

# pioneers newsletter

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF COASTAL KZN FET COLLEGE

COASTAL  
KZN  
COLLEGE  
Your Pioneering Centre of Excellence



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Issue-01 [May 2010]



## SRC RAFTING



EXCURSION  
FOR TOP  
PERFORMERS

# 03



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## Rector's Message



Rector: Mr WM Nzimande

Welcome to PIONEERS NEWSLETTER, the new newsletter for Coastal KZN FET College, your pioneering Centre of Excellence.

As Rector of this pioneering college, I am proud to introduce this newsletter to you, the college community. I'm proud to promote my college on its pages. The newsletter offers information about student and staff activities and reports on significant college events and developments. We celebrate student achievements and share inspiring motivational stories. We share some of our best practices which make Coastal KZN a national byword for the advancement of academic excellence.

At Coastal KZN FET College we believe education and training for service builds good citizens. Our students elected an engaged and committed SRC to represent their interests. We at Coastal KZN believe hard work is fulfilling and that academic excellence deserves reward. As the stories and photos show, academic success and fun are natural partners. We celebrate significant events such as when 105 graduands were applauded by top academics at their Diploma Ceremony. We tell of our innovative international partnership in language learning with the French Embassy, the island of Reunion and the University of KwaZulu- Natal which is preparing students for careers in 2010 tourism and a lifetime of opportunity. The NCV students experiencing the MTN call centre and our involvement with the KZN Department of Economic Development and the Government of India underscore the innovations which make Coastal KZN the college of choice for discerning families.

As we share our narratives with you, so we at Coastal KZN invite you to share in the dreams and hopes of our students and staff that their futures will be bright and bring glory to themselves, their families and their college. My thanks to all our college staff members and especially, the to the editorial team for their work in bringing the newsletter to you.

Wilson Nzimande

Rector: Coastal KZN FET College

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## Editorial Team

We introduce to you the first issue of the College Newsletter, called PIONEERS NEWSLETTER. The main intention is to share information on the college and its activities with our stakeholders.

Coastal KZN FET College is a vibey college where lot of good things happen - especially at our campuses. We invite our colleagues to fly the College flag by sharing with us those exciting and memorable moments. Your invaluable input will make this publication a success.

### Meet our editorial team



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## Excursion for Top Performers

'Hard work pays' – this was confirmed when the College decided to spoil it's 2009 top performers by taking them to the haven of beauty and serenity in the Drakensville Holiday Resort. Fifty top performers were selected across all Campuses using a pre-set criterion. The aim of the outing was to acknowledge and motivate them for work well done as well as encourage others to do likewise.

Students spent 3 days in the Drakensburg. Whilst there they visited Eskom Hydro-electric power Plant which is the largest in South Africa. They were exposed to a number of opportunities available from Eskom through guidance by the plant representative/facilitator. They also spent a lot of their time on team building activities.



Top achievers enjoying themselves



## Staff Gym

It is known that obesity has increased drastically in South Africa due to poor nutrition and sedentary lifestyle leading to hypertension, diabetes and cardiac problems. Coastal KZN FET College staff acknowledged their poor lifestyle habits and communicated their concerns to management who sought ways to address them. This resulted in the establishment of a gym facility at Swinton Campus. This facility is equipped with strength training and cardio equipment.

The gym is open to all staff members. A minimal membership fee is charged per month in aid of maintenance of equipment and gym development. The college staff is very grateful to council and management for making their dreams a reality.



Ms Siindile Madondo exercising at the Gym



Mr Sifiso Hlongwane exercising at the Gym

## It is never too late to learn Mr Amos Sithole is now a Qualified Electrician



Mr Amos Sithole at work

“Succeeding in my trade test was a dream come true for me. I believe obtaining an artisan status is a breakthrough in my career”, said Mr Amos Sithole.

Mr Sithole is a former student of Coastal KZN FET College. He did his Electrical Engineering: N1 to N5 at Umlazi-V Campus. Unfortunately he was unable to complete his N6 due to financial constraints. This situation compelled him to drop out and seek employment. He was later employed at Umlazi-V as a casual general assistant in the construction field.

Hard work and commitment paid in February 2007 when Amos secured a permanent position at our Central Administration Office as a handyman mainly responsible for electrical maintenance. He said although he enjoyed his work there were times he felt so inadequate, especially when there were tasks he was forbidden to attend to since he was not a qualified electrician. This kind of situation encouraged him to go for a trade test.

The College released him from his duties for six weeks to prepare for a trade test with Umbani Training Centre. The college also financed a portion of his trade test training. Amos did exceptionally well in all tasks prescribed for his trade test and is now a qualified Electrician. Amos said there is no turning back for him, he is now intending to finish his N6 in 2010 to be able to obtain his Diploma.

Amos thanks the college for allowing him such an opportunity to develop himself and encourages his colleagues to seize all the opportunities available to them.

“Mr Sithole, your Coastal KZN FET College family congratulates you on your success.”

# Graduation Ceremony

Coastal KZN FET College recently held a Diploma ceremony to honour and congratulate students for the job well done in their three years of study. Joy and happiness were written all over the graduands, their families and friends who came to honour this occasion. Among the dignitaries who embraced this occasion with their presence, were: Dr SZ Mbokazi, Senior General Manager: Service Delivery Management; Dr EV Nzama, General Manager: Further Education and Training Colleges, Chairperson of College Council: Mr MM Mavundla, members of the college council, representatives from SETAs and organized labour.

In his address, the Rector: Mr WM Nzimande encouraged graduands to further their studies and to be multi-skilled to be able to face the skills demands of today's economy. He further said they must also acquire entrepreneurial skills and become employers not just job seekers.

'The beginning of financial wisdom is the fear of debt', this is the advice our guest speaker, Mr Sandile Njilo, CEO of Africa Vukani gave to graduands.

He urged them to lead a debt free life and highlighted dangers of living on credit and debt. He also warned them about expectations of getting lucrative company benefits on their first employment he said that was not realistic. He said they first need to learn their work then work hard for promotions that will come with big salary packages.

Entertainment items were rendered by the Umlazi-V Campus choir and poetry students. Blowing of whistles confirmed the excitement and the jolly mood of our audience.

Congratulations to our graduands for achieving their goals and for doing us proud.



(L - R) Mr WM Nzimande (Rector), Dr SZ Mbokazi (Senior General Manager: Service Delivery), Dr EV Nzama (Senior Manager: FET Colleges)



Coastal College Graduation Ceremony

# French Language Programme

In 2008 the Department of Education allocated a financial provision to for FET Colleges to offer a range of skills programmes to get KwaZulu-Natal people trained for 2010 business opportunities. One of the prioritized areas was foreign languages training including, but not limited to, French. Two institutions, namely Coastal-KZN and Umgungundlovu FET Colleges joined forces and started networking with other potential partners to prepare for the training.

These colleges formed partnership with the Durban University of Technology (DUT) and the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) to offer training for French educators who will teach Tourism students at Coastal KZN FET College and Umgungundlovu FET College. This partnership is supported by the Department of Education of KwaZulu-Natal, Reunion Island and the French Embassy in South Africa for the benefit of the youth in the Tourism Sector in KwaZulu-Natal.

French language educators were employed to teach French at Coastal-KZN and Umgungundlovu FET Colleges. These educators attended a design and induction programme in Reunion Island in April 2009. DUT and UKZN played a very significant role in the training of College French Educators and in the development of learning material.

A glittering ceremony was held at our Swinton Campus to launch the initiative to train tourism and hospitality operators in French language in order to improve the tourism service delivery to French speaking tourists during 2010 soccer world cup and beyond.

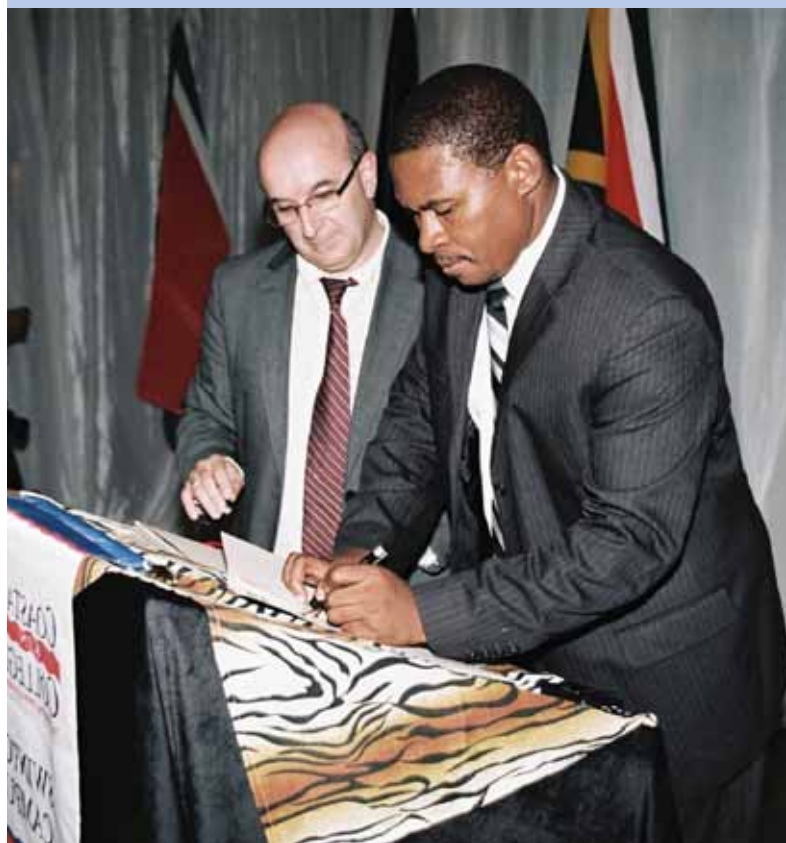
On this day a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Department Education, French Embassy, Durban University of Technology (DUT) and the University of KwaZulu Natal (UKZN) was also signed.

Coastal KZN College is currently having two French Language class groups on a full time and part time basis. This is a one year programme which commenced in June 2009. Practical work is done in class and tours are undertaken to different tourist destinations for students to familiarize themselves with the operations in these tourist entities.

Students will write their final examinations set by the French Embassy and get a certificate for competence in the French language.



Representatives from the French Embassy, University of KwaZulu Natal and the Department of Education



Signing the Memorandum of Understanding by the Rector: Mr WM Nzimande, on-looking is Mr Phillippe Aldon of the French Embassy

## NCV: IT Students explore the MTN Call Centre

Our level 2 students in NCV: Information – technology and Computer Science had an experience of a life time when they did their experiential training at MTN Contact Centre in Mount Edgecombe. This was so relevant since they take Contact Centre Operations as a subject.

Arrangements to have this experiential training were made by Mr Ntokozo Gwala, the programme lecturer. Students were given a period of four weeks to visit the centre and they did that in turns. Whilst there, they were given presentations by the various departmental delegates within the Contact centre i.e. Workforce Management Team and Quality Team. They were also taken to the floor, put their headsets on and listened and observed agents at work. There were about 120 students who were taken through the process.

Students realised how challenging it is to work in a Contact Centre environment and they were so excited to witness the contact centre daily activities and procedures as some of them are MTN clients and they make use of these facilities when they have queries or encounter problems with their cellphones. The experience was phenomenal.



Students working at the call centre



MTN Call Centre

## SA-Army Multi-skilling Project

Coastal KZN FET College is in partnership with the Department of Defence to train soldiers to be multi-skilled. Soldiers are trained in trades like bricklaying, plumbing, painting and carpentry. The motive is to transform the conventional army to professional army. Coastal KZN FET College is using its accredited workshops and experienced technical instructors to transform the soldiers to trade persons.

Trainees that have completed their studies are currently doing apprenticeship with huge construction companies to get workplace exposure. After serving for the required period, they will go for trade testing to enable them to become artisans.

A certificate ceremony was recently held at Swinton Campus to acknowledge and honour some of the trainees that have completed their training.



Brigadier General Masters and Mr PC Tigere (Deputy Director: Corporate - Services) handing certificate to Mr Mark Smile

# Technology Demonstration Training Centre

The KZN Department of Economic Development identified small enterprise development as one of the key strategic objectives to drive and contribute to economic growth in KwaZulu-Natal. As a result it was decided to provide technical skills to Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) to enhance their knowledge and capabilities to start and run successful businesses, with the overall view of creating employment and reducing poverty.

It is against the above that the Department formed a partnership with the Coastal KZN FET College to establish the Technology Demonstration Training Centre (TDTC). This partnership represents collaboration between the KZN Department of Economic Development and KZN Department of Education (FET Colleges) to develop and promote small enterprises in the province. The Department purchased the machinery and equipment from the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) Ltd, a Government of India Enterprise, and these have been delivered to the Coastal KZN FET College project sites which are located at Umlazi and Hammersdale.

The TDTC focuses on providing technical and entrepreneurial training in the following business ventures:

- Barbed wire making plant
- Wire nail manufacturing plant
- Mild steel wire drawing machine
- Exercise note book manufacturing plant

The TDTC project is also focusing to serve the needs of the College and the Department of Education in terms of the supply of exercise books, examination writing pads and other stationery needs.



Students working on wire making machine

# SRC Leadership Workshop

Our Student Support Services Unit held the SRC leadership workshop at the Drakensville Holiday Resort. Forty SRC members attended and went through a rigorous teambuilding program, which included raft building, foefi slides, blind man's trust and mountain climbing.

Leadership presentations were also done to enlighten SRC members on their roles and responsibilities. The topics included the following: SRC Roles and Responsibilities, balancing curriculum & SRC activities, organising student functions, conflict management and problem solving.

The College SRC Exco was also elected at this workshop. The College President is Bonginkosi Sibiyi and his Deputy is Welcome (Uzzi) Mpungose. We congratulate our 2009 College President Bonginkosi Sibiyi for being re-elected to the office by the majority. Chairpersons of Campuses are as follows:

- Durban Ms Donna Wilson
- Swinton Ms Nqobile Gumede
- Umlazi-V Mr Siphelele Mbili
- Umlazi-BB Mr Msizi Mkhize
- Umbumbulu Mr Thabiso Mbhele
- UBuhle-Bogu Mr Philani Khanyile
- As Salaam Mr Siphelele Mda

The above represent the College SRC EXCO. The Rector, Mr WM Nzimande and the Deputy Director- Academic Services, Mr P Odendaal rendered their support by coming to address students at the workshop. The last evening was very exciting with students showcasing their talent in different ways, including singing, dancing and staging plays. The venue was full of humour and laughter.



Ms Q Mdingi (Assistant Manager: Student Support Services) congratulating SCR Deputy President: Welcome Mpungose (Left) and SRC President: Bonginkosi Sibiyi (Right) on their election