

2017

# UKZN TOUCH

A UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL ALUMNI MAGAZINE



UNIVERSITY OF  
KWAZULU-NATAL™  
INYUVESI  
YAKWAZULU-NATALI

INSPIRING GREATNESS



## ABOUT THE ARTIST:

The front cover of this edition of *UKZNTOUCH* features the artwork of celebrated artist and UKZN alumnus, Hussein Salim.

Salim was born in Karima, Sudan in 1966 and graduated from the College of Fine and Applied Arts, Sudan University of Science and Technology, Khartoum in 1994. In 2006 he obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in Fine Arts at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He currently resides in Pietermaritzburg.

Salim's richly textured canvases employ an extravagant layering technique to create a dense impasto feel. He uses personal symbolism that is at once ancient as it is contemporary.

Salim's paintings are a dialogue between different cultures and represent his strong feeling that art should be used as a tool to help initiate such dialogue. His Sudanese background, and the fact that his home country is a melting pot of diverse African cultures, further strengthens his work. Through his paintings, Salim awakens in us an appreciation of our differences and diverse reactions, but then brings us back to the shared foundation of mankind. His work thus identifies with any struggle that challenges dimensional predominance, be it economic, religious or cultural.

Salim is represented in major national collections within Africa, Europe and the United States.



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This edition of **UKZNTOUCH** showcases knowledge production at UKZN through innovation and excellence.

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# FOREWORD



In an interview with Gregory Dardagan, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of KwaZulu-Natal Dr Albert van Jaarsveld spells out what it means to move away from the notion of the University as an 'ivory tower'.

**A** new strategy recently approved by the Council of the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) clearly identifies that it does not want to be an ivory tower institution. Instead the stated goal is to be a university plugged into a wide variety of communities, responding to the needs and requirements of the business, and public and private sectors. If it does not do this, it will have failed miserably.

Van Jaarsveld emphasised that the goals still include trailblazing research. "We want to be firmly rooted in our community while at the same time reaching for the stars in terms of what we aim to achieve."

Van Jaarsveld, who has been involved in Higher Education in South Africa as an academic and an executive for the past 20 years, spelled out his hopes and dreams for UKZN, which he has headed for almost three years.

"Universities need to stay relevant, they need to stay on their toes, and they need to stay responsive to what is happening in the wide world out there. Remaining sealed in a cocoon believing they can do things in isolation and then transfer the benefits to society is an old fashioned view. Universities have to become part of how society works and operates."

Van Jaarsveld said when he arrived at UKZN from the National Research Foundation in Pretoria where he served as Chief Executive Officer, he made it clear that he wanted to introduce a "people's strategy" to allow the University to become a Higher Education Institution of choice for students and staff. That was at the heart of his vision, which also included maintaining and

**Dr Albert van Jaarsveld**  
*Vice-Chancellor and Principal*

# ROOTED IN THE COMMUNITY AND AIMING FOR THE STARS

growing research eminence and a high profile in national and international communities.

“I want to make sure that UKZN is a recognised African research intensive university – it simply has to be that otherwise we will have no profile to speak of. Beyond that, it needs to excel in bringing people of all persuasions together from across the continent and from across the globe,” he said.

“I believe we are on the right road to achieving this. UKZN has been a top 500 player internationally for the last couple of years, according to most of the respected overseas rating systems. In South Africa, we are in the top two for research output and consistently rank among the top four or five universities in other spheres.”

Van Jaarsveld said the University was working collectively towards fully achieving its purpose of “Inspiring Greatness”.

“What we keep telling each other on a daily basis is that all of us – staff, students, researchers – need to work together with the object being to inspire greatness in everyone we touch or come in contact with, be they our research partners, our students, or prospective students.”

One of the biggest challenges was getting the Institution’s administrative systems, processes and procedures back on track “Where we have been exposed is in the lack of robustness and rigour in our administrative systems in terms of the admissions system, human resources systems, and finance systems.”

He said UKZN’s critical strengths included being among the most transformed universities in South Africa while

maintaining scientific and research excellence and vigour and being a leader in fields of research including HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis, Engineering, Physical Sciences, Quantum Computing and the Humanities as well as its reputation for innovation driven by research.

“We want to make sure in the new strategy that we, together with our interaction with local communities, become known as an innovative university which produces innovative graduates.”

Van Jaarsveld said he was encouraged by the increasingly positive engagement he believed was happening between the executive and students; by a new air of confidence and positivism among students and staff on the campuses; by the resilience of the University and its staff; and in particular by the emergence of a new cohort of young researchers who have stepped up to the plate to carry some of the load.

“We realise UKZN is going through a tough period and all sorts of things need to be dealt with but I want to encourage people that we are resolute about the way we are going about our business and committed to continue doing the correct things to make sure UKZN becomes an institution in the province and elsewhere that everyone looks up to and can be proud of.

“We want our graduates not to go out looking for jobs but rather to create jobs through entrepreneurship and in that way make a positive contribution. If they go into the world of work with that spirit we will have succeeded.” ■

– Gregory Dardagan



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# EDITORIAL

## MAKING UKZN PROUD!

This edition of *UKZNTOUCH* highlights, among other items of interest, the achievements of UKZN alumni who have made their mark locally and in some instances internationally. This is very apt as the magazine is, to a large extent, aimed at alumni who continually go out there and make UKZN proud.

**T**he magazine also introduces and warmly welcomes two high profile and respected roleplayers who have recently joined the UKZN family: our new Chancellor, South African Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng, and new Chair of Council, the Reverend Dr Vukile Mehana.

These leaders bring enormous expertise and quality leadership to the Institution and are both highly committed to helping ensure that UKZN succeeds in its mission and vision, especially in the light of the recently approved UKZN Strategic Plan, 2017-2021.

Among the alumni profiled are Mahommed Moorad, aka Mo Magic, who astonishes the world with his magic and illusion; Craig MacKenzie, a high profile KwaZulu-Natal businessperson who launched the Debonairs Pizza chain from a small bakery in Pietermaritzburg, and UKZN's very own Chipso Zhou, the driving force behind the highly successful Durban International Film Festival.

Several other trailblazing alumni are featured as well as items of special interest.

The Corporate Relations Division recently concluded an audit of our communications tools aimed at determining our stakeholders' opinions on the way we communicate and how we could improve. We are keen to heighten and increase our communication with stakeholders and urge them to remain in contact, especially alumni, and current and prospective students.

We have added new features to the UKZN website and revamped our social media spaces, creating exciting platforms for current and prospective students and alumni to engage with us. All five campuses were featured recently on our social media platforms to remind alumni about their *alma mater* while at the same time promoting the University generally to make it more visible locally and internationally.

I trust our alumni and donors as well as other readers will enjoy this edition of *UKZNTOUCH*, which showcases just a small sample of the wide variety of impressive achievements at UKZN. ■

**Normah Zondo**

**Acting Executive Director: Corporate Relations Division**



# HIGHLIGHTS

## 2016



### Student Breaks Records at Powerlifting World Championships

An honours student in the School of Life Sciences, Mr Darien Bester, took part in the 2016 Global Powerlifting Committee World Championships in Knjazevac, Serbia, breaking three world records!

The records he set were for a 330kg deadlift, a 330kg squat, and a 215kg bench press for a combined total of 875kg lifted.

Bester, 22, who matriculated from Maritzburg College in 2012, began weightlifting following exposure to what he describes as “its welcoming community” after watching videos online and deciding to put his above-average strength to the test.

Words: Christine Cuénod

### Humanities Student on SA's Got Talent



Jessie Govender, a first-year student studying towards a Bachelor of Arts in Music degree, says his love for music began at an early age when he used to sing in church. “I also come from a musical family.”

Govender said being on the show was fun, adding that he learned a lot from the judges’ attitudes. “If a person made a mistake, they didn’t focus on it as long as the contestants were having fun doing what they love.”

Words: Reatilehile Karabo Moeti

### UKZN Demonstrates New Smart Transport Innovations on Durban's Beachfront

Students and academics at UKZN's Discipline of Mechanical Engineering demonstrated two of their latest innovations in smart transport technology along the North Beach promenade. The two innovations – the Smart Technology Pedal Bus and the Human Operated Recumbent Electric Trike (THOR-ET) – reflect new age technologies that are environmentally friendly and aimed at transforming the way commuters travel in and around the city. The aim of the demonstration was to promote the use of the vehicles as alternative modes of transport for the “city of the future”.

Words: Sejal Desai



UKZN students and staff riding the Smart Technology Pedal Bus and the Human Operated Recumbent – Electric Trike (THOR-ET) on Durban's North Beach.



# 2017

## UKZN Professor Awarded R37 million Gilead Grant



The Director of UKZN's HIV Pathogenesis Programme (HPP), Professor Thumbi Ndung'u, has been awarded a R37 million grant by Gilead Sciences for a project titled: The FRESH Study: Females Rising through Education, Support and Health (FRESH) Acute HIV Infection Cohort.

The money is a portion of 12 grants totalling R308 000 000 awarded by Gilead in support of HIV research. The affiliated projects will be conducted by leading academic institutions, non-profit organisations and community groups worldwide. They will focus on three key areas of research – translational research, efficacy studies in animal models, and community perspectives of HIV care.

Words: Kim Waddilove



## UKZN Impi Kick off 2017 in Fine Form

UKZN rugby players and supporters were out in full force to "back their boytjies". The UKZN Impi beat the University of Fort Hare 16-10 in their first home game of 2017 in the Varsity Shield rugby tournament played on the Pietermaritzburg campus. UKZN's Ayanda Ndlovu said the Impi came third overall in last year's competition, losing just one game. "We were the champions in 2015."

Words: Raylene Captain-Hastibeer

## Leading Scientists Unite in a March for Science in Durban

UKZN Scientists joined Durban's March for Science, where UKZN Science Centre Co-ordinator Dr Tanja Reinhardt wowed the crowds with her pyrotechnic display.

Words: Sally Frost and Smita Maharaj



## UKZN Hosts Panel Discussion on State Capture

Unpacking state capture, White monopoly capital, radical socio-economic transformation and the emergence of civil society protests, were debated during a panel discussion at UKZN.

Dr Lubna Nadvi, Mr Rajeshwar Maharaj, Mr Sihle Zikalala and Mr Lukhona Mnguni were part of the panel discussion.

The College of Humanities and the Maurice Webb Race Relations Unit hosted the event as part of the Transformation and Leadership Lecture Series.

Words: Melissa Mungroo







## Team UKZN Supports Comrades 2017 Runners

For the fifth consecutive year, Team UKZN maintained high spirits in the dark wintry morning, working in full force to set up Station 18 at Botha's Hill in readiness for the sea of runners who were to come their way in the following hours at the 2017 Comrades Marathon. The marketing initiative is driven by UKZN's Corporate Relations Division.

Words: Rakshika Sibrán

## Students March against Gender-Based Violence

A march to create awareness about gender-based violence and to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women was organised recently by the South African Medical Students Association (SAMSA) at UKZN.

Words: Lihle Sosibo



## UKZN Honours Two Renowned South Africans

Director of the New Africa Civil Society Centre Dr Kumi Naidoo and African Music living-legend and political struggle icon Dr Hugh Masekela were recently awarded Honorary Doctorates in Social Science and Music respectively.



## UKZN Confers Honorary Doctorate on Prominent Social Entrepreneur

Prominent Social Entrepreneur Dr Wendy Luhabe was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Commerce by UKZN for her valuable contribution to the empowerment of women in business.



## KZN MEC Graduates With BAdmin Degree Cum Laude

The ANC's Provincial Chairperson and Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs MEC Mr Sihle Zikalala graduated with a Bachelor of Administration Honours degree *cum laude*.



## Honorary Doctorate Conferred on Human Rights Icon

Legal luminary, Judge Thumba Pillay, received an Honorary Doctorate from UKZN in recognition of the immense role he played in the advancement of social justice and human rights.



Words: Melissa Mungroo and Thandiwe Jumo

## Conversations for Change Forum held at UKZN

UKZN partnered with the Mandela Rhodes Community, an alumni organisation of the Mandela Rhodes Foundation, to host the 6th annual Conversations for Change event on the Howard College campus. Conversations for Change is a series of public debates across southern Africa which aims to encourage robust, interactive and thought-provoking public dialogue on societal issues.

Words: Sejal Desai



## UKZN hosts Mother Tongue Language in Science and Technology Colloquium

The Department of Science and Technology – National Research Foundation Centre in Indigenous Knowledge Systems (CIKS) recently hosted a colloquium on the importance of Mother Tongue Language in Science and Technology Curriculum for Science and Technology student teachers.

Words: Raylene Captain-Hasthibeer



## Inaugural Lecture Focuses on Advancing Social Justice Project through Economic Sciences Education

In his inaugural lecture address, Professor Suriamurthee Maistry of the School of Education spoke on the international and national context within which society has to give effect to the social justice project and how through economic sciences education, this might be achieved.

Words: Melissa Mungroo



## UKZN Rewards Academic and Sports Achievements

UKZN awarded prestigious scholarships and bursaries worth a combined total of more than R156 million to 5 294 top achieving students at the University during the University's Annual Scholarships Awards Ceremony held at Westville campus's Main Hall on 23 August 2017.

Words: Sithembile Shabangu



### Three Doctors' Pact recalled at Memorial Lecture

The theme of this year's Phyllis Naidoo lecture, hosted by the Gandhi-Luthuli Documentation Centre, was advancing the platform of non-racialism and marking the 70th anniversary of the 1947 Three Doctors' Pact. The Three Doctors' Pact sought to unite Africans and Indians in the struggle against the apartheid regime. The Pact formed the basis of united action in the 1952 Defiance Campaign and the 1955 Freedom Charter.

*\* Phyllis Naidoo, who died in 2013, was awarded the Order of Luthuli in Bronze for her lifetime contribution to the struggle for gender equality, non-racialism and a free and democratic South Africa. She also received an honorary doctorate from UKZN for her stellar role in the struggle for freedom in South Africa.*

Words: Raylene Captain-Hasthibeer



Dr Kreesan Naicker, Mr Mthetheli Xuma and Ms Roshan Dadoo re-enact the signing of the 1947 Three Doctors' Pact.

### Curriculum Transformation Discussed at Seminar and Book Launch



UKZN's Teaching and Learning Office (UTLO) hosted a book launch and seminar presented by Intellectual and Activist, Professor Gayatri Spivak.

Words: Sithembile Shabangu

### UKZN Knitwits Create Blankets for Mandela Month

To commemorate Nelson Mandela Month, the UKZN community has been participating in a campaign to produce blankets for the less privileged. Blankets were handed to ambassadors of the 67 Blankets for Mandela Day on the Westville campus.

Words: Sithembile Shabangu



### Hunger for Excellence Spurs Arts Student

Mr Sizwe Sidaza, a Bachelor of Arts Honours (International Relations) student is the proud recipient of the prestigious UKZN Distinguished Student award. The award recognises and rewards students for outstanding academic achievement coupled with excellence in community engagement.

Words: Melissa Mungroo

*UKZN Vice-Chancellor, Dr Albert van Jaarsveld congratulates Distinguished Student Award recipient Mr Sizwe Sidaza.*

# MESSAGE FROM THE NEW CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL: CHIEF JUSTICE MOGOENG MOGOENG

The responsibility that imposes itself on the shoulders of institutions of higher learning is to conceive, create, incubate and develop ideas, policies and implementation strategies to unify and reconcile our people, freeing their potential and realising our constitutional vision of transforming South Africa into an economic powerhouse that will help fulfill our collective aspirations.

**W**hat an honour and humbling privilege it is then to be associated with that noble cause by serving as Chancellor of this premier institution of higher learning. My gratitude goes to those who chose to nominate me and the UKZN Council that ultimately elected me. Very few developments in a person's life can match the contentment and encouragement that comes with unsolicited recognition by one's very own, like your *alma mater*.

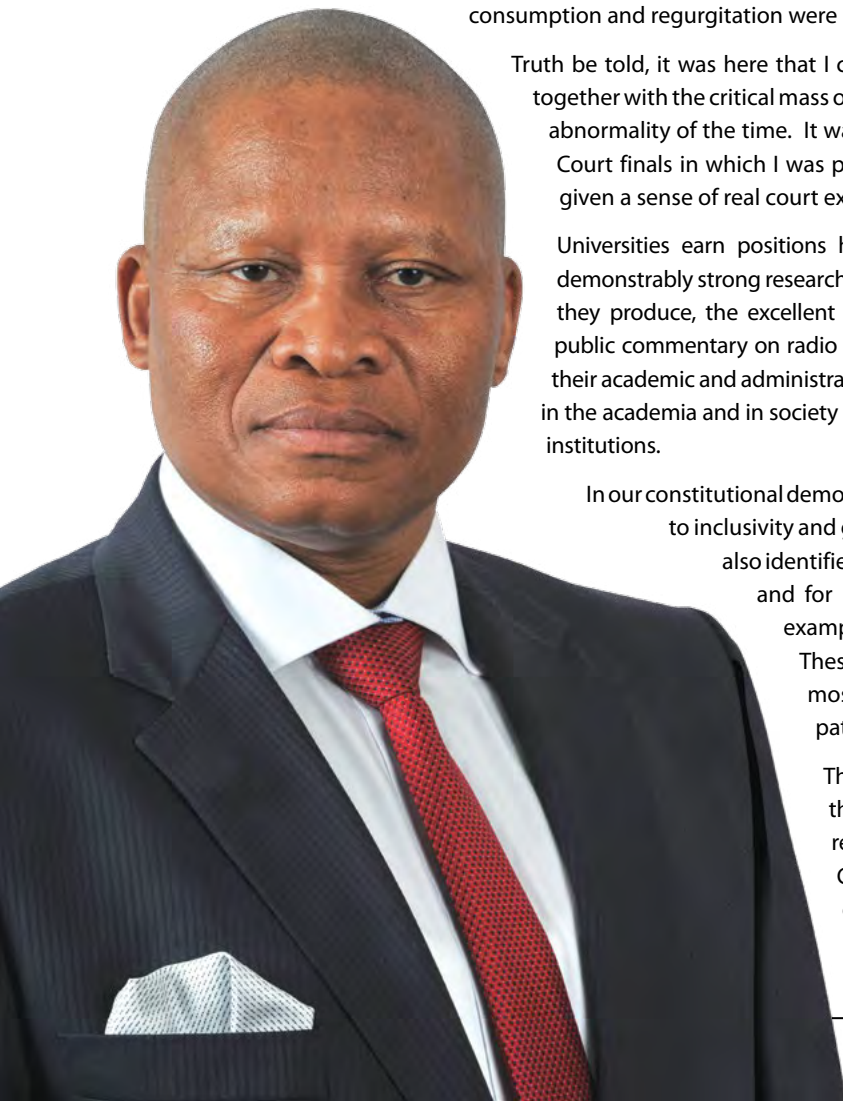
I am especially gratified by the fact that it was here that I was, for the first time, initiated into the educational system that allowed, encouraged and insisted that I subject legal issues to critical analysis. I was previously required to memorise and reproduce but not permitted to think. Then, your critical analysis earned you less marks if not a failure, whereas robotic consumption and regurgitation were highly rewarded.

Truth be told, it was here that I cut my political teeth and became more daringly involved, together with the critical mass of our people, in efforts geared at ending the institutionalised abnormality of the time. It was here that I, for the first time, met real judges in the Moot Court finals in which I was privileged to be one of four participating students and was given a sense of real court experience.

Universities earn positions higher up the recognition ladder partly because of their demonstrably strong research capabilities, the volume and quality of scholarly publications they produce, the excellent conference presentations they make and the regularity of public commentary on radio and television and in the print media. In essence, it is when their academic and administrative staff can legitimately be counted among thought leaders in the academia and in society that they begin to enjoy more prominence than comparable institutions.

In our constitutional democracy, an objectively ascertainable institutional commitment to inclusivity and genuine transformation is not only a constitutional must but also identifies a university as an agent of national unity and reconciliation, and for healing and addressing the exclusion of others from, for example, weighty opportunities and the mainstream economy. These institutions must, without being prompted, confront the most serious challenges of our times and be counted among path- or solution-finders.

This and other universities must always be alive to the reality that Black people were deliberately excluded from well-resourced universities. We had to be granted permission by a Cabinet Minister to study here, by reason only of the colour of our skin. Additionally, Black people were deliberately thinned out of some of the critical disciplines like science, engineering



in all its shades, mathematics, technology and medicine. It thus falls on these institutions to think through these challenges and plan well for opening up more space for Black students and women in those faculties where they were generally not allowed to study or to pass or pass well. An aggressive plan must be developed to widen our skills development programmes to accommodate Black people and women fully in areas where they were grudgingly allowed. A way must be found to incentivise them to go all the way up to PhD level. The sooner we stop over-celebrating a Black person with a PhD in these disciplines by reason of its rarity, the better.

Where curricula could be structured in a way that allows degrees to be completed within a shorter period without compromising the quality of the programme, this should be done. Ours is a society of startling inequalities and we all should strive to have quality education accessible to all our people in the most affordable way possible.

Considering the scarcity of resources for most South Africans, you could, for example, reflect further on the possibility of shortening rather than lengthening the duration for the Bachelor of Laws degree. I move from the premise that Europe has a solid and credible three-year pre-Masters law degree. Similarly, the National University of Singapore's LLB equivalent takes four years to complete. Yet the latter has done exceptionally well to the point of being rated among the top 25 Law Schools in the world. What is it about our educational system, be it at a higher or basic level, that necessitates a period longer rather than less than four years?

It might well be that there are challenges at the basic education level relating to the quality of education offered. If the quality is such that it undermines the ease of transitioning from basic to tertiary education, it still behoves think tanks that universities are or ought to be, to help devise strategies for strengthening our basic education.

Another crucial assignment that I believe universities owe to this nation and humanity is dissection of the persistent racial tendencies that continue to undermine our constitutional

project of making a decisive break from our ugly and divisive past. That study would no doubt benefit from seeking to understand why assumed racial supremacy still seems to be alive and well, even in mature democracies in the Americas and Europe. Naturally, you would have to propose practical steps to be taken to eradicate racism and its toxic and progress-retarding effects.

The huge pool of intellectuals that our universities have places them at a vantage point to develop strategies for lasting solutions to all our key challenges that would be acceptable to all or most of our people. Nothing works better than a solution that is acceptable to the overwhelming majority of those affected. Possibly, very sensitive issues of great importance remain unresolved because they tend to be avoided in the hope that the passage of time will somehow yield solutions. The sad reality is that history has taught us otherwise.

Deep and analytical thinkers that members of the academia are reputed to be, owe it to humanity to confront and find solutions to the never-ending challenges that are intimately connected to our disastrous past.

Let us do much more than we have done so far and do it without taking sides and with a sharp focus on what would best advance the interests of humanity and produce students who are similarly conscientised and disposed.

Our work is not done until South Africa is a truly non-racial, non-sexist, united, prosperous and well-governed state. And much will depend on how well we guide and mentor our students for their future challenging leadership roles. After all, they are our future to whom the leadership baton must be passed.

Serious challenges that seem to defy any possible solution constitute the raw materials, which all who occupy leadership positions ought to use to develop themselves and graduate to a cutting-edge leadership capacity.

**\* *The UKZN Council is honoured to have Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng as the University's Chancellor.***

- Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng is the fourth Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa. He holds a BJuris degree from the University of Zululand and a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree from the former University of Natal. He also holds a Master of Law (LLM) degree from the University of South Africa.
- The Chief Justice started his professional career as a temporary interpreter and in March 1986 was appointed as a High Court prosecutor in Mafikeng, a position he held until February 1990.
- He did pupillage at the Johannesburg Bar where he also practised as an attorney from June 1990 until the end of 1991. He left to join the Mafikeng Bar in January 1992 and later served as its Deputy Chairperson until being elevated to the Bench. In June 1997, he was appointed a Judge of the North West High Court and in April 2000 a Judge of the Labour Appeal Court.
- In October 2002 he became Judge President of the North West High Court.
- He was appointed to the Constitutional Court in 2009 and became Chief Justice in September 2011.
- The Chief Justice chairs the Judicial Service Commission, the SA Judicial Education Institute Council and the National Efficiency Enhancement Committee. He is also one of the Vice-Presidents of the Conference of Constitutional Jurisdictions of Africa.

# MESSAGE

## FROM THE NEW CHAIR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL COUNCIL: **THE REVEREND DR VUKILE MEHANA**

It is a privilege and an honour to have been elected as Chair of the UKZN Council, especially as I am not a longstanding member of the University community. I am truly grateful for the confidence shown in me.

**A**mong my many goals as Chair are to assist in providing strategic leadership in order for Council to fulfill its responsibilities as spelt out in the Statutes of the University. Most importantly I want to be at the coalface of contributing towards robust governance, sound management and efficient operations so that UKZN can meet its responsibilities to the entire University community and society in general.

The position of Chair of a university Council is a first for me so I will be extremely keen to join hands with all role players and look for guidance where necessary as we take this Institution of Higher Education forward together.

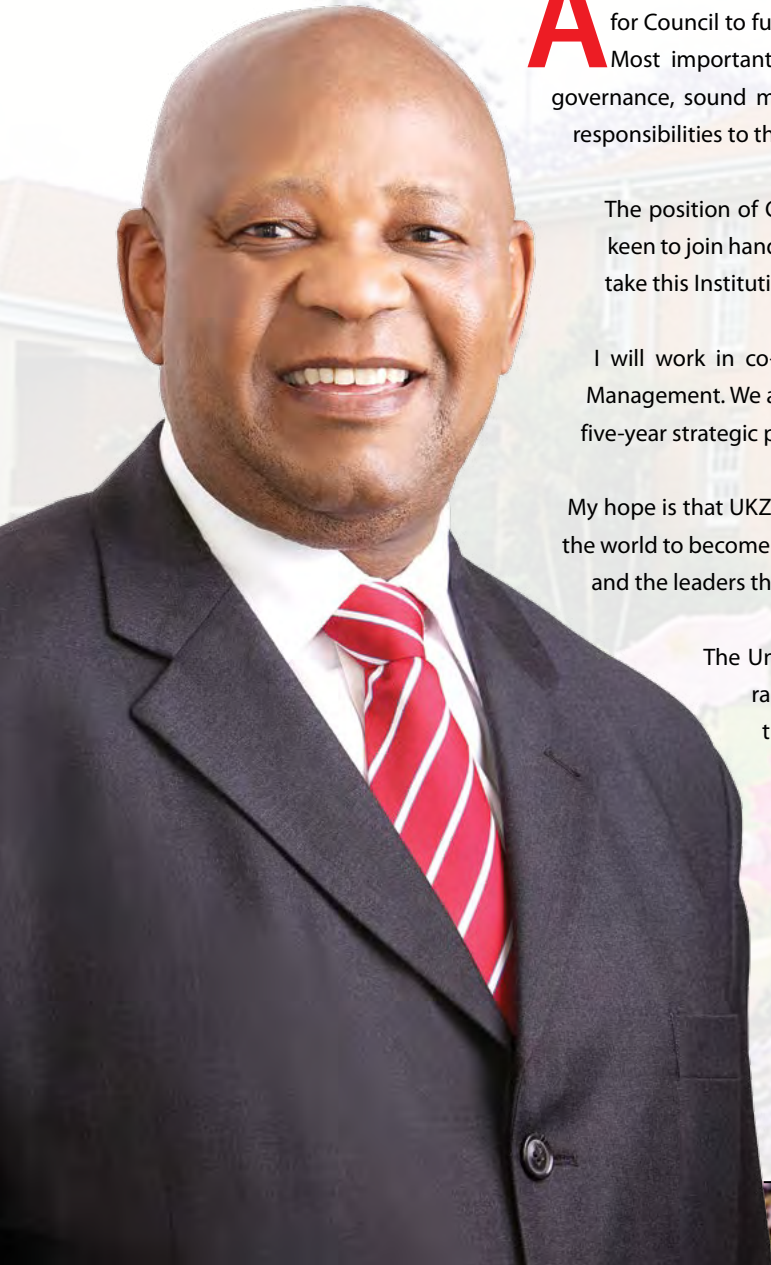
I will work in co-operation with my colleagues in Council to stabilise Executive Management. We also need to formulate plans to implement UKZN's newly approved five-year strategic plan.


My hope is that UKZN continues to improve its ranking in South Africa, in Africa and in the world to become a pre-eminent centre of research that produces cutting-edge work and the leaders that our world needs so much.

The University is a global player in Higher Education and is consistently ranked among the top four or five universities in South Africa and in the top 400 to 500 in the world.

In my short association with UKZN, I have noticed that people associated with it are proud to be part of the Institution. It is incumbent on us all to maintain its current status and for the entire UKZN family, particularly our leaders, to ensure there is consistent improvement in terms of our research outputs and future sustainability.

This University has produced many leaders in South African society and continues to attract high profile students, academics





and office bearers. The fact that Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng is the new UKZN Chancellor speaks volumes in terms of its credibility and integrity.

The challenges facing UKZN include maintaining financial stability – a problem common to many Higher Education Institutions in South Africa, stabilising executive leadership and ensuring continual improvement in research capabilities in order to maintain our leadership position. We are putting strategies in place to meet these challenges and prosper.

Our strengths include a superb track record; being known and respected nationally and internationally; very effective leadership; being among the most transformed universities in the country and a trail-blazer in equality for isiZulu, and an highly enviable research reputation.

*I believe that UKZN has a very bright future. The environment is a dynamic and encouraging one in which new ideas emerge and are taken seriously, leading to advances in many fields. The emphasis on encouraging entrepreneurship among students and academics is already paying huge dividends for Higher Education and the country.*

Personally, I look forward to the day when our Business School is a world-class one that contributes to KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, Africa and the world as well as producing graduates who are able to plough back and contribute to the country's economic stability.

While the University is currently facing certain challenges, I want to assure all stakeholders that Council is taking the necessary action. Let us continue to engage with one another on the basis of mutual respect and join hands in partnership for the sake of the entire University community as well as future UKZN students and graduates. ■

The Reverend Dr Vukile Mehana (PhD) (DBA Hon) was born in Cape Town where he completed his matric.

An ordained Minister of the Methodist Church, Mehana joined the private sector with the permission of his Church in 1994 and worked for several companies in the area of Human Resources and Organisational Transformation, progressing to strategic positions.

Mehana serves as Executive and Non-Executive Chairman and Director on the boards of various listed companies such as African Equity Empowerment Investments, Mustek and Premier Fishing (Pty) Ltd, and unlisted companies in South Africa, including the Sizwe IT Group, the LR Management Group (Pty) Ltd, Mendo Holdings, and the Community Scheme Ombud Service (CSOS).

He has been appointed by the Minister of Police Services in South Africa to lead a Ministerial SAPS Transformation Task Team to transform the Police Service in South Africa to be professional and demilitarised as recommended by Judge Farlam on the Marikana Commission.

Mehana holds the following qualifications:

- 2016 – Doctor of Business Administration (DBA), *Honoris Causa* – Commonwealth University
- 2016 – Master Class Certificate in Leadership and Management – London Graduate School
- 2010 – PhD in Leadership, Performance and Change - University of Johannesburg
- 1999 – Master's degree in Business Administration focusing on Organisational Transformation - De Montfort University in the United Kingdom
- 1998 – Top Management Certificate in Public Enterprises – National University of Singapore
- 1996 – Advanced Management Programme – Insead Business School in France
- 1990 – Bachelor of Theology degree – Rhodes University

Mehana is a former adjunct professor and part-time lecturer of Business Strategy at the University of Cape Town's Graduate School of Business.

He is also one of the 40 Social Cohesion Advocates under the Ministry of Arts and Culture.

# DEBONAIRS

## THE BRAINCHILD OF UKZN ALUMNUS

During a gap year in the United States after matriculating and completing his army service in the late 1980s, UKZN alumnus Craig MacKenzie came up with the idea of establishing a pizza take-away in South Africa... and so the concept of Debonairs Pizza was born!

**M**ackenzie grew up on a dairy farm in Ixopo in KwaZulu-Natal, going on to complete his high school education at Maritzburg College in Pietermaritzburg.

While in the US, he encountered pizza chains that did home deliveries, a service that did not exist in South Africa.

MacKenzie said he spotted a gap in the market but was told the model would never work in South Africa because the security situation made home deliveries problematic and then there was the fact that "South Africans don't eat pizza"!

Back home, he enrolled for a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree,

specialising in Agricultural Economics at the then University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg. During his second year in 1991, MacKenzie and a colleague, Andrew Harvey, who was studying for a Bachelor of Commerce degree, opened Debonairs Pizza.

The duo rented a bakery at Parklane Spar after the store closed at 5pm every day and started churning out pizzas.

"Our home delivery drivers made a good impression as we got them wearing bow ties – soon business started to take off," said MacKenzie.

"The operation grew quickly and it now boasts more than 600 outlets country-wide with home deliveries still a driving force."

Challenges in starting the business included being told it would never work as well as difficulties with capital and cash flow.

MacKenzie added that launching it while still studying meant that time management and organisational skills were extremely important.

"The network Andrew and I developed at the then University of Natal was invaluable as it helped us through our degrees and supported us during the start-up of Debonairs."







These networks remain invaluable to this day, with many of their partners and suppliers over the years having been directly or indirectly associated with UKZN.

MacKenzie and Harvey eventually sold the holding company along with the KwaZulu-Natal Steers Master Licence to Famous Brands in 2000. At the time, there were 135 Debonairs outlets.

MacKenzie's wife, Shannon, who graduated from the University with a BCom in 1992, was also involved in the business and the couple still own 25 Debonairs Pizza outlets as well as a number of Steers, Wimpy, Milky Lane, Fishaways and Mugg & Bean restaurants.

The couple live on a sugar farm in Mid-Illovo and run their businesses from home while maintaining offices in Durban and Gaborone.

MacKenzie has also been involved in the Equatorial Coffee Company and Corner Bakery, a Yamaha dealership in Gaborone, Biochem and Nu Eco brands as well as property development and sugarcane farming.

He encouraged graduates considering entrepreneurship to dedicate time to research and planning.

"You invariably don't need to reinvent the wheel, it is more about taking best practice from proven brands or businesses and adding a unique perspective," said MacKenzie, who learned from international brands by adopting, localising and enhancing some of their business strategies.

*"We thoroughly enjoyed our time at university. Life there taught us to find a balance between hectic social, academic and business commitments. Pietermaritzburg was and no doubt remains a fantastic student town."*

"We knew that we could be internationally competitive because we had employed all the latest technology and, in some cases, enhanced systems," said MacKenzie. He encouraged entrepreneurs to partner with and employ the best people, as alone one could never have all the necessary skills to prosper fully.

"With the advantage of hindsight we undersold the business as there was a cap on the payout based on multiple times earnings – the returns over the period were beyond our wildest dreams.

"Going out there and learning from someone else in your chosen industry is probably the best initial investment for would-be entrepreneurs. Most opportunities involve innovating around an existing product or service. The idea is to learn from others before you risk your own time and money.

"We thoroughly enjoyed our time at university. Life there taught us to find a balance between hectic social, academic and business commitments. Pietermaritzburg was and no doubt remains a fantastic student town."

MacKenzie said that they were encouraging their three children to forge their own paths but would be happy to involve them in the businesses if they showed interest.

Asked about his business philosophy, MacKenzie said: "Extraordinary results will only materialise as a result of extraordinary behaviour – working differently, harder and smarter. Personally I will only do business with people that I trust and enjoy working with and in an industry that excites me."

And do they enjoy pizza? "My wife and I have always enjoyed pizza but we have never consumed large amounts. We now live in a rural area with no outlets close by, but we do have a built-in wood fired pizza oven that we make good use of." ■

– Gregory Dardagan

# THIS ALUMNUS IS PURE MAGIC!



He's been dubbed the James Bond of magic and hailed as the top magician in South Africa. When he's on stage, it's really hard to believe what you see – the man's a master of illusion.

In the limelight delivering yet another mind-boggling performance, Mahommed Moorad (36) is known as Mo Magic, while off stage in the real world he's a down to earth fellow who holds a BSc Honours degree from UKZN.

Moorad's passion for the art of magic was sparked while studying at the University where he gave impromptu shows on campus and for friends. After graduating, it evolved into a part-time career alongside his "day job" as an engineer at Toyota. "The skills and tools learned at university helped me manage million rand projects for Toyota. They also helped me grow my business as well as my brand and attain personal and professional goals as an entertainer and magician."

This parallel life continued for almost seven years with Moorad excelling as a customer and project manager with his magic skills in demand all over South Africa whether for private shows, conferences, award evenings, gala dinners or golf days.

In 2010 he made the big decision and quit his "day job" to follow his passion for entertaining through the mediums of magic and illusion... and he hasn't looked back since.

It all began when Moorad moved from Greytown to Durban to begin studies as an Electronic Engineering student at UKZN. "Engineering was challenging and required long hours of work and sacrifice, however the benefits were well worth it," he said.

"Whilst there were aspects of the degree I enjoyed, I eventually began to question my personal purpose and path in life."

Then aged 21, he made a conscious decision to discover his passion. "It was a moment where I spoke to the universe with a proverbial open heart. Sometime later, I was at my best friend's apartment, working on our electronic design project and during a break we switched on to SABC3 – the same TV station that years later would be home to my very own prime time Magic TV series. On screen was American street magician David Blaine performing his television special.





"That night watching the show, I felt something stir in me. I knew there and then that I wanted to bring joy and delight to audiences as David was doing on screen."

And the rest, as they say, is history! Moorad is from a close knit family. "We have always been a supportive family unit. It's probably because my father died when I was three. My mum did a phenomenal job raising my brother, Ashraf, younger sister, Zeenat, and myself.

"I learned my first magic trick in high school, but didn't take it further. However, a few days after seeing that David Blaine special on TV, I learned another trick and performed it for family, then friends on campus. The interest quickly developed from a hobby to a passion and evolved to a part-time career.

"This April marked my seventh year as a full-time professional entertainer. I started engineering before my magic, so looking back, it was there as a safety net, but truth be told, I've never thought of it as that. Rather, I see the Engineering degree and experience in industry as a set of skills that serve me well in terms of problem solving, project planning and working with people."

Having his own TV show was a dream he had for over a decade – he wanted to share the experience of magic as he saw it for people to experience in the comfort of their homes.

It aired in 2015 and 2016 and rose to being the second most viewed show after *Isidingo*. "The response from the viewing public was phenomenal and I'm thankful for that. The series included over 120 illusions and stunts spanning magic and mentalism."



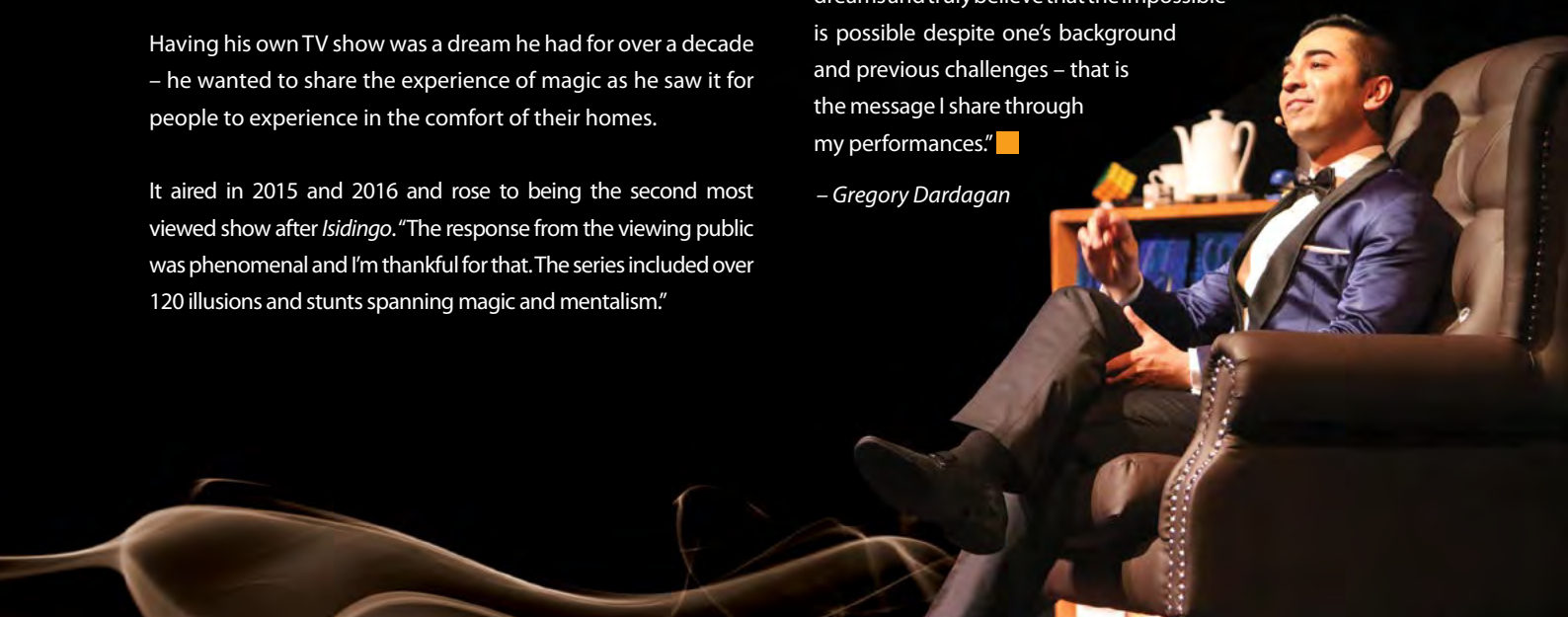
*"That night watching the show, I felt something stir in me. I knew there and then that I wanted to bring joy and delight to audiences as David was doing on screen."*

Moorad has performed throughout South Africa and in Namibia, Zambia, Angola, the United Kingdom, India, UAE, Sweden, Turkey and the United States.

"I don't currently have a magic mentor but do admire David Copperfield. I have a close group of friends who I can share ideas with and get feedback; however, I have a clear idea of my personality and the type of magic I want to perform. Personally, my style is to romance and charm my audiences, astonishing them with amazing magic and mentalism.

"From being a child who lost his father early in life, to travelling the globe spreading joy, delight and creating extraordinary experiences, I am thankful to be living the life of my dreams and truly believe that the impossible is possible despite one's background and previous challenges – that is the message I share through my performances." ■

– Gregory Dardagan



# DJ TIRA SALUTES UKZN

## FOR KICK-STARTING HIS MUSIC CAREER

One of South Africa's most dynamic musicians and owner of Afrotainment music label, Mthokozisi 'DJ Tira' Khathi is proud to be a graduate of UKZN.

**“U**KZN is a disciplined institution. It kept me grounded, gave me the best education and also made it possible for me to explore my entertainment interests during my spare time. UKZN is one of a kind. I'm proud to say I graduated from here,” he says.

Khathi, who hails from KwaHlabisa in northern KwaZulu-Natal, began his music career while studying for a Bachelor of Social Sciences degree on the Howard College campus in the early 2000s. He recalls that, while his days were filled with lecture upon lecture, he still found the time to pursue his passion for music.

He taught himself to DJ and dance at a young age and was involved in the South Africa Smirnoff DJ Knockout competition which was the foundation for his career. After releasing his debut album *The Real Makoya*, Khathi signed with Sheer Music/Big Dawg Productions for *Durban Finest Vol. 1* album in 2003, which is regarded as his best to date.

Launching Afrotainment in 2008 put DJ Tira at the forefront of pop culture with platinum selling group Big Nuz, DJ Cndo, Fisherman and Joocy under his label, making him a music mogul to be reckoned with.

He was also appointed as a KwaZulu-Natal Ambassador for putting his province on the map as a preferred tourist destination through the Arts.

His advice to students is, “It's important to know what you like in life. Focus on your goal and make it work at all costs.”

– Melissa Mungroo



# ART WITH HEART

This former host of *Our Perfect Wedding* is a warrior when it comes to causes she believes in.

**W**hen Ayanda Mpama was in high school she wanted to be a lawyer. She changed her mind, however, when she did work experience in the Durban Magistrate's court.

"I discovered that it wasn't like it is on TV," says the former *Idols* star and host of *Our Perfect Wedding*. "I was traumatised and bored. It was very depressing. Then I performed in the school play and realised that was what I wanted to do."

Mpama, whose parents were exiles, was born in Swaziland and lived in Zambia until she was eight, before moving to Durban. After school she did a BA in Music and Drama at UKZN, graduating in 2005.

She entered *Idols* in her honours year and finished in the top six. Since then, her life has been a whirlwind. She moved to Johannesburg, released an album called *State of Aya*, has acted and presented on TV, does voice-overs and is currently appearing in the TV drama *Saints and Sinners*.

One of her more memorable jobs was hosting *Our Perfect Wedding* for 13 weeks in 2015. "I'm a romantic at heart and it was great meeting all those wonderful couples. It was incredibly humbling.

"It was also very taxing, because I'm a single mom. You had to get up early and be constantly focused on what was happening. Thirteen weeks was definitely enough," she says.

Mpama also has a serious side and has re-entered politics. "At university I was involved with student politics and I was the Deputy President of the SRC. I'm now involved with the ANC Youth League in my area, North Riding in Johannesburg.

"We've organised a dialogue around femicide, because women are abused and killed to a scary degree." She's also working with a project, Caring4Girls, that provides girls with sanitary towels. "As artists we should not only be creating, we also have to look at the way we live."

At the moment that includes working on her next album and doing things that make her happy, like yoga, reading and training for the Trek4Mandela expedition to climb Mount Kilimanjaro. This initiative is an annual expedition to summit Kilimanjaro on Mandela day, thereby raising awareness for Caring4Girls and helping to keep girls in school. ■

– Shelagh McLoughlin



# A PASSION FOR JAZZ

Meet Thulile Zama, the jack-of-all-trades at the UKZN Jazz Centre.



**C**o-ordinator at the UKZN Jazz Centre, Thulile Zama keeps the fires burning at Africa's oldest Jazz Centre.

"I am the designated slave but I love what I do," she says jokingly before bursting into her signature laughter.

Her job includes organising concerts for the School of Arts, (the Jazz Centre has a regular Wednesday concert weekly from 18:00), and publicity, ensuring that the students access resources, available Arts bursaries and opportunities.

She does it all with a smile. The warmth that she exudes no doubt makes her more approachable and easier for students and fellow staff members to relate to. "I love the students and I love what we and colleagues are doing in that we are contributing to the Jazz industry and to the music industry in the country," she says.

A UKZN alumnus, her life has come full circle. While she previously worked at the Bat Centre and The Playhouse, her stay at UKZN has been the longest and she harbours no intention of leaving anytime soon. "I am content," she says briefly.

One of Zama's most important tasks is to "close the gap" between



theory and practice. "I organise things like workshops to fill in the gaps of the things that are not in the curriculum. As a person who studied music I know the gaps... It's important for anyone in this post to be a musician because if it's just a random administrator with no music background, there is a lot of things you wouldn't get," she said.

But the budget is not always enough and sometimes she has to pull strings to convince artists to offer workshops *pro bono*.

She also organises concerts, which have become a tradition at the Centre since 1989. Some of the big names that have performed at the Centre include the legendary Jazz artist Sibongile Khumalo.

However, Zama says that attendance has dropped and that this is a manifestation of a much bigger problem facing the arts. She is even more concerned about the drop in the number of students who come to the lunch hour concerts. "The arts industry generally is in a dilemma. The culture of audience development needs to be looked at. ... It starts with you bringing your kids to watch live music and introducing them to the culture of live music".

Zama is a member of the neo soul outfit *Heels Over Head* and is also working on a Miriam Makeba tribute. The group has already released two albums and is working towards releasing a third in 2018 to mark its 10th anniversary. Having performed for overseas audiences in countries like Germany and more recently at the Essence Festival in New Orleans, she finds it a bitter pill to swallow that artists continue to get more recognition abroad than they do at home. It is perhaps what she is trying to change for Miriam Makeba, albeit posthumously.

"There is too much emphasis on overseas stuff yet we have so much going on here. A lot of people know of her existence but besides *Phathaphatha* and *The Click Song* they know very little".



*Heels Over Head*

Zama is the only musician in her family and jokes that she is still trying to figure out where her influence comes from. "The closest thing I have to an artist is an uncle, Mthandeni Zama, who is a lecturer in DUT at the Department of Graphic Design. Him and I are the crazy artists in the family."

However, she credits her parents for her good taste in music. And while they did not initially approve of her seeking a career in music – "Back then they would say at least register for Chemical Engineering so that you will have something to fall back on" – they quickly made peace with it.

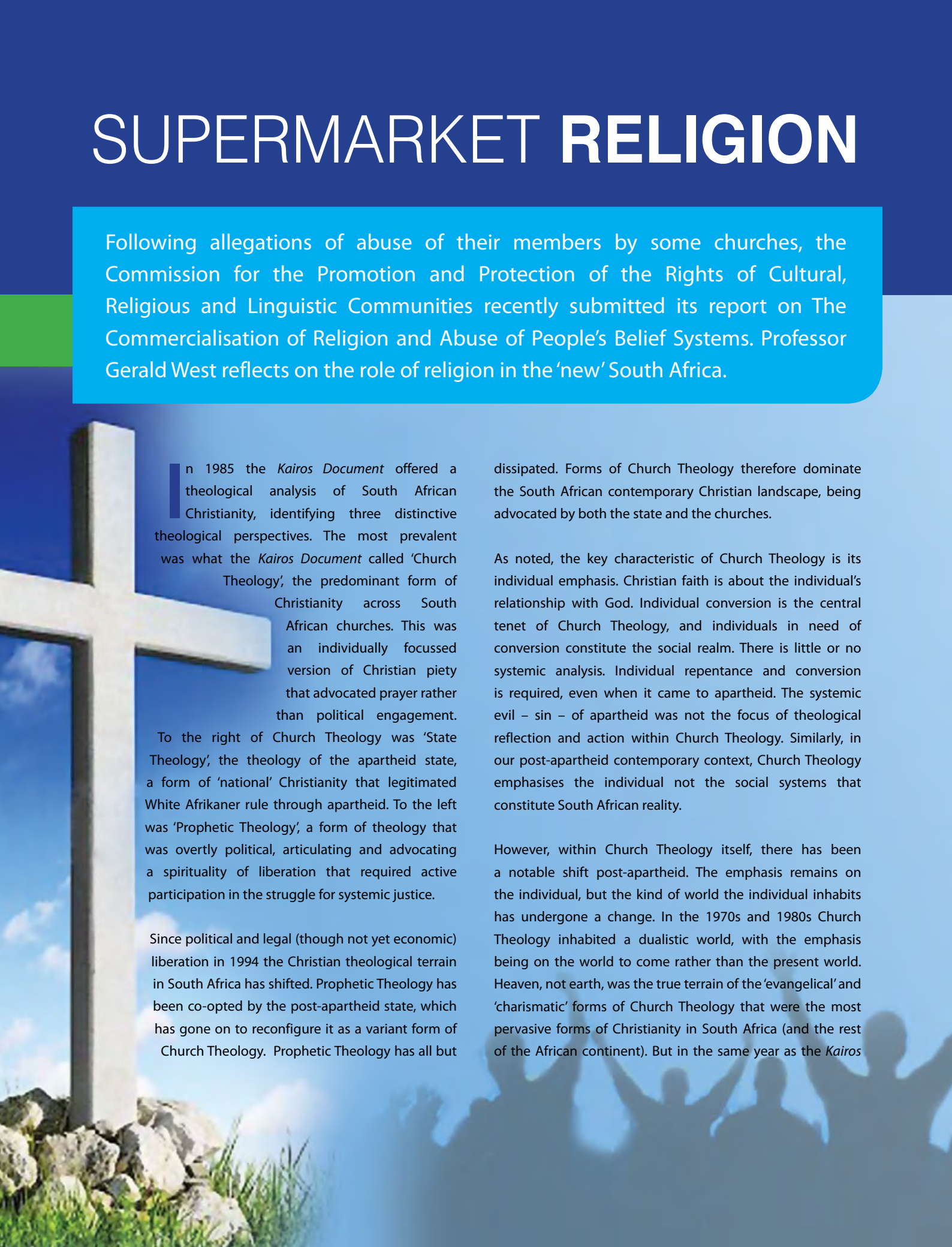
Her wish is to see more sponsors coming on board and supporting the Jazz Centre and initiatives such as the UKZN Big Band and the Jazz Jol.

"We need corporates to come on board, with more sponsorship we can do more," she said. ■

– Bheki Mbanjwa

# SUPERMARKET RELIGION

Following allegations of abuse of their members by some churches, the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities recently submitted its report on The Commercialisation of Religion and Abuse of People's Belief Systems. Professor Gerald West reflects on the role of religion in the 'new' South Africa.



In 1985 the *Kairos Document* offered a theological analysis of South African Christianity, identifying three distinctive theological perspectives. The most prevalent was what the *Kairos Document* called 'Church Theology', the predominant form of Christianity across South African churches. This was an individually focussed version of Christian piety that advocated prayer rather than political engagement.

To the right of Church Theology was 'State Theology', the theology of the apartheid state, a form of 'national' Christianity that legitimated White Afrikaner rule through apartheid. To the left was 'Prophetic Theology', a form of theology that was overtly political, articulating and advocating a spirituality of liberation that required active participation in the struggle for systemic justice.

Since political and legal (though not yet economic) liberation in 1994 the Christian theological terrain in South Africa has shifted. Prophetic Theology has been co-opted by the post-apartheid state, which has gone on to reconfigure it as a variant form of Church Theology. Prophetic Theology has all but

dissipated. Forms of Church Theology therefore dominate the South African contemporary Christian landscape, being advocated by both the state and the churches.

As noted, the key characteristic of Church Theology is its individual emphasis. Christian faith is about the individual's relationship with God. Individual conversion is the central tenet of Church Theology, and individuals in need of conversion constitute the social realm. There is little or no systemic analysis. Individual repentance and conversion is required, even when it came to apartheid. The systemic evil – sin – of apartheid was not the focus of theological reflection and action within Church Theology. Similarly, in our post-apartheid contemporary context, Church Theology emphasises the individual not the social systems that constitute South African reality.

However, within Church Theology itself, there has been a notable shift post-apartheid. The emphasis remains on the individual, but the kind of world the individual inhabits has undergone a change. In the 1970s and 1980s Church Theology inhabited a dualistic world, with the emphasis being on the world to come rather than the present world. Heaven, not earth, was the true terrain of the 'evangelical' and 'charismatic' forms of Church Theology that were the most pervasive forms of Christianity in South Africa (and the rest of the African continent). But in the same year as the *Kairos*



*Document* was published, Rhema Bible Church set up shop in its 5 000-seat auditorium in Randburg. The neo-evangelical and neo-charismatic form of Church Theology proclaimed by this church and others like it offered a more world-affirming theology than the traditional forms of evangelical and charismatic theology it supplanted. This world, it was proclaimed, and not only heaven was the site of God's blessing.

This-worldly material blessing became the emphasis in much of post-apartheid Church Theology Christianity, with some of the newly emerging Black middle class joining their White middle class Christian compatriots in Rhema-type neo-evangelical and neo-charismatic churches. The theological assumption of such forms of Christian faith is that wealth and health are direct blessings in this world from God. Biblical and theological retributive theology – “what you sow you will reap” – is the basis of this form of Church Theology. The orientation is always personal and individual. Questions are not asked about how wealth and health are obtained, as it is assumed that they are the material signs of God's blessing. The social systems that generate wealth and health or poverty and disease are not interrogated.

Theologies of retribution are pervasive in the many forms of African Christianity, with notions of 'retribution' inhabiting both colonial forms of Christianity and African Religion. Just as colonial and African forms of patriarchy have formed an alliance within African Christianity, so too have notions of retribution. Significantly, modern forms of retributive theology invert the logic of “what you sow you will reap”, preferring “what you have reaped is a clear indication of what you have sowed”! The presence of wealth and health, no matter how acquired, are signs of God's blessing. The absence of wealth and health, no matter the social systems that generate poverty and disease, are conversely signs of God's curse. No wonder that HIV and AIDS are seen as punishments from God, the “wages of sin”. What 'prosperity' and 'healing' churches offer is a theological

formula or rationale for securing God's blessing. A common component is individual giving to the 'man of God'. With very few exceptions the recipient of faithful, even sacrificial, giving/tithing is male. Just as the economic systems that generate wealth and poverty are invisible in such forms of Christianity, so too is the system of hetero-patriarchy. Indeed, conformity to hetero-patriarchal patterns is a self-evident component of 'righteous' living and thus a precondition for God's blessing. By giving/sowing to the man of God an individual Christian is promised a hundredfold return, whether in wealth or health. Those who have much are assumed to have given generously, and those who have little are exhorted to give yet more. Such is the economic hardship of so many South Africans that they are prepared to try this formula: give to the man of God and you will receive a hundredfold return.

Such is the pervasiveness of this variant form of neo-evangelical, neo-charismatic Christian faith that millions of South Africans, struggling with poverty or disease, seek out the ever increasing numbers of churches of what has become a commercial religious business. The transaction includes individual prayer to God (mediated by the man of God) and an 'offering' to the man of God in exchange for this-worldly blessings of wealth and health. The man of God has become the necessary mediator between the supplicant and God.

Those who have much are assumed to have given generously, and those who have little are exhorted to give yet more.

Such is the commercial potential for this kind of economic enterprise that men of God compete with each other for clientele. Each strives to find a way of



Professor Gerald West



**Those who have much are assumed to have given generously, and those who have little are exhorted to give yet more.**





**Economic prosperity and abundant health should be features of the 'new' South Africa, but not only for the few who are 'blessed' by the man of God.**



demonstrating their superior power, whether it is the claim that they can cure HIV or homosexuality (Bishop Hamilton Nala) or that such is the power of man of God that his followers will not be harmed by ingesting poisonous substances or eating grass (Pastor Daniel Lesego). Superior power means superior economic resources from those (desperately) willing to give to the man of God in hope of God's blessing.

The remedy for poverty or disease is not the supermarket churches on offer but a rejection of a privatised form of religion. While individual and personal faith is an important aspect of the life of religious faith it should not be the sole basis. The quest for individual health and wealth is blasphemous, denying as it does recognition of how particular social systems generate and sustain or denigrate and deny wealth and health. The recovery of a material dimension to evangelical and charismatic faith by their neo-evangelical and neo-charismatic cousins is commendable. Economic prosperity and abundant health should be features of the 'new' South Africa, but not only for the few who are 'blessed' by the man of God.

In the conclusion of my recent book, *The Stolen Bible: From Tool of Imperialism to African Icon*, I reflect on how biblical scholarship, my discipline, offers potential resources for a more communal and systemic engagement with Christian faith. Biblical scholarship, as is the case with South African Black Theology, offers access to the contending voices of the Bible and theology, making it clear that there is more than one biblical-theological 'voice'. The availability of such resources is potentially useful amidst the clamour of men of God to represent the voice of God.

Economic prosperity and abundant health should be features of the 'new' South Africa, but not only for the few who are 'blessed' by the man of God.

Xola Skosana, a Christian minister from Cape Town, made this point somewhat provocatively. He called, in the period before the 2011 local elections, for the Black preacher to "exhume the black body of Jesus from the grave... The Black preacher must point to the cross and remind Black people that their cross on the ballot paper on May 18, 2011 should not be to legitimise and perpetuate the corruption and political hegemony that keep Black people in servitude and in modernised slavery". But, said *Mail & Guardian* writer Percy Zvomuya, having interviewed and cited Skosana, "today's Black preacher is incapable of that, Skosana believes", going on to cite phrases from Skosana's analysis: "He lacks the necessary tools, skills and the gift to place scripture in its context. The Black preacher is unwilling to submit 'to the discipline of study' and is given to the 'gimmicks' first sold to him by 'the American TV evangelist'". Amen. And what holds for the Black preacher is also true for the White preacher, captured as they both are by neo-evangelical and neo-charismatic privatised religion. ■



Professor Gerald West teaches Old Testament/Hebrew Bible and African Biblical Hermeneutics in the School of Religion, Philosophy, and Classics. He is Director of the Ujamaa Centre for Community Development and Research, a project in which socially engaged biblical scholars and ordinary African readers of the Bible from poor, working-class, and marginalised communities collaborate for social transformation. His most recent book is: *2016. The Stolen Bible: From Tool of Imperialism to African Icon. Leiden and Pietermaritzburg: Brill and Cluster Publications.*

# LEADING LADY PAYS TRIBUTE TO ALMA MATER

With her smile and gorgeous features, UKZN alumnus and actress Jessica Nkosi is indeed a leading lady. She describes herself as driven and zealous and says that she owes her “acting chops” to the Bachelor of Arts in Drama and Performance degree she received from UKZN. Nkosi says it “served as a base for my passion for acting.”

“I learnt discipline, hard work and that getting an education in something you love is very important. My theatrical training came in very handy as I’m now on TV, I learnt the importance of time and respecting my fellow colleagues.”

Nkosi who hails from Richards Bay in KwaZulu-Natal moved to Johannesburg to kick-start her career in the television industry. Her determination, hard work and natural talent led her to South African TV screens where she landed a role in *Isibaya*.

Her character, Qondi was only due to be on screen for a few episodes but audiences loved the character so much that now, at 26 years old, she is one of the leading characters and has been on *Isibaya* for three years. She was nominated for the Royal Soopies Awards and was awarded Favourite actress at the 2016 *YOU* Spectacular Awards.

Nkosi made her mark as a TV personality, presenting reality show *Our Perfect Wedding*. She is Africa’s global ambassador for Clinique and her personality and work ethic shows that her beauty shines from the inside. Nkosi has also appeared on the covers of *BONA* and *True Love* magazines.

Offering advice to other aspirant actresses, she said, “You need to study the craft of acting and be committed to it because it isn’t as easy as it seems. You need to be prepared for long hours and hard work.” ■

– Melissa Mungroo



Jessica Nkosi

# PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS



At just 27 years old, UKZN alumnus, Musa Kika is about to graduate with a PhD in Public Law. His passion is human rights and access to justice.



**K**ika was awarded a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) *summa cum laude* by UKZN, followed by a Masters' degree at the prestigious Harvard Law School and a Certificate in Advanced Human Rights from the University of Pretoria's Centre for Human Rights. "Through seeing some of the greats to come out of the Law School at UKZN, I realised that I could be anything as well," he said. In April 2018, he will receive his PhD from the University of Cape Town.

He now works as a Human Rights and Constitutional lawyer with the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) in his birthplace, Harare. It was this organisation that first sparked his interest in Law when he participated in their activities while in high school.

"The ZLHR is a premier human rights organisation that has been at the forefront of fostering a democratic culture and a culture of human rights in Zimbabwe for over 20 years ... my work will primarily focus on litigation in cases involving access to justice, enforcement of constitutional rights, especially civil and political, and protection of human rights defenders," said Kika.

Also an independent consultant in human rights, constitutional and administrative law, rule and law and governance, he worked with Justice Oagile Dingake of the Botswana High Court and the Residual Supreme Court of Sierra Leone as a consultant researcher and as an assistant researcher with the Democratic Governance and Rights Unit in Cape Town.

Kika started his career at the non-governmental organisation, Justice for Children in Harare, served as Law Clerk to Justice Malcolm Wallis of the Supreme Court of Appeal in South Africa and has served as a Law clerk to the Chief Justice and Judges of Appeal at the Supreme Court

of Namibia in Windhoek, including to former South African Constitutional Court Judge Kate O'Regan, who acts on that bench.

The youngest of four children of a Malawian father and Mozambican mother, Kika is the first in his family to go to university. "That alone motivates me to break boundaries. I had a full and very happy childhood but I was not born into privilege and opportunity... I keep going and renewing my aspirations as I reach each mountain peak. I want to make my mother proud. She toiled to keep me going when my father died in 2001... [Others] have supported me along the way." He added that he was fortunate to have had many role models to look up to.

At UKZN, senior students Siboniso Cibane, Ntokozo Qwabe, Qhekile Nyathi, Aslam Moola, Lukhona Mnguni, Tafadzwa Chiposi and Prathik Mohanlaal gave him "energy, strength and so much hope."

Interestingly, almost all of these students ended up at Oxford, Harvard, Cambridge and Edinburgh. I was fortunate to have looked up to the right people. Then the people who have made it in the Law, including Justice Wallis whom I subsequently worked for, gave me tips and insights that helped me navigate the path, and the aspiration to get where they reached kept and keeps me going," said Kika.

Constantly reaching for the next goal, he received more than 25 academic accolades during his studies.

*"Though I do not have technical competence in power systems, I am very passionate about the area, and I hold the firm belief that you don't need expertise in an area to start a venture in that field. I think solar energy is the future of power."*

"I received ... the Kaufman Fellowship at Harvard Law School, which recognises exceptional potential in a public service career. I chose to use that award to do a year of constitutional and human rights litigation with the ZLHR instead of using it in the United States or anywhere else in the world."

Kika credits UKZN for starting him on his path in life. The only thing he would have done differently is to incorporate entrepreneurship and business management into his studies.

"I really want to learn more about those fields and I am slowly moving towards setting up a start-up in energy generation. Though I do not have technical competence in power systems, I am very passionate about the area, and I hold the firm belief that you don't need expertise in an area to start a venture in that field. I think solar energy is the future of power."

While he describes himself as a social introvert, Kika loves the performing arts and travel. "Travelling is a form of education. I also love music – a lot! I collect and play music, especially from African countries, and I like watching performing arts." ■

– Bheki Mbanjwa





# THE HOSPITAL WHERE #BADATTITUDES MUST FALL

Nokwethemba Mtshali-Hadebe has brought extraordinary change to a public sector hospital by listening to its staff.

**T**wo years ago, at the age of 30, Dr Nokwethemba Mtshali-Hadebe was asked to step in as Acting Head of Bertha Gxowa hospital in Germiston, Gauteng. As the youngest hospital CEO in the country, her age caused a stir, but she has been remarkably effective.

When she was formally appointed to the position last year she had already begun to make her mark. Like many state-run hospitals, Bertha Gxowa has its share of resource and management challenges, issues that Mtshali-Hadebe is painfully aware of. Indeed, her frustration at trying to work around these issues was partly to blame for her departure from Clinical Medicine in 2010.

Mtshali-Hadebe grew up in Nhlazatshe and Empangeni as part of a large family, and, with a Medical degree from UKZN and an MBA from Wits to her name, is a self-confessed “over-achiever”. She says she chose Medicine because of a “deep passion for helping others. My current work is an extension of it. I’m now healing from a health systems perspective [that gives me] the opportunity to have a broader impact.”

One of the issues she tackled at the hospital was staff attitudes to work. Dialogue revealed that they felt demotivated and unappreciated. Continuous recognition for good work thus became part of her new approach. Also important has been the creation of a blame-free culture that allows staff to communicate honestly where things have gone wrong.

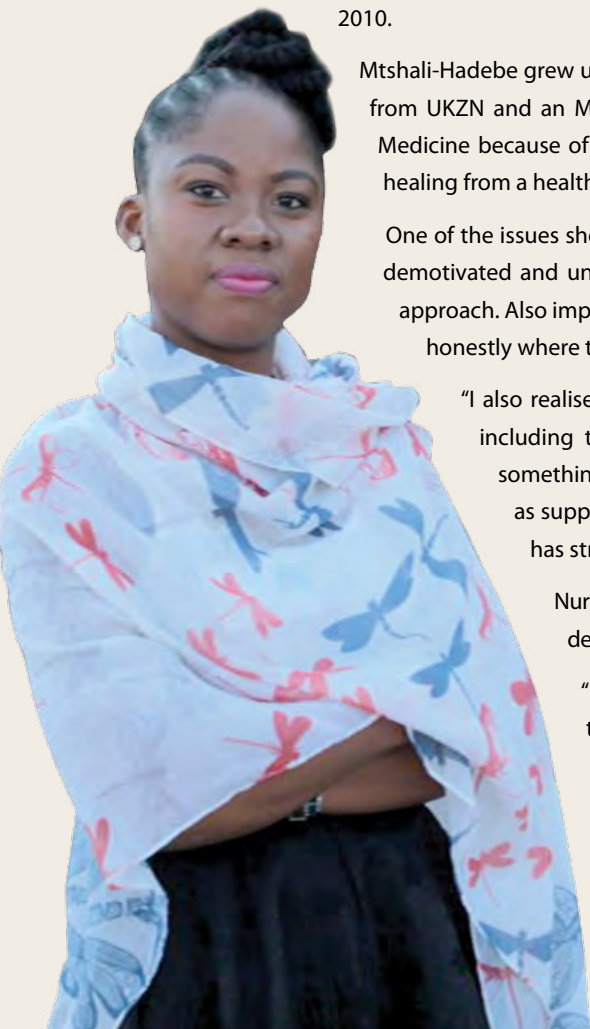
“I also realised that we needed to increase management visibility in the different service areas, including the wards. The culture was that management is only seen in these areas when something has gone wrong; it was never a positive sign. My team and I do weekly walkabouts as support visits and also as part of assessing compliance with National Core Standards. This has strengthened trust and built confidence.”

Nurses’ Day this year was celebrated by giving all 320 nurses personalised certificates that describe their best attributes, and Mtshali-Hadebe says the response was very positive.

“We have seen improvements. It is truly heart-warming to see the initiatives from the nursing staff themselves and their manager that seek to address challenges. An example of this is a #BadAttitudesMustFall initiative.

“I get encouraged by these results, even though there is still a great amount of work that must be done.” ■

– Shelagh McLoughlin





# YOUNG AND DRIVEN TO SUCCEED

Dr Sandile Kubheka is young, successful and relentless in his pursuit of excellence.

**K**ubheka shot to fame in 2013 when at the age of 20, he became South Africa's youngest doctor after completing a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) at UKZN.

This shone the spotlight on this young man from Newcastle with various local and international media vying for interviews.

While he realises the magnitude of his achievement, 24-year-old Kubheka says, "I always feel I can do better and go further. This is important especially in the Medical field where you can never say you know enough, that is why I keep learning and keep reading."

Apart from short courses in Advanced Trauma Life Support and Advanced Medical Life Support, Kubheka is due to write Part one of his Internal Medicine exam in January.

He juggles this with his busy work schedule at a public hospital and admits that he cannot do most of the things people his age enjoy. He has had to cut down on luxuries like traveling and watching television.

After university, Kubheka did his in-service training at Greys, Edendale and Northdale hospitals in Pietermaritzburg. He is now working at Madadeni Hospital in his hometown of Newcastle. This has brought him full circle as years ago when he was a pupil at Siyamukela High School he and a group of fellow learners visited the hospital.

"We were walking around the hospital and I thought this is actually nice. I would love to do this." Until then his first career choice had been computer engineering. However, his passion for helping other people steered him in another direction.

"In first year, I realised there is nothing else I would have done other than Medicine".

Kubheka was 16 when he started university and was the youngest in his class, earning the nickname of neonate (newborn) from fellow Medical students.

Being the youngest has been the norm for Kubheka, the last born in his family, who started school at the age of five. He was promoted from Grade 6 to Grade 7 after only three months in that class as teachers recognised his academic brilliance.

He excelled throughout school and university and earned many accolades along the way. However, success comes at a price: "It is a very big challenge because sometimes you come home after a long day at work, you are exhausted but you have to read. After reading you still have to do normal things like cooking and you have to exercise to keep your body healthy."

But he has no regrets. Saving lives brings him joy. "Life is the most precious thing. There can be no better joy. I believe that all of us as individuals have different paths that we need to follow and this is my gift that I have received from God." He cites his first experience of resuscitating a patient as one of his most memorable on the job so far, although he stresses that every day is memorable.

"I remember how everyone in the ward was working together. Everyone knew their part and you could see that everyone was committed to their job and they were doing their best. The resuscitation was successful."

Despite all his achievements and fame, Kubheka remains humble.

"Nothing beats being yourself. You can have all the attention but if you remain true to yourself and keep being positive and embrace the greatness of people around you that keeps you grounded."

He credits his 60-year old mother, a single parent, for raising him and four older siblings well and has nothing but praise for his *alma mater*. "I think UKZN was the perfect university for me and I am happy that they gave me the opportunity to study there. As the saying 'Inspiring Greatness' goes, I was really inspired." ■

– Bheki Mbanjwa

# RE-ENGINEERING AFRICA'S FUTURE CITIES

A bold new project in UKZN's School of Engineering aims to help African cities to reinvent themselves

According to the Brookings Institute, Africa's cities will grow by nearly 350 million new residents over the next decade. Migration from rural areas and natural growth will be the main drivers of this population surge that will be spurred by increased economic activity.

However, the state of infrastructure in most of Africa's urban areas is likely to be a severe impediment to economic growth. Most cities are overcrowded and have not managed to keep up with rapid urbanisation. They lack adequate housing, transport networks, sanitation, water and power provision; shortcomings that could stymie any economic gains.

Enter UKZN's School of Engineering. Three years ago, it set in motion a bold venture to provide innovative solutions to these infrastructural challenges. The Hub for the African City of the Future, or the AfriHub, is part of an ambitious project conceptualised by School Dean Professor Cristina Trois some years ago after engaging with government and municipalities. Part of the vision – that became the Gateway to Africa Partnership – involved finding a solution to critical skills shortages in engineering training. This resulted in partnerships with McMaster University and Canadian engineering giant Hatch Inc. and its African division, Hatch-Goba.

The other element, the AfriHub, has been integrated into the School of Engineering, where it receives administrative support. Its brief includes assisting the School to become a centre of excellence on sustainable African cities, with a focus on urban and infrastructure engineering.

Dr Rudi Kimmie, who was appointed manager of the unit in November 2016, says that another impetus for the formation of the AfriHub was “the need for transformation in the execution of the School of Engineering's core business.

“In a competitive world, organisations that do not align with changing circumstances and market needs will lag behind their competitors. To remain abreast of developments in the professional sectors, the School needs to anticipate emerging challenges and opportunities,” he says.

“A key challenge for the AfriHub is to present a viable alternative to the ‘silo’ or insular way of teaching and application of knowledge which is at odds with how problems are presented in the ‘real’ world,” he says. “Hence AfriHub promotes multi-disciplinary collaboration ... and the cross-pollination of ideas. This is essential for innovation to occur.”







Kimie says the realignment of the School has shaped the AfriHub, which rests on three pillars: multidisciplinary engagement with a wide range of stakeholders; a deeper understanding of the African context and its challenges and promoting academic activities that will contribute to sustainable cities; and a focus on innovation that can be applied to complex socio-economic contexts.

“The primary function of the AfriHub is to align the knowledge project with the needs of industry and South Africa,” says Kimie, adding that the unit plays many roles in making this happen, including conceptualising, facilitating, resource mobilisation and project management.

Much of this work involves bringing people together to share skills and ideas. Events organised by the AfriHub include leadership seminars, meetings with industry partners, local government capacity building and seminars on topics like financial and computer literacy aimed at students.

One of these engagements, #Cocreatemycity, will involve a transcontinental skills development exercise between UKZN, the Durban University of Technology and Dutch universities TU Delft and Erasmus University (EUR) funded by the Royal Dutch Embassy in South Africa.

The project will link postgraduate students from participating institutions to find solutions to real challenges in the areas

of health, logistics, energy, agri-food, water, education and entrepreneurship. eThekweni Municipality will also be involved and will present the group with critical challenges for their deliberation.

Kimie says the AfriHub presents unique challenges to him as a manager and that no two days are the same. “Besides having to devour vast amounts of information on a daily basis, I interact closely with academic colleagues on possible research projects and presentations.


“Interacting with the private sector and broader civil society provides valuable opportunities and forms a critical part of my daily activities. I’ve recently been co-opted onto the South African Property Owners Association (SAPOA, KZN) branch, Durban Green Corridors and the Iqraa Trust.” ■

– Shelagh McLoughlin



# HOW PLANT BREEDERS ARE BEATING CLIMATE CHANGE

A 'Special Force' of agricultural scientists trained by UKZN's African Centre for Crop Improvement is producing climate-smart 'supercrops' and helping to ensure future food security.



**R**ecent television footage of devastation caused by fires and hurricanes has been a dramatic reminder of the growing hazards of climate change. Less obvious is the looming food security crisis being shaped by changing weather, especially in Africa.

"What's significant about climate change is that it's not just about more heat or one thing changing," says Professor Mark Laing, Director of the African Centre for Crop Improvement (ACCI) based in the School of Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences on UKZN's Pietermaritzburg campus. "It manifests in a variety of changes to existing weather patterns.

"One of these changes is erratic, unpredictable rainfall, a problem for most crops because if there's no rain at the time of flowering, pollination doesn't happen," says Laing, whose Centre trains plant breeders from all over Africa to PhD level.

"Another change is more or less rainfall than usual, both of which can cause crop failure. And across the continent the rainy season is becoming shorter. If the duration becomes too short, crops run out of water before harvest."

Other effects of changing weather include reduced nutrition in crops and more pests and diseases plaguing them. In Africa, where small-scale farmers who battle against immense odds produce most food,

*Dr Learnmore Mwadzingeni, a post-doctoral fellow at the ACCI, examines a new variety of drought-tolerant wheat being developed by the ACCI.  
Credit: Rod Macleod.*

these additional burdens are threatening to topple an already fragile agricultural system.

This is of grave concern given that projections show that the continent will be one of the regions worst hit by climate change in coming decades and its food requirements will rise by up to 60%, driven by population growth.

There is a solution. Plant breeding, the systematic manipulation of plant genetic resources to produce improved crop varieties, is one of the most important tools in our arsenal to survive climate change, and in Africa the ACCI is at the forefront of these efforts.

Laing says that although farmers traditionally developed their own varieties called landraces, the climate is changing faster than they are able to adapt their crops and only scientific breeding can accelerate the process.

Using specialised knowledge and training, plant breeders are developing climate-smart 'supercrops' that can tolerate drought, heat, short rainy seasons, waterlogging and poor soils. These crops are also high-yielding, resistant to pests and diseases, and more nutritious. Importantly, breeders are able to circumvent capricious weather patterns that no longer follow plants' internal schedules.

All of this is being done using classical, low-tech methods of breeding rather than biotechnology alone. In this conventional approach, promising parents are selected and crossed for several generations to produce an improved variety.

Funded by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the ACCI was established 15 years ago to train plant breeders for Africa, in Africa. At the time, the Rockefeller Foundation was paying for African students to study overseas but only one third were returning home.

The ACCI developed a new model for training agricultural scientists in Africa that has been a standout success. So far, it has produced 109 PhDs in plant breeding, with another 29 in the pipeline. The retention rate in Africa has been 100%, and more than 140 new crop varieties have been developed.

Many of these graduates are now in top positions in agriculture, producing world-class research on African crops. Testimony to



The ACCI is publishing a book about its journey that will be available towards the end of the year. To download a free copy, go to [www.acci.org.za](http://www.acci.org.za)

the Centre's success is the funders' decision in 2007 to replicate it as the West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI), based in Ghana.

Laing says to breed climate-smart crops breeders must study the models that hydrologists and meteorologists have worked out, in conjunction with examining the different areas in Africa, current weather patterns, what they're going to shift to and what the primary crops are in those regions.

Their analysis must include what varieties are currently available and what changes need to happen to reach breeding goals in 20 years – the length of time it takes to breed hybrids of a crop like maize, for example. Deciding on what traits are required – drought or heat tolerance, pest and disease tolerance, water logging – will depend on where the breeder is.

"Our goal is to equip them with the skills set that will enable them to breed more than just one crop for rapidly changing conditions, whether it's for more or less rain," says Laing.

While the ACCI's funding is drying up because its current funders are shifting their focus away from capacity development, Laing is confident that they will weather the storm. Because of its reputation, the Centre is attracting a growing number of students who arrive with funding from elsewhere, and this is the model the ACCI will pursue into the future. ■

– Shelagh McLoughlin

# HISTORY-MAKING FILM FESTIVAL MANAGER HAS STARS IN HER EYES!



Thirty-year-old Chipo Zhou has had stars in her eyes for the stage and screen since she was a little girl growing up in Zimbabwe.

**A**s a pupil at the Regina Mundi Convent in Gweru, she acted in plays, did public speaking and took part in organised school debates. Zhou usually had a role to play whenever performing arts were involved – the stage was her “home”.

Zhou’s first job after leaving school was in a Zimbabwean TV soapie, *Small Houses Saga*, in which she played a mistress and general villain. She made it through one full series but when people started associating her with her on-screen character she called it a day.

Now years down the line she has landed the biggest role of her career thus far – Manager of the Durban International Film Festival (DIFF) as well as acting Director of the Centre for Creative Arts (CCA) within the College of Humanities at UKZN.

Feisty Zhou also has the distinction of being the first woman and the first Black person to manage DIFF. Her responsibilities at the CCA as Acting Director include the CCA’s other three annual festivals - Poetry Africa, Time of the Writer and JOMBA! Contemporary Dance Experience.

Zhou was appointed as DIFF manager in April 2017 and so had very little time to get her act together before the 10-day festival opened in July. She paid tribute to her “great support team” for the success of the event which attracted around



50 000 people. And while there’s no doubt it was a team effort, the bottom line is the buck stops with her, a big challenge for this young woman who nevertheless seems to relish pressure.



After her short TV soapie stint, Zhou worked in a variety of capacities in Zimbabwe before deciding to study in Cape Town. “I enrolled at AFDA, now the School of Creative Economy, and after finishing my Honours degree and graduating *cum laude*, I worked at the School for four years as a postgraduate studies co-ordinator.” AFDA is the South African School of Motion Picture Medium and Live Performance.

“I learned a lot about editing, film direction, camera work, and technical directing for TV and studio work.”

“During my time there I organised the South African Communication Media Conference which added to my experience and made me realise the value of academics as stakeholders in the industry. I also managed the two AFDA film festivals held annually.”

*"I learned a lot about editing, film direction, camera work, and technical directing for TV and studio work."*

She applied for the post at DIFF and was over the moon when she got the nod. Her appointment at the CCA – which organises the festival – was an added bonus which has added enormously to her responsibilities.

Zhou said 1 499 films were submitted for DIFF this year through official submissions and she sourced a further eight. A total of around 200 films were eventually selected for screening at a variety of venues in and around Durban.

Side shows to the main event included a film mart where producers could pitch their projects to potential financiers; an industry programme in which film makers network; a Talents section for emerging writers; Wavescapes featuring free surfing movies, a high schools day; a micro budget film section and an outreach programme in which local film makers participated.

"The outreach event included screenings at Max's Lifestyle in KwaMashu – a first for DIFF! It worked really well as it provided a cultural experience which I believe is so important for our international visitors."

Zhou said films for the festival were very carefully selected. "I think a lot of youngsters are moulded by what they see on screen – be it television, the cinema, cell phones, PCs or lap tops.

"We are a generation of consumers; we consume everything on our screens. I grew up wanting to be on TV because of the shows I had watched. The images motivated me and that's what I wanted.

"So everyone on the DIFF selection panel is highly conscious of the impact the films may have on the viewing public and this greatly influences our choices."

This year's theme was Transit Tales with many submissions featuring stories about migrants. Next year's theme is still under discussion but the focus would be on creating awareness about a relevant social issue – something that speaks to people.

"I am looking forward to next year's festival as it will be a lot less hectic for me and I'll have sufficient time to plan. I want to lock down as much as I can in advance – in fact we have already started with the call for submissions having gone out in October."

Zhou's goal for 2018 is to showcase Durban a lot more. "I feel Durban has amazing facilities – similar to Cannes in that it is at the seaside and has the ambience and infrastructure. But I don't think we are using the facilities adequately. Most of our films are screened at venues in Durban hotels and shopping malls whereas we need to rather integrate them deep into our culture, into society.

"I feel like we haven't penetrated our local communities or involved them as much as we could have. So I want to see that involvement grow. I believe that will boost tourism as visitors will arrive attracted not only by the excellent films but also for the total experience which is rooted in the social lifestyles of local communities.

"In Cannes the whole community is involved – it's a really big event which everyone gets excited about and that's what I want for Durban. Once you have local buy in it's easier to pull international audiences."

What are her hopes and dreams for next year's Festival?

"I want to see Durban come to a stand still for the 10 days of DIFF and for the public to roll up in their numbers to support the festival making it one big fiesta!" ■

– Gregory Dardagan





# THE GRIOT

## – IT'S TOUGH BEING AN ALUMNUS

*Keyan G. Tomaselli\**

Being an alumnus is tough nowadays. Universities lurch from crisis to crisis, a few anarchists torch their own facilities and the endemic corruption mirrored at national level is sometimes replicated at micro levels as is indicated in the alleged sale of student places in the UKZN Medical School. The costs of running universities go up as security consumes more and more of the pie, as do associated admissions investigations and rebuilding. Literally, large aggressive Hawks in black suits were on the job in the wake of the placement scam, sequestering computers and doing forensics. University public images are tarnished and otherwise supportive alumni question their fundraising efforts.

**V**ice-Chancellors are everyone's target, yet the honest ones are trying to clean up the mess. Spare a thought for their stress, the threats levelled against them, the trauma of fire bombings and intimidation. It takes a special breed of South African to do this job. Albert van Jaarsveld's office was fire bombed, as was the whole building from where this magazine is produced. He and his traumatised staff hunkered down and did their jobs no matter what. Students marched on Adam Habib's (Wits) residence. Jonathan Jansen's (UFS) courageous reconciliatory efforts unraveled on a rugby field. And, Max Price of UCT can certainly take a punch. Everyone had an opinion of how things should have been handled. A group of UCT alumni tried to have Price deposed. No one had any solutions, least of all the state that was itself then under siege.

Amongst alumni, some who participated in the fallist movement are hopefully now more reflective. But most have different memories of their *alma maters*, including intervarsity rugby matches; Rag, which was a week-long carnival; and periodic anti-apartheid protests that drew forth sjambokking

## The UKZN Griot

and being shot at by the police. In those days many of our VCs and some Council members were at the front of the protest marches. Like Natal University's (NU) Pieter Booysen, they took the heat with us students and staff, but not from them.

We survived spies, *impimpis*, agent provocateurs and assassinations, though NU's Rick Turner and Wits' David Webster were amongst the casualties. Thousands got to know the inside of prison cells and generals interrogated some of us, no less.

Many alumni supported the cause. Many did not. It does not matter anymore. The progressives won the day. That was when the institutions of the new society were put in place. We have all benefitted from the latter. Though now under grievous siege the signs are that the new institutions will reassert themselves once the new Guptonian arch colonists are brought to account. As beneficiaries of both the old and new societies, we all owe our *alma maters* debts of gratitude. The longer UKZN history has yet to be critically assessed, but it too has emerged positively out of many difficult periods, most recently the problematic merger and then fallism, arson and other threats.

Alumni need to take an interest in the institutions that educated them, to ensure that the task of rebuilding continues and survives the new attacks, and to restore the value of public service, and work with students who want to earn their degrees and make a societal contribution. Alumni have the privilege of hindsight. This is a priceless vantage point to be shared with youngsters who have become disillusioned with the contemporary moment.

Nations are not made in a day. Ours is very young and requires sensible heads to make a difference. Rebuilding is a long-term process and we all need to make active contributions. The Organisation for Undoing Tax Abuse, for example, was

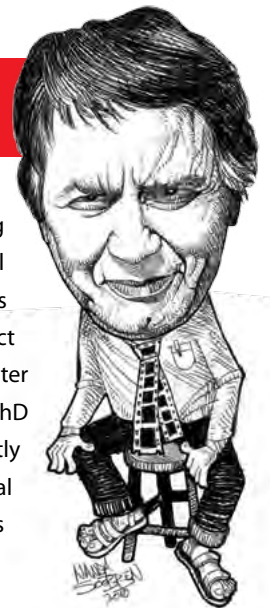
Keyan G Tomaselli is a UKZN Professor Emeritus and Fellow; and Distinguished Professor at the University of Johannesburg. His *alma mater* is Wits.

\* Disclaimer: The views expressed in this column are the author's own.

inaugurated to oppose the outsourcing of our highways to new imperial interests. Successive finance ministers have lost their jobs trying to protect the Treasury. Our own former Minister of Higher Education, and UKZN PhD graduate, Blade Nzimande, has valiantly promoted the Humanities and Social Sciences when they too are under stress globally.

South Africa, like societies everywhere in the current conjuncture is betwixt and between. New orders are struggling to rise to the surface. Old orders are digging in. Contestation is the principle of history. This is what is meant by the revolutionary slogan "*A luta continua*".

It takes good men and women, all genders, and our Vice-Chancellors to do something. And, they are doing it. Alumni are part of this broader constituency. UKZN salutes its alumni and its VC. ■



# A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

To celebrate a centenary of education, UKZN published *100 years of Higher Education: The University of KwaZulu-Natal*, a souvenir coffee table book in 2012. The book traces the origins of Higher Education in the province and includes archival photographs dating back to the turn of the century. Here are a few extracts ...



1. Foundation stone laid by the Duke of Connaught, 1 December 1910.
2. Students arriving at Salisbury Island campus, 1964.
3. Frank Waring, Minister of Indian Affairs (left), laying the foundation stone of the University of Durban-Westville, August 1969.
4. Professor Marie-Louise Newell with King Goodwill Zwelithini who was honoured as the Africa Centre for Health and Population Studies' first Patron.
5. UKZN Graduation procession, April 2010.
6. A student march at UDW, 1973.
7. Student leader and founder of the South African Students' Organisation, Steve Biko.





1. Howard College under construction, 1929.
2. Dr Mabel Palmer with members of the first 'non-European' class.
3. The first PhD recipients at UDW awarded on 22 April 1978 were Dr A Barnabas, Doctor of Science (left) and Dr A Ramphal, Doctor of Education. They are congratulated by Director of Indian Education (extreme right), Mr GK Nair.
4. Salisbury Island library.
5. Dr Zweli Mkhize, Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, was installed as the second Chancellor of the University of KwaZulu-Natal at a special inauguration ceremony held on 19 August 2009. Dr Mkhize was capped by the Chair of Council, Mac Mia.
6. Professor Brenda Gourley and former President Nelson Mandela unveiling the new name plaque for the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine in 2000.



For information on purchasing a copy of *100 years of Higher Education: The University of KwaZulu-Natal*, please contact Kanthakumari Soobramoney:  
Telephone: 031 260 1604 or email: [Soobramoneyk1@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:Soobramoneyk1@ukzn.ac.za)

# UKZN ALUMNI AMONG THE TOP 200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS

A number of UKZN alumni are listed in the *Mail & Guardian's* prestigious Top 200 Young South Africans for 2017.

## Science & Technology

### Dr Hlumani Ndlovu

Lecturer: Integrative Biomedical Science at the University of Cape Town

 @HlumaniN

**D**r Hlumani Ndlovu is a lecturer in Integrative Biomedical Science at the University of Cape Town, doing research into diseases that impact South Africans and Africans as a way to solve some of society's most pressing problems.

"My special area of focus is on understanding the factors that cause tissue inflammation and damage using tuberculosis and drug-induced liver injury as models of tissue pathology," he explains. "Through this work, I hope to identify factors that trigger excessive tissue damage and find ways to target these factors with repurposed drugs as an adjunctive therapy, in conjunction with standard treatment regimens."

Ndlovu completed his first BSc in biomolecular technology *cum laude* at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He subsequently pursued postgraduate studies, completing his honours and master's degrees in Biochemistry (both with distinction) at the same institution. He went on to do a PhD in immunology at the University of Cape Town and took two postdoctoral training fellowships. He is a member of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Collaboration for TB Vaccine Development, and has published several papers in respected journals, with more in press.

Ndlovu is no stranger to navigating uncharted territory. "I remember when I started my PhD, one of my mentors left the lab to pursue other interests elsewhere," he says. "I had moved from the University of KwaZulu-Natal to the University of Cape Town to broaden my horizons and to undertake research in a new discipline. With the little training I had received, I had to

steer the ship alone to ensure I met all my milestones and completed my PhD in record time. I learnt by trial and error and I was not afraid to ask for help from colleagues when I struggled to solve some of the problems."

He cautions young South Africans planning on pursuing a career in scientific research to approach the discipline with circumspection. "I have learned to expect more failure than success, but I take every failure as an opportunity to learn new things and invent new solutions to problems," he says. "Success is on the other side of failure and only those who don't surrender in the face of challenges can enjoy the fruits of their hard work."

Ndlovu has a strong leadership record, having completed the UCT Emerging Student Leaders Program; he was a member of the IDM Education Task Team, and was one of the Top 100 Brightest Young Minds in 2013.

He also has an impeccable community engagement record, having co-founded Dikakapa Everyday Heroes Initiative, a registered nongovernmental organisation that aims to inspire the next generation of young South Africans through information sharing and mentorship. They have published a book with 25 short stories that they give to learners free of charge. ■

– Tamsin Oxford



## Health

### Dr Nokwethemba Mtshali-Hadebe

Chief Executive, Bertha Gxowa Hospital

 @nokwe1021



**B**ecoming the youngest hospital chief executive in South Africa at age 31, Dr Nokwethemba Mtshali-Hadebe takes her role as a trailblazer seriously, saying she's acutely aware that the example she sets should ease the way for those who follow.

This University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) graduate, who always knew she wanted to be in a healing profession, is frank that she's the "poster child for all the stereotypes: I'm Black, I'm young and I'm female". So she's determined to work harder and do better: "I know I have to step up, not just for me but for all those groups. I need to prove these pre-conceived judgments wrong." Mtshali-Hadebe heads up Bertha Gxowa Hospital in Germiston, a district hospital with 767 staff.

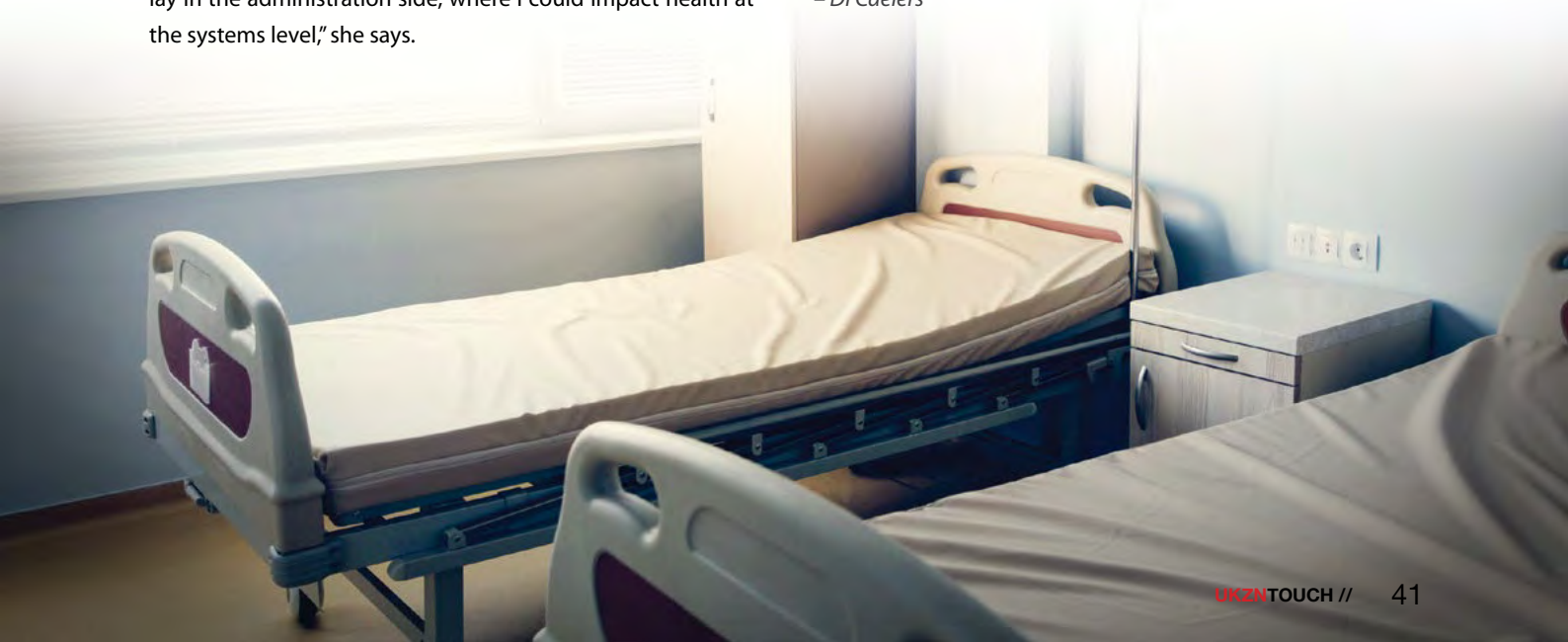
She was appointed permanently last year after being acting chief executive from 2015. At UKZN, Mtshali-Hadebe played an active role in student politics, becoming the University's first female President of the Medical School SRC. After graduating, she completed her internship at the Helen Joseph Memorial Hospital, and her community service at KwaMhlanga Hospital in Mpumalanga. "I didn't know I wanted to be a manager until I began working as a doctor. I slowly realised that my passion lay in the administration side, where I could impact health at the systems level," she says.

After a stint in the private sector, Mtshali-Hadebe was instrumental in driving up standards as clinical manager

at the Far East Rand Hospital, identifying service delivery challenges and risks, and implementing and monitoring improvement plans. She also completed her MBA at the University of the Witwatersrand during this time. "That gave me the confidence to successfully manage people and improve staff satisfaction, while ultimately ensuring better productivity and so better outcomes for patients," she explains.

At Bertha Gxowa Hospital, Mtshali-Hadebe has worked hard to improve staff motivation and commitment through good communication and transparency, establishing merit awards and introducing regular news bulletins. "Every staff member needs to be part of my vision for the hospital, from the doctors to the cleaners. I want them all to know how important they are to our joint success," she says. Mtshali-Hadebe also does weekly walkabouts to keep her finger on the pulse regarding issues and challenges. In her leisure time, she focuses on her family, is an avid reader, and watches documentaries. ■

– Di Caelers



# Health

## Lerato Hlaka

PhD Candidate, University of Cape Town

 [www.linkedin.com/in/lerato-hlaka-b556a580/?ppe=1](http://www.linkedin.com/in/lerato-hlaka-b556a580/?ppe=1)

**L**erato Hlaka (27) is a PhD student in the Division of Immunology, Department of Pathology at the University of Cape Town Medical School. Having been exposed to healthcare through her parents' work at a hospital while she was growing up in Uitenhage, she initially considered studying medicine, but later came to the conclusion that one-on-one consultations would not have the impact she wanted to make.

"I realised I wanted to move beyond a one-on-one situation and focus on carrying out research that could have an impact on a bigger scale," she says. She went on to study biological sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and embarked on her PhD at the University of Cape Town in 2015 with support from the National Research Foundation and South African Medical Research Council. She is also affiliated with South African Women in Science and the Golden Key International Honour Society.

Her research has focused on host-pathogen interactions and how pathogens exploit their host's micro-environment for survival to control and prevent congenital transmission of helminth (parasitic worm) infections. Currently, her research work focuses on identifying and addressing potential host-directed therapeutic strategies to improve host protection

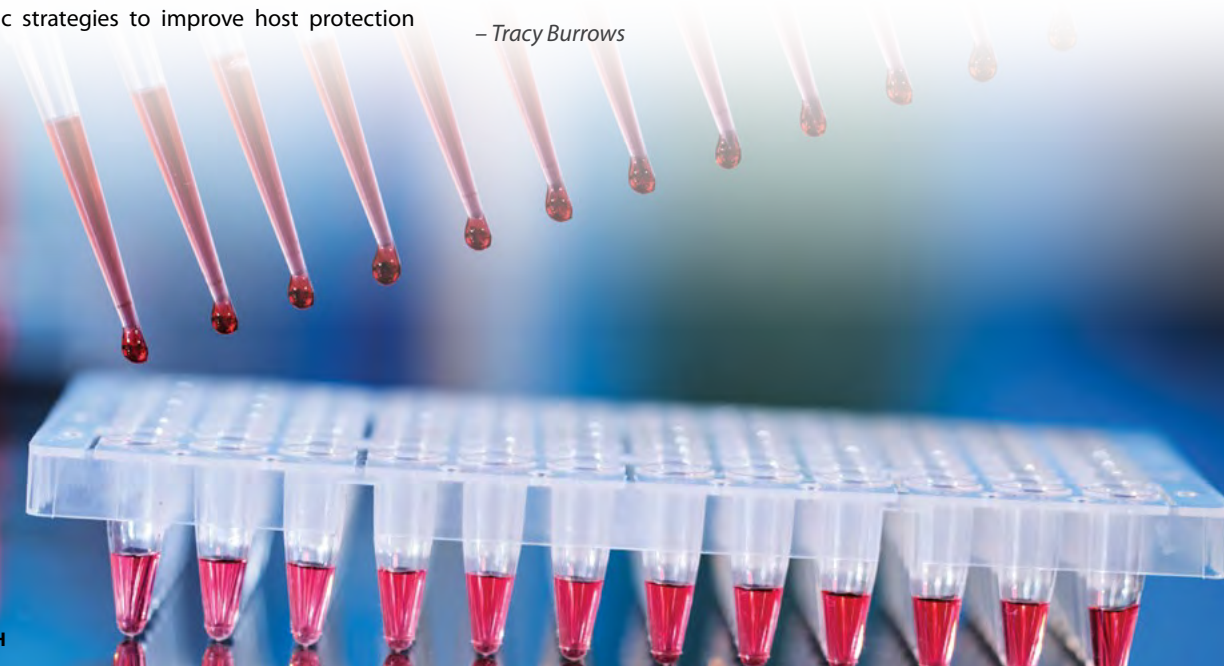
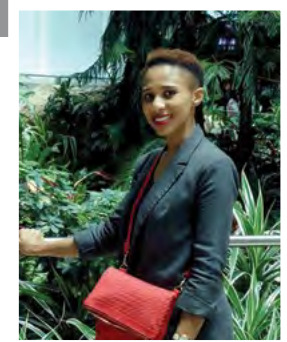
against TB and bilharzia, with a view to uncovering new drug targets for treatment.

In the long term, Hlaka hopes to further her knowledge abroad and return to South Africa to continue her work.

"Ultimately I hope to find a way to open my own unit in the country, and hopefully, to contribute to improving treatment for South Africans," she says. Hlaka is passionate about improving the lives of fellow South Africans, so she also works to mentor and tutor youths, encouraging them to work towards university and careers in the sciences.

"When you grow up in a township, you don't always get encouraged to go to university; so I try to encourage youths to do so, even if it seems difficult. I believe that you have to ask yourself what drives you, what is your purpose, then define an end goal. Even if it's hard, you have to make it work. In my own case, I was fortunate to have been awarded scholarships, but even so, survival is hard sometimes. I pushed, I prayed and that has kept me going toward the finish line. I still have a long way to go. But I will get there," she says. ■

– Tracy Burrows



# Health

## Natasha Gillespie

Project Co-ordinator: Critical Review Project, Human Sciences Research Council

 @tashakitty88



**S**outh Africa's Constitution protects the rights of people regardless of sexual orientation, but Natasha Gillespie knows that this too often doesn't extend into real life. Committed to improving appropriate and acceptable sexual and reproductive health and HIV services for sexual minorities, she is working to develop a comprehensive training module for inclusion in the curriculum of healthcare students. In South Africa, she says, this type of education should start at primary school level.

Via her PhD in diversity studies, however, she's hoping to start with medical students in a bid to help improve the healthcare experiences of sexual and gender minorities. "I believe one of the most important ways to change the way people treat others is through education," says Gillespie (28) who has been awarded multiple scholarships for her academic achievements, and published and presented her research in international peer-reviewed journals and at local and international conferences. Based at the HSRC research site in Sweetwaters, a semi-rural township outside Pietermaritzburg, she says she sees some of the worst possible treatment of people who are considered "different".

"In most countries, social change usually comes ahead of policy. But in South Africa democracy and our Constitution gave us the policy, and we expected social reform to

follow. "There is still so much oppression, like corrective rape for example, that it's clear policy is not translating into action," she says. Gillespie also manages a multi-national research project incorporating seven eastern and southern African countries. Her work takes place in South Africa, Namibia, Malawi, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe, so she travels extensively. Through this work, she helps map the sexual health and HIV services for men who have sex with men. "These are among society's most repressed groups, and I hope my extensive research and publications, reflecting their lived experience, can be used to inform essential policy development," she says.

"Sometimes it's difficult for me to understand how one human can treat another so badly just because of sexual orientation. But I know that data is a vital start to policy development that will ensure protection, and we are beginning the data collection phase now. It's a relatively new field, but one in which I believe I can really help make a difference," says Gillespie. ■

– Di Caelers



# Justice and Law

## Silindile Buthelezi

Lecturer, Commercial Law Department, University of Cape Town

 @Silindile\_N

**S**ilindile Buthelezi loved debating and public speaking in high school, and her experiences in these activities piqued her interest in law. "Growing up, I also always knew that I wanted to make some difference or contribution in the world," she says.

"I knew that being a lawyer would create an opportunity to make a difference, irrespective of what area of law I chose to specialise in." Buthelezi holds both an LLB and two LLM degrees from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and from University College in the UK with merit.

She is an admitted attorney of the High Court of South Africa and has practised at a leading corporate and commercial law firm. She also previously worked as a law researcher for the judges of the Western Cape High Court, and is currently employed as a lecturer at the University of Cape Town's Faculty of Law.

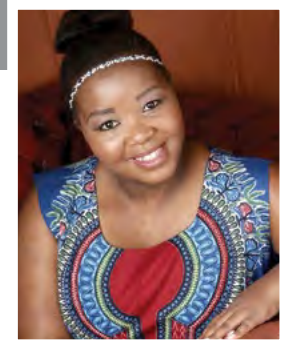
Buthelezi's main areas of research and expertise are within the field of banking and financial sector regulation, and her recent LLM thesis focus was on the current financial sector regulatory reforms in South Africa. She is an emerging academic expert in the field of banking and finance law in South Africa and intends contributing to the development of law and knowledge within banking and finance in South Africa, as well as contributing to the economic development of the country through advising the government on matters relating to policy and legal regulatory issues within the banking and finance sector.

"The biggest challenge in my field is being a young Black woman and emerging academic," she says. "Banking law is a very male-dominated industry and one of my main challenges right now is gaining visibility when it comes to my research and having people actually take what I have to say seriously."

"Law is such a competitive field and I have noticed that many people do not pursue opportunities as they believe they are just not good enough, particularly when they compare themselves to their fellow classmates or colleagues," explains Buthelezi. "They miss many amazing opportunities simply because they discount themselves before even applying for the scholarship or position. Even if you have doubts as to whether you will be accepted into the LLB programme at your dream university – apply anyway. Push through the doubt and pursue your dreams. The worst that could happen is that you'll get a no, and if it's a no you'll just move on. But it could actually be a yes, and then you'll be living your dream."

Buthelezi has been selected as one of 1 000 participants from sub-Saharan Africa for the 2017 Mandela Washington Fellowship programme, part of the Young African Leaders Initiative, and mentors high school students who intend entering the legal profession. ■

– Kerry Haggard

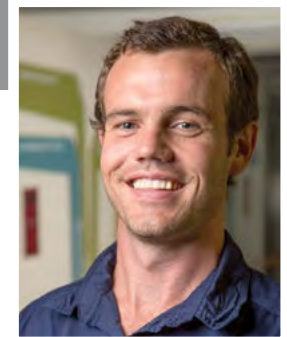


# Environment

## Greg Schreiner

Sustainability Scientist, CSIR

 [linkedin.com/in/greg-schreiner-40437217](https://www.linkedin.com/in/greg-schreiner-40437217)



**G**reg Schreiner was a self-confessed mediocre scholar throughout his school career, and for his first two years of university. There, he shifted between courses, handed in assignments late and paid the price by doing supplementary exams. But then he sat down and did some serious introspection, realising that he needed to do something that he was actually passionate about.

An undergraduate degree in environmental sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal followed. Then honours at the University of Cape Town. And then a MPhil in environment at Cambridge University. In the exploding field of environmental sciences, Schreiner's focus meant he got snapped up for a job as a sustainability scientist at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

Despite his young age, in 2015 Schreiner helped to co-ordinate the Strategic Environmental Assessment for Shale Gas Development in the Central Karoo. The two-year project was the largest scientific assessment undertaken in this country's history. While fracking is hugely controversial, the guidelines put in place by Greg and other scientists, alongside their professional focus on facts, resulted in a series of publications on fracking that are taken as fact in any debates around the process.

That work saw the CSIR award him with its Excellence Award for Emerging Leader. Undeterred by the workload, Schreiner also oversaw the establishment of a programme to offer environmental services to previously disadvantaged communities.

The six interns from that programme brought critical skills to communities that otherwise always bear the brunt of environmental issues. For this work, Greg was given the CSIR's Excellence Award for Human Capital Development. Now he's working under one of South Africa's most famous environmental scientists, Dr Bob Scholes, doing his PhD. Starting in June, this will be looking at how to translate good science into policy. Key to that is in being able to communicate well, especially in complicated fields. As an accredited commercial mediator with the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution in London, this is now second nature.

One to understate his achievements, Schreiner hopes that his work has done its small part in helping South Africans to be more aware of environmental issues. His particular wish is for people to be more aware of the consequences that their actions have on the natural world around them. That's a critical realisation in a drought-affected country. It is then down to citizens to work with scientists and government to make smart, deliberate choices, based on evidence. This is Greg's passion, and one that keeps him hammering away to create the evidence on which decisions should be made. But that doesn't get him out of bed in the morning. Intrigue does. That and the need to train intensely for a surfski race between Richard's Bay and Durban in October. ■

– Siphon Kings

# Business & Entrepreneurship

## Philani Sangweni

Chief Operating Officer, Fundi

 [www.fundi.co.za](http://www.fundi.co.za)



If he were handed a magic wand to wave, Philani Sangweni (34) says he'd use it to "get the unions, government and the private sector to agree on a plan to upskill the unemployable young people of our country, then get them to work lock step to implement the said plan."

It is clear that youth development is close to Sangweni's heart and he works hard to lend a helping hand in the personal and professional development of the young people he crosses paths with.

"I'm part of the partnerships committee at Tirisano Foundation, where we currently work with two schools in Soweto on equipping learners with necessary life skills to enable them to take control of their future. We intend to create and grow partnerships with other organisations in order to scale the impact we have thus far," he shares.

This hard-working father of two is a believer in the saying that charity begins at home and this is why a big part of his daily motivation stems from the place where he grew up. "I grew up in a very close knit community in KwaMashu M Section. Despite it being a highly violent and crime-ridden community,

I've always had people in the community who, from a very young age, consistently told me that I would achieve something that would make all of them proud. I'm still not sure why they said this to me, but it has certainly been my biggest motivation," says Philani.

Amid all his commitments with supporting the young people he works with and being a father, Philani still finds time to develop himself academically. He holds a bachelor of accounting qualification from UKZN and a qualification from the Wits Business School executive development programme, and is currently pursuing an executive MBA at Inead. He explains that his position at Fundi (formerly known as Eduloan) sees him "leading a team that is currently piloting a cashless campus solution at schools and certain university campuses, with the intention of helping them raise additional revenue from fees from the transactions that occur in and around their campuses." ■

– Simphiwe Rens





## Civil Society

### Silomo Khumalo

Activist Legal Researcher, Section 27

 @silomomk

It was in late 2014 and early 2015, along with colleagues from Section 27, that Silomo Khumalo visited the 22 public special schools for visually impaired learners in South Africa. The report on these visits, titled *Left in the Dark*, is an indictment on the education system for children with disabilities. Khumalo describes the time conducting this research as greatly upsetting for him as a completely blind person.

Khumalo is an activist legal researcher at Section 27, where he has been working for more than two years. From Clermont, outside of Durban, Khumalo has been blind since the age of 9, and despite the challenges he faced at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, he completed an honours degree in public policy and a law degree.

During Khumalo's time at university he involved himself in various activist and community causes. As a result, when he finished law school he had already connected with Section

27 through his involvement in Students for Law and Social Justice (SLSJ) and began to assist the organisation's burgeoning work on education for children with disabilities.



He was awarded a Section 27-SLSJ fellowship to work at Section 27, and was involved in the production of research reports, book chapters and opinion pieces. Khumalo has also actively thrown himself into giving educational and motivational talks on his experiences as a person with a disability in South Africa. His commitment to social justice activism is a very necessary contribution to the struggles for disability rights and inclusive education. The 30-year-old will be working as a clerk to Justice Johan Froneman at the Constitutional Court from July 2017. ■


– Sifiso Buthelezi



# Civil Society

## Thandolwenkosi Mthembu

Urban Designer

 @let\_thando\_be

**T**handolwenkosi Mthembu wants to design African cities that serve their populations and that can grow to support rapid urban development. “I want to do more than just design buildings; I want to change and affect people’s lives,” she says.

Mthembu is studying for an MSc in city design for developing countries at Oxford Brookes University in England on a prestigious Chevening Scholarship. She aims to improve areas like her hometown of Hammarisdale in KwaZulu-Natal. “My hometown is riddled with poverty and other social ills, and my academic training has brought to light the urban development issues that the society I live in faces.”

She hopes her “innovative but sympathetic design approach”, coupled with a strong interest in decreasing the effects of poverty, will fuel her career in the built environment.

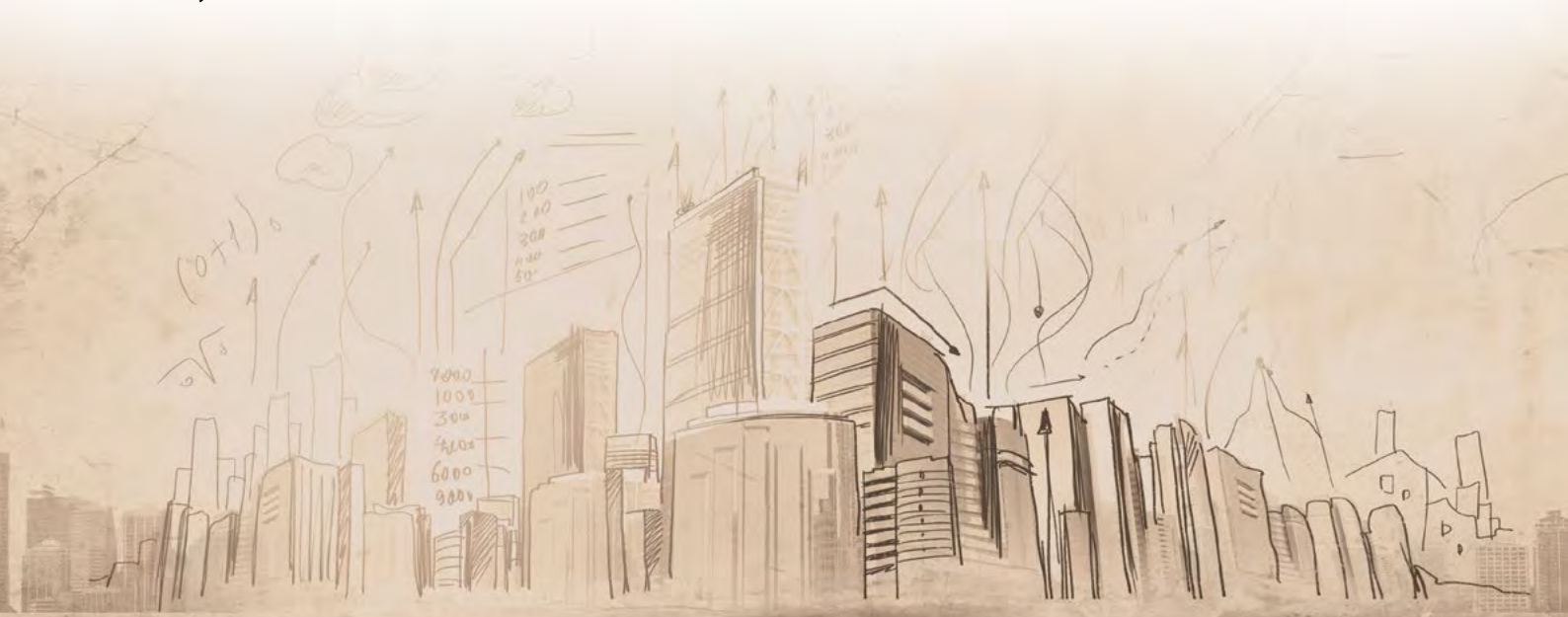
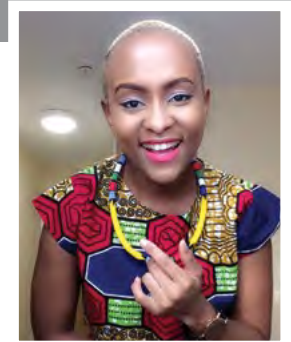
She previously studied architecture at the University of Cape Town on a scholarship from the Allan Gray Orbis Foundation. While there she fell pregnant with her son, so she completed her degree at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, closer to her family.

Her experiences of poverty and being a single mother have shaped her. “I’m committed to the transformation of the spaces in which Africans live, and I’m a strong advocate for equal opportunities for women in male-dominated fields such as architecture, and for transformation of all issues around race and the empowerment of women,” she says.

In 2015 she was part of an international workshop on reshaping the socio-ecological landscapes of Kya Sands informal settlement. She is also the founder of Power Generation, a youth organisation empowering the disadvantaged through education, sports and cultural activities.

Before going to the UK she lectured in architecture at Durban University of Technology. ■

– Lesley Stones



# Politics & Government

## Makgola Makololo

Acting Deputy Director General for Energy, Department of Public Enterprises



**B**eing smart, hardworking and having a fascination for how things work has seen Makgola Makololo leap from village girl in Limpopo to qualified electrical engineer at Eskom and Sasol, and finally to the public sector to gain an understanding of policy-making and regulation.

Now 34, Makololo is the acting Deputy Director General for Energy in the Department of Public Enterprises, leading a professional team of financial analysts, economists and engineers. Makololo believes radical delivery of energy on the African continent will be a key enabler for both human development and economic prosperity.

"I'm often asked why I chose to join the public sector rather than run my own business. I derive great satisfaction from being of service to others, and have dedicated my life to doing so. I believe policymaking is the foundation of how society develops, and as young people we need to actively influence policy formation. It is in realising the impact that it has on lives that I find fulfilment and motivation," she says.

Makololo considers the public sector an intense place to work, particularly in the translation of policy into actual programmes that define service delivery. "Politicians and bureaucrats speak different languages, and the success of public servants can be defined by their ability to translate policy and political speak into actionable programmes. As a highly technical person, I had to find ways to make a transition and to navigate between these two spheres of operation to be able to be effective in serving the executive."

Makololo was elected as one of the top 80 emerging leaders in science and technology in Africa and the Middle East by the US state department, and participated in TechWomen in 2013, an exchange programme for women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. ■

– Linda Doke



# SPORTS ROUND UP

## WOMEN SCORE THE GOALS

**Women's soccer is taking centre field at UKZN with world-class coaching and players coming up the ranks and scoring goals for the University and South Africa.**

**B**anyana Banyana and UKZN Soccer coach, Ms Thinasonke Mbuli started coaching in 2008 at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) after being given a shot when the coach left the team. A senior soccer player at the time, Mbuli grasped the opportunity with both hands and hasn't looked back.

She brushed up on her skills by doing coaching courses and has completed a South African Football Association (SAFA) Level 1 Coaching Course, a FIFA Grassroots Coaching Course and has a Confederation of African Football (CAF) A Licence.

Thirty-five-year old Mbuli, from Piet Retief in Mpumalanga, has a Sports Management qualification from DUT and represented South Africa on tour with Banyana Banyana in Zimbabwe in September 2017.

Highlights in her stellar career include being Head Coach for the University Sports South Africa (USSA) Women's National Team that played in the World Student Games in Taipei. "Our girls did very well, losing in the Semi-Final to Japan," said Mbuli.

She looks up to Coach Siyabonga Malinga, formerly with the Golden Arrows Youth soccer team, who coached and mentored her, equipping her for world-class soccer, and supports Spain's FC Barcelona, for their "style of play".

Now in her second year of coaching at the University, Mbuli loves working with young talent at UKZN thanks to their enthusiasm and sporting prowess. "What I enjoy about coaching is developing players and helping them to improve."

She is currently coaching UKZN Sports Science student Ms Kholosa Biyana (UKZN, USSA, and Banyana Banyana) for the Council of Southern Africa Football Associations (COSAFA) Tournament.



"I've coached Kholosa for the past five years. She was studying at DUT while I was coaching there, and after finishing her diploma in 2016, we made sure we recruited her for UKZN!" Mbuli said.

"Kholosa's very talented, a hard worker and extremely disciplined. If she can remain humble and grounded, she can go far."

Biyana, who started playing soccer on the dusty streets of Ngcobo in the Eastern Cape, represented Banyana Banyana at their 2017 training camp.

She started playing soccer at a young age in Clarkebury in Ngcobo and went on to play for South Africa in 2015 at the World Student Games in South Korea. She has fond memories of playing mini-tournaments with the boys before joining the Eastern Cape-based Thunderbirds Football club in 2009.

"Being at the Banyana Banyana camp was great. It's something I've always wanted. The next goal is to keep working hard and hopefully I will stay in the team," she said.

A midfielder, Biyana says she enjoys football as it is a team sport and she also gets to meet people and see the world. "On the football field I get to know different people and

understand their different behaviours. I also get to travel the world and learn different languages.

"I enjoy chasing the ball, passing it around, taking on people and taking shots at goal," she said.

Biyana balances being on the football field and hitting the books by managing her time. "Every day after training I make sure I go to the library to study and make sure I do assignments as early as possible."

UKZN's Mark Bashe of is proud of the achievements racked up by students in a wide variety of sporting codes, but singled out Mbuli and Biyana for their knockout performances on and off the field. ■

## UKZN Team Highlights

In July 2017 the team played in the USSA Football National Club Championship and achieved position 5 out of 20 institutions, a good result. The team also qualified for 2018 Varsity Football for the first time. Currently the team plays in the SAFA KZN Sasol Provincial League.

## Challenges

This is a thin squad that needs to recruit more players.

– Raylene Captain-Hasthibeer

*Thinasonke Mbuli (right) coaching Kholosa Biyana at UKZN's Westville campus.*





Professor Colleen Downs.

## SA-Canada Trilateral Chair

Words and photograph: Christine Cuénod

Professor Colleen Downs, South African Research Chair in Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape, has been awarded a Trilateral Research Chair through an initiative jointly funded by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and South Africa's National Research Foundation (NRF). The initiative seeks to invest in the development of research in sub-Saharan Africa through the establishment of trilateral partnerships involving researchers from Canada, South Africa, and another sub-Saharan African country.

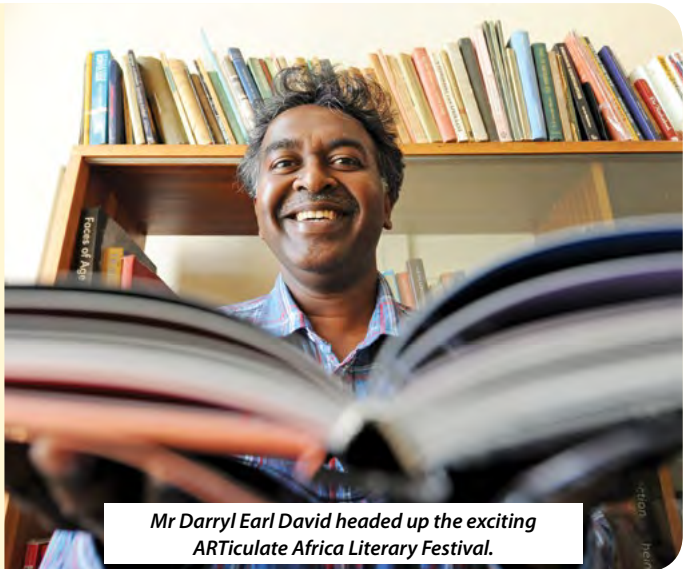
Selected from a large pool of strong proposals, the South Africa-Canada-Uganda project in which Downs is involved was awarded CA \$1 million for up to five years. Downs and colleagues Professor Colin Chapman (McGill University), and Patrick Omeja (Makerere University Biological Field Station, Uganda) will focus on human-wildlife interactions impacting the rural poor of tropical countries.

## Putting Durban on the Literary Map

Words: Melissa Mungroo | Photograph supplied by the Luvvie

UKZN Academic Mr Darryl Earl David curated the exciting ARTiculate Africa Literary Festival at the Durban International Convention Centre (ICC) earlier this year. Founder of the national booktown in the Karoo, David said ARTiculate Africa carries the dreams of the city that is bidding to become Africa's first UNESCO City of Literature and aims to become South Africa's premier international literary festival.

Literary giants who spoke at the Festival included Sunday Times Fiction Prize winners, Sifiso Mzobe (*Young Blood*) and Masanda Ntshanga (*The Reactive*), 2017 Alan Paton Prize winner Greg Marinovich (*Marikana*) and Bongani Madondo (*Sigh the Beloved Country*) a 2017 finalist for the University of Johannesburg Literature Prize.



Mr Darryl Earl David headed up the exciting ARTiculate Africa Literary Festival.



Professor Ben Sartorius.

## Academic Contributes to Global Study on Population Health

Words: Nombuso Dlamini

UKZN's Professor Ben Sartorius contributed to a global study which found that despite a "triad of troubles" in areas of obesity, violence, and mental illness, more lives had been saved throughout the world in the past decade than in the previous comparable period.

Sartorius was a co-author in the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) project which produced six articles in a special series in *The Lancet* journal this year. As a member of the GBD 30-person scientific council he was intimately involved in the annual project – the world's largest scientific collaboration study on population health – which revealed new trends in illnesses, deaths, and risk factors leading to poor health.

## Double Accolade for UKZN at JOMBA!

Words: Melissa Mungroo | Photographs: Val Adamson

Masters in Drama and Performance Studies student Mr JC Zondi received the inaugural JOMBA! Pick of the Fringe award at this year's JOMBA! Contemporary Dance Experience. The award is given to an innovative choreographer from the Fringe to encourage choreographers to create new work.

Alumnus Mr Sifiso "Magesh" Ngcobo, received the JOMBA! Eric Shabalala Dance Champion Award during the Festival. It honours the memory of Eric Mshengu Shabalala, local dancer, choreographer, teacher and one of the founding dancers of the Siwela Sonke Dance Theatre in Durban.



Left: Mr JC Zondi (in red) performs his award-winning work *Intimate* at the JOMBA! FRINGE and right: Winner of this year's JOMBA! Eric Shabalala Dance Champion Award, Mr Sifiso "Magesh" Ngcobo with Ms Lliane Loots.

## Golf Day Funds Bursaries

Words: Indu Moodley

The University's Golf Day 2017 at Cotswold Downs Golf Course in Hillcrest raised R180 000 to fund studies for 18 academically deserving students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Each student received a R10 000 bursary. A total of 108 golfers participated in the event. In his welcome address, UKZN Vice-Chancellor Dr Albert van Jaarsveld said: "This event embodies the partnership that the University enjoys with its alumni, the business community, our service providers and so many friends ... at ... [its] heart ... lies the commitment of all participants ... to make a difference."

Standard Bank has been involved in this initiative for seven years. Representative, Mr Fumani Mathebula said: "We strongly believe that [education is] the cornerstone of a proud and economically active society." Physiotherapy student and bursary recipient, Ms Emihle Dlanjwa thanked the golfers for their generosity, describing the bursary as "an answer to my prayers". She hopes to give back after graduating and inspire other students to pursue their dreams.



Dr Albert van Jaarsveld (standing, fourth from right) and Standard Bank's Mr Fumani Mathebula (standing, third from left) with Golf Day bursary recipients.

## Youngest Dean in South Africa

Words: Ziphezinhle Silindile Biyela | Photograph: Melissa Mungroo



Professor Thabo Msibi.

At 34, Professor Thabo Msibi of the College of Humanities is the youngest Dean in South Africa. Msibi was recently appointed the Dean and Head of UKZN's School of Education.

Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mr Mduzuzi Manana congratulated Msibi saying, "His appointment aptly coincides with our Department's clarion call for the urgent revitalisation of the academic profession in order to speed up the transformation agenda of the Higher Education sector." Msibi boasts expertise in curriculum studies, with a focus on understanding how marginalisation, prejudice, and discrimination impact on people's constructions of their own identities and how people with marginalised identities experience institutions of learning at all levels.

## Top CA Award

Words: Sibonelo Shinga

School of Accounting Economics and Finance graduate Mr Julian Palliam CA (SA) was shortlisted as one of the finalists in this year's South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) Top 35 under 35 competition finalists for 2017.

The Accountancy South Africa (ASA) magazine in partnership with SAICA launched this competition to recognise Chartered Accountants, under the age of 35, not only for their leadership ability, personal determination and drive, but for how they give back to the community.

As the youngest Administrative Managing Director in the Metso Group, Palliam is responsible for the organisation's business deals and 800 employees across the African continent. Through Metso, he works hand in hand with SOS Children's Village, a global organisation that focuses on poor, abandoned and orphaned children.



*Mr Julian Palliam and his family.*

## The Cancer of Corruption

Words: Raylene Captain-Hasthibeer | Photographs: Albert Hirasen



*Dr Navi Pillay and Mphutlane wa Bofelo at the 10th annual Strini Moodley lecture at UKZN.*

Delivering the 10th annual Strini Moodley Memorial Lecture at UKZN, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Dr Navi Pillay said that corruption hits the poor first and hardest, with a direct impact on human rights. She emphasised that corruption plagued not only public offices, but businesses, state-owned enterprises, and the sports arena, among many other sectors.

Pillay, who was Moodley's lawyer, said the renowned activist and founding member of the Black Consciousness Movement in South Africa was a "truly committed freedom fighter and a pillar of integrity and honesty who would not have tolerated corruption." She added that anti-corruption efforts were more likely to be successful if they approached it as a "systemic problem, rather than a problem of individuals."

Poet, cultural worker and social critic, Mphutlane wa Bofelo spoke at the same event on "reclaiming the humanism of socialism to extinguish the flames engulfing the country."

## International Music Degree

Words: Melissa Mungroo



*UKZN Music student Ms Thabile Buthelezi with her grandmother, Ms Zoliwe Buthelezi.*

UKZN Music student Ms Thabile Buthelezi has graduated with an International Master's degree in Dance Knowledge, Practice and Heritage from the Roehampton University in London.

Buthelezi graduated through the prestigious Choreomundus Scholarship, an Erasmus Mundus programme that investigates dance and other movement systems such as ritual practices, martial arts, games and physical theatre, as intangible cultural heritage. The scholarship is offered by a consortium of four universities in Norway, France and Hungary.

She is excited about the future of arts and culture in South Africa. "I have learned a lot under the programme about the importance of preserving our intangible cultural heritage – most importantly on the methodologies and measures that could ensure the safeguarding of such heritage."



## Pharmaceutical Professor Honoured

Words: Nombuso Dlamini

Associate Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences at UKZN, Professor Fatima Suleman has been appointed the Prince Claus Chair of Development and Equity for the theme Affordable (Bio) Therapeutics for Public Health by Utrecht University in The Netherlands. She will hold the position until September 2018.

To formally accept the position, Suleman delivered a lecture titled: Affordability and equitable access to (Bio)Therapeutics for public health on 16 May at the Utrecht University Hall.

During her tenure, Suleman will be conducting research in affordable (bio) Therapeutics in collaboration with scholars at Utrecht University, other scholars in The Netherlands and the World Health Organization (WHO).



Mr Jean-Pierre Desvaux de Marigny - Corobrik Architect Student of the Year.

## First Prize in Architectural Awards

Words: Melissa Mungroo | Photograph supplied: Corobrik

Architecture student Mr Jean-Pierre Desvaux de Marigny won the R50 000 first prize in the Corobrik Architectural Awards. The annual competition has seen considerable changes in how young professionals in the architectural profession approach the built environment.

His award-winning research and proposed intervention focused on the lower uMgeni River, one of Durban's major life sources that is in desperate need of ecological support as it runs past many communities lacking clean water that are unable to use the watercourse because it is so heavily polluted. He proposed an architectural solution located downstream of the Springfield Industrial Park that drew an analogy between the machine-dominated environment and the natural ecosystems within the uMgeni river. Attaching to an existing 440m long pedestrian walkway bridge spanning the width

of the river, the facility hosts a minimal ecological footprint, in addition to providing direct access to the water body to ecologically filter both surface (plastic, rubber and geo-polymers matter) and subsurface (human, industrial and agricultural matter) water pollutants as they pass below.

## Mental Health Research Grant

Words: Nombuso Dlamini

The Director of the College of Health Sciences' Centre for Rural Health, Professor Inge Petersen, and her colleagues, Professor Arvin Bhana of the Medical Research Council and Professor Deepa Rao of the University of Washington, have been awarded a research grant worth US\$2 955 303 over a period of five years by the National Institutes of Mental Health.

The grant entails the establishment of a research consortium with South Africa, Mozambique and Tanzania, titled the Southern African Research Consortium for Mental Health INtegration (S-MhINT).

The Consortium will evaluate the scale-up of an integrated mental health care package for chronic disorders at primary health care level in South Africa and build implementation science and dissemination research (ISDR) capacity in South Africa, Mozambique and Tanzania to implement integrated mental health care at scale.

"While the S-MhINT grant has been awarded to UKZN, it is a collaborative project with the Department of Global Health at the University of Washington, Muhimbili University in Tanzania and Health Alliance International in Mozambique," said Petersen.



Professor Inge Petersen.

## International Recognition for UKZN

Words: Sejal Desai

UKZN has been ranked third out of 16 South African universities rated by the respected world body, University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP). The University was placed 369th among 2 000 Higher Education Institutions across the world.

The URAP 2016-2017 world ranking methodology is based on academic performance and determined by the quality and quantity of scholarly publications and international research collaboration performance. It is considered to be an accurate representation of the academic standing of a university.

## Help for those in Need

Words: Nomcebo Mncube



*Mr Vamisa Nzima.*

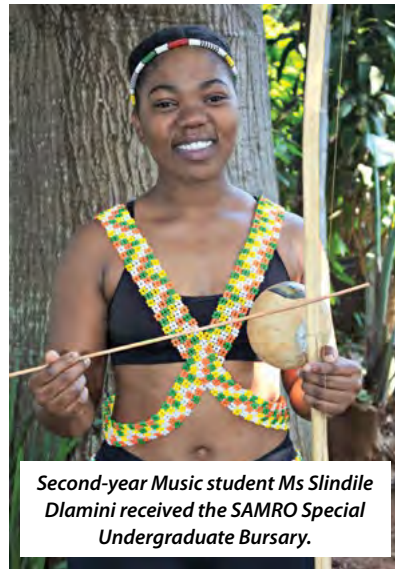
Second year Drama and Performance Studies student Mr Vamisa Nzima dedicates his free time to innovative projects to improve the lives of those in need, particularly fellow students.

One of the projects is an organisation established in response to the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) crisis, known as Movie Night, which raises money to feed hungry and needy UKZN students not awarded funding. "Due to the number of students we have on our list we often end up using money from our own pockets," said Nzima.

He is planning to launch Campus Art Day that will feature musicians and actors, to raise further funds.

## Music Bursary

Words and photograph: Melissa Mungroo



*Second-year Music student Ms Slindile Dlamini received the SAMRO Special Undergraduate Bursary.*

Second-year Music student Ms Slindile Dlamini is the proud recipient of the 2017 Southern African Music Rights Organisation (SAMRO) Special Undergraduate Bursary for study in Music performance. The bursary falls under the Roodepoort International Eisteddfod of South Africa (RIESA) Special Undergraduate Bursary. The R20 000 bursary will enable her to pay her fees and buy costumes and instruments for her concerts and recitals.

Senior Lecturer in the African Music and Dance (AMD) Programme, Dr Patricia Opondo, commented. "We are grateful to SAMRO for awarding bursaries to seven UKZN students in 2017, and for recognising and supporting student achievement in universities throughout South Africa."

# MEET THE CONVOCATION EXECUTIVE

Mr Fanle Sibisi was re-elected as UKZN's Convocation President at the Convocation Annual General Meeting on the Howard College campus in April 2017. Two Council representatives and six Convocation Executive members were also elected. Sibisi is also a National Spokesperson of Alumni and Convocation in the Republic of South Africa.

## **Mr Fanle Sibisi**

### ***PRESIDENT AND CHAIR OF CONVOCATION***

Mr Vusumuzi Wiseman Sibisi, known as Fanle, is currently employed by Msunduzi Municipality as Project Manager: Operations and Public Transport Transformation (IRPTN). He is a member of the UKZN Council, Senate and Foundation Board.

Sibisi is a former employee of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport and a former President of the Student Representative Council (SRC) on the Westville campus. He managed both male and female soccer teams at UKZN, both of which qualified for the South African Student Sports Union (SASSU) national tournament.

Sibisi has served in different structures of governance such as House Committees and Faculty Council as well as in political structures. He served the South African Students' Congress (SASCO) at branch and provincial level as Deputy Chairperson, KZN. He has been the Deputy Chairperson of the African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) for two consecutive terms since 2003 in the Westville branch, Secretary of Ward 32, Moses Mahhida Region, and Executive Member of NEHAWU, KZN Department of Transport. He currently serves as the Regional Secretary of the South African National Civic Association (SANCO).

## **Dr Qiniso Mlita**

### ***DEPUTY PRESIDENT***

Dr Qiniso Lungisa Mlita obtained a BSc in Medical Science and BSc Honours in Biochemistry at the University of Zululand. He also holds an MBChB from UKZN's Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine and is a former President of the Medical School SRC. National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union. He is also a Chairperson of the ANCYL ward 33 in Umbilo.

Mlita plans to complete a Master's in Biochemistry and will then read for his PhD. "I'm very passionate about motivating the youth and I have travelled to many schools and churches in South Africa." He is currently a Medical Officer at Hlabisa Hospital.

## **Ms Fikile Masiko**

### ***CONVOCATION REPRESENTATIVE ON COUNCIL***

Ms Fikile Masiko read for a Bachelor of Social Science Degree in Environmental Studies at the former University of Natal. She served two terms as Secretary of the SRC on the Howard College campus and in a number of student structures on campus, both social and political.

Masiko is currently the Head of Ministry at the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Social Development and serves on the Board of the National Film and Video Foundation under the National Department of Arts and Culture. She is a National Executive Member of the ANCYL and is Provincial Convenor of the ANC Women's League Young Women's Desk.

### **Mr Mnikeni Comfort Phakathi**

#### **CONVOCATION REPRESENTATIVE ON COUNCIL**

Mr Mnikeni Comfort Phakathi attended Dube Community College in Soweto and graduated with a Bachelor of Social Sciences, majoring in Criminology and Psychology at UKZN. He read for his Masters in Conflict Transformation and Peace Studies at UKZN and has attended Advanced Training in Conflict Resolution and Peace Building in Accra, Ghana.

Phakathi balanced his academic responsibilities with a steadfast commitment to the upliftment of fellow students. He served as the Deputy Chairperson of SASCO and was the President of the Howard College SRC. He was also an Elections Committee member for the Department of Cooperative and Traditional Affairs (COGTA).

Phakathi currently holds the position of Deputy Director: Special Projects for COGTA and is proud to serve his *alma mater* as a member of Council, representing Convex.

### **Ms Nqobile Gumede**

#### **TREASURER**

Treasurer of Convex, Ms Nqobile Angel Gumede, cut her teeth in leadership while serving in the Young Communist League (YCL) on the Howard College campus. She balanced studying for a Social Sciences Degree in Community Development and Sociology at UKZN while serving as the ANCYL Treasurer and Secretary.

Understanding the value of Higher Education, Ms Nqobile attained an Honours Degree in Social Sciences, focusing on Public Policy. She spent two terms in the University's Central SRC heading up the International and Marketing portfolios.

Gumede is a member of the National Committee of the YCL and a leader of the ANCYL in her ward. She works at the ANC Caucus in the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature as a researcher for the Governance cluster.

Her plans for the near future include gaining more experience in governance and "making education fashionable", as she puts it, by registering for her Masters, followed by a PhD.

### **Mr Latha Wiseman Dlamini**

Mr Latha Wiseman Dlamini works for Msunduzi Local Municipality specialising in organisational compliance and local government performance management.

He is the former Deputy President of the UKZN Central SRC; President of the Pietermaritzburg SRC; and President and Chairperson of the William O'Brien Residence on that campus. He received the accolade of best performing President of Local Student Representative Council in 2011.

Dlamini has tirelessly contributed to student activism, the transformation of student governance, and the entire body of student politics. He served consecutive terms as the branch commissar, secretary, and chairperson of SASCO on the Pietermaritzburg campus during the turbulent times of the Progressive Youth Alliance.

He holds a BA degree (Philosophy, Politics and Law) and an Honours degree in Social Sciences (Policy and Development Studies).

### **Dr Samkelisiwe Madlabane**

Dr Samkelisiwe Madlabane pursued an MBChB degree at UKZN where she was involved in many student organisations including the Medical School SRC. She was Secretary of the ANCYL Medical School branch for four years and served as chairperson of YCL Medical School branch.

Madlabane is currently employed as a Community Service Doctor in Sundumbili Community Health Centre after completing her Medical Internship at Stanger Hospital. "My passions include HIV and AIDS, drug awareness and combatting substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, career guidance and skills development," she said.

Her ultimate dream is to open the first Black-owned medical centre in Durban that caters strictly for mother and child.

### **Mr Sithabiso Mthethwa**

Mr Sithabiso Mthethwa grew up in Maphumulo and received his basic education at Inyamazane Primary School and Stanger High School. He went on to graduate with a BAdmin degree from the University of Zululand, where he also served as a student leader.

Mthethwa moved to UKZN for postgraduate studies, graduating with a Bachelor of Social Science Honours (Political Science). His continued involvement in student leadership through the ANCYL saw him elected as President of UKZN's Central SRC in 2013/2014. During that period, he served in many University structures, including Senate and Council.

Mthethwa has worked as a researcher at the Maurice Webb Race Relations Unit based at Howard College and is currently a social cluster researcher in the KwaZulu-Natal ANC Caucus, based in the Legislature.

### **Mr Sabelo Mgwenya**

Mr Sabelo Bradley Mgwenya holds a Bachelor of Communication Pathology (Speech-Language Therapy) from UKZN and runs a private practice in Nelspruit. Mgwenya served in different structures of governance, including as a house committee member at P-Block residence and Residence Liaison Officer of the Westville SRC. He also served the Central SRC. At political level, he served as chairperson of the Westville SASCO branch.

After completing his community service, Mgwenya was elected to lead workers as the secretary of the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (NEHAWU) at the Barberton hospital branch. He is currently serving as the president of the National Black Speech-Language and Hearing Association.

### **Mr Calvin Thomas**

Mr Calvin Thomas is a seasoned Human Resources Practitioner. He was first employed at the former University of Natal in 2002 within the Human Resources Division as an Advertising Officer and was subsequently promoted to Senior Human Resources Officer within a short space of time.

In 2008, Mr Thomas resigned from UKZN to take up a position in Gauteng as an Operations Manager for a Health NGO, Africa Health Placements. In 2009, he was headhunted for the position of Human Resources Manager for the Southern African Region for Kifaru International, a subsidiary company of the SAFAL Group. In 2010, Thomas joined I-TECH South Africa as the Country HR Manager.

Thomas holds a Bachelor of Social Science Degree from UKZN, a Postgraduate Diploma in HR, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Industrial Relations and is completing his MCom in Human Resources at UKZN.

He is currently employed as a School Operations Manager at UKZN in the School of Religion, Philosophy and Classics.

### **Professor Aderemi Adewumi**

Professor Aderemi Adewumi graduated with a BScHons and MSc in Computer Science from the University of Lagos, Nigeria, where he also lectured for over 10 years in Computer Science. He received his PhD in Computational and Applied Mathematics from the University of the Witwatersrand, with a specialty in Global Optimization and Computational Intelligence.

Adewumi joined UKZN as a lecturer in 2009 and rose progressively to Professor. He is currently the Academic Leader (HOD) for Computer Science in the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science at the University where he also serves as the Director of the recently created Applied Artificial Intelligence Research Unit while leading the Optimization and Modelling Research Group within the Centre. ■

# FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UKZN CONVOCATION

Members of our *alma mater*, allow me to extend our very humble greetings and take this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected leadership of Convocation and the two members elected to serve on Council.

**A**s proud ambassadors of UKZN, we acknowledge that we are who we are because of the University that continues to strive to 'inspire greatness'.

At our recent lunch with alumni from the South Coast in KwaZulu-Natal we learnt a lot, including the issue of developing a curriculum that talks to societal needs and the urgent need for sound working relations with the private and public sectors.

In Lesotho, our fellow alumni called for a branch of UKZN in their country (please refer to the Out and About section for more information on this visit).

Our University remains the home of the poor and

historically disadvantaged communities. It has responded positively to societal needs such as insourcing support staff in security and cleaning services. It therefore behoves all of us to continue to support UKZN by giving back so that generations to come benefit from this wonderful institution. In response to #FeesMustFall, we need to make an extra effort to fundraise for the survival of our University.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of Convocation, we express our gratitude to Sammy Mashita for his continued, substantial support for our bursary fund and call on fellow alumni to contribute to the University. ■

Best regards,

**Fanle Sibisi**  
***President of Convocation***



# MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI RELATIONS TEAM



## Dear Alumnus,

The Alumni Relations Team has had an exciting and busy 2017, having interacted with thousands of graduates via events, personal visits, emails, written and telephonic communication as well as through the various social media sites.

The Durban Alumni Association AGM held on the Howard College campus, the Cape Town Alumnus Dinner at the Tablebay Hotel, the Convocation AGM, the April Graduation ceremonies in both Durban and Pietermaritzburg as well as the Spring Graduation Ceremonies in September, the Pietermaritzburg/Hilton Alumnus Lunch in Hilton, the Lesotho Alumnus Lunch in Maseru, the Film Screening/Movie Evening at Musgrave Centre in Durban and the South Coast (KwaZulu-Natal) Alumnus Lunch were all very successful. In addition, the Durban Alumni Association has been very active with many interesting talks and tours arranged.

We are particularly happy about the recent successful launch of the Lesotho Alumnus Facebook page – which adds to the already existing Facebook pages for alumni based in the United Kingdom, US, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. There is also a main Facebook page for all alumni.

Communication via the website, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and SMS has increased and is an effective way of informing graduates of UKZN events and issues. In order to invite alumni to planned events and to keep everyone updated on University events, we are eager to secure the current contact details of alumni, especially email addresses and mobile phone numbers. Also, please encourage any friends or relatives who are graduates and have not received any correspondence from the University in recent months to provide us with their updated contact details. This can be done via a quick email to [alumni@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:alumni@ukzn.ac.za) or the website (<http://alumni affairs.ukzn.ac.za/updateservices.aspx>).

Another exciting line-up of events is planned for 2018, including London, Harare, other neighbouring countries and various parts of South Africa. We look forward to seeing you at some of these events! ■

With our very best wishes,  
***The Alumni Relations Team***

# UKZN FOUNDATION

**“Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life . . .” – Nelson Mandela**

**Q**uality education is one means of breaking the cycle of poverty and improving livelihoods. The University and the UKZN Foundation are committed to ensuring that all our alumni are able to live a decent life after graduation by delivering quality education in an environment that is conducive to learning. However, the challenge lies in ensuring that students reach graduation.

KwaZulu-Natal is the third poorest province in South Africa. More than 60% of our students require some kind of financial assistance in order to complete their studies. The Foundation relies heavily on corporate funding and support from foundations and trusts to assist students facing financial

difficulty. Securing these funds involves a long process of relationship building before a commitment is made. However, we have an immediate connection with our alumni who can make a real difference in supporting future generations.

Many alumni have told us that they have not been approached to pledge their support. The Foundation is taking a proactive approach and asking alumni to ENABLE GREATNESS at UKZN. Funding provides access to students who cannot afford Higher Education. It enhances our teaching facilities and enables UKZN to support the cutting edge-research for which the Institution is renowned. When alumni offer their support, more communities are able to benefit from our outreach





programmes. Finally, it makes a difference to our ranking by international bodies, many of which use alumni interaction as a measure of an institution's standing.

Executive Director of the UKZN Foundation, Professor Anesh Singh says: "I urge our alumni to make a start with a small monthly donation of just R100. Collectively, all alumni contributions could finance 1 600 students or these funds could be used to build a new lecture complex. All we ask is, start now."

The Foundation has created numerous electronic platforms from which to make your donations. Visit our website <http://foundation.ukzn.ac.za/donation-form/> to make an online donation, or scan the QR code below to make a mobile donation.

For those alumni who want to make a difference in non-financial ways, you can offer your professional services pro-bono to the University, add value in the classroom by conducting guest lectures, become an ambassador for the Foundation and serve on the University's advisory boards and committees.

In the words of Mandela, your simple gesture will give someone else the opportunity to lead a "decent life." ■

**Anesh Singh**  
*Director: UKZN Foundation*



## Food for THOUGHT

- The UKZN Foundation Trust is managed by an independent board of trustees and exists solely for the benefit of UKZN. It is an independent, non-profit and public-benefit organisation.
- The Foundation offers tax relief benefits to qualifying donors.
- There is no top-slicing of gifts for operational costs. These are covered by a long-standing endowment. Thus, if a donor chooses to fund a student, every cent goes to that student. The same applies to projects.
- Donors can direct their gifts to specific areas, ranging from student bursaries and scholarships to access programmes and research projects across all Colleges.



Donate now!



# REUNION STIRS MEMORIES

1950s residents of Ansell May Hall, the oldest men's residence on the Howard College campus, held a reunion lunch at the Blue Zoo restaurant in Mitchell Park, Durban on 21 July.

Some of the 26 ex-residents travelled from as far afield as Johannesburg and Stellenbosch, while good wishes were received from North America, Britain and Australasia. A number of spouses accompanied their husbands. Ansell May Hall opened in 1952, replacing the first residence in North Ridge Road which had been built as military barracks during World War Two. Senior students from the barracks moved across to Ansell May and were known as the 'Butcher Boys' since the barracks had been built on land owned by the Butcher family. Three Butcher Boys – Bob Rogers, Basil Hagemann and Jimmy Fitzsimons (later a Springbok hockey player) – were at the reunion.

Anecdotes of the light-hearted student days of the first post-



From left: Gavin Maasdorp, Tommy Ballantyne (Natal soccer player wearing his Full Blue blazer) and Keith Alcock.

war decade abounded... tales of 'donga parties' (held in the dongas on the then undeveloped land behind the Berea ridge), raids on the women's res, and reciprocal raids between the Durban and Pmb residences which were heavily stacked in favour of Pmb since their residence at Oribi was a former wartime military barracks with restricted access.

The success of the reunion has led the informal organising group to plan another in 2019, possibly including the two other neighbouring residences of the 1950s. ■

*Article by the 'organising committee' consisting of Stan Sharratt, Barry Isherwood, Colin Armstrong, Jacques van Popering and Gavin Maasdorp.*

## REMINISCING

*Ruth Neroutsos (nee Kelly)*

Not many teenage girls can boast the good fortune of living for some years in the Men's Residence, University of Natal, Durban. I was one!

My father, Professor Tom Kelly was the warden of Ansell May Hall and Townley Williams from 1954 – 1968 and we lived in an apartment attached to Ansell May. Life was scarcely private and I recall trying to avoid the boys as a school girl. When I became a student in the Arts Faculty (1955 – 1957) that became impossible and I dreaded the wolf whistles from the dorm windows as I hustled by to and from lectures.

Our home was always open – breaking sad news of bereavement to students when away from home was the most difficult and with no sanatorium, we frequently nursed back to health seriously ill students in our third floor guest bedroom.

On a brighter note, House Committee members will recall the Sunday night buffet suppers and teas hosted by my parents.

When choosing a partner to accompany me to Res dances I had the pick of the gang. The Common areas in residence were perfect for hosting my teenage parties and later celebrating my 21st birthday.

From my bedroom window facing the grassed courtyard I was entertained each Freshers' Week by the traditional fresher ragging and antics in the common room. Participating in Rag Week was always fun.

After a five year absence travelling and working the world over, I returned to Ansell May Hall a far more mature person in 1965 to prepare for my marriage. I have kept in touch with a few alumni and we have much appreciated the visits here in Canada from a number of them. My striped University of Natal blazer hangs in my closet to this day. ■

[prnero@telus.net](mailto:prnero@telus.net)

# CLASS NOTES

## 1960s

**Penelope Forrest (née Phelps) BSc '60** recently published a second book of memoirs based on her transcriptions of old family letters, dating back to 1776. She is finding family history an absorbing hobby in her retirement, especially during Cape Town winters. Email: [penelope.forrest@gmail.com](mailto:penelope.forrest@gmail.com)



**Bev Hall BSc (Agric) '66** joined the then Royal Rhodesian Air Force for pilot training after graduating. He was in res. at Oribi in his first year, right on the airfield boundary which stimulated his interest in flying. While studying he received his private pilot's licence at the Oribi Flying Club. Bev received his Pilot Wings in June 1967 and spent

six years in the South African Air Force. He qualified for a commercial pilot's licence and joined South African Airways in 1972. He spent the next 30 years flying around Africa and the globe and retired as a Senior Captain in June 2001. SAA was often over staffed and contracted pilots to other air lines. He also flew for short periods for Air Namibia, Air Mauritius, Com Air and Ryan Air in Ireland. While Bev was with SAA he also farmed and at various times had a citrus farm at White River, a wine farm at Wellington, a sheep farm at Caledon and finally a sheep farm in Wales UK for two years which he farmed on London stop-overs. Wales was too wet so after he retired, he and his wife Kathy moved to Western Australia where they farm cattle in the Great Southern. Kathy and Bev first met at university in 1961. They have two daughters, one a vet and the other an air traffic controller at Melbourne Tullamarine International Airport. Email: [bevdhall@bigpond.com](mailto:bevdhall@bigpond.com)

## 1970s

**Peter Abery BScEng (Elec) '70; MScEng '71; MBL Unisa '78; Senior Managers Program (Harvard Business School) '83; President Ansell May Hall 1969; Chair of the Residences' Presidents Council 1969.** The University provided Peter with a very good grounding in engineering, which proved to be an excellent first degree on which to base his career, primarily in business and leadership. His work has taken him on two stints in the UK and emigration to Australia 30 years ago. Peter has led a range of small and large companies in South Africa, the UK and Australia over the past 40 years. While he is still active as a business consultant, education facilitator and executive coach, his priority role is that of a grandfather to six grandchildren. He still maintains remote contact (due to the tyranny of distance) with many classmates and co-residents in Ansell May Hall. Peter's uncle (whom he never met) was killed in North Africa while serving in the South African Army, having left his studies as a mechanical engineer at Howard College in 1940 - his name was on the honour roll in the Howard College library - "Weldon Abery". Email: [peter.abery@bigpond.com](mailto:peter.abery@bigpond.com)



**Rodney V. Salm BSc '70; PhD, The Johns Hopkins University.** Rod is Senior Adviser, Pacific Division Marine Program at The Nature Conservancy. He was raised in Mozambique, and holds a PhD from The Johns Hopkins University based on coral reefs in the Chagos Archipelago. Since the 1970s, Rod has worked in the Indian Ocean, Arabia, southeast Asia, western Pacific, Caribbean, central and south America, Arctic and Antarctic. His focus is the conservation of coral reefs, mangroves and sea turtles, but has included cetaceans, dugongs, seabirds,

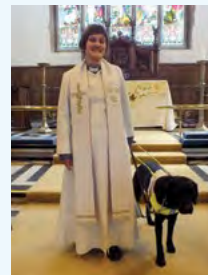
and walrus. To address climate change impacts on coastal and marine environments, Rod developed coral reef resilience principles for application in the western Pacific that grew to a global programme. Based in Honolulu, Rod advises The Nature Conservancy's Pacific Marine Program on ecosystem and species conservation, climate change adaptation, spatial planning, and marine protected areas. On 5 August 2017, he embarked on his 'forever sabbatical'.

Email: [suzeandrod@hawaiiintel.net](mailto:suzeandrod@hawaiiintel.net)

**Clive Napier BA '73** recently retired from the Department of Political Sciences at Unisa and was appointed as a Research Fellow. He served as a Tshwane Ward Councillor from 2000 to 2016 and currently serves as a Proportional Representation (PR) Councillor and Chairperson of the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) Oversight Committee in the recently elected Tshwane government. Clive is currently crossing the bridge from academia to practical politics.

Email: [napierc@mweb.co.za](mailto:napierc@mweb.co.za)

**Rev. Canon Stephne van der Toorn (née du Preez) BA '74** has



served as Rector of the Benefice of East Bergholt and Brantham in the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, Suffolk, UK since 2007. She is a registered speaker for Guide Dogs for the Blind and proud of her partnership with (Canon) Coco, the labrador retriever who faithfully guides her about the benefice and makes friends wherever

they go. Email: [rector@constablecountrychurches.co.uk](mailto:rector@constablecountrychurches.co.uk)

## 1980s

**Brian Alcock** BCom '81; PG Diploma in Accountancy '82 served articles with Deloitte and qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1985. He joined Compass Group, an international industrial catering company at its South African Head Office in Johannesburg. He was with Compass for over 20 years and served as CFO. Brian currently resides in Cape Town where he is the financial manager for Leao International, a small family business exporting to the catering industry in Africa. He also owns a small catering equipment supply business called Vision Direct that designs and installs industrial kitchens as well as supplying kitchen smalls, crockery, cutlery and glassware. He is married to Sharon and has two daughters. Email: [brian@vision.co.za](mailto:brian@vision.co.za)



**Ian Graham** BSc '85; BSc (Hons) '86 is a geologist who is based in Vancouver, Canada. His experience in mining includes Anglo American, Rio Tinto, Western Potash, and Montan Mining. He is currently involved in resource management and corporate services through nKwazi

Resource Management Inc. Ian is the past Chair of the University of British Columbia Mineral Deposit Research Unit.

Email: [ian@nkwazi.ca](mailto:ian@nkwazi.ca)

**Charles Oertel** BSc '87 did a double Honours at Wits in Applied Maths and Theoretical Physics, then spent a year in the Antarctic doing Space Physics research. On his return he married 'the first woman' he saw (luckily it was his best friend for 10 years, Julie. They met at school). After 10 years with Andersen Consulting in the technical field, Charles did various jobs as an IT Architect and development manager before starting his own business building and running websites and developing software. He is currently the chief software architect at a company that does email branding and he does all the really complicated stuff. He lives in Cape Town with Julie and they have two sons (26 and 29), two dogs and four cats. Charles rides footup trials motorbike, and a BMW GS1150 Adventure bike. Email: [charles@honeybadger.net](mailto:charles@honeybadger.net)



## 1990s

**Ann Trevenen-Jones (née Fubbs)** BScAgric '91 recalls that wonderful traditions and empathetic and adventurous lecturers enriched life on the Pietermaritzburg campus. Beyond campus, South Africa was in political and socio-economic flux. Whilst studying she worked on farms in the Ixopo area. According to Ann agriculture is more than the grasses she collected for AgBot 101, the soils she mapped and the trees she tried to prune on Ukulinga Farm; it's about the ecological relationships of growing and sharing food, land tenure security, human rights, climate change and biodiversity. It's at the nexus of our future, alongside technology and human spirit. She also holds a Masters degree in sustainable development (Imperial College, London) and a doctorate, which explored the ecological identity of different South African communities (Open University, UK). Ann is presently located in The Netherlands.



Email: [annie@trevenenjones.com](mailto:annie@trevenenjones.com)

**Samantha Harvett (née Cunningham)** BSocSc '93; LLB '95 served articles at Askew Grindlay and Associates, passed the bar exams and went on to work at Thorrington-Smith and Silver in Durban. She married a UKZN alumnus- Gary Craig Harvett BCom '94 (Chartered Accountant). They have two children and immigrated to New Jersey in the US in 2004. Samantha is employed at Novartis Federal Credit Union. Email: [garysamh@aol.com](mailto:garysamh@aol.com)

**Thomas Eshun-Wilson** MBChB '94 works as an Ophthalmologist (UCT trained) in a solo, 'state of the art', double, private practice in Queensland, Australia ([wilsoneyecentre.com.au](http://wilsoneyecentre.com.au)). He spends much time staying up-to-date with the literature, raising their two sons (aged 14 and 12) and



trying to stay fit. His hobbies include pathological reading of world history and the philosophies of ancient, classical, medieval and modern times. He has an insatiable passion for international travel, having visited the US, Europe, Egypt and the Middle East from his base in the UK before he had children. Postpartum, he has travelled to China, Japan, Hawaii, Fiji, New Zealand and the countries of ASEAN with the boys now that they live in that region.

Email: [tewilson98@hotmail.com](mailto:tewilson98@hotmail.com)

**Steve Peacock** BScEng(Chem) '94; MScEng '01 (*cum laude*) After graduating, Steve joined the Sugar Milling Research Institute in Durban, where he worked on research and consulting projects of interest to the sugar millers of Southern Africa. In 2000, he moved to the central technical department of Tongaat Hulett Limited, where he was Head of Operations Support for the company's sugar agriculture and milling operations across four countries, before emigrating to the US in 2016. Steve also obtained a BCom degree (with distinction) from Unisa in 2007, earning the College Medal for the Best Student in the College of Economics and Management Sciences. He is a registered professional engineer and served on the Council of the South African Sugar Technologists' Association for a number of years, as well as being the editor for the factory proceedings of their annual conference. He has authored or co-authored numerous publications for peer-reviewed journals and international conferences, as well as three book chapters related to cane sugar processing. Steve currently lives in Twin Falls, Idaho with his wife Janet and two children, Megan (11) and Dylan (8). He works for Amalgamated Research LLC, a subsidiary of Amalgamated Sugar that carries out research and development to provide innovative technologies to the international process industries. Email: [speacock@arifractal.com](mailto:speacock@arifractal.com)

## 1990s

**Bareng Aletta Nonyane** BSc '98; BSc (Hons) '99; MSc '01; MSc (University of London); PhD (University of Edinburgh) works in international public health research. She held a position at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and is currently at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in the US. She has conducted research in a variety of areas including population-based genetic studies, childhood TB diagnosis, population-based TB case-finding, maternal and new-born health care interventions, evaluation of family planning services, and HIV/AIDS outcomes. She collaborates with researchers from various countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Email: [bnonyan1@jhu.edu](mailto:bnonyan1@jhu.edu)

**Bronwyn Desjardins (néé Rapp)** BA(Hons) '99; HDE(PG) '99 spent seven years in Mauritius after graduating, where she taught English at a French international school, followed by a position as a

computer and class teacher at a British international school. In 2006, she returned to South Africa with her husband and two children and taught at numerous independent schools in Johannesburg. Bronwyn is currently the Educational Technology Coach and Resource Centre Co-ordinator at St Stithians Girls' Preparatory. She is an ADE (Apple Distinguished Educator) Class of 2015 and ADE Advisory Board Member for the EMEIA region. She speaks at international and national IT conferences and was the first iTeacher winner in 2012. Bronwyn is the author of a novel entitled, *Lights, Camera, Love* and was interviewed on e-TV's Sunrise in 2011. She continues to pursue her passion for technology in education and has spearheaded iPad rollouts at primary school level. Her most recent publication appeared in the Autumn 2017 edition of the ISASA Independent Education magazine.

Email: [bronwynd@me.com](mailto:bronwynd@me.com)

## 2000s

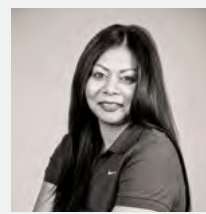
**Amos Kubeka** BSc '01; BSc (Hons) Physics '02 worked as a Business Analyst, IT Project Manager for Innovative Solutions Pty Ltd from 2002 to 2005. He moved to Unisa, where he was employed as a Postgraduate Assistant, Lecturer, and then Senior Lecturer and obtained an MSc in Applied Mathematics with distinction in 2007, followed by a PhD in Applied Mathematics in 2013, both from Unisa. In 2014 he obtained a graduate certificate in distance education and e-learning from the University of Maryland University College (UMUC), and he completed an MEd in Open Distance learning (ODL) at Unisa in 2016. Email: [Kubekas@unisa.ac.za](mailto:Kubekas@unisa.ac.za)

**Enoch Lerato Liphoto** BSc (Hons) '01; MSc '03 (Environmental Science) joined the CSIR in Stellenbosch in February 2002 as an intern. He was appointed an Assistant Researcher, and promoted to Researcher and Senior Researcher for Climate Change and Energy at different CSIR centres. Enoch joined the City of Johannesburg in September 2006 as the Programme Manager for Climate Change and Cleaner Production and joined Eskom in March 2008 as a Senior Advisor for Climate Change. His responsibilities include developing and managing projects for climate change mitigation and Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM). Enoch was appointed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Secretariat as a Lead Author of Chapter 9 on 'Buildings' in the Working Group III (WG III) in the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report. He is a member of the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (Pr. Sci.Nat) and the Project Management of South Africa (PMSA). Email: [Liphote@eskom.co.za](mailto:Liphote@eskom.co.za)

**Preloshni Naidoo** BSc '02; BSc (Hons) '03 investigated the photo stability of UV Sunscreen absorbers for her Honours project. She has very fond memories of her Honours class mates and working with Professor B J Martincigh's team and would like to continue her friendship with them. She started

her career with Anglo Platinum working on an open pit platinum mine in Limpopo province as a Process Chemist. Preloshni moved to Sasol in 2006, changed direction from inorganic to pure organic chemistry and started her career with Sasol, commissioning high pressure technology to produce low density polyethylene. She currently works as an application scientist in a Polymer Engineering environment in the operational hub in Sasolburg. Preloshni completed a Masters in Polymer Science at the University of Stellenbosch. In her 10 years with Sasol, she has specialised in high pressure process support technologies and supported both local and international joint venture Sasol operations, including a stint in Iran. She is currently studying for an MBA specialising in Strategy, Finance and Leadership at the Edinburg Business School at Heriot Watt University. She lives in Sasolburg with her two lively Jack Russels and is an avid Inyegar and Bikram Yoga practitioner.

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**Mduduzi M. Mtshali** BA (Hons) '04; PG Dip in Rural Resource Mgmt '07; MAgric '14 is the chairperson of the MZTPT Agricultural Co-operative and a non-executive director of Dumile Cleaning and Construction Company located in the south of Durban. He worked at the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development from 1978 to 2016 where he was involved in extension and rural development and veterinary activities among rural communities. His qualifications in labour related matters made him the automatic choice for union leadership. The highlight of his career was being awarded gold for being the best KwaZulu-Natal Frontline Public Service Delivery Employee of the year in 2015. He was in the top three in the national competition in 2015 for his dedication to curbing rabies disease in Durban.

## 2000s

His work has been published in the *Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) Journal* and the *South African Veterinary Association Journal* in New York. He received an MAgric. in 2014 for his thesis on rabies. Email: [mmmtshali2002@yahoo.com](mailto:mmmtshali2002@yahoo.com)

**Nick M. Wanjau BCom '05; BCom (Hons) '06 – (PMIITPSA)**

is the Non-Executive Chairman of the Maendeleo Group (Pty) Ltd Board of Directors, the SPL Group (Pty) Ltd and Zuberi Moja Solutions (Pty) Ltd. He studied at the Henley Business School towards an MBA, and represented UKZN at the International Human Rights (IHRE) programme at the University of Cape Town (UCT) (2004). Nick has been a certified moderator with the Media Information Communication and Technologies Sector Education and Training Authority (MICT SETA), SERVICES, Education training and Development Practices (ETDP) and BANK SETAs in South Africa since 2006 where he is involved in curriculum development, quality assurance, developing training programmes, material and conducting curriculum moderation. He is a founding partner of Xtensive Academy, Quantum Careers Development where he serves as a Director and the Glen Austin High School, a private high school based in Midrand, Johannesburg. Nick was a task team member of the South African Qualifications Authority's Standard Generating Body (SAQA SGBs) to generate Information Systems and Technology qualifications and is a professional member of the IITPSA (Institute of Information Technology Professional South Africa). Email: [nick.wanjau@gmail.com](mailto:nick.wanjau@gmail.com)



**Sakhile Manyathi BCom '07** is currently employed by the South African National Treasury as a Deputy Director: SCM Training. He is a seasoned public sector procurement researcher and part-time lecturer at the University of Pretoria, lecturing public sector SCM courses. He is a member of the South African Association of Public Administration and Management (SAAPAM), lectured at the National School of Government (previously known as PALAMA) and is currently an Advisory Board Member of the Vaal University of Technology, Department of Supply Chain Management. Sakhile is a qualified assessor and moderator for SCM outcomes-based courses. He was previously an Assistant Director: Policy Development & Training: SCM with the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Treasury. Prior to that, he worked as Acting Assistant Director: Immoveable Asset Management with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Public Works. He received a Postgraduate Diploma: Tertiary Education from Unisa and a Master of Business Administration from the Regent Business School. Sakhile has published several academic articles internationally and locally with a focus on local and global public sector procurement. He is a graduate of the YALI

(Young African Leadership Initiative) programme established by former US President Obama. He is currently in his final year of his PhD studies in Public Management and Development Planning at Stellenbosch University, focusing on public sector procurement. Email: [Sakhile.Manyathi@treasury.gov.za](mailto:Sakhile.Manyathi@treasury.gov.za)

**Muhammad Kadwa BSc Agric '11; PhD Eng '15** has been



employed by the South African Cane Growers' Association for two years as Area Manager: Umzimkulu, with a specialist focus portfolio of Research and Analysis. Prior to his current position, Muhammad spent two-and-a-half years as an Agricultural Economic Advisor at the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture. Muhammad has a keen interest in the economic science of complex agricultural value chains. Email: [mmkadwa@hotmail.com](mailto:mmkadwa@hotmail.com)

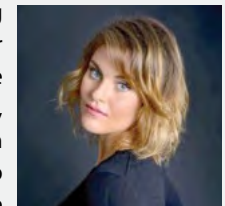
**Kameel Premhid BA '11, LLB '13.**

In his final year at UKZN, Kameel was awarded the Rhodes Scholarship and read for a Master's Degree at the University of Oxford. On returning to South Africa, he completed pupillage at the Johannesburg Society of Advocates where he now practices full-time. His work is predominantly in the field of public law but he also conducts general commercial litigation. Email: [kameel.premhid@gmail.com](mailto:kameel.premhid@gmail.com)



**Camilla Rogers (née van der Merwe) BA '15 (Music & Drama),**

**BA (Hons) '16** is happily married, living in Ballito with her husband in their new home and working alongside him to build his business and brand, Wilcote. She also works with the Helen O' Grady Drama programme to help improve youngsters' speech and stage development. Camilla still sings with the Durban Symphonic Choir as a first Soprano, performs solos with the Choir and trains classically with vocal coach, Vanessa Tait-Jones. In 2017 she and her husband made an effort to save and travel outside South Africa as travel is a shared interest and they have travelled South Africa extensively. Camilla says that, if you are "still a student at UKZN, you are in good hands. Respect your lecturers, they have the knowledge that you can use to better your future endeavours." Email: [millamerwe@gmail.com](mailto:millamerwe@gmail.com)



**Mariam Motala BSc '16** is registered for a postgraduate certificate in education through Unisa so that she can teach Maths and Physics at school level. It has always been her dream to become a Maths and Physics teacher, with a BSc degree, so that she could have a deeper insight into these subjects. Mariam is grateful to her lecturers who helped and inspired her during her studies. Email: [mariamotala@gmail.com](mailto:mariamotala@gmail.com)

# OUT & ABOUT

20 August 2016

## Mpumalanga's UKZN Alumni Network



A group of 50 UKZN alumni from all over Mpumalanga met on 20 August 2016 for a lunch and information-sharing presentation at the Magnolia Restaurant in White River. The group thoroughly enjoyed meeting each other socially, swapping stories of their University experiences and exchanging contact details. The University appreciates the attendance and commitment of these alumni on the day, as many had to travel for a number of hours to attend the event. The graduates were welcomed by Ms Normah Zondo (then Director of University Relations) who also introduced the Guest Speakers Mr Fanle Sibisi (President of Convocation) and Mr Lesiba Seshoka (then Executive Director of Corporate Relations). Both encouraged attendees to "give back" to their *alma mater*. Mr Seshoka gave a comprehensive overview of the current developments at the University, as well as information on student numbers, current rankings and research. Questions were posed to the speakers – many regarding the registration and funding procedures for postgraduate studies at the University.

2 December 2016

## Durban Alumni Association End-of-Year Lunch

Words: Finn Christensen | Photo: DAA Members, Corporate Relations staff and Former Convocation President, André Young

The Durban Alumni Association End-of-Year Lunch was held on 2 December 2016 at the Durban Country Club. The 55 guests (including alumni and friends) were impressed by the variety of dishes on offer and the musical talent of fellow alumnus and pianist, Barry Edwards. Chair of the Durban Alumni Association, Robin Ralfe welcomed attendees. A lucky-draw provided a number of guests with UKZN memorabilia. The Lunch is an annual event on the Association's calendar and provides friends with an opportunity to get together to catch-up on news and remember the good times at the University.



21 September 2016

## Good Attendance at Alumnus Event in London

Words: Finn Christensen | Photo: UKZN alumni based in London



More than 80 people attended the annual function of the UKZN Alumnus Association in Europe held at South Africa House in central London. Chair of the Alumnus Association in Europe, Mr Bruno van Dyk, welcomed the gathering and introduced the speakers, President and Chair of Convocation, Mr Fanle Sibisi; Professor Adrian Furnham who delivered the main address, and Executive Director of the UKZN Foundation, Professor Anesh Singh. Sibisi stressed the need for graduates to "give-back" to their *alma mater* and gave an update on the recent student protests. Furnham provided a most entertaining and thought-provoking address titled: Money and Motivation at Work. Singh gave an update on the role of the UKZN Foundation and encouraged all present to consider donating to the University. South African canapés and drinks were served after the talks and guests were able to network and catch-up with fellow graduates. A lucky-draw was held and UKZN gifts were presented to the lucky winners. Folders with the latest UKZN information and University mementos were distributed.

13 February 2017

## Mars One Project Astronaut Candidate Addresses Alumni Forum

Words: Finn Christensen | Photo: Dr Adriana Marais with young fans



Mars One Project astronaut candidate and UKZN alumnus, Dr Adriana Marais, was the guest speaker at the first UKZN Durban Alumni Association gathering in 2017. Marais, who spoke to a packed house on the Howard College campus, is one of 100

Mars One Project astronaut candidates in the running to travel to the red planet around 2026. She hopes to continue her research on Mars and possibly contribute to the discovery of evidence that life once existed there. In an informative and entertaining presentation, Marais discussed the new era of innovation in space exploration and explained the detailed planning required for a journey to Mars, outlining the funding and research involved, travel arrangements and what life on the planet could possibly be like. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session and much discussion over snacks and drinks. Guests, who were mostly UKZN graduates, enjoyed an impromptu photo opportunity with Marais.

11 March 2017

## Cape Town Alumnus Dinner

Words: Finn Christensen |

Photo: Cape Town-based UKZN alumni at the annual dinner

The well-attended alumnus dinner at the Table Bay Hotel on the Cape Town Waterfront provided an enjoyable opportunity for alumni, donors and friends of UKZN to renew old acquaintances, meet fellow alumni and receive an update on developments at their *alma mater*. Apart from the excellent fare on offer, the annual event featured an entertaining and informative talk titled: Healing Hearts, Making History by alumnus and Convocation award recipient, Professor Bongani Mayosi. Mayosi outlined his family background, provided anecdotes on his University experiences and gave an overview of his current position and work as Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Cape Town. In his address, President of Convocation, Mr Fanle Sibisi, highlighted recent developments at UKZN, encouraged the audience to support the University financially and outlined upcoming events. Executive Director of the UKZN Foundation Professor Anesh Singh successfully encouraged some members of the audience to donate to UKZN. Prizes were handed out in a lucky-draw competition and information packs containing a selection of University publications and a corporate gift were distributed.



20 April 2017

## Tour of Lion Match Factory

Words: Finn Christensen | Photo: UKZN alumni on a tour of the Lion Match Office Park | Photo taken by UKZN Alumnus, Stavros Anthias



Members of the UKZN Durban Alumni Association enjoyed an interesting and informative tour of the iconic Lion Match factory in Umgeni Road, Durban. The building, which underwent an extensive makeover, is one of the city's architectural landmarks. JT Ross, a property development and construction group, bought the 90-year-old premises more than a decade ago when Lion Match moved its manufacturing

operations to Gauteng. It rejuvenated the former match factory, converting it into an office park. The refurbishment created 24 000 m<sup>2</sup> of office space and introduced features such as a coffee shop, outside eating areas and on-site medical and health facilities as well as a three-storey parking garage. JT Ross swept the board with top honours for the overhaul at the 2016 South African Property Owners' Association awards in Gauteng. The architect was UKZN alumnus Mr Dean Jay. The presentation and tour was followed by an enjoyable tea in The Boiler Room hosted by JT Ross.

6 May 2017

## Lesotho UKZN Alumni Lunch

Words: Finn Christensen | Photo: UKZN staff with the Vice-Chancellor, President of Convocation and Lesotho-based graduates

The Alumni Relations Office co-ordinated a very successful and well attended get-together in Lesotho. The event at the Avani Maseru Hotel in Maseru took the form of a three-course



lunch and an informative address by UKZN Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Albert van Jaarsveld, who gave a comprehensive overview of the University, highlighting recent successes, rankings and future plans, adding that this was the first of many such functions in Lesotho. He elaborated on various issues and events at the University, including the 2017 April Graduations, the newly-elected Convocation Executive and the need to "give-back" to your *alma mater*. Participants displayed intense interest in their *alma mater* with a variety of questions after the addresses. Several were keen to further their studies at UKZN and requested information on postgraduate studies as well as study opportunities for family members. Guests expressed an interest in forming an official Lesotho Alumnus Association. The Alumni Relations Office aims to assist with planning and promotion of activities through the recently created Lesotho Facebook site and other social media sites managed by this office. Participants received information packs containing a selection of University publications and a corporate gift.

20 May 2017

## Good Time had by All at Pietermaritzburg Alumni Lunch

Words: Finn Christensen | Photo: Dr Albert van Jaarsveld with Mr Fanle Sibisi, UKZN staff members and alumni

UKZN alumni based in Pietermaritzburg and surrounding areas enjoyed an opportunity to interact with the Vice-Chancellor



and Principal Dr Albert van Jaarsveld at a lunch at the Protea Hotel in Hilton. The function was organised as a networking and information sharing opportunity by the Alumni Relations Office. Van Jaarsveld provided a comprehensive overview of the University, highlighting current developments, future/planned initiatives as a result of the University's new Strategic Plan and the importance of giving back. The presentation was very well received by guests. President of Convocation Mr Fanle Sibisi spoke of the achievements and current issues at the University and the role all alumni could play in promoting and supporting the Institution. He encouraged alumni to donate to UKZN, stressing that the amount donated by each person was not the issue as collectively donations added up to a sizeable amount. The three-course buffet lunch, a lucky-draw with prizes and the distribution of UKZN marketing material went down very well!



15 May 2017

## Acclaimed Photographer Presents “A Life Less Ordinary”

Words: Raylene Captain-Hasthibeer | Photographs: Matthew Willman | Photo: A collection of Matthew Willman's photographs

Members of UKZN's Durban Alumni Association were treated to a peek behind the lens of one of South Africa's foremost photographers Matthew Willman during a talk and presentation at the University. Willman has photographed global icons including President Nelson Mandela, United States Presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, singer Annie Lennox, several Nobel laureates and musicians and artists. A documentary photographer, Willman has captured the lives of ordinary people in places such as Eritrea, South Sudan and northern Kenya. "It is a privilege to be living and working in these environments because this is where humanity meets itself," he said. "My normal is your abnormal. My normal is sitting out in some of the most horrendous places in the world, and I'm absolutely loving it," he added. Willman captivated the audience with his experiences of chatting to Mandela over breakfast and his work as a commissioned photographer to the Nelson Mandela Foundation. Having spent over a decade documenting Mandela's life, he has published five best-selling books on South Africa's first democratically elected President. At present, he is curating Mandela's life at the Freedom Centre in the United States. His passion extends to making a difference to individuals and communities and in 2011 he founded the Matthew Willman Arts Trust which has provided scholarships for tertiary study and financial grants to young up-and-coming artists. An alumnus of the Durban University of Technology, Willman started an MA at UKZN but left to spend time pursuing his dream of documenting Mandela's life. He has received many accolades. Tutu said that: "Matthew is a remarkably talented young man and I am thrilled to see the quality of the work he is producing. We have been enriched by many cultures, languages and faiths, it is a heritage in South Africa to be shared, experienced and celebrated as is the diversity of our landscapes, our wildlife, our villages and towns. Thank you Matthew for mediating these to us through your camera." Visit Willman's website for a glimpse into his life behind the lens: <http://www.matthewwillman.co.za/>



\*The Durban Alumni Association co-ordinates about four presentations a year and organises tours to places of interest in KZN. Membership of the Association is open to all UKZN graduates and to affiliated members who are not graduates. Graduates are encouraged to participate in the events which are advertised on the various UKZN alumni social media sites, including Facebook and Twitter.

14 June 2017

## UKZN Alumni Enjoy Movie Evening

Words: Finn Christensen | Photo: UKZN alumni having fun at a movie evening

About 120 UKZN alumni had great fun at a movie evening at Musgrave Centre in Durban during which the film *Gifted* was screened. The cinema was packed to capacity with alumni of all ages and professions. Each graduate received an information pack of UKZN materials and participated in a lucky-draw. A brief survey conducted prior to the movie revealed that the cinema-goers supported the initiative and called for regular "movie evenings".



24 July 2017

## Mo's Magical Journey

Words: Raylene Captain-Hasthibeer | Photograph: Abhi Indrarajan  
Photo: Mo Magic delights alumni and fans at UKZN with the art of magic

Alumnus Mahommed Moorad, popularly known as Mo Magic addressed alumni at an event hosted by UKZN and the Durban Alumni Association on 24 July. Moorad started his career as an engineer at Toyota, but quickly realised that something was missing from his life. Inspired by a television programme on world-renowned magician David Blaine and after much self-reflection, personal development classes and research on magic, he decided to become a full-time entertainer. See the profile of Moorad on page 16 of this issue of *UKZNTOUCH*.

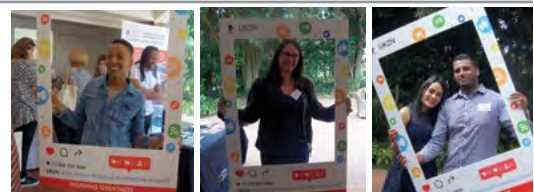


26 August 2017

## South Coast Alumni Lunch

Words: Finn Christensen | Photograph: Nomcebo Msweli  
Photo: Alumni enjoying the selfie-boards

The Alumni Relations Office hosted alumni on the KwaZulu-Natal South Coast at a networking and information sharing lunch at Selborne Golf Estate in Pennington. President and Chair of Convocation Mr Fanle Sibisi, and representatives from Alumni Relations, Schools Liaison and the UKZN Foundation interacted with guests. Acting Director of University Relations, Ms Hazel Langa, welcomed everyone and reminded them of the importance of connecting with their *alma mater*. She highlighted recent achievements at UKZN and encouraged everyone to make a meaningful contribution to the University in whatever way they could. Guest speaker, Sibisi provided a comprehensive overview of UKZN and highlighted current developments, planned initiatives and the importance of giving back to the University. His presentation was well received by the 60 graduates in attendance, with many requesting that the networking opportunity remains an annual event. A lucky-draw was held and information packages were distributed. Alumni are encouraged to attend events in their areas to ensure they remain sustainable.





# CONTACTS & SOCIAL MEDIA



## International and Lesotho Alumni Facebook Groups

UKZN's Alumni Relations office has created six country specific Facebook groups exclusively for graduates based in the **USA, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Lesotho.**

The sites will allow graduates to interact with one another, access information on and from their *alma mater* and to receive invitations to events, suggest get-togethers and create a vibrant UKZN graduate network in these countries.

These Facebook groups are private and each group will be administered/monitored by Ms Desiree Govender, UKZN Alumni Relations. We encourage you to interact with one another and our office and to spread the word to other UKZN alumni about these sites. Should you require any further information, please contact the Alumni Relations office on email: [alumni@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:alumni@ukzn.ac.za) or [govenderd@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:govenderd@ukzn.ac.za). Ideas/suggestions on how to improve the site are most welcome.

Please go to: <https://www.facebook.com/desiree.govender.9> and send Desiree a friend request. She will accept your invitation and add you to your specific country group.

## Alumni Relations Office

**Address:** 232 Mazisi-Kunene Avenue (King George V Avenue), Howard College campus, Durban, 4041.

**Phone:** +27 (0)31 260 2958/2016/2823

**Fax:** +27 (0)31 260 2236

**Email:** [alumni@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:alumni@ukzn.ac.za)

**Web Address:** <http://alumniaffairs.ukzn.ac.za>



We have many professional alumni and VIPs from around the world that are on this site. Their advice, posts, etc. are professional and helpful.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ukzn-alumni-a3007826>

## GATHERINGS FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

THE DURBAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (DAA) IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS!



### WHO CAN JOIN?

The Durban Alumni Association has widened membership of the Association to include alumni as well as anyone who has been connected with the University in any way or simply has an interest in the University or the activities.



### ACTIVITIES?

The activities (approx. six per year) cover a wide range of interesting visits and talks and all take place in KwaZulu-Natal. The talks are held on the Howard College campus and the tours/outings are within the region.



### COSTS?

The cost of membership in 2018 is R50.00 per person – which simply covers postage of invitations.

If you would like to subscribe, please contact Nomcebo Msweli on:

**Email:** [mswelin@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:mswelin@ukzn.ac.za) or **telephone:** 031 260 2016



We look forward to welcoming new members and receiving ideas on interesting events to arrange.

INSPIRING GREATNESS

## THE ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICE BUILDS AND MAINTAINS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY AND ALUMNI AND OFFERS THE FOLLOWING:

1. **An active Durban Alumni Association** – talks and outings are arranged on a regular basis for graduates in KwaZulu-Natal. The form may be downloaded at: [http://alumniaffairs.ukzn.ac.za/Libraries/DAA\\_2018/DAA\\_Subscription\\_Form\\_2018.sflb.ashx](http://alumniaffairs.ukzn.ac.za/Libraries/DAA_2018/DAA_Subscription_Form_2018.sflb.ashx)
2. **An Alumni Benefit card** – allowing all UKZN graduates access to any UKZN library at 50% the normal annual fee. This card can be obtained directly from the Alumni Relations office (Howard College campus) or through any one of the five campus libraries. You may also email the alumni benefit card application form: <http://alumniaffairs.ukzn.ac.za/UKZNAalumnocard/alumnibenefitcard.aspx> and a photo of yourself to our office. Physical Address: Alumni Relations Department, University of KwaZulu-Natal, 232 Mazisi-Kunene Avenue (King George V Avenue), Howard College campus, Durban 4041. Contact: Desiree Govender email: [govenderd@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:govenderd@ukzn.ac.za)/[alumni@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:alumni@ukzn.ac.za). Phone: +27 (0)31 260 2958.
3. **Regular updates and information on UKZN developments and activities** – via our monthly online/electronic newsletter, email, the alumni website as well as Facebook and Twitter. An annual alumnus publication (*UKZNTOUCH*) is also posted to alumni. Alumni are most welcome to make contact via the Alumni Relations' dedicated email address ([alumni@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:alumni@ukzn.ac.za)) should they require University-related information.
4. **Invitations to exclusive events held both on and off campus** – A number of annual off-campus events are co-ordinated across South Africa and internationally (the UK, Australia, New Zealand and the USA). These events offer excellent networking opportunities for graduates and the chance to receive updates on their *alma mater*.
5. **The Alumni Relations office has UKZN contacts in four countries which have high concentrations of UKZN alumni** – Please see list below of the names and contact details.  
**UK:** Bruno van Dyk, Chairperson: Alumnus Association, Europe. Email: [bruno.v.dyk@gmail.com](mailto:bruno.v.dyk@gmail.com)  
**New Zealand:** Tracy Gers. Email: [tracy.gers@familyriva.net.nz](mailto:tracy.gers@familyriva.net.nz) and Cecilia Davison. Email: [dcdavison@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dcdavison@xtra.co.nz)  
**Australia:** Ruth Thornton. Email: [ruth.thornton20@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.thornton20@gmail.com)  
**USA:** Richard Paverd. Email: [Richard@paverd.com](mailto:Richard@paverd.com)
6. **A daily updated career portal is available for our graduates.** The Alumni Relations Office provides a career 'Super-Highway' for our alumni, between yourselves and the top companies in South Africa – including consulting and auditing firms, banks, and blue chip corporations. This portal will provide current high profile jobs and career opportunities for you to consider, and apply directly to. The alumni career portal serves to:
  - Give you visibility to a multitude of job opportunities in the market in a single place so that you don't need to consult different sources;
  - Name the different companies that are employing so that you know exactly who you are applying to;
  - Allow you to apply directly to the employer by linking you directly into their career site.
 To access the alumni career portal visit:  
<http://alumniaffairs.ukzn.ac.za/Careers.aspx>
7. **Online update facility is available for easy access** – All graduates are encouraged to stay in touch with the Alumni Relations office by updating their contact details, especially mobile numbers and email addresses. Any information is strictly confidential, and will only be used by UKZN. If you experience any technical problems or are unable to find your name, please contact the Alumni Relations office at [alumni@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:alumni@ukzn.ac.za). Update your details online at: <https://ukznalumni.devman.co.za/devman/online/findme/>
8. **Find-a-Friend facility** – Get in touch with old University classmates and friends! If you wish to contact a former university friend, try searching the Find-a-Friend alumni directory: <https://ukznalumni.devman.co.za/FindAFriend/>. If you experience any problems, please contact the Alumni office – Email: [alumni@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:alumni@ukzn.ac.za)
9. **Absa Affinity gold credit card for graduates** – This UKZN credit card gives you the advantages of an Absa Gold Credit Card while still showing your allegiance to the University of KwaZulu-Natal. With your Gold Affinity credit card you receive Absa Rewards, you'll earn Cash Rewards, and it also offers you access to Bidvest Airport Lounges at preferential rates. To support your University, Absa will pay a percentage of the total turnover on your UKZN Credit Card back to the University, at no extra cost to you. The UKZN Credit Card could be the right choice if you:
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  - Would like to show your loyalty to your university.

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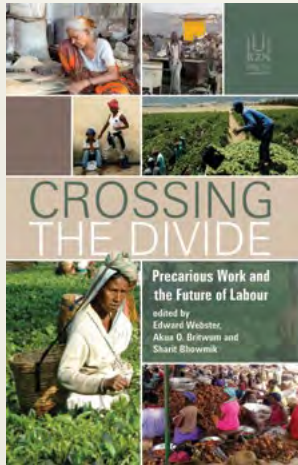




ON THE

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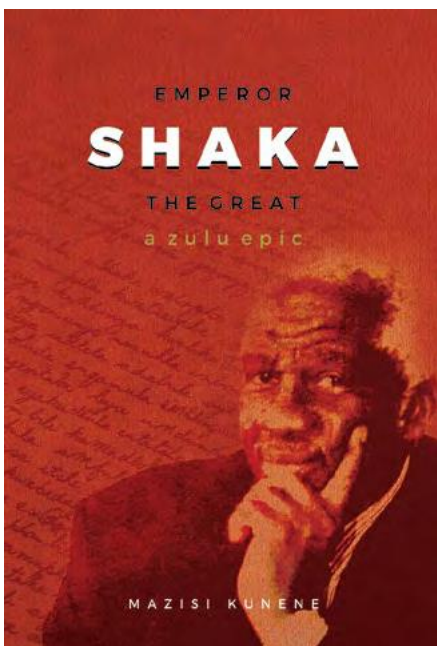
## Crossing the Divide

Precarious Work and the Future of Labour

**Edited by Edward Webster, Akua O. Britwum and Sharit Bhowmik**

While work-related insecurities and worker vulnerability induced by neoliberal globalisation are undeniably affecting an increasing number of workers around the world, *Crossing the Divide* reveals that the history and legacy of colonialism is shaping the response of the Global South in ways that are quite different from that of the North. Comparing precarious work in India, Ghana and South Africa, this book shows how innovative organisational strategies are emerging in the Global South to bridge the widening divide between

the formal and informal economy. Farm workers in Ghana, India and South Africa are challenging colonial-type work practices. Municipal workers in Johannesburg and Accra are organising collectively and workers in domestic service, unregulated factories and home-based work in all three countries are engaging in a range of creative strategies to fight for decent work and living conditions. *Crossing the Divide* makes it clear that informal workers are not passive victims but are building new forms of collective solidarity to promote their rights and interests.



## Emperor Shaka The Great

A Zulu Epic

**Mazisi Kunene**

Mazisi Kunene is the much-celebrated author of epics such as *Emperor Shaka the Great* (*UNodumehlezi KaMenzi*) and *Anthem of the Decades* (*Inhlokomo Yeminyaka*), as well as numerous poems, short stories, nursery rhymes and proverbs that amount to a collection of more than 10 000 works. He was born in aMahlongwa in 1930, a small rural village on the South Coast of KwaZulu-Natal. His calling as an *imbongi* was taken very seriously by his father and grandfather who encouraged him to write. In *UNodumehlezi KaMenzi* (*Emperor Shaka the Great*), which he wrote in exile, Kunene positions Shaka as a legendary thinker, who had great skill as a strategic and military genius and was a unifying cultural and political force for the Zulu nation. Kunene projects Shaka into the mythical ancestral universe that affirms the deep cultural lineage of the African world view. This reprinted English edition is published with the isiZulu edition on the 10th anniversary of his death, embracing Kunene's dream to have his work published in the original isiZulu form.



**Hostels In South Africa**  
Spaces of Perplexity  
**Nomkhosi Xulu Gama**

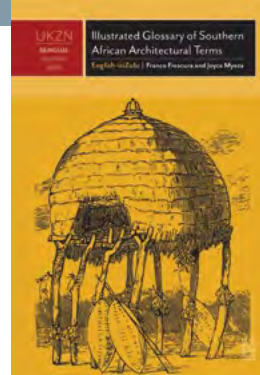
This book traces the transformation of KwaMashu Hostel in Durban in the 21st century from a single-sex men's hostel to family accommodation in community residential units. It presents the continuities and

discontinuities that take place as hostel-dwellers grapple with everyday livelihood struggles. Rural-urban migrants continue to make the same journeys their grandfathers, fathers and uncles, and later their grandmothers, mothers and aunts made in search of employment opportunities, although the context has changed. *Hostels in South Africa* engages with challenges and triumphs of hostel-dwellers, as they both resist and embrace the process of transformation, the clashes between men and women and across generations, and feelings of nostalgia for the past. The author spent time living at KwaMashu Hostel during the two years of her fieldwork and the book thus presents as an intimate view from the inside.

**isiShweshwe**

A History of the Indigenisation of Blueprint in South Africa  
**Juliette Leeb-du Toit**

The cross-cultural usage of a particular cloth type – blueprint – is central to South African cultural history. Known locally as *seshoeshoe* or *isishweshwe*, among many other names, South African blueprint originated in the Far East and East Asia. Adapted and absorbed by the West, in Africa, blueprint was originally associated with trade, coercion, colonisation, Westernisation, religious conversion and even slavery, but residing within its hues and patterns was a resonance that endured. The cloth came to reflect histories of hardship, courage and survival, but it also conveyed the taste and aesthetic predilections of its users, often across racial and cultural divides. In this beautifully illustrated book Juliette Leeb-du Toit traces the origins of the cloth, its early usage and cultural adaptations, and its emerging regional, cultural and aesthetic significance.



**Illustrated Glossary of Southern African Architectural Terms**  
**Franco Frescura and Joyce Myeza**

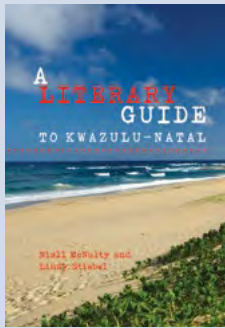
Since 1994 South Africa has witnessed steady erosion of its indigenous built environment, with concomitant loss of indigenous building technology and its specialised terminology. This glossary is based on the premise that one cannot understand the culture of a people unless one has a grasp of the nuances and hidden meanings of their language. It covers the terminology used by indigenous builders as well as subsequent colonial White settlers including buildings of the so-called Cape Dutch, English Georgian, Victorian and Indian traditions. The text is set out in alphabetical order. It comprises each term in its original language, its translation where appropriate into isiZulu, and its definition in English and isiZulu. One of the strengths of this book is its visual component of accompanying sketches that expertly illustrate the terms.

**Justify The Enemy**

Becoming Human in South Africa  
**Zakes Mda | Edited and Introduced by J.U. Jacobs**

This book is a collection of non-fiction by the prolific author Zakes Mda. It showcases his role as a public intellectual and includes public lectures, essays and media articles. Mda focuses on South Africa's history and the present, identity and belonging, the art of writing, human rights, global warming and why he is unable to keep silent on abuses of power. Some of his best-known novels include *Ways of Dying* (1995, MNet Book Prize); *The Heart of Redness* (2000, Commonwealth Writers' Prize: Africa, and Sunday Times Fiction Prize); *The Madonna of Excelsior* (2002, one of the Top Ten South African books published in the Decade of Democracy); *The Whale Caller* (2005); *Cion* (2007); *Black Diamond* (2009); *The Sculptors of Mapungubwe* (2013); *Rachel's Blue* (2014); and *Little Suns* (2015, Sunday Times Literary Award).





## A Literary Guide to KwaZulu-Natal

Niall McNulty and Lindy Stiebel

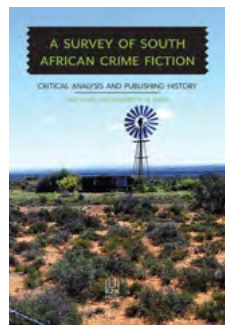
KwaZulu-Natal is culturally rich, offering a wide range of writers – writing mainly in English and isiZulu – who are linked through their lives and their writing to this province. They include Alan Paton, Roy Campbell, Lewis Nkosi, Ronnie Govender, Wilbur Smith, Daphne Rooke, Credo Mutwa and Gcina Mhlophe. And how better to understand a writer than to know about the places they are linked to? *A Literary Guide to KwaZulu-Natal* introduces the reader to the regions and writers of this province through words and images. This could include following the route a fictional character charts in a novel, visiting particular settings from a story or tracking down the places linked to a writer. Literary tourists are interested in how places have influenced writing and at the same time how writing has created place. This is also a way of reflecting on and understanding historic and contemporary identities in a changing cultural and political South African landscape.

## Survey of South African Crime Fiction

Critical Analysis and Publishing History

Sam Naidu and Elizabeth le Roux

Is crime fiction the new 'political novel' in South Africa? Why did the apartheid censors disapprove of crime fiction more than any other genre? Crime fiction continues to be a burgeoning literary category in post-apartheid South Africa, with more new authors, titles and themes emerging every year. This book is the first comprehensive survey of South African crime fiction. It provides an overview of this phenomenally successful literary category, and places it within its wider social and historical context. The authors specialise in both literary studies and print culture, and this combination informs a critical analysis and publishing history of South African crime fiction from the 19th century to the present day. The inclusion of a detailed bibliography of crime fiction since the 1890s makes *A Survey of South African Crime Fiction* an indispensable teaching and study aid.

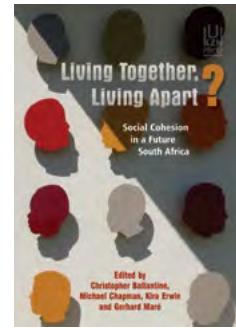


## Living Together, Living Apart?

Social Cohesion in a Future South Africa

Edited by Christopher Ballantine, Michael Chapman, Kira Erwin and Gerhard Maré

These 'interventions' are spurred by what in today's South Africa is a buzz-term: social cohesion. This term is bandied about with little reflection by leaders in politics, business, labour, education, sport, entertainment and the media. Yet, who would not wish to live in a socially cohesive society? How, then, do we apply this ideal when diversity of language, religion, culture, race and the economy often supersede our commitment to a common citizenry? How do we live together rather than live apart? The interventions – short, incisive, and at times provocative essays – tackle issues that are pertinent to both living together and living apart: equality/inequality, public pronouncements, xenophobia, safety, chieftaincy in modernity, gender-based abuse, healing, the law, education, identity, sport, new 'national' projects, the role of the arts and South Africa in the world. They point towards the making of a future in which a critical citizenry is the key to a healthy society.



## Street Life Under A Roof

Youth Homelessness in South Africa

Emily Margaretten

Point Place stands near the city centre of Durban, South Africa. Condemned and off the grid, the five-storey apartment building is home to a hundred-plus teenagers and young adults marginalised by poverty and chronic unemployment. Emily Margaretten draws on 10 years of up-close fieldwork to explore the distinct cultural universe of the Point Place community. Her sensitive investigations reveal how young men and women draw on customary notions of respect and support to forge an ethos of connection and care that allows them to live far richer lives than ordinarily assumed. Her discussion of gender dynamics highlights terms that young women and men use to construct 'outside' and 'inside' boyfriends and girlfriends and to communicate notions of trust. Challenging the idea that Point Place's residents need 'rehabilitation', Margaretten argues that they want love, secure homes and the means to provide for their dependents – the same hopes and aspirations mirrored across South African society.





## NGOs and Social Justice in South Africa and Beyond

Edited by Sally Matthews

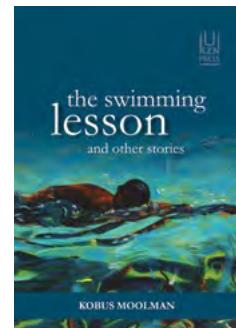
Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are regarded by many as vital role players in improving the lives of the poor and bringing about social justice. This book includes contributions from NGO workers, academics and social movement activists to provide varying perspectives on what possible role NGOs can rightly play in popular struggles. It does not offer a single message, but rather invites careful reflection and critical discussion on their role both in South Africa and further afield.



## The Swimming Lesson and Other Stories

Kobus Moolman

This collection by multiple award-winning poet, author and playwright Kobus Moolman is a volume of unconventional potency. Written in a range of styles, voices and genres, each of the 10 stories offers original insights into the difficulties of staying afloat. Whether the challenge is being differently abled (with all the outsider isolation this brings); lower-income family life under unbending patriarchal rule; or being born a female child in an abusive, gendered culture, the narratives are convincing (often humorous) in their portrayal of trapped lives striving for transcendence. The darkly funny "Kiss and the Brigadier" invokes the stultifying boredom of small-town life and the captured mentalities of its understimulated citizens; "Extracts from a Dispensable Life" offers a creative and sensitive reading of the gender violence theme; while the irreverent but never disrespectful "Angel Heart" ventures into the risky waters of religious send-up.

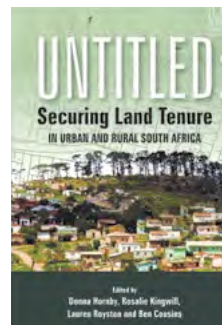


## Sitting Pretty

White Afrikaans Women in Postapartheid South Africa  
by Christi van der Westhuizen

At the opening of South Africa's first democratic parliament in 1994, newly elected president Nelson Mandela issued a clarion call to an unlikely group: White Afrikaans women, who during apartheid

occupied the ambivalent position of being both oppressor and oppressed. He conjured the memory of poet Ingrid Jonker as "both an Afrikaner and an African" who "instructs that our endeavours must be about the liberation of the woman, the emancipation of the man and the liberty of the child". More than two decades later, the question is: how have White Afrikaans-speaking women responded to the liberating possibilities of constitutional democracy? With Afrikaner nationalism in disrepair, and official apartheid in demise, have they re-imagined themselves in opposition to colonial ideas of race, gender, sexuality and class? *Sitting Pretty* explores this postapartheid identity through the concepts of *ordentlikheid*, as an ethnic form of respectability, and the *volksmoeder*, or mother of the nation, as enduring icon. Issues of intersectionality, space, emotion and masculinity are also investigated.



## Untitled:

Securing Land Tenure in Urban and Rural South Africa

Edited by Donna Hornby, Rosalie Kingwill, Lauren Royston and Ben Cousins

A title deed = tenure security. Or does it? This book challenges this simple equation and its apparently self-evident assumptions. It argues that two very different property paradigms characterise South Africa. The dominant paradigm is private property. However, the majority of South Africans gain access to land and housing through very different processes. These tenures are poorly understood. The book reveals that 'informal' and customary property systems can be well organised, often providing substantial tenure security, but lack official recognition and support. This makes them difficult to service and vulnerable to elite capture. Policy interventions usually aim to formalise these arrangements by issuing title deeds. The case studies, which span both rural and urban contexts in South Africa, examine these interventions and the unintended consequences they often give rise to. Interventions based on an understanding of locally embedded property relations are more likely to succeed. However, emerging practices hit intractable obstacles which only substantial transformation of the legal paradigms can overcome.



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