As we wind down to the last quarter and the “small” break in September, this bumper edition of the EDU newsletter will give you an idea of the busy year we’ve had at the EDU so far. As June Pym goes on sabbatical leave from 1 October—31 March 2011 we say goodbye and good luck. The passage on level 2 will sadly not be the same for the time that she was away.

Our first year class has been one of the largest we’ve had in history with 122 AD B Com and 79 AD B Bus Sc 1st years. This is also our very first year in which we welcome a new group to the EDU family; we have 13 AD Actuarial Science students and we are very proud to have them with us. We kicked off the year with a “Funky Buddha Zumba” party for our first years on the 18th of March. Fred Lucas and the Deloitte team succeeded in their mission to have everyone happy, fed and exhausted at the end of the night.

The EDU Student Organisation (EDUSO) has been refreshingly active this year, with their successful launch and the conquering hike up Table Mountain. Keep reading as the current Chair, Yvette Adams, gives a good commentary on the events which they’ve been co-ordinating and look out for some of the pictures at the end of the newsletter.

Since we are in South Africa and this is 2010, we have to mention the FIFA World Cup. We all became avid supporters of soccer, our country and Bafana Bafana as the build-up progressed. Flags, soccer tops and scarves were the order of the day (although both our SA flags were stolen from the notice board); we could not help but be part of the excitement. The EDUSO team carried the excitement right through into the Awards ceremony; who can forget that awesome performance of the Waka-Waka? [Check out the EDU website to see the video clip].

The EDU awards ceremony on the 29th of July was described by many “as the best so far”. As one student was heard saying: “The Unit is now United and I am proud to be an AD student”. This was proven by the fact that the student of the year award was shared for the first time by a B Com student, Nkopangal Moloi and a Bus Sc student, Ashiq Parker. We acknowledged the hard work of our students who have performed exceptionally well academically, as well as see great performances and hidden talents amongst our students. From rapping and rhyming, to singing, dancing, and instruments, the talents are endless and we hope to see more at future events.

I do hope you enjoy this bumper edition of the EDU newsletter and would love any feedback or letters; the best responses will be published in the next edition.

As the last of the winter days are leaving the Cape and whether you go home for the vac or make use of this time to study, research or simply head to the beach in between cold fronts, I hope you enjoy the thrill of anticipating summer and come back well prepared for the looming exams in the last quarter.

Who is Moragh Paxton?

Apart from my new baby granddaughter, the study of language and literacy is my passion. This may seem a strange passion to young university students planning their careers in business, but if you stop for a minute and consider that language shapes who we are as well as the way we think and learn you may begin to understand how it can become an endless source of fascination. As you go out into the “real world” of business, you will find that your skilful use of language will give you tremendous power - power to persuade, to negotiate and to convince your business colleagues as well as your adversaries.

I am currently co-ordinator of the Language Development Group in the Centre for Higher Education and Development. Some of you may know us as the Writing Centre or as individual lecturers who may have taught you because the Language Development Group and the Writing Centre work in teaching, research and curriculum development work across all the faculties at UCT. I have had a close association with the Commerce Faculty since 1997 when I designed and developed the Language and Communication module in ECO 110H. This module is now very ably convened by my colleague, Gideon Nondo and I have taken on more postgraduate teaching and I work collaboratively with lecturers in curriculum development and design.

I am married to a gypsy or an incurable adventurer, and for the first fifteen years of married life we travelled the globe and lived in Canada, the US and Australia and our three young children were exposed to a range of new experiences, new people and new schooling systems. We came back to SA the year Nelson Mandela was released and were able to put down roots in Cape Town when my husband found a new focus for his adventures and became an entrepreneur and started his own business, Mbendi. He is also an educator at heart and some of you may have gained work experience working on Mbendi’s Earn and Learn project in your vacations. Two of our children seem to be following in our footsteps as they are venturing out and becoming educational entrepreneurs themselves!

Moragh
The venture is committed to creating economic opportunities and the quality of life for the people of Khayelitsha.

EDU Students Putting Enterprise to Work in Khayelitsha by redefining Grameen Bank model and achieved 98% repayment rate. Having twenty five entrepreneurs on micro-loans is no small feat in an environment where such a loan is what stands between a successful business and simply an idea. Across South African numerous entrepreneurs are unable to get bank loans – and the advent of the National Credit Act has not made life any easier for millions of would be businesses that cannot get the fighting chance they need.

The goal of the venture is to provide holistic business development to entrepreneurs in Khayelitsha and see clients standard of living raised with positive and measurable social impact by December 2010. To date, IGP already trained over 25 people through 22 workshops. 16 loans were distributed to people who showed business potential. These 16 clients support 71 dependents and therefore this project has had an impact on 96 people through training and micro loans.

This project recently received recognition at 2010 SIFE SA National competition which was held in Johannesburg, we were crowned 2nd runner up and awarded R5000 cash and invited to participate as observer at the SIFE World Cup Event to be hosted from the 10th-12th October 2010 in Anaheim, California (USA). A total of 24 teams participated at this year’s competition and more than 750 delegates were present, while no less than 112 judges were drawn from the corporate sector to adjudicate these teams.

For more information on the projects or competition, please contact Nathi Mbele (IGP Project Leader). mbelezni@hotmail.com or 078 114 6680
In 2008 I was privileged to be offered a post learning and behaviour difficulties. Students having to deal with varying levels of asylum seekers & refugees and many had forty that everyone hears about. In Oxford the school experience, though I did have a few horror stories in Bristol and Oxford, which was a fantastic experience, though I did have a few horror stories in teaching Mathematics at inner city comprehensive schools (UK Government Schools) for Masters Degrees around campus. In 2004 I became a student again heading back to the UK to study at Oxford University and spent the next few years teaching Mathematics at undergraduate level, along with some courses, including co-ordinating and developing them at Honours level and a number of units and intellectually empowering. There is only one secret (trick) to passing any mathematics based subject and that is tons of practice, you can never do enough questions, after a while you will notice how similar they are. I have lived half of my life in South Africa, though all my schooling and university studies have taken place in the UK. I was packed off to boarding school when I was ten leaving my family in Jo’burg (fantastic!). I am married to Lindy, nearly 17 years, she brought me to Cape Town and we have one (future mathematician!) Matthew (3). I have been very fortunate to have travelled quite a bit of the world and like most statisticians stumbled into the subject. At school I was very into singing and was part of the choir in Andrew Lloyd Webbers musicals of Joseph & his Technicolor Dream Coat, Evita (both in the West End – UK Theatre district) B a special one off show at the Royal Albert Hall of Jacob and the Argonauts. I also sang a solo to the late Queen Mother (1981). I have always been into sport having played Varsity 1st 15 rugby as an undergraduate, played for West Brisbane (Australia) U19 and now my passion is running (longer the better). So far I have completed 93 marathons, including a few 100 milers (160km), though most of my running these days is after Matthew.

Address to our unknown brothers and sisters (by Amber Leach 3rd year AD B Com student)

It disturbs me that some students do not take pride in being part of EDU. They are only there to reap the fruits of being part of a program such as EDU but other than that they remain anonymous as John Doe. I’m not saying that you should go around campus telling everyone that you are part of EDU or even wear a t-shirt with a EDU slogan, but if that’s what makes you happy then I would say it’s your democratic right to do so. Are some students embarrassed to be part of EDU? What is the logical explanation for the lack of participation in activities hosted by the EDU and why do students refuse to acknowledge that they are part of an equity program? I’ve heard many say that ‘you can’t change what you don’t acknowledge’ I know this sounds cliché but I can’t agree more. Maybe I was being callous in saying ‘embarrassed’ because living as part of the mainstream community of UCT for almost over two years I’ve had people ask me about EDU, usually the first response I would get is “that is racist” or silence followed by disapproving nods. These experiences can have damaging effects to your self esteem especially if you’re first year and constantly reminded by your non-EDU peers of their superior status as mainstream students and their supposed affluent lives. What I have observed in my three years as an EDU student is that programs such as EDU are given a lot of lip service but many remain ignorant of what these programs are really about and included in this ignorant bunch are some EDU students. We all come from different backgrounds and past inequalities in South African society led to disparities in non-white students’ education and life experience. EDU acknowledges this and equips you to do your best.

The purpose of this article is remind students that we need to be true to ourselves and proud of who we are. It is an irrefutable law of the universe that we are all responsible for our own lives. So I urge students to step up to the plate and take responsibility and appreciate this program run by individuals who care about us and our education.

Amber

Why did the accountant throw his money in the river?

• He was trying to improve cashflow.

What do you call a business entity whose only members are blind people?

• A See See

Accounting Jokes by Imraan Ariefdien

(Final Year AD B Bus Sc):
Minister Nzimande took a moment in his busy schedule to listen as Siyasikelela Gungqa spoke of his experience as an EDU student.

Minister Nzimande visits UCT on 17 August 2010

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Speaker after speaker, from former to current students and management, hailed the programme as a living example of what UCT strives for – to attract and retain students who have experienced gaps and disparities in education and life.

Like alumnus Phathiswa Mdladla, whose story of overcoming living in a squatter camp, pregnancy, the stress of her mother’s sickness, and finally, graduation, reduced some students to tears.

―If it was not because of EDU, I don’t know where I would be today,‖ she said.

The unit was established in 2000 by the Faculty of Commerce, and is home to the Academic Development’s BCom and BBusSc programmes. It offers a variety of education initiatives, including tutor training, formative evaluation of students’ learning experiences, passing on a range of relevant skills, and developing multiple forums to facilitate a supportive and reflective learning environment.

As Ashiq Parker, who won this year’s EDU Student of the Year Award along Nkgopoleng Moloi, puts it, the programme has made students believe in themselves and encouraged them to achieve what would have otherwise been impossible. Parker, who also scooped four other awards on the evening, has improved his mark for mathematics at high school (58%) to 77% at the university.

―The EDU staff are patient and tolerant,‖ he explained. ―They are a ‘go-to place’ with their open-door policy, and that inspired me.‖

Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo, deputy vice-chancellor, said the university is proud of the unit as its success is a model of where UCT wants to be in five years through its strategic goals. Through the event, the unit celebrates the academic excellence and talent of its students by awarding them various accolades.

2010 EDU AWARDS EVENING

EDU students of the year: Nkgopoleng Moloi and Ashiq Parker with Daniel Munene and June Pym

Things Worth Mentioning

Upcoming Events for students to look out for:

- Mentoring Training for mentors who have applied.
- Graduation Lunch for all graduates
- Tutor Adverts for 2011 tutors
- Student input for the next EDU newsletter
- Potential graduates to complete alumni forms
- Registration details for 2011
- EDUSD Events

Commerce Faculty Awards for Excellence in 2009. Presented on 12 May

Prizes

- BSG Prize for Best AD student in Info. Sys. II: Yamkela Siwendu
- The Herman Rhoda Prize Awarded to the top AD B Com student in Fin Acc II: Mahlwane Magale
- PWC Awards
  * Best academic results of a 1st year AD B Com student: Xolisle Moyo
  * Most versatile 1st year AD B Com student: Simnikwbe Gcayiya
  * Most versatile 2nd year AD B Com student: Nkgopoleng Molai

Class Medals

- ACC100GF Financial Accounting: Xolile Moyo
- ACC100H Financial Reporting I: Siphelele Ntswyi
- ECD100H Microeconomics: Shanawaz Essop & Thierry Hector
- ECD100F Microeconomics: Xolile Moyo
- ECD101F Macroeconomics: Zimhlope Ngcobo
- INF1002H Foundation of Inf. Sys.: Thierry Hector
- STA1001F Statistics 1001: Zingsibile Brown
- STA1001H Statistics 1001: Siboniso Sithole
- STA100H Statistics 1001: Sihle Matoti

EDU fulfils students’ dreams

Edunews Edition

Minister Nzimande visits UCT on 17 August 2010

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Monday Paper
EDU
Awards Ceremony:
29 July 2010
at the Baxter Theatre

2010 EDU AWARDS EVENING

EDU
EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT UNIT COMMERCE
EDU Student Organization - Our first year
The year 2010 saw the official kickoff of EDUSO (as it is known as in the EDU corridors) on the 8th April 2010. We hosted a function where 3 of our successful alumni i.e Katekani Baloyi, Dumo, and Mark Phillips presented their ‘student chapters’ in a way that only can be told by them- fun, memorable, thought-provoking and honest (EDU style J).
We also invited an external speaker who stirred many of us in the room- not to mention leaving our MC’s speechless. Willem van der Post (Deloitte) inspired students to move, conquer, and own their lives, their destinies. I’m sure many of us will remember some his words: ‘Is it too soon?’ J or ‘What are you waiting for?’ Some of us are still struggling to find the answer to that question.
With these great speakers, delicious food and very impressed students and staff, it was up to EDUSO to keep up with this standard to plan and execute the next event, that being the mountain hike.
On the 8th May, (by the grace of the love affair between the weather man and mother nature) we had the opportunity to hike up Lion’s head on a glorious sunny day. Making our way up the mountain proved to be challenging to some (some being me: one of the last to get to the top), and a breeze to others. The climb facilitated the creation of real friendships amongst the students, as they assisted each other up. At times, I wanted to give up- but that determination and spark inside, had me pushing myself to reach the top. When we all reached the top, some of us were greeted by cheers of encouragement from the rest of the hikers. We then had a heart to heart with each other where the older members shared their experiences of being in university and more importantly the EDU. What came from that session was that we need to remember that we, as students, are all running our own individual races. We run at different paces and we cannot compare ourselves to the next person. However, we all do need to run at our best speeds and encourage each other along the way. One man’s wise words, is another man’s Energade.
With two successful events under our belt, the 2010 Exec team are certain that the next experiences students will be having with EDUSO will be even more exciting and most definitely life-changing. We believe that our duty is to enhance the personal development of EDU students, create an identity to be proud of and give them the courage to own their futures.
We hope that all your semester and exam preparation paid off- and that your vac will mean well-deserved rest!
Stay safe wherever you may find yourself during the holiday.
EDUSO Exec 2010
Yvette Adams- Chairperson
EDU SO LAUNCH

EDU alumni speakers: Katekani Baloyi, (B Com); Mark Phillips (B Bus Sc); Nkosodumo Mfini (B Com)

The MC’s for the night

Entertainment