

# Speech therapist addresses international delegates in US

A DURBAN Speech Language Therapist, Dr Thandeka Mdlalo, recently returned from addressing international delegates at an International Conference of Speech Pathology in Las Vegas, where she impressed many of her peers.

Dr Mdlalo was invited to speak at the International Conference of Speech Pathology after publishing a paper last year entitled: Are South African Speech Language Therapists adequately equipped to assess English Additional Language speakers from an indigenous, linguistic and cultural background.

"I received an email in September from a woman who was part of the committee organising the international conference who said the issues addressed in the paper were not just South African but global issues. She asked if I would present at the conference. I couldn't believe it as I'd never been to the US before. Everything was a first on this trip. My talk was very well acknowledged and I received an email afterwards from a pioneer in the profession regarding issues of cultural and linguistic diversity who said she was very impressed by my talk and she would like to cite me in a book she is currently writing on cultural diversity. This was amazing as she is a fundi in the profession and I quoted her in my doctoral research," she said.

She has also presented at conferences in Lithuania and Canada and has a paper published in the

International Journal entitled Studies in Languages.

Thandeka who is originally from the Eastern Cape, says she has been in KZN "forever". She studied her undergrad degree at Wits University, her Masters degree at Stellenbosch University and her PhD at UKZN. She works full time at Livingstone Primary School as a Speech Language Therapist, lectures part time at UKZN as well as runs her own private practice.

*"I feel it is 'mission accomplished' when I can change the way people think"*

"I did not originally aspire to do my PhD, but education was paramount in my family. It was drummed into us that for success we needed to be well educated. We were all very clear on this in my family. I was content with my undergraduate degree but decided to pursue my Masters in my area of passion. As a lecturer I was encouraged to do my PhD and this opened me up to a certain level of critical thinking," she said.

Thandeka is passionate about the field of Language and Cultural,

Linguistic Diversity as it impacts on the life decisions and future of pupils that Health Professionals and employees in the education sector assess. She stated that;

"What we do impacts on people, families and their finances. It's so much bigger than just language. I feel exposing children to English (in cases of second language speakers) should not be at the expense of their mother tongue- Learning English should be additive and not subtractive to language development. Language exists within a context and we need to take into account a person's background, dialect and frame of reference. This affects the outcome of an assessment and the recommendations based on it"

In her spare time, Thandeka is a group trainer at Virgin Active. She also loves exercising, reading, music and enjoys the theatre. She is a single parent of two teen girls of whom she is very proud.

"I would like to do more in the field and have been asked to speak at the SA Speech, Language and Hearing Association Conference in October," she said.

Dr Thandeka Mdlalo presented at an international conference.



## Street store supports poor

DURBAN'S needy will be able to enjoy a morning of shopping on Friday, 16 June, when the annual Pop Up Street Store takes place from 8.30am until noon at the Denis Hurley Centre, 2 Cathedral Road in Durban's CBD.

Grace Family Church and Grace Aid, in partnership with the Denis Hurley Centre, will host this year's Street Store. The Church has appealed to local communities to donate like-new clothing, shoes and accessories for all ages as well as non-battery operated toys for children. Donations can be dropped off at the Grace uMhlanga, Riverside or Ballito Church campuses.

On the day of the Street Store adults and children off Durban's streets are provided an opportunity to browse and select from the range of clothing on display. "The focus is to restore some dignity to people as they browse for clothing they like, enjoy a meal, have their hair cut and interact with volunteers," said Dave Richter of Grace Aid.

The Durban Street Store is an event that brings people together and extends hope and generosity to those in need.

For more information on how you can help, visit: [www.thestreetstore.org](http://www.thestreetstore.org).

## Designer's star rises in July fashion stakes

AFTER winning the Vodacom Young Designer Award in 2014, Sadie Bosworth-Smith has seen her career in the fashion industry rise like the proverbial star she is.

The Durban University of Technology graduate, who showed her talked-about talent alongside some of her design heroes at the Vodacom Durban July Invited Designer Showcase on Tuesday, 13 June, has gone from student to fully fledged designer.

"I was really excited to be showing at the Invited Designers Showcase. When I first took part in the Vodacom Durban July Young Designer Award and I saw what the Invited Designers produced, I realised that that was where I wanted to be. To be able to now tick that off my list is incredibly satisfying," she said. Since graduating, she has established her Sadie Bosworth label and has caught the attention of the local design community.

She credits her Young Designer Award win three years ago as a pivotal point in her career. "Having won that award it seems that people are very interested to see what I have to produce. Being able to go to London and see shows and designs was incredible and helped set the bar where I want to be and set the level of creativity that I want to match," said Sadie.

Having her work displayed alongside the likes of Terrence Bray and Kluk CGDT in the Vodacom Durban July



DUT student Sadie Bosworth-Smith (right) and her model Dakota Baptist, celebrate her victory in the Vodacom Durban July Young Designer Award in 2014.

PHOTO: Anthony Grote/Gameplan Media

Invited Designer Showcase was exciting but for the Sadie, it came with a sense of trepidation.

"It's intimidating to be showing with some of the designers that I have looked up to for years. I have been an avid fashion magazine reader since I was young and it is surreal to be showing at the same fashion show as designers that I have admired for years," she commented.

It has been a constant learning curve for Sadie, but

she has set out a number of specific goals for her career and her label.

"Growing my business and getting my bridal range into boutiques as well as continuing to innovate are my long-term aims.

I have to keep on learning and pushing myself if I want to keep on getting better," she said.

The 2017 Vodacom Durban July takes place at Greyville Racecourse on Saturday 1 July.

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