institutions by the target date at the end of September (in this instance end-September 2009), and an evaluation by the NSFAS team responsible for liaising with institutions with respect to their claims and the "on-time" submissions as required in the course of the academic year (2009).

NSFAS is pleased to advise that the False Bay FET College received a recognition award for the best performing bursary support office for the 2009 academic year.

NSFAS would like to congratulate the College on this achievement, and hopes that the performance of the College will continue at these high levels.



Receiving the rewards were (front left) Tanya Schouw, False Bay College Financial Aid Administrator; Danita Welgemoed, Chief Operations FET Colleges Chief Directorate; Edward Forrester, False Bay College Financial Aid Officer; Jacqui Layman, False Bay College Student Support and Development Services Manager; and Thembisa Futshane, Department of Higher Education and Training, Director Youth Development Programmes. Looking on was (back left) Mandla Cele, Manager Awards and Administration, NSFAS

Fashion First

ANGELIQUE JORDAAN AND NOELENE VERMEULEN

In a fashion first for South Africa, the recently held Cape Town Fashion Week opened with a display of young local talent in the form of a Graduate Show. Darren De Waal, a former Clothing Production student who achieved his N6 Certificate in Clothing Production last year from Northlink College, emerged as a joint winner (in the creative category) with Nastashja Fonnie, a former fashion design student from the College of Fashion Design.

The Graduate Show, sponsored by Foschini in partnership with the Cape Town Fashion Council (CTFC), aims to promote the best of graduate talent coming out of South Africa, by providing participants with a platform on which to parade their creative inspiration and their interpretation of it for commercial (i.e. retail) purposes.

Graduates competed in two categories, creative and commercial. They were challenged to design individual ranges on a "Hippy/Lovechild", "Wild, Wild West" or "Lady Boudoir, where innerwear becomes outerwear" theme. The fresh artistry of the fourteen finalists was displayed in garments



Celebrating the moment are (back, from left): N Dapula (Academic), K White (Administration), R Hamza (DCEO Innovation & Development), R Goosen (Finance), G Witbooi (Marketing), W Kelly (HR), M Mavovana (DCEO Academic), and (front, from left): E Davids (Quality Assurance), J Gilbert (SABS Lead Auditor)

with only a hint of colour, many exuding natural, earthy shades reflecting the trend for spring and summer. What impressed the sponsors, though, was the workmanship of the students. "It is unbelievable, you can turn the garment inside-out and it can go directly to a store," said Dawn Ngwenya, senior public relations co-ordinator for Foschini.

De Waal's winning design was an innovative men's range which is comfortable, loose-fitting, bold and ultra-modern. He described his range as "garments that were designed for a man with a good self-esteem and who would be able to take the clothes to the next level". Alex Harris (Divisional Merchandising Director, Foschini /

Proof of quality lies in accreditation

NURENE JASSIEM

West Coast College (WCC) has joined the list of FET colleges that have retained their ISO 9001:2008 certification. The audit took place over three days in October at WCC central office in Malmesbury, the Citrusdal campus and the Vredendal campus.

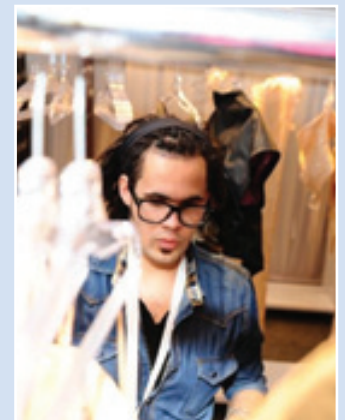
WCC congratulates the relevant process-owners on their achievement and emphasises the pursuit of

continual improvement in achieving the goal of service excellence. The College's top management confirmed that the retention of the certification proves once again that West Coast College is committed to the pursuit of quality at the highest level. This is done by qualitatively servicing *inter alia* the rural communities despite the specific challenges such as the distances between the central office and the various campuses, as well as distances between campuses.

Board Member, CTFC) said, "The Graduate Show is a wonderful outlet for new and upcoming talent to be discovered straight out of school. The show has been a great success here in the Western Cape, and what the Foschini/Nokia Design Awards bring to it is a launching-pad for recognising graduate achievement nationally."

The top three students gained industry exposure and recognition, as well as the opportunity to have their collections featured in next year's Graduate Show.

De Waal is no newcomer to the fashion industry. In 2009 he was selected as a finalist in the "NO K@K Environmentally friendly" design competition.



Darren De Waal, joint winner of the creative category at the Cape Town Fashion Week Graduate Show

MOT International Courage2B Conference

Editor's Note:

Wanda Möller is the CEO of MOT South Africa. The word "mot" is Norwegian for "courage" and is pronounced not unlike the Afrikaans equivalent, "moed". As the name suggests, MOT is a life-skills programme which is highly relevant to the needs and experiences of youth regardless of language, culture or ethnicity.

WANDA MÖLLER

On 2 and 3 December 2010, MOT SA is hosting its first MOT International Conference at Spier in the Western Cape. This two-day conference will bring together experts in the field of education, human development and behaviour and leaders personifying courage. The main purpose of the MOT Courage2B conference is to acknowledge, motivate and strengthen the MOT presenters for the critical role they play in the holistic development of students in the Further Education and Training (FET) Colleges.

How can we guarantee that the youth of South Africa achieve success in life? No matter how much we want our youth to be successful, and how much South Africa's future depends on it, we cannot guarantee it. What we can do is to make sure that our young people are strong and resilient individuals who have the courage to develop to their full potential, make the right life choices, accept one another's differences, support one another, and build healthy relationships.

And that is what MOT does. We do not tell young people how they should live their lives or what choices they should make. Instead we:

- give them the opportunity to discover who they really are, their strengths and their goals in life;
- teach them to appreciate their unique self and people's individual differences and opinions;
- help them to create a supportive environment among themselves in and outside the classroom, to build healthy relationships and to learn how to solve problems and conflicts;
- empower them to discover what is important to them, their values, their boundaries, their role models and how to make the right choices for themselves.

The MOT life-skills programme is implemented by trained volunteers at the FET Colleges in the Western Cape.

In support of the MOT programme Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu wrote: "Adolescence was never easy, how much more difficult today when young people are faced with many pressures and temptations. Many are unprepared and overcome by these

challenges. I am delighted to support this initiative and encourage others to become involved. Our young people need encouragement, support and guidance to become the leaders of tomorrow. The MOT programme can help them discover their potential and dare to reach for the stars."

MOT SA is hosting this two-day MOT Conference to encourage the MOT presenters to continue with their transformational work amongst the youth in the FET Colleges, to increase the visibility of MOT SA and to create new opportunities to expand the MOT programme and its impact among the youth of South Africa. Companies such as the Demartini Institute, Metropolitan Health Group, AfriSam, Santam, Juta and Old Mutual, who drive financial performance at the same time as investing in the development of our youth, have formed partnerships with MOT SA to make the conference possible.

Some of the key-note speakers include Dr John Demartini, world-renowned human behavioural specialist, educator and internationally published author, the Most Revd Dr Thabo Makgoba, Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, Dr Shags James, senior specialist scientist at the South African Medical Research Council (MRC), and Blum Khan, Chief Executive Officer of Metropolitan Health Group.

The conference will see representatives of different sectors coming together to strengthen the holistic education and development of our youth. Dr John Demartini is considered one of the world's leading authorities on human behaviour and personal empowerment. As a gifted educator he spends 300 days a year travelling the world teaching people how to be more self-governed and empowered in all areas of their lives. He shows them how to develop their potential, clarify their life and career direction and live inspired and fulfilled lives. Dr Demartini's goal is to contribute to the expansion of human potential in all markets and sectors across the world. His topic at the Conference will be "How to inspire others to live an extraordinary life."

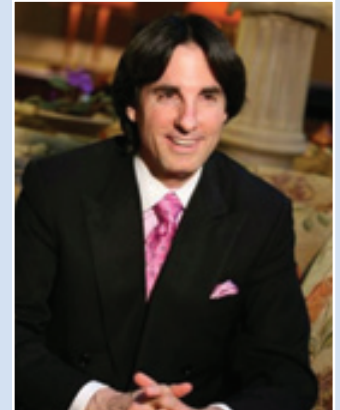
Dr Shags James is also of the view that the recently published Youth Risk Behaviour Survey results by the Medical

Research Council should mobilise the government and organisations to identify innovative ways to successfully alter the behaviour of our youth and, in doing so, strengthen the social capital of South Africa.

During the conference the brand ambassadors of MOT SA will help the organisation in hosting the conference. Natalie Becker, award-winning actress, media presenter and personality & MOT SA Brand Ambassador, will be the Director of ceremonies together with Soli Philander, broadcaster and award-winning actor, comedian, columnist and motivational speaker. Hilton Langenhoven, Beijing Paralympic gold medalist & MOT SA Brand Ambassador, will be a guest speaker at the refresher training session for MOT presenters; and Sasha-Lee Davids, 2009 Idols winner & MOT SA Brand Ambassador, will be performing together with Askil Holm, performing artist and MOT Norway Brand Ambassador at the

Awards ceremony, taking place on the evening of the conference.

For further information about MOT South Africa, contact MOT SA on telephone 021 696 6610 or email wanda@mot.org.za or visit the website at www.mot.org.za



Dr John Demartini, key-note speaker at the MOT Conference

South Cape College partners Cape Peninsula University of Technology

YVONNE BOTHA

A partnership between South Cape Further Education and Training (FET) College and the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) has been established earlier this year. This partnership focuses on the offering of National Qualifications Framework Level 5 Higher Certificate programmes to post-matriculation students at the George Campus of South Cape College.

The entrance qualification for these programmes is Grade 12 or the equivalent, and the course duration is one year full-time. About 150 students were enrolled in two programmes on offer, namely the Certificate in Public Management and the Certificate in Travel & Tourism Management.

The launch of these programmes was held at the George Campus Hall on Tuesday, 14 September 2010, and attended by all internal and external stakeholders involved in the two programmes. Mr Daan de Goede, Head of Department: Graduate Centre of Management, and Ms Beryl Liebetrau, course co-ordinator, represented CPUT. Mr de Goede also delivered the keynote address and highlighted how to make a success of these one-year certificate courses. Two lecturers from South Cape College, Mr Hector Klein (Public Management) and Ms Cindy van Niekerk (Travel & Tourism),

presented the implementation record and impact of these two programmes by means of an impressive slide-show. Their presentation was complemented by the input of two students in the manner in which the two programmes have impacted on their learning experience. The CPUT representatives were impressed by the student's enthusiasm, confidence and behaviour.

The auditing and the quality assurance of the two programmes have been conducted. The CPUT representatives conducted a thorough audit to ensure that South Cape College adhered to all the quality assurance principles and processes. According to the oral feedback given to the internal stakeholders, CPUT representatives were satisfied with the documents and processes that the College had put in place to ensure the high quality levels required.

In 2011 South Cape College will offer three Level 5 Higher Certificate programmes. They are the:

- Certificate in Public Management
- Certificate in Travel and Tourism Management
- Certificate in Secretarial and Administrative Practice

CPUT representatives have committed themselves to help the College in the presentation of these programmes where necessary.



Dynamic women benefit from bursary fund

NURENE JASSIEM

Some youngsters have the opportunity to become a supervisor or manager by being employed in a big corporation, but for most this is only a pipe-dream. However, with the help of bursary schemes young people can be given the opportunity not only to study further but also to potentially assist others in their community later on in their careers.

Three young women who currently work at Takata-Petri South Africa, the world's third largest airbag systems and components supplier, have come through the mould at West Coast College thanks to bursary funds and are well on-track in pursuit of their dreams. Natasha Astrilita van Wyk was planning to take a gap year when she completed her schooling, but then West Coast College opened its Atlantis Campus and she opted to do the N4 – N6 programme. "I wanted to have something behind my name and the college fees were within my mother's budget," she said.

Ms Van Wyk added that receiving the bursary opened many doors for her to get a good job. After completing a three-month internship in the sales

industry, West Coast College arranged an interview for her with Takata, where she was appointed as a filing clerk in the company's Human Resources department. "I moved on to become an administrative clerk in logistics, and I am currently the warehouse receiving clerk and acting supervisor." Van Wyk plans to study further, hopefully in logistics or web design.

Annelene January is the eldest child in her family and wanted to study something that would not cost her parents a fortune but still give her the education needed to help her be a good role model to her younger siblings. She studied Business Management N4-N6 at the college and says this made a big difference in her life.

"Thanks to the college I am where I am today," January said. She started as a "temp" receptionist and administrator at Takata and has worked her way up to a payroll clerk. Had she not been given the opportunity to study at West Coast College, January says, "I think I would still be at home deciding on what and how I'm going to study." She would like to study further in the Human Resources and Accounting fields. "I'd like to tell the students to not give up on their hopes and dreams.



Natasha van Wyk (left) and Rone Dyson at a recent West Coast College event

'If you don't stand for something you'll fall for anything!'

Rone Dyson wanted to study in Wellington but had a baby and was unable to pursue her original plans. "My mother advised me to go to West Coast College and see what courses they offer. That's how I decided to study there. It made a big difference in my life. I have a wonderful job working in

the finance department with a good salary," she said. Dyson studied Business management N4-N6. She is currently doing a B.Com. Accounting course and would like to become a financial manager. Thanks to the launching pad which West Coast College gave her, she now uses every opportunity she can to network with her peers and inspire them to pursue their dreams.

West Coast College excels at national welding competition in Johannesburg



Houston Isaacs, 19, (left) claimed second prize at the Southern African Institute of Welding (SAIW)'s 2010 Young Welder of the Year Competition. With him is Marlin Klasse, 20, who also competed

NURENE JASSIEM

Houston Isaacs, 19, from the West Coast College's Vredenburg Campus proved his mettle recently when he claimed second prize at the Southern African Institute of Welding (SAIW)'s 2010 Young Welder of the

Year Competition. Isaacs and Marlin Klasse, 20, represented the college and competed against 66 of the best welders from across the country between 4 and 8 October in Johannesburg. They were accompanied by Mr Thembinkosi Matyeka, Welding Centre Manager at West Coast College's International

Welding School of Excellence in Vredenburg.

The competition sought to identify a welder, under the age of 22, who is the most proficient in South Africa in welding three metal categories namely, carbon steel, stainless steel and aluminium, using four predetermined welding processes.

The overall winner of the competition, Chris van Zijl, who hails from Port Elizabeth, walked away with a cash prize of R15,000. He and Isaacs will now train for the Worldskills Competition to be held in London from 5 to 8 October 2011.

If the winner does not meet the required standard by 1 April 2011, and Isaacs does, he will go to London instead. Isaacs claimed first place in both the Stainless Steel and Aluminium categories, winning

R5,000 prize money in each category as well as R5,000 for his second-place overall achievement. "Thambi told me about the competition and I saw it as a good opportunity. I decided to become a welder because I felt there would always be a need for welders and I don't like the idea of sitting behind a desk. I want to work with my hands," he said. Isaacs complimented the International School of Welding's standard of teaching at West Coast College: "The way they teach us is excellent. Our instructors are very good." He hopes to get his red seal qualification which is a "licence" to weld. This was his first visit to Johannesburg.

Klasse said it was a great opportunity for him. "It's the first time in my life that I was able to participate in an event of this nature," he said. Both he and Isaacs are currently doing their apprenticeships at companies in the West Coast.

Photography student's excellence rewarded



Sihle Maku

DR ADRIAAN LANDMAN

Sihle Maku is an N6 Photography student in the Art & Design Department at the City Campus of the College of Cape Town. His keen interest and tremendous potential in photojournalism and documentary photography made him an ideal applicant for a bursary to enter the Market Photo Workshop.

With the assistance of his lecturer, Ms Sonia Hamilton, he produced a 300-word motivational essay and portfolio which was submitted to the bursary committee. Sihle was accepted in the Photojournalism and Documentary Programme and has been granted one of the few bursaries valued at R20,000. What makes this award more remarkable is the fact the bursary

is usually only awarded to professional photographers.

The Market Photo Workshop provides excellent opportunities as the students are taught and mentored by experienced professional photographers and placed in internships. The main bursary sponsor is Getty Images, the largest international image bank. Market Photo Workshop was started by the world-renowned photographer David Goldblatt in the late 1980s.

At the outset the aim was to provide visual literacy and practical training to young photographers who were excluded from formal training in tertiary education institutions by the policies of the government at the time. Social documentary photography was the initial focus, which provided photographers with an entry into the media landscape and created viable career opportunities for them.

At present Market Photo Workshop, located in Newtown, Johannesburg, strives to teach students not only technical and conceptual aspects of photography but also critical thinking to ensure the understanding of contemporary photographic practices.

Sihle Maku will enrol for the Market Photo Workshop programme in January 2011. Our best wishes accompany him.

Hospitality student wins sought-after bursary



Samihah Benjamin

MELANIE ANTHONY

Samihah Benjamin, a National Certificate Vocational (NCV) Level 4 Hospitality Studies student, was selected as the winner of the much-sought-after R150,000 bursary awarded by the International Hotel School (IHS) recently. The bursary was part of the IHS's school campaign which is an initiative to nurture young talent in the Hospitality profession.

Samihah was one of 80 entrants who, with the assistance of her lecturer, Mrs Penelope de Villiers, submitted a project-based portfolio of evidence which consisted of a three-course menu showing specific food-costing, budgets and work schedules. Out of the 80 candidates Samihah was selected as one of 30 candidates who went through to the semi-finals. The 30 semi-finalists took part in a "cook-off" which was held at the IHS, Sable Square, Cape Town, in July 2010. Here the students had to demonstrate a variety of skills including their abilities in the kitchen. In keeping

with her chosen theme, "Glitz and Glamour", Samihah had to prepare cocktails and plan a function from start to finish, including creating the décor for the function and setting a table for four guests.

After a day putting great effort and hard work into each task, Samihah was announced as one of six finalists who progressed to the final round. The last phase of the competition took place at the Peninsula All-Suites Hotel in Sea Point. The final round was judged over a period of five days during the September spring break. The finalists had to showcase their skills in the following departments in the hotel: Food and Beverage, Kitchen, Front Office and Housekeeping. One day was set aside for team-building and evaluations. On the final day each finalist faced an interviewing panel.

Finally, at an event held on Friday 1 October 2010 Samihah was announced the winner of the R150,000 bursary, which allows her to complete a three-year diploma course at the IHS in 2011. She has since been featured on SAFM Radio and has also been interviewed for articles in *17teen*, *Teen Zone* and *Top Billing* magazines.

The College of Cape Town is extremely proud of Samihah's achievement and wishes her well in her studies at the IHS in 2011.

Safety in Society programme achieves excellence

Editor's Note:

Olive Thomas, the Programme Manager for the Safety in Society Department at Westlake Campus, False Bay College, demonstrates how an integrated approach supported by partnerships within a specific industry contributes to the attainment of education and training excellence.

TINA LITTLE

Olive Thomas joined False Bay College in 2008 and was appointed as the Programme Manager of the new NC(V) Safety in Society Programme on 1 October 2009. Ms Thomas matriculated from Steenberg High School in 1986 and joined the South African Police Services (SAPS) in 1990. Her police training was conducted at Bishop Lavis, where she received an award for Student of the Year. She began her career at Steenberg Police Station and then moved on to other stations before settling at McGregor SAPS as the new Station Commissioner. It was during this time that she was declared Best Police Officer. She started her training career as Captain at Philippi

Training Academy and then moved onto Bishop Lavis Training Academy, training the new recruits of the SAPS.

On 31 December 2008 she resigned and joined False Bay College, Westlake Campus, as a Safety in Society lecturer, and within a few months she was promoted to Programme Manager. "The learners' dedication and hard work contributed to the success of this programme and therefore I thank each and every one of them," commented Ms Thomas. In 2009 Janine Witbooi, False Bay College Safety and Society student, was the top South African student in the programme. "Our students achieved the best marks in the country," said Ms Thomas. Various career options exist for a holder of this

qualification. For example, you could join the SAPS, the Metro Police, the Traffic Police, the Military Police, the SANDF, private security services or the National Intelligence Agency. Other job opportunities include careers in national intelligence, legal assistance, immigration and customs, correctional services, the criminal justice environment and matters related to the advocacy of the SA Constitution.

False Bay College has an exceptional relationship with the SAPS Provincial and SAPS Training Institution Bishop Lavis. The Provincial office helps with

recess activities, ISATS (Integrated Summative Assessment Tasks) and other assessments. Bishop Lavis Training Academy assists with the training material, industry-specific assessments, and physical training and drill sessions. Ms Thomas notes that "the success currently enjoyed by False Bay College's Safety in Society Programme is largely due to these organisations' involvement as partners in the industry."

For more information on the Safety in Society programme, call False Bay College on **021 701 1919**.



Safety in Society movers and shakers team, Odille Rossouw, Olive Thomas and Marius du Toit

Partnership gives hope

Editor's Note:

Mark Slessenger is the Director of the Hope Academy and Charlene Beeming is the Manager of the College of Cape Town, Linkages and Programmes Unit. The Hope Academy soccer-related initiative is relatively recent in South Africa and partnerships with FET Colleges contribute to their success. Soccer star Lee Sharpe (Manchester United and England International) is a Patron of the South African Hope Academies, of which there are currently four.

MARK SLESSENGER AND
CHARLENE BEEMING

It gives us great pleasure to announce the Drakenstein Hope Academy partnership with the College of Cape Town. Since the Soccer World Cup, the Hope Academy and the College of Cape Town have worked closely together to provide further education and training opportunities for young men from the Academy in Paarl.

The College of Cape Town recently signed a Statement of Intent and a Memorandum of Understanding with the Hope Academy committing the institution to the development of the young men, thereby giving them the opportunity to become self-sustainable and acquire the skills to contribute to the upliftment of their communities. The key priority of this agreement is to work together to establish an affiliation between our institutions to develop skills

and career paths which will benefit the youth affiliated with the Hope Academy and ultimately lead to these youths' obtaining full qualifications.

The Hope Academy programme is an elite soccer-based programme that develops the next generation of African soccer players to fulfil their God-given potential on and off the field. Each Academy in South Africa aims to develop youth holistically in their football, faith and future. The programme currently has Academies in Soweto, Port Elizabeth, Polokwane and Drakenstein and plans to open further Academies in Mamelodi and Durban in 2011. The Drakenstein Hope Academy was the first elite sports programme among juvenile offenders in South Africa. The Academy attracts the best soccer players from juvenile prisons throughout the Western Cape and transfers them to Drakenstein to participate in an intensive year-long



The sky is the limit for participants of the Hope Academy initiative

programme. All players are enrolled in the prison's schooling system or correspondence studies, and a potential career path is planned in conjunction with Education Officer, Lindsey Petit. The Academy has been a huge success and gained national and international recognition for helping rehabilitate prisoners and decrease gangsterism and crime in the Western Cape.

The College of Cape Town has become a key partner in helping to provide a brighter future for the young men who graduate from the Drakenstein Academy. Since the 2010 Soccer World Cup, the partnership has developed further and two Hope Academy graduates have enrolled in the Electrical Engineering course at the Pinelands Campus, and a third one has enrolled in the Automotive Course in Athlone and is scheduled to start soon. Their training is fully funded by the Health and Welfare Seta. Since the Hope Academy programme

was launched in 2008, it has become increasingly evident that sport alone is insufficient to rehabilitate inmates and that an educational element was required in the programme. Our youth deserve an opportunity for a good education, to be developed and seek employment. Through the Academy and our partnership, lives are being changed and true hope being instilled in young men who had lost all hope while in prison.

"Ambassadors In Sport" would like to thank the College of Cape Town and commends their desire to see young people receive a second chance in life. Education and sport complement each other, as demonstrated by the programme and our partnership with the College of Cape Town. Through this combination many young men will be offered the opportunity to become positive role models and leaders. Through partnerships such as these our nation has a brighter future!

Boland College and Standard Bank partnership fosters excellence

JANDRÉ BAKKER

The "Standard Bank Boland College Student Marketer of the Year" competition was recently hosted during a full-day session at the Boland College Central Office in Stellenbosch. Four students were selected to participate in the final round of this prestigious competition. The participants chose a non-profit organisation for which they had to prepare four activities that were adjudicated by the panel of professional judges. The activities included the preparation of a marketing strategy, a power-point presentation, an advertisement and, finally, an interview with the panel of judges.

The judges were Ivor Price, Media Personality on SABC 3, Radio RSG and Innovation Manager of Media24; Michael Heyns, MD: Fishgate Advertising; Ferdie Potgieter,

Standard Bank Marketing Manager: Youth Segment; and this writer. The competition format differed slightly from previous years in that not only were the finalists adjudicated but their entries were work-shopped, in order to give the students professional feedback that would help them to improve on their entries and campaigns.

The announcement of the winners was made the same evening at a gala event attended by friends and family as well as staff and management of Boland College. Chris Coetzee of the Stellenbosch Campus was identified as the overall winner and received the prize money, which had been sponsored by both the College and Standard Bank.

Boland College thanks Standard Bank for their partnership which makes this kind of professional learning experience possible.



At the Standard Bank award were, from left, Ina van der Westhuizen, Faculty Manager, Economic and Management Sciences, Boland College; Ferdie Potgieter, Provincial Youth Segment Manager, Standard Bank; winner Chris Coetzee, Stellenbosch Campus; runner-up contestants Janneke Beukes (Worcester Campus) and Chevon du Toit (Paarl Campus); Charlene October, Programme Manager, Marketing; and Chantal Morris, runner-up contestant, Paarl Campus

COLLEGE/INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Afrox Gas & Welding Expo a FET College first

Editor's Note:

Pat Lawrence is the Academic Manager and Doep du Plessis is a Senior Lecturer at the Thornton campus, College of Cape Town. This article demonstrates the potential benefits of closer co-operation between FET Colleges and industry, for all parties.

PAT LAWRENCE AND DOEP DU PLESSIS

The first-ever Afrox Gas & Welding Expo to be held at an FET institution was hosted at the Thornton campus of the College of Cape Town on 20 and 21 October 2010. This expo has, till now, always been held on Afrox premises but Afrox management staff approached Mr Brian George and Mr Doep du Plessis at the campus to request that it be hosted at the Thornton campus this year.

This was happily agreed to by the College. The initiative will strengthen the notion of public/private partnerships, enhance the education and training relationship, and expose the Thornton campus to industry. In hosting this Expo the campus hopes to secure established and new partnerships, and hopes that the placement of students within the educational arena and subsequently in the work place will be promoted.

More than 200 visitors from 157 companies flocked through the campus gates over the ensuing two days to see demonstrations of the latest High Tech Mig, Tig, Gas & Arc welding machines

and equipment with accessories currently available in the market place (see list below).

An Afrox Arc welding machine was donated to the campus as a token of appreciation for the use of the campus facilities. The donation went with a firm commitment to engage with the College of Cape Town and especially Thornton campus when new products are launched or demonstrated, and to provide for the skills development needs of lecturers in respect of the latest industry trends.

In this way lecturer skills will be guaranteed to keep pace with technological advancements in the gas and welding industry.

The College wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to the following staff members at Afrox for initiating this invaluable initiative with the FET sector: Mr Mahao Lehloeny, General Sales Manager, Western Cape; Mr Steward Powlesland, Regional Welding Specialist Manager, Western Cape; Mr Leon Hay, Regional Sales Manager, Western Cape; and Mr Jacques Theron, Regional Handigas Manager, Western Cape.



Handing over the donated welding machine are (from left to right): Mr Brian George, Programme Manager, College of Cape Town; Mr Steward Powlesland (Afrox); Mr Leon Hay (Afrox); Mr Pat Lawrence, Academic Manager, College of Cape Town; and Mr Doep du Plessis, Senior Lecturer, College of Cape Town

The following items were on display and demonstrated by the expert Afrox technicians:

- Gas Cutting – including regulators & torches

WELDING CONSUMABLES

- Electrodes
- Wire
- Gas brazing
- Gas welding
- Ferrous & non-ferrous metals

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- Eye protection
- Hearing protection
- Hand protection
- Respiratory protection
- Foot, head & face protection
- Protective clothing

WELDING & GAS CUTTING EQUIPMENT

- Arc Welding machines (various models – including the new range)
- MIG Welding machines (various models – including the new range)
- TIG Welding machines (various models – including the new range)
- MIG, TIG & STICK Welding machine (new to the range)
- Portapak – gas welding & cutting
- Gas Welding – including regulators, torches, flashback arrestors & nozzles

Elprom takes up the skills challenge with FET College

JANDRÉ BAKKER AND ROBERT DANIELS

Boland College had hardly reported on the ESCOM supportive investment of well over R1-million when a private company in the Strand came in on the action. ELPROM has teamed up with Strand Campus, Boland College, in its mission to provide leading education and training opportunities in the engineering faculty.

ELPROM (Electronic Product Manufacturers) in Somerset West has invested electronic components to the value of well over R25,000. What made the initiative even more apt was that it coincided with the annual Western Cape College's Open Day. "This demonstrates the full dimension and meaning of an Open Day. It further demonstrates growing business and

community ownership of what the campus is trying to achieve," said Cecile van Rooyen, Campus Manager.

Faculty Manager Mark Corneilse added, "The equipment could not have arrived at a better time. Thank you, Elprom, for being a partner with us in skills training!"

Elprom provides a comprehensive range of services including production engineering and design, component purchasing, full PCB population service, board assembly, final product integration, repair, refurbishment and lead-free manufacturing, and as such it has a keen interest in the development of skills in the engineering faculty of the College.

Says Theo Klein of Elprom: "We need to support organisations that are

developing skills in our community. Elprom sees this support to Boland College as an opportunity to underscore the good work already being done by the academic staff of the College, by providing materials to help with the

development of the practical skills of their students. We trust that this donation will serve to further nurture the longstanding relationship which exists between Elprom and Boland College."



Grateful Boland College staff and students offloading the Elprom equipment (from left): Andrew Josephs, Boland College; Adiel Arnold, Acting Faculty Manager: Engineering; Cecile Van Rooyen, Boland College campus manager; Theo Klein, Elprom; Mark Corneilse, Boland College, Faculty Manager; Engineering; Jacobus Swart (student); and (in front) Cederic Frantz and Denver Crowley (students of Boland College)

False Bay College students benefit from American exchange

KAREN HENDRICKS

It seems just the other day that we said goodbye to five of our students and now they have returned after one and two year exchange programmes. False Bay College has been part of a Community College Summit Initiative Programme managed by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States. This international educational exchange programme enables individuals from Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Pakistan, Turkey and South Africa to study at a community college in the United States and to develop professional skills.

Our college engages in a rigorous selection process that starts with students making a formal application, being short-listed and then being interviewed by a college panel that makes the final selection. We consider students who we believe would be able to cope with the demands of international studies and who would also be good ambassadors for our country. Our two-year exchange programme students included Shakira Chung, a Business Management graduate who left in August 2008 and was placed at Kirkwood Community College, Iowa, and Nosiphiwo Soyiazwapi, a Business Management graduate, who also

left in August 2008 and was placed at Kapi'olani Community College, Hawaii.

The students who were on a one-year programme and who left in June/July 2009 included Siphokazi Mdalana, Business Management graduate, who was placed at St Louis Community College; Luzhan Delpont, a Hospitality Graduate, who was placed at Highline Community College in Seattle; and Ryan Kessner, an IT graduate who joined our college staff soon after completing college studies and who was placed at a Texas Community College. Another six False Bay College students who left in June 2010 are participating in the exchange programme and are currently placed at Community colleges all over the USA.

Student exchanges are life-changing experiences, and it is clear from listening to these students that their time at the community colleges made a very deep impact on their lives and their world view. Siphokazi said that this experience left her with a deep desire to travel and see the world. She wished that she could press a return button because it was hard to say goodbye to friends who had become like family. She enjoyed the classroom experience which encouraged maximum



Returning exchange students Luzahn Delpont, Shakira Chung, Siphokazi Mdalana and Ryan Kessner with (second and third from left) False Bay College Deputy CEO Karin Hendricks, and CEO Cassie Kruger

participation by students. As a result of the many presentations which she had to do, her self-confidence grew in leaps and bounds, as did her communication skills.

Luzahn felt that this exchange gave her a greater appreciation of diversity, as she had met so many students from all over the world, and it has restored her pride in her own diverse cultural roots. "I feel proud to be a South African," she said.

Ryan Kessner echoed this view. Shakira Chung enjoyed travelling within the USA during her time there.

She learnt a great deal from having to share her apartment with students from Egypt. She also felt that she had grown intellectually and academically and enjoyed the different way of learning the USA: "We had to take responsibility for our education. I quickly learnt the value and importance of time management." All the students expressed a strong desire to use their knowledge and skills to give back to their communities and to make a contribution to business and industry. The College wishes to express a sincere thanks to Mr Ron Hendrickse and Ms Irene Marais from the US Consulate for their support to the College and students.

Northlink Lente Modeparade onoortreflik

ANGELIQUE JORDAAN AND NOELENE VERMEULEN

Die einde van 'n akademiese jaar beteken hersiening en afronding, maar die Klereproduksie Departement van Northlink Kollege se Protea Kampus in Bellville skakel egter dié tyd van die jaar oor na 'n hoër rat. Want Oktober by dié kampus is voorwaar die mooiste, mooiste maand wanneer die Klereproduksie-studente hul skeppings van die afgelope jaar op die planke bring tydens die jaarlikse modeparade. Vanjaar se modeparade op 14 Oktober het weereens alle verwagtinge oortref. Alles van kinderklere tot aand- en trourokke was tentoongestel.

Die opgewondenheid onder die eerstejaar-studente (N4), wat aan hul eerste modeparade deelgeneem het, het tot die elektriese atmosfeer bygedra. Hulle moes uitrustings ontwerp en vervaardig wat die "African Bohemian" tema illustreer.

Die hoogtepunt van die modeparade was egter, soos elke ander jaar, die

skeppings van die finalejaar-studente (N6). Hul uitdaging is om 'n reeks bymekaar te sit wat uit ten minste vier uitrustings bestaan, sowel as 'n kledingstuk vir die jasse en baadjies kategorie en 'n trourok.

Nicole Kennedy, wie se reeks Fashion in Wonderland uitbeeld, maar wat stylvolle wit uitrustings met rooi en swart harte, klawers, diamante en skoppens bevat, het die eerste prys in die reeks-kategorie verower. Wilfred Bosman se salm- en roomkleurige balrok styl trourok was 'n gunsteling onder die skare, sowel as die beoordeelaars, en het vir hom die eerste plek in die trourok-kategorie verower. Die jong ontwerpers, Alex Gwayise en Darren de Waal, albei voormalige Klereproduksie-studente van Northlink Kollege, het opgetree as gas-ontwerpers. De Waal, wat verlede jaar sy N6-sertifikaat in Klereproduksie behaal het, is onlangs tydens die Cape Town Fashion Week se Graduate Show as gesamentlike wenner in die kreatiewe kategorie aangewys.

Uiteindelik het die modeparade al die voorgestelde oogmerke vervul, naamlik

om die studente se harde werk tentoon te stel, terwyl dit ook as prysuitdeling dien vir die finalejaar-studente. Verder motiveer hierdie modeparade jonger studente om in hul finale jaar die beste eindprodukt moontlik op die loopplank te vertoon. Boonop, dien dié modeparade

as ope dag vir die Klereproduksie Departement.

Die kreatiwiteit waarmee die studente hulself onder druk uitdruk, is 'n bewys dat hulle werklik tuis hoort in hierdie uitdagende industrie.



Wilfred Bosman se trourok is aangewys as wenner in die trourokke-kategorie (Foto: Gavin van den Berg)

Nordic and African Art & Design in exchange

Editor's Note:

Dr Landman is the Programme Manager for Art & Design at the College of Cape Town. Matthew Frederick states in his book 101 Things I learned in Architectural School (MIT Press: Cambridge, 2007:70) that an artist should always design in perspective. He refers to the importance of reading and interpreting orthographic drawings, but a further implication is that artists should always broaden their design perspective by exploring new landscapes, social structures and systems of thought.

DR ADRIAAN LANDMAN

In 2007 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the College of Cape Town and the Bergeland and Haugeland Videregående Skole in Stavanger and Haugesund in Norway, to exchange cultural and educational programmes. Through this international exchange programme students are mutually exposed to African and Nordic art and design initiatives and teaching methods. The exchange programme has proved to be very successful. In February this year the Art and Design Department of Haugeland Videregående Skole visited the Art & Design Department of the College of Cape Town.

In September 2010 seven Graphic Design, Photography and Jewellery Manufacture students visited the two colleges in Stavanger and Haugesund

in Norway. They were accompanied by Ms Lynne Haynes, a Graphic Design lecturer, and this writer.

The students attended lectures with their Norwegian peers and facilitated conversation classes on life and social interaction in South Africa. The group also visited the Hinna Lower Secondary School in Stavanger.

The students attended the Floristry Department of the Bergeland Videregående Skole and produced jewellery made out of flowers and other organic materials. When this project was finished, presented, evaluated and documented, the second part of the day went into presenting a lecture and making new and original bridal bouquets. The second leg of the tour was a visit to Haugesund, which started with a combined exhibition of miniature paintings by the Programme Managers,

Mr Joakim Lund from Haugesund and this writer for the College of Cape Town.

The exhibition, After Images NO/ZA, consisted of reflective images of the trips to Africa and Scandinavia, and celebrated a Norwegian-South African creative-educational connection between the College of Cape Town and Haugeland Videregående Skole. As the majority of students from South African were senior students, they were asked to facilitate a Graphic Processes project and exhibit their work in Haugeland.

A collage of the South African flag was

constructed out of numerous linocuts inspired by African patterns, and printed on tissue paper in the colours of the flag. The students' work and the flag project were exhibited and served as the focus for discussion groups. A final visit was paid to the cultural city of Bergen.

The students visited the Hansa and Art museum and for the first time saw original Edvard Munch and Odd Nerdrum paintings in the National Gallery. The visit proved that new perspectives create new artistic energy and inspiration.



Standing in front of a collage of the South African flag exhibited in Norway are exchange students Megan Lingevel, Jjaime Steenkamp and Lynne Haynes, with Anja Salpeter

Northlink College engineering competes with Higher Education

ANGELIQUE JORDAAN

Northlink College was named first runner-up in the Cyber Junkyard 2009/2010 automation competition. It was the first time in the history of the competition, which has been successfully run since 2003, that a Further Education and Training (FET) College was allowed to participate. In the past the competition has only been open to universities and universities of technology. The competition encourages tertiary institutions from across Southern Africa to participate and construct a fully automated machine from scratch, meeting the given project requirements.

Partnered by Siemens, Festo and Lappcable and co-sponsored by IBC Solar, Blueginger and Westplex, the project's main objective is to prepare young engineers entering industry by presenting them with real-life applications (but on a slightly smaller scale). This is facilitated through sponsorship and exposure of students and lecturers to cutting-edge industrial equipment, software tools and training

in these new technologies. Together with this delivery is also the creation of opportunities for institutions to showcase their future talent and for building valuable productive networks with representatives of leading industries, thus fostering ongoing developmental relationships between industry and education in Southern Africa.

The theme of each year's challenge is chosen to reflect the latest trends in the high-tech manufacturing and automation industry sectors, as well as to reflect socially relevant topics. This year's "Play the Game, Save the Planet" themed project was based on a mobile technology demonstration unit in the form of a high-tech soccer game using renewable energy.

Heiko Katheder, business unit manager for automation systems at Siemens South Africa, added: "The Cyber Junkyard not only provides an exciting way for students to apply their theoretical knowledge but also goes a long way in helping the region meet the demand for the engineers of the future

who have the practical skills and applied knowledge of concepts and equipment that make them immediately effective, creative, innovative and productive in the modern working environment."

Top-honours went to the Durban University of Technology, closely followed by Northlink College and North West University. From the runner-up award the Northlink College team received equipment to the value of

R75,000 (R35,000 worth of Siemens equipment, R30,000 worth of Festo equipment and R10,000 worth of Lappcable equipment) for the College. The students also received individual prizes from Siemens in the form of SITRAIN courses (Training for Industrial Automation and Drive Technologies) to the value of R15,000. Apart from all the prizes, job opportunities and internships were also on offer.



The winning team (from left): Johann Holtzhausen, Lecturer, Electrical Engineering; Henri Mafumba, Programme Manager, Electrical Engineering; Brandon Windvogel; Mark Dilchert, Lappcable; Eric le Keur; Heiko Katheder, Siemens; Ryan Wyngaard; Bernard Visser; Pat Lawrence, Team Mentor; Wynand van Jaarsveld; and Horst Weinert, Festo

South Cape College Guest-house & In-training facility offers a unique education experience

KAHREEMA CAMPHER AND
AGNES FOURIE

The South Cape College guest-house and in-training facility for hospitality studies, "Foster's Manor", is a unique facility offering rare opportunities for students entering this industry. The palatial home that hosts the training has a history of more than a century. In 1902 Mr J A Foster, a local Oudtshoorn attorney, asked the renowned architect Mr Bullock to design a double-storeyed manor house. The municipal valuation of the completed mansion in 1907 was more than £10,500. Mr Foster was a member of the Cape Legislative Assembly and a real high-roller: rumour had it that he maintained a wife and a mistress, both living in style in separate parts of the mansion. Entertainment was lavish.

When the feather boom collapsed in 1914 at the outbreak of the First World War, Foster went bankrupt. He is said to have hidden from his creditors in the cellar, reported himself as dead, and in disguise attended his own funeral, the coffin being filled with sandstone



F&B students serving guests

fragments. At any rate he was never seen again in the Little Karoo. The Standard Bank took over the property and sold it to the educational authorities. The mansion was used as a teachers' training college until 1924 and then as a hostel for girls, and offices for the CJ Langenhoven Commercial School. It became vacant in 1972 and fell into disrepair. In 1973 the Administrator of the Cape temporarily placed the building on the declaration list and on 17 May 1991 Foster's Manor was declared a National Monument. Over the ensuing years it has been lovingly restored to its former glory.

Today the building – described as "an ostrich feather palace" – has been established as a guest-house forming part of the South Cape FET College in-training facility. For an eight-year period ending in 2008 it served as a venue for the Hospitality students doing the Granger Bay Hotel School's Food and Beverage (F&B) Management Diploma Course at South Cape College, Oudtshoorn Campus.

Although this course is unfortunately no longer on offer, the facility is now being utilised as an examination venue by the NCV Hospitality lecturers, for the Integrated Summative Assessment Tasks and Practical Examinations of the NCV students studying at South Cape College, Oudtshoorn Campus. The Food and Beverage students receive theoretical and practical training at the Manor. Practical training includes preparing and serving breakfast,

planning and organising functions, preparing and serving dinners and conference management. Foster's Manor provides the perfect venue for a practical extension of theoretical training. It has excellent potential for serving as a training facility for Hospitality students where they can experience the full spectrum of Hospitality Services (front office, back of house, front of house, kitchen, F&B, conferencing and Housekeeping), providing that all parties concerned focus on achieving this goal.

Wine and food pairing is currently a prime conversation piece, largely attributable to the influence of celebrity chefs, superb-tasting food and good-quality local wines. Combine this with the lightning speed of the Internet and you have a huge number of amateur wine connoisseurs with access to information that we could only have dreamt about a few years ago. As one can never stop learning about the complexities of wine and food (the innumerable combinations of cuisine and flavour to experiment with and the challenge, a tasty one, of finding the best wine to match), a "Food and Wine Pairing" lecture seems fit.

Ms Agnes Fourie, Manager at Foster's Manor, recently presented such a lecture to the NCV Hospitality level 4 students. She obtained her Wine Course certificate from the Cape Wine Academy and is currently busy with her diploma studies in this field. Her favourite quotation, from Andre Simon,

aptly captures her passion for food, wine and hospitality: "Food without wine is a corpse; wine without food is a ghost; united and well matched, they are as body and soul, living partners." The presence of the ostrich, whose feathers turned farmers into millionaires, takes one back to bygone times. A stay at Foster's Manor is a must and an unforgettable experience. Its lush, tranquil garden and eight grand bedrooms whisk you away to a by-gone era. Couple this with the superb meals served in the manor house dining-room, and the breathtaking surrounding scenery, and you have a venue conducive to the utmost relaxation – or to high productivity!

The Manor offers two family rooms, two twin rooms, three double rooms and one honeymoon room. Foster's Manor presently operates as a bed-and-breakfast establishment and caters for small conferences, for which refreshments are provided. For inquiries and bookings please contact reservations at telephone (044) 279 2677 or email info@fostersmanor.co.za. Alternatively visit our website at www.fostersmanor.co.za and book online. Prospective students who wish to pursue a career in the Hospitality Industry should phone South Cape College at 044 884 0359 or visit the college website at www.sccol.co.za

Come and enjoy the spirit of yesterday in combination with today's comforts and contribute to the training experience of students! (See cover photograph)

Boland College produces own wine

JANDRÉ BAKKER AND
HENK VAN ROOYEN

The Faculty of Agriculture at Boland College believes in practical hands-on training and has long had a dream to bottle its own wine. In 2007 the first vineyards were planted on the agriculture terrain. The development followed the National Certificate Agriculture curriculum requirements. The process began with the meticulous preparation of the soil followed by the planting, fertilisation, trellising, irrigation and pruning and, after three years of nurturing, the harvesting and pressing.

The first harvests of Colombar and Chardonnay had been quickly snatched up by nearby wine estates, but the group had set their mind to bottle their own Pinotage and Merlot blend. Well-

known winemaker Johan Pieterse from Skoolplaas ploughed in his knowledge and expertise, and helped the students to make this special wine in the traditional way.

This meant that it was pressed through hard labour and with clean feet! After it had matured, sixty individually numbered bottles became instant collector's items to be used as marketing and corporate gifts.

"This is what FET colleges are about. FET Colleges facilitate and provide relevant and practical learning for students while in the process serving industry skills needs. This wine-making exercise bears further testimony to our ability to serve the viticulture and wine industry with distinction," said Christo Cordier, Campus Manager, Worcester Campus of Boland College.

For info on courses and qualifications offered by the Faculty of Agriculture,

contact the Worcester Campus of Boland College at **023 342 5760**.



Proud students show the fruit of their labour



Students in internship

YVONNE BOTHA

The Student Internship Induction Programme from South Cape College (SCC) has again proved the institution's excellence and commitment towards servicing clients and walking the extra mile. SCC's culture of lifelong learning through training and student development focuses on empowering students to be economically active after completion of their studies. A total of sixty-one students were selected for the internship project, being placed with levy-paying employers of the Wholesale and Retail SETA (W & R SETA). This internship provides students with the opportunity to become part of the real "working" world, thereby enhancing their chances for employment opportunities.

SCC also proved its commitment by placing former Business Management student, Yandisa Ncozazi, at the College's Central Office, and Kabelo Madiba (Civil Engineering and Building

Construction) was placed as an intern at South Cape Plumbing during the June holidays. An induction on internship was held at the George Campus Hall recently under the leadership of the South Cape College's Deputy Chief Executive Officer: Education and Training, Ms Tercia Terblanche. Mrs Busi Kweyi-Ngubelanga, a representative from the Wholesale and Retail SETA, congratulated South Cape College on being successful with its application to take part in the internship project called Workplace Experience Employment Grant (WEEG).

The project will benefit approximately three hundred students from the six Further education and Training (FET) Colleges in the Western Cape. Each intern will receive a monthly stipend of R2,500 for a period of thirteen months. With the high levels of unemployment in the Southern Cape region, this project promises to be an intervention that is guaranteed to provide a great deal of assistance to students.



Students forming part of the Student Internship Programme

W & R SETA and False Bay College partners in Workplace Experience project

JACQUI LAYMAN

The Wholesale and Retail Sector Education and Training Authority, Workplace Experience and Employment Grant (W&R SETA WEEG) project, which entails the workplace training and selection of students, began at False Bay College on Monday 27 September 2010. Eighty-five students actively participated in the workshops which were facilitated at the Good Hope and Fish Hoek campuses of False Bay College. The facilitators included Shauwn Van Staden, Thandabantu Duna, Marienette De Witt and Charlene Mathews, with assistance from False Bay College job placement officers Xolani Mkoba and Denver Beech.

The W&R SETA is a public entity which was established to address skills development through the provision of quality learning within the Wholesale and Retail sector, through the implementation of learnerships, the monitoring of education and training, and the disbursement of grants. The W&R SETA aims to increase the level of investment in education and training in the sector, and to improve the return on that investment.

The Unit Standards presented in the workshop included:

- Behaving in a professional manner
- Knowledge of Core Concepts

- Understanding the Sector
- Selling goods
- Caring for Customers
- Controlling cash

The feedback given by students was most encouraging. Some reported that the workshop training was very useful, as it had provided students with better knowledge of the workplace. Some students maintain that by following the workshop they would feel more confident in going out into the real world of employment. Others said that the workshop had even assisted them in their own personal growth and that the learning process itself was helpful. Naturally students also gained a much better general understanding of the Wholesale and Retail industry. It was also clear that the facilitation had been very effective and that more workshops of this nature were needed. Students expressed their gratitude to the W&R SETA for making the programme available to them, and they voiced the hope that future students might likewise enjoy the same opportunity.

All the students who completed the required 30 hours of training received a Certificate of Attendance from False Bay College. False Bay College commends W&R SETA for being the first SETA to commit to the placement of our students and for providing further training of our staff and students.

False Bay College strives for inclusivity

ADELE EBRAHIM

False Bay College (FBC) is proud to be geared towards inclusive education. The college supports disabilities but emphasises possibilities. It has been more than five years since FBC began this successful programme, and as a leader in inclusive education within the Further Education and Training (FET) band, staff and students alike have embraced students with disabilities. As a college community we are committed to working towards the goal of creating an accessible and welcoming environment for students with disabilities on all our campuses. We have structurally altered several of our campuses so that these students can gain access to our programmes, and we try to make the learning environment a rewarding and enriching one for students with a variety of disabilities.

Inclusion is being a part of what everyone else is, being welcomed and embraced

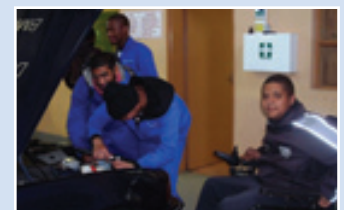
as a member who belongs. Inclusive education is having all students – with and without disabilities – learn together in one classroom, instead of separating them. Inclusive education can mean different things to different people, but for the most part it is making sure that every student is welcomed in a school or college campus and is offered an education regardless of background, ethnicity, disability or language.

These are among the characteristics of inclusive institutions: ensuring that each and every student feels welcome and is learning; embracing the understanding that every student is unique and, therefore, learns differently; understanding that all youth (students with and without disabilities), English language learners and those with special talents learn better if teaching is tailored to their abilities. Successes at FBC include: six students exiting with qualifications at the end of 2009 and June 2010, and

the opening of the college to blind and deaf students. At the beginning of 2010 FBC welcomed our first deaf student, without a sign language interpreter, into the Professional Cookery course. It is due to the dedication and ingenuity of Ms Kloppers (Hospitality Programme Manager), Mr Pienaar (Hospitality Lecturer) and the other members of the Hospitality Department that the student is now coming to the end of her qualification. She successfully completed a month of in-service training and achieved top marks!

She is eager to venture out into the workplace and put her mark on the world. In addition, at the beginning of 2010 the Mitchell's Plain Campus welcomed its first visually impaired student onto campus. She was initially accompanied to N4 part-time classes by her brother and seemed to be coping well. Unfortunately, transport became problematic and she was unable to complete the course.

Resilient in our quest for inclusivity, FBC goes where no-one has gone before! Who would think that someone who is unable to use his arms and legs would be able to pursue his dream of becoming a motor mechanic? Luke Lewis, with the assistance of Mr Koekemoer (Engineering Studies Programme Manager) and the team at Good Hope Campus, found himself welcomed at the Motor Department, where he now does exactly that! For more information about this topic please contact Adele Ebrahim on telephone 021 788 8373 or email adele.ebrahim@falsebay.org.za.



Luke Lewis and his fellow engineering students

Degrees for FET students

CATHY ROBERTSON

A new initiative has made it easier for students at Further Education and Training Colleges (FETs) in the Western Cape to get their Bachelor of Commerce degrees. The joint initiative between the Insurance Sector Education and Training Authority (INSETA), the Further Education and Training Institute (FETI) located at the University of the Western Cape (UWC), UWC's Management Faculty, the Financial Planning Institute (FPI) and FETs is the first of its kind in South Africa and addresses a number of important issues.

Employees at insurance companies with one year's insurance experience are being enrolled onto INSETA's "National Certificate in Wealth Management" at FETs.

With the addition of special Economics and Mathematics modules, the learners will not only graduate with the one-year National Certificate which will ensure that they are FAIS (Financial Advisory Intermediary Services Act) compliant, but they will then be able to enrol at UWC to complete the Advanced Management Diploma or a BCom degree at the second-year level. In future the modules will be offered on a part-time basis as well.

The colleges are also investigating the possibility of developing and offering Wealth Management Level 4 as an entry-level qualification. By writing the FPI (Financial Planning Institute) Board Exam, graduates will be able to register with the professional body and be able

to use the appropriate designation after their names.

"This initiative will provide a bridge between FET and tertiary education for many people and will ease the country's critical need for financial planners," said the Project Manager at FETI, Seamus Needham. "This will also be a great opportunity to provide good financial advice in the communities that need it." The project is being funded by INSETA. There have also been other exciting developments in the occupational arena.

Another new partnership with a private provider that has accreditation to offer Project Management Levels 4 and 5 has partnered a publisher and FET colleges to offer Project Management at the colleges. The scheme is still at the discussion stage, but it is envisaged that a tertiary institution will be approached to become part of this joint initiative so that the graduates can start at the second year of a degree in Project Management.

The colleges welcome all these joint initiatives which will enable its students to study at universities and universities of technology, and thereby uphold the principles of the National Qualifications Framework and give effect to the objective of promoting lifelong learning.

These initiatives also support the Minister of Higher Education's policy of a single department of education with a seamless transition from one sector to the next, ensuring the mobility of qualifications.



At the recent launch of the INSETA joint initiative at the Bay Hotel in Cape Town were (from left to right): Jannie Isaacs, CEO College of Cape Town; Cassie Kruger, CEO False Bay College; Rona van der Westhuizen, Senior Manager Training Procurement at Boland College; Chops Fourie, CEO Boland College; and Cathy Robertson, Deputy CEO Innovation and Development at Boland College

Northlink Kollege kampus toegankliker

ANGELIQUE JORDAAN

'n Student van Northlink Kollege se Parow-kampus het onlangs die lint geknip van 'n spognuwe hyser wat die kollege spesiaal vir haar (en ander gestremdes) in die gebou laat installeer het. Hanlie Mostert, 'n voltydse student in kantooradministrasie by die Parow-kampus, is 'n spina bifida-lyer en loop moeilik, daarom het sy 'n rolstoel nodig om oor die weg te kom. Van haar klasse is ook op die boonste vlak van die gebou en dit beteken dat sy gereeld trappe moes klim, dus het die kollege toe 'n hyser laat installeer om die kampus toeganklik te maak vir alle gestremdes.

Leon Beech, hoof-uitvoerende beamppte van Northlink Kollege, het gesê dat die kollege hom altyd sal verbind om in die akademiese sowel as spesiale behoeftes van studente te voorsien. "Behoorlike

toegang tot en gemaklike beweging op 'n kampus is 'n fundamentele reg van alle personelede en studente van Northlink Kollege.

Die kollege sal ook altyd poog om toe sien dat alle fasiliteite in 'n behoorlike toestand is, om te verseker dat enige persoon wat fisieke uitdagings het, maklik van fasiliteite wat nodig is vir hul studies, gebruik kan maak. Ongelukkig is baie van ons geboue nie oorspronklik met dit in gedagte ontwerp nie en daarom moet die kollege in sulke gevalle die nodige fasiliteite teen aansienlike koste byvoeg."

Die hyser is geïnstalleer waar die onmiddellike behoefte ontstaan het, maar aandag word gegee aan al die kollege se kampusse, en die kollege se langtermyn-doelstelling is dat al hulle fasiliteite in dié verband aan vereistes sal voldoen.

FET Colleges Unit in partnership with College-based professionals makes an extraordinary team-effort to streamline a national examination process

DANITA WELGEMOED

During the course of 2010 the academic heads of the Western Cape public FET colleges identified inconsistent interpretations of external examination memoranda as a weakness in the NC(V) (National Certificate: Vocational) examination cycle. They asked the FET Colleges Unit in the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) to plan and facilitate memoranda discussions in colleges to ensure consistency and improved marking standards.

In response, the FET Colleges Unit senior curriculum planners designed a provincial marking system that contains structures, processes and instruments all aimed to address the problem. The main structural element in the system

is the establishment of provincial marking committees per subject that bring together subject experts from all colleges. These subject experts then thoroughly discuss and reach consensus on each examination memorandum. The committees meet physically and/or electronically, directly after an examination paper has been written. The subject experts interpret and revise memoranda according to the FET Colleges Unit guidelines, and within twenty-four hours colleges receive "consensus" memoranda to use for internal memorandum discussions and marking.

A short while before the NC(V) examinations started, the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) Directorate: Examinations and Assessment, asked the WCED

FET Colleges Unit to help with the facilitation of national memoranda discussions. When the FET Colleges Unit marking system was explained, DHET decided to stream all NC(V) memoranda through the Western Cape provincial marking committees before releasing it nationally. This decision added tremendous pressure on the WCED Colleges Unit, senior curriculum planners, provincial committee co-ordinators and subject experts. The reason for this pressure can be understood when considering that this function had to be performed within strict (well-nigh impossible) time-frames – and this in addition to the normal workload.

The WCED FET Colleges Unit wishes to express sincere gratitude for the manner in which colleges responded.

Thank you to college managements for releasing staff to attend meetings of the provincial marking committees, or granting time that enabled electronic input! Thank you to each provincial committee co-ordinator for managing the process, and thank you to each subject expert who contributed to the consistent interpretation of the memoranda!

It is abundantly apparent that the provincial marking committees add considerable value to the marking process. In addition, the WCED FET Colleges Unit wishes to express gratitude for the high level of teamwork and team spirit experienced throughout the process. This co-operation and sharing of expertise is commendable and supports our common goal of continuous quality improvement.



Case Study

An integrated e-learning approach to addressing literacy and numeracy deficits at entry level into public Further Education and Training Colleges

Editor's Note:

For our intellectual debate in this edition of FET College Times we feature the following case study report submitted by Marian Theron, the e-learning manager at False Bay College. In this brief report Marian gives a step-by-step account of how a public FET College utilises a software package in an integrated manner, so that it impacts positively on students' numeracy and literacy skills as a component of an Academic Support programme. Numeracy and literacy skills remain a challenge at entry level in the further education and training sector. Poor levels of these skills impact negatively on overall academic performance, and this is reflected not only in throughput rates (qualification rates and pass rates) but also in student retention. Readers are invited to debate this approach by writing to the Editor, or by contacting the author directly at: marian.theron@falsebay.org.za

MARIAN THERON

The current False Bay College method of utilisation of the software programme known as PLATO (People Learning and Training Online) was first adopted at the beginning of 2008. The immediate aim of this approach was to ensure the optimal use of expensive software by lecturers. The longer-term aim was to augment Academic Support initiatives by assisting student success in Mathematics, Maths literacy and English at the four major campuses.

Previously one person had been responsible for technical support and the facilitation of PLATO at the Muizenberg, Noordhoek, Westlake and Good Hope campuses. This had meant that lecturers had to take charge of delivery largely on their own, which ultimately led to a lack of interest and frustration when technical problems arose which could not immediately be fixed. This all changed when the following decisions and steps were taken in February 2008 to help lecturers and to secure a return on investment:

Staffing:

Each campus had to have a dedicated PLATO co-ordinator. This implied that two more posts had to be created, advertised and filled.

Commitment:

All Mathematics, Maths literacy and English lecturers were made aware of their responsibility and were required to use the programme.

Physical facilities re-organised:

A dedicated PLATO/E-learning computer facility was identified at each

campus and located within the Open Learning Centre (OLC). At that stage, only the Muizenberg campus had a well-equipped computer facility in the OLC. The "Dassie Room" (Dassie is the acronym of the first provincial e-learning initiative, and the room previously used in this initiative eventually became known as the "old" PLATO room) at the Westlake campus was relocated to the OLC and a new PLATO/E-learning computer room was created at the Good Hope campus.

Lecturer Training:

All lecturers were retrained in an organised manner during a half-day workshop at the Muizenberg campus by Mr Sammy from PLATO.

Technical Support:

During this training the IT support technicians also attended so as to understand which problems were being experienced which hamper smooth access to the programme.

Time-Tabling:

Programme Managers determine which period on each lecturer's timetable must be a weekly dedicated PLATO class. This is then communicated to all OLCs and E-administrators.

Reporting:

The E-administrators then submit a monthly written report to the E-learning manager (this writer) on the PLATO utilisation of each OLC. The E-learning manager then reports at the Academic Board meetings.

In 2008 the recruitment of the two E-administrators for the Muizenberg and Good Hope campuses took several

months, and the PLATO support programme was implemented in the second semester. A few of the lecturers were initially reluctant to substitute one period of teaching with a PLATO session, and the E-administrators played a big role in advocacy at the two affected campuses.

At the Westlake campus PLATO continued as previously. In October 2008 the new web-based version of PLATO was loaded onto the Westlake and Muizenberg campus servers. At the Good Hope campus this occurred at the beginning of 2009.

In 2009 the E-administrator position at Muizenberg became vacant and a (financial management) decision was taken to employ one person to work at both Fish Hoek and Muizenberg campuses. Due to a lack of computer rooms at the Good Hope campus, PLATO could not initially run during the first semester.

After the timetable had been reworked, all level 2 NCV students for Mathematics, Mathematical Literacy and English were accommodated. At the Westlake campus the timetable was fully booked with 35 PLATO periods per week. Some of the level 3 student groups were also initially accommodated, but these had to make way for "Blackboard" periods from the second semester.

The extensive use of the new web-based version of PLATO led to a couple of recurring teething problems being experienced at the Westlake and Good

Hope campuses. A PLATO workshop was convened on 18 June 2009 and was chaired by John Bredenkamp, representing PLATO. This meeting was attended by representatives from all six public FET Colleges in the Western Cape and it was hosted at the Westlake campus.

The outcome of the workshop was a decision that the E-administrators would first consult the trouble-shooting guide before calling upon external support (Mr Sammy) to sort out problems!

At the beginning of 2010 all campuses plotted the PLATO session periods onto the timetable. Currently the emphasis is only on the L2 (entry level) students. Due to timetable and computer room constraints the L3 and L4 students cannot be accommodated at all campuses. Throughout, the lecturers have adopted blended teaching where they facilitate a PLATO session. Students are helped should they require additional support.

In conclusion, our findings have been that the PLATO programme, as an effective component of the overall Academic Support programme, can only be effective in helping lecturers to improve student performance (both in the sense of retention and throughput, where throughput refers to both qualification rate and pass rates) if it is managed properly at campus level. This effective management entails the identification and tasking of key support staff members as well as the full commitment and support of motivated lecturers.

ADVERTISE IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Reach the Further Education and Training Sector...

FET College Times is an internationally registered (ISSN 2076-2666) professional quarterly newsletter and journal that carries the **endorsement of the Department of Education**. The objective is the promotion of Occupational and Vocational skills development. With a current targeted **print distribution of 3,000** and a very large **national and international electronic distribution**, and with postings on at least **two websites**, we invite you to support this publication. As this is a **not-for-profit, service-focused initiative** our **advertising rates are exceptionally competitive**. In return you will have the unique opportunity of **communicating directly with key decision-makers**, role-players and practitioners within the public **FET College sector** in South Africa.



For guidelines and rates:
Email kloynes@pgwc.gov.za
Mark your email **ADVERTISING**
Closing Date for the March 2011 edition:
28 January 2011

Pull out and keep as a reference

	Central Office CEO	Address	Office No	Fax No	E-mail/Website
FET COLLEGE OF CAPE TOWN	Mr Jannie Isaacs	PO Box 1054, Cape Town, 8000 Kent Street, Salt River, 7925	021 404 6700	021 404 6701	jisaacs@cct.edu.za Jvieland@cct.edu.za www.cct.edu.za
FALSE BAY FET COLLEGE	Central Office CEO	Address	Office No	Fax No	E-mail/Website
Sandy Robinson (PA)	Mr Cassie Kruger	Private Bag X25, Tokai 7966 Westlake Campus, Westlake Drive, Tokai, 7966	021 701 1919	021 701 1808	cassie.kruger@falsebay.org.za sandy.robinson@falsebay.org.za www.falsebaycollege.co.za
NORTHLINK FET COLLEGE	Central Office CEO	Address	Office No	Fax No	E-mail/Website
Sandy September (PA)	Mr Leon Beech	Northlink College, Private Bag X1 Panorama, 7506 80 Voortrekker Road, Bellville, 7530	021 970 9000	021 970 9063 021 970 9064	Lbeech@northlink.co.za Sseptember@northlink.co.za info@northlink.co.za www.northlink.co.za
BOLAND FET COLLEGE	Central Office CEO	Address	Office No	Fax No	E-mail/Website
Ursula Taljaard (PA)	Mr Chops Fourie	Private Bag 5068, Stellenbosch, 7599 85 Bird Street, Stellenbosch, 7599	021 886 7111/2	021 886 8182	chopsf@bolandcollege.com ursulat@bolandcollege.com www.bolandcollege.com
SOUTH CAPE FET COLLEGE	Central Office CEO	Address	Office No	Fax No	E-mail/Website
Joanie Stey's (PA)	Mr Luvuyo Ngubelanga	PO Box 10400, George, 6530 Tommy Joubert Building (South) 1st floor Cnr Courtenay & Cradock Streets George, 6530	044 884 0359	044 884 0361	luvuyo.ngubelanga@sccollege.co.za joanie.steys@sccollege.co.za www.sccol.co.za
WEST COAST FET COLLEGE	Central Office CEO	Address	Office No	Fax No	E-mail/Website
Lusanda Lavisa (PA)	Ms Osma Jooste- Mokgethi	PO Box 935, Malmesbury, 7299 48 Voortrekker Road, 2nd Floor, Clicks Building, Malmesbury, 7300	022 482 1143	022 487 3983	osma.jooste@westcoastcollege.co.za lusanda@westcoastcollege.co.za www.westcoastcollege.co.za