



MEDIA RELEASE

CPUT Students win with Waste

Immediate Release

23 May 2009

Delwin Smith, student at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), won the Institute of Waste Management (IWMSA), Western Cape Branch's Waste Minimisation and Recycling Interest Group (WMRIG) poster competition at an intimate function on 21 May 2009.

Part time Bachelor of Technology engineering students from the Cape Town and Bellville CPUT campuses were encouraged to design posters focusing on the *"Development of an Integrated Waste Management System with the smallest Ecological Footprint"*. Students had to identify an estate and analyse the current waste streams and then provide recommendations on integrated waste minimization and pollution prevention solutions to reduce the ecological footprint.

Delwin Smith, from the Cape Town Campus, was announced the winner of the poster competition. He won R1,000.00 as well as an interview on a national radio station for his entry. Smith said, "I analysed the current waste management system being used at the Zevendal Estate in Kuilsrivier to see where improvements can be made in terms of waste generation, collection, and recycling, which all aim to achieve the goal of reducing the amount of waste being disposed of." On his findings Smith commented, "one of the problems which will be encountered even after a good integrated waste system is established, is the participation of those who generate the waste, namely the general public. Without the public's positive participation, a system to save our country's landfill airspace will not be successful. This is where changing the public's mindset from seeing 'waste' as just 'rubbish', to how valuable 'waste' really can be."

Second prize, R500.00 and a day's job shadow of an expert in the waste management field was won by Mark Coller from the Bellville Campus, and third prize (R300.00) went to Annamie Thompson from the Cape Town CPUT Campus. Stephan Lombard, a BTech

student at the Cape Town Campus, was awarded a special prize for the most creative poster incorporating actual reused and recycled waste elements into his poster design.

The event and prizes were generously sponsored by Jeffares and Green, Wasteplan, City of Cape Town, Re- (Return on Environment), Envirosense CC, the Wasteman Group, Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Derek Main Photography, as well as CPUT. Students and guests were also treated to a challenging and stimulating talk by Grace Stead of Steadfast Greening about the various resources affected that are REALLY being wasted in our current non-sustainable lifestyles.

Alison Davison, Chairperson of WMRIG, said, "we were delighted to have received 30 entries for the poster competition this year. It shows us that there is an increased interest from the youth to contribute to waste minimization and to make a difference. Engineering students especially have the opportunity to innovate and potentially transform society towards sustainability."

For more information on projects being run by the WMRIG contact Alison Davison on Tel: +27 (0)21 400 4580

Photo caption: Alison Davison (Left), Chairperson of the Waste Minimisation Group, Richard Emery (Middle), Acting Chairperson of the Institute of Waste Management, Western Cape Branch, congratulates Delwin Smith (Right), winner of the WMIG poster competition.

Photographer: Derek Main Photography

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On behalf of the IWMSA