

02	MESSAGES
04	NEWS
20	PROFILES
24	OUT & ABOUT
26	CLASS NOTES
28	SHORT STORY COMPETITION
30	ON THE BOOKSHELF
33	CONVOCATION

# UKZNtOUCH

A UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL ALUMNI PUBLICATION

Editorial team	Dasarath Chetty, Finn Christensen, Deanne Collins, André Young
Contributors	Caryn Barnes, Bren Brophy, Vicky Crookes, Bhekani Dlamini, Thembeke Dlungwane, Sean Jones, Smita Maharaj, Claudia Mitchell, Eliza Moodley, Amelia Naidoo, Corlia Ogle, Jennene Singh, Jean Stuart
Photographs	Vicky Crookes, Bhekani Dlamini, Thembeke Dlungwane, Sally Giles, Rishi Hansraj, Madoda Mahlangu, Roger O'Neill, Jeeva Rajgopaul
Administrative Assistance	Esmé Estrice, Desiree Govender, Fikisile Mabaso
Produced by	Public Affairs and Corporate Communications, University of KwaZulu-Natal
Telephone	031 260 1245/7115/2027
Email	collins@ukzn.ac.za
Alumni Affairs office	031 260 2016/2823
Alumni Affairs website	www.ukzn.ac.za/alumni
Alumni Affairs email	alumni@ukzn.ac.za
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UNIVERSITY OF  
KWAZULU-NATAL



## From the desk of the Vice-Chancellor

At our third set of graduation ceremonies in May 2006, the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) welcomed 8 123 graduates to our alumni family.

Nearly 5 000 of the graduates are women, demonstrating the University's commitment to promoting the access of women to Higher Education. Forty seven graduands with disabilities and 94 doctoral graduands were capped during the ceremonies. Of added interest is the fact that 31.2% of our graduands are from the faculty of Management Studies. This

demonstrates the contribution UKZN is making to growing our economy, and to local and national economic development.

Twenty one percent of the graduands are from the Faculty of Humanities, Development and Social Sciences; young men and women who are poised to make a contribution to welfare, administration, the fine arts and a whole range of other economic sectors. The 3<sup>rd</sup> highest number of graduands are from the Faculty of Education, 1 511 or 18.6% of the total. This is followed by Science and Agriculture, 12.5%, Engineering, 4.7%, Law, 3.9% and Medicine, 3.8%.

It takes a university of distinction to provide top students with a prestigious, yet practical qualification. UKZN is listed as one of only

four South African universities in the World's Top 500 institutions. Research units at the University receive national and international recognition for their high quality research output. The University has international links with more than 250 institutions, which facilitate research partnerships, and academic and student exchange programmes – all of which contribute to the excellent standard of education in our Institution. The University is committed to redressing the historical imbalances of the past. Financial aid and mentorship programmes assist and cultivate our future leaders. UKZN's more than 350 outreach projects both undertake research which is relevant to our society, and build capacity for communities to tackle socio-economic issues.

I wish to extend a welcome to our new alumni and to also welcome you to the Convocation of the University, a statutory body of which you automatically become a member by virtue of obtaining a degree from this University. Convocation elects its members to University structures and through its affiliated alumni associations, supports the endeavours of the University in many other ways.

Many of the facilities and much of the support, from which you have benefited as a student of this Institution, have been made possible through the generosity and the dedication of our alumni. On behalf of UKZN I want to encourage you to maintain your links with the University and to support it wherever you can.

**Professor MW Makgoba**



## From the desk of the Executive Director of Public Affairs and Corporate Communications

In January 2004 we began the process of planning and implementing the consolidation of Faculties in a rational and efficient manner, together with the upgrading of facilities, so that all five campuses are of a high and acceptable standard.

This process of consolidation and upgrading aimed at eradicating duplication and streamlining the provision of Higher Education services is well under way. Over the next two years the University will inject over R240 million into the building industry in an attempt to ensure

that our laboratory facilities, office space and lecture halls are of a world class standard. We will spend about R40 million on research and teaching equipment which includes, for example, over R2 million on glassware for undergraduate chemistry teaching labs.

Being a large residential University has meant that we have to ensure that the living and learning areas of the University are also of premier quality. With this in mind the University is currently negotiating with a consortium to set up a public-private partnership to establish 1 200 additional beds in our residences at Howard College, Westville and Edgewood campuses. The partnership would mean that the private sector will be responsible for the capital

and maintenance costs of the planned development with the University renting the facilities for a period of up to 20 years, after which time ownership will revert to the University.

As a result of the relocations the main University administration, some Schools of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture, Faculty of Management Studies (including the Graduate School of Business) and Faculty of Health Sciences are now located on the Westville campus. The remaining Schools of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture will move across to the Westville campus from the Howard College campus later this year and next year. The Howard College campus houses the Faculty of Law, Faculty of

Engineering, Faculty of Humanities, Development and Social Sciences and Faculty of Health Sciences (School of Nursing). The Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine remains in Umbilo and the Faculty of Education is predominantly based at Edgewood. On the Pietermaritzburg campus are the Faculties of Science and Agriculture, Law, Management Studies, Engineering, Humanities, Development and Social Studies and Education.

Public Affairs & Corporate Communications invites our distinguished alumni to visit our campuses by making the necessary appointment through the Alumni Affairs Office.

Yours in service,

**Professor Dasarath Chetty**



Jubilation at the May 2006 graduation.

## Message from the Alumni Affairs Team

Dear Alumnus,

The Alumni Affairs Office has planned an exciting programme of activities for 2006, with a variety of events in areas which include places not visited by the University for a number of years. The areas targeted include East London, Port Elizabeth and Swaziland as well as Cape Town, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Bloemfontein and a number of overseas countries.

In addition – the bi-annual UKZNTOUCH publication and monthly electronic

newsletter will continue to be sent to graduates in order to keep everyone updated on the latest developments taking place at your *alma mater* and to maintain contact with fellow graduates.

In order to maintain this relationship, the Alumni Affairs Office is eager to secure the current contact details of alumni. It would be very much appreciated if all alumni who have recently had a change in contact details would please inform our office. Also, please encourage any friends or relatives who are gradu-

ates and have not received any correspondence from the University in the last 12 months to please provide our office with their updated contact details. This can be done on the provided form (to be faxed or posted), via email or the website.

The Alumni Affairs Team looks forward to interacting and meeting with alumni during the year and welcomes suggestions for events and information for UKZNTOUCH.

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



FINN CHRISTENSEN



CORLIA OGLE



ESMÉ ESTRICE



**Twenty six full-cost four-year scholarships for women from the Carnegie Corporation of New York are part of the Women in Science, Engineering and Agriculture (WOSA) Scheme.**

To be awarded over the three-year period between 2006 and 2008, the WOSA Prestige Scholarships are part of the Women in Science, Engineering and Agriculture (WOSA) Scheme, a collaboration between the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science, the Equity Office, the Access Office and the Student Services Division. The grant will also support development of a major marketing campaign aimed at promoting careers in engineering and agriculture among women, as well as a personal and professional development programme for scholarship-holders during their studies.

The acronym is a play on the Zulu word *woza* which means 'come closer', the intention being to bring highflying women into these exciting disciplines and careers.

All scholarship-holders will be allocated personal mentors throughout their studies and will also have access to a range of professional and personal enrichment programmes, from dedicated academic support should it be necessary through to workshops and other forums intended to equip women students to negotiate working environments which, traditionally, are largely the domain of men. Together with UKZN's Public Affairs and Corporate Communications Division, the

# WOZA!



**BROADENING HORIZONS** The scholarships will promote the development of women scientists.

College will also launch a broader drive to address societal barriers to women's pursuit of careers in engineering and agriculture, and inform young women about the range of exciting professional prospects available to them in these fields.

Professor Pete Zacharias, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science, described the award as a major boost to the efforts of the College to improve participation by women in fields with which they have not traditionally been associated. "The foresight and generosity of the Carnegie Corporation have given enormous momentum to this important initiative. It is now up to us to build the Scheme and find other sponsors for promising young women who have the ability and determination to break new ground in these areas that

The acronym is a play on the Zulu word *woza* which means 'come closer', the intention being to bring high-flying women into these exciting disciplines and careers.

## Welcoming reception

The first five recipients of the WOSA (Women in Science, Engineering and Agriculture) Scholarship received a warm welcome from College and WOSA steering committee members at a reception on the Pietermaritzburg campus.

Professor Pete Zacharias, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Agriculture, Engineering

and Science, congratulated Justine Tempest (4th year in Animal Science), Rene Rampersad (1st year in Civil Engineering), Nicole Naidoo (1st year in Chemical Engineering), Sarish Baboolal (1st year in Civil Engineering) and Rebecca Burne (1st year in Statistics) on their achievement and stressed the importance of a symbiotic relationship. "We are all pioneers in this initiative

and you are going to have to work with us to make this a successful programme. We need to attract higher performing women in the sciences and technologies and we need your assistance," he said.

Deans and other WOSA steering committee members expressed their support for the women and urged them to study hard and take advantage of ➤

are critical to Africa's long-term prosperity."

The UKZN Foundation and the College are actively seeking support for further scholarships and other financial aid mechanisms for the WOSA Scheme. "Hopefully, the grant from the Carnegie Corporation will motivate local donors, industry and the public sector to invest in scholarships and work-study schemes for women students," said Professor

Zacharias. "These sectors are under pressure to meet gender equity targets. Investment in the WOSA Scheme provides an excellent opportunity for industry, commerce and government to guarantee themselves access to the country's top women graduates in these fields."

**This article was originally published in Development Brief, Vol 2 No 3, November 2005**

## WOSA scholarship recipients



> the challenges that come their way. Professor John Cooke, Dean of Science & Agriculture, said that "South Africa needs to be producing seven times the number of top scientists it is currently generating". He added that it was a bonus to have women leaders in these disciplines. Professor Nelson Ijumba, Dean of Engineering, said he was very happy

about this initiative. "There are a lot of support programmes for students who are underachieving but it is important that we support our top achievers as well".

**(ABOVE) 2006 WOSA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS** (from left) *Rebecca Burne, Rene Rampersad, Nicole Naidoo, Sarish Baboolal and Justine Tempest.*



*(From left) Pianists among the staff of the School of Music: Mr Andrew Warburton; Professor David Smith; Mr Christopher Cockburn and (sitting) Dr Liezl Maret-Jacobs.*

## Donors of note

On 20 May 2005, six of Durban's top pianists joined forces to present PIANO PASSION – a Jazz concert hosted by Darius Brubeck with Melvin Peters, Neil Gonsalves, John Edwards, Burton Naidoo and Susan Barry at UKZN.

This benefit event signalled the start of a fund-raising drive which has enabled the School of Music to commence the urgently required reconditioning of the Steinway Concert Grand Piano housed at the Howard College Theatre. This unique occasion provided the platform for the launch of the School of Music's Donors of Note campaign.

In an attempt to raise outstanding funds the

School of Music is 'selling' the 88 keys of the piano. Donors will be acknowledged in a permanent display board to be mounted in the Howard College Theatre. Each piano key will be sold for R250, except for the ubiquitously recognised 'Middle C' and 'Concert A' which have already been sold for R500 each.

Please consider our request to become a 'Donor of Note' – your support and contribution will be long remembered. Anyone who wishes to purchase a key may contact Debbie Mari on (031) 260 3353 or [marid1@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:marid1@ukzn.ac.za)

# Lifetime achievement award

**Academic, scientist and human rights activist, Professor Hoosen Coovadia was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award in India in March for his invaluable contribution towards clinical practice and medical education. The award was presented by the 2006 HIV Congress in Mumbai.**

In his acceptance address Professor Coovadia said: "I am pleased to receive this award not only for myself but for all the individuals who worked with me in research (because research is most often a collective effort) and in teaching (which is always a joint effort by many teachers). I also am especially gratified for this honour you have done me because of the long history of brotherhood between our two countries; this was particularly appreciated during the dark apartheid years when India supported the liberation of my country at every international and

other forum."

Professor Coovadia, the Victor Daitz Chair in HIV/Aids Medicine and Scientific Director of the Doris Duke Medical Research Institute at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine, is a distinguished academic whose primary fields of expertise are Paediatric Nephrology, Infectious Diseases and Nutritional Diseases. Professor Coovadia has published prolifically, leads a range of research programmes, advisory groups and development trusts, and is involved in numerous multidisciplinary activities, development initiatives and health policy formulation. He is internationally recognised for his groundbreaking research in HIV/Aids transmission from mother to child, especially through breastfeeding and is the Protocol Chair for HIVNET 023 and HPTN 046.

Professor Coovadia has received numerous accolades and awards. He was elected as a Fellow of the University in 1995 and was awarded



**DEDICATION** Professor Coovadia with his award.

an honorary DSc by the University of Durban-Westville and the University of Witwatersrand. In 1999 President Nelson Mandela honoured him with the Star of South Africa for his contribution to democracy and health and he received a silver medal from the Medical Research Council for excellence in research. In 2000 he received the International Association of Physicians in Aids and Care Award, the Heroes in Medicine Award in Toronto, Canada, the Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights and he was elected

a Foreign Member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, USA – an honour that is seldom awarded.

He is particularly committed to developing research capacity, having supervised over 40 postgraduate students and taught in the medical, nursing and allied health professions for more than 20 years. His research output is exceptional – he has authored or co-authored more than 200 articles in peer reviewed journals, many of them leading international journals.

## GOLD MEDAL FOR BOTANY

UKZN's Professor Patricia Berjak has been recognised for her exemplary work by the South African Association of Botanists (SAAB), which awarded her the South African Gold Medal for Botany at a gala dinner on 18 January. SAAB's Gold Medal Award is awarded only in exceptional circumstances to outstanding candidates and is the

premier award for Botany in South Africa.

Professor Berjak is an acknowledged world leader in the field of seed biology and has published more than 120 scientific papers in international literature as well as serving on the editorial boards of three international journals. She is held in high esteem by both her UKZN and

international contemporaries and is invited regularly to speak at international conferences and work at laboratories abroad.

Professor Berjak's research achievements and international standing have also been recognised by her election as a Fellow of the former University of Natal in 1994, as a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa in 1996, and as a Member of the Academy of Science of South

Africa in the same year.

In 2001 SAAB awarded her the Silver Medal Award, and in 2004, she received the award from the Department of Science and Technology as the most Distinguished Woman Scientist.

In 2005, Professor Berjak was inducted as a Fellow of the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World and was unanimously voted in as President-Elect of the International Society for Seed Science. She >



# Ruffling dinosaur feathers

**The origin of birds is a hotly contested debate in evolutionary biology. At the centre of this debate is a structure unique to birds, the feather, which besides facilitating a complex physiology, affords birds the most advanced form of flight known in the animal world.**

More than a century ago Thomas Henry Huxley noted a resemblance between the skeleton of the small theropod dinosaur *Compsognathus* and birds. In more recent years, dinosaur fossils were discovered in Liaoning Province in China, some of which, scientists claimed, were covered in protofeathers (early feathers).

UKZN's Professor Heagarten Lingham-Soliar was invited by Alan Feduccia (SK Heninger

Professor and former Chair of Biology at University of North Carolina), one of the world's leading avian evolutionary biologists, to investigate the protofeather hypothesis.

Professor Lingham-Soliar's clinical investigation showed that "there is no scientific evidence" to uphold the hypothesis. He has received widespread praise for his research. He emphasises that his intention is not to discredit, nor support, the Birds from Dinosaurs hypothesis, which has many good points, but rather to dispense with the dogma that has bedevilled the subject in high profile journals in recent years.



**CONTESTED** Professor Lingham-Soliar holds a cast of the skeleton of the dinosaur which shows some similarities with that of birds. (Right) Professor Lingham-Soliar's graphics of the disputed feathered dinosaur,

*Sinosauropteryx, featured on the cover of the Journal of Morphology.*



is one of a small number of scientists (only two of whom are women) to be awarded an NRF 'A' rating, recognising her status as a world leader in her field. She is, however, the first to admit that such scientific achievements are the result of team-work – with her many post-graduate students over the years, and particularly with her husband, Professor Norman Pammenter (also a SAAB Silver Medalist), who has



been consistently involved in facets of the recalcitrant seed research over the years.

"This award gives recognition to UKZN's international profile and standing within the field of Seed Biology and Botany as a whole", said Professor Berjak.

**WORLD LEADER** Professor Berjak proudly displays her award.



# Scifest prize

**The University took second prize for its interactive exhibit at the Sasol Scifest in Grahamstown. One of the premier science and technology festivals in the country, Scifest celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. UKZN has been participating for nine years.**

The University's exhibition included tsunami and water catchment models, an image processing display, electrical engineering gadgets, civil engineering bridges and an arrestor bed, steam cars, spectroscopes and a block and tackle illustrating a pulley system

Anja Fourie, Festival Manager, congratulated the UKZN team, and described their enthusiasm and professionalism as "inspirational". Team members included Mark Horan (Bioresources Engineering and Environmental Hydrology), Mervyn Beukes (Genetics), Jeff Bindon (Mechanical Engineering), Tanja Reinhardt (Geology), Tony Bruton (EM Unit), Roger O'Neill (Audio Visual), Vicky Crookes (Science &

Agriculture), Ntlibi Matete (Civil Engineering student), Steven Smith and Joanne Garrard (both Electrical Engineering students).

Jeff Bindon and Tanja Reinhardt are to be commended on the workshops they conducted during the festival. Their steam car and volcano workshops, which took place once or twice every day, were fully booked. Jeff was also honoured at the awards ceremony for his 10 year involvement with Scifest.

The trip to and from Grahamstown was fraught with vehicle problems that tested team members' patience and tolerance levels. To compound matters, team leader Mark Horan, sustained a back injury while on duty at the Scifest exhibit. Fortunately, everyone managed to maintain a sense of humour and the team arrived safely back in KwaZulu-Natal after a protracted journey.

**THE 2006 SCIFEST TEAM** (from left) Vicky Crookes, Mark Horan, Mervyn Beukes, Roger O'Neill, Tanja Reinhardt, Jeff Bindon, Eloise Marais, Ntlibi Matete, Steven Smith, Tony Bruton and Joanne Garrard.



**BOFFINS** Civil Engineering student Ntlibi Matete assists pupils to build a bridge.



RICHARD NAIDOO

## Fulbright Scholarship for Richard Naidoo

The prestigious Fulbright Scholarship has been awarded to Professor Richard Naidoo, Head of the Pfizer Molecular Biology Research Facility at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine, to pursue research in genomics in the USA.

Professor Naidoo said: "I feel very privileged to have received this award and am greatly indebted to

my teachers, both locally and internationally who have in many ways shaped my career. My research in the United States will assist in bolstering our ability to create capacity and encourage other scientists to pursue research in this dynamic and rapidly evolving field. In addition the research endeavours will also complement the Department of

Science and Technology's initiative to develop genomics in the country".

Professor Naidoo has published widely on various cancers, in particular oesophageal cancer. He obtained his PhD at the University of Natal and has also attended Harvard University and the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York.

# Opera students scoop award

**UKZN opera students made waves at the South African Opera Competition at the University of the Witwatersrand on 18 February 2006.**

Bulelani Madikizela and Mhlaba Buthelezi were placed first and sixth respectively. Bulelani won R20 000 and Mhlaba received R5 000. The prize money will be paid into their student accounts towards their fees.

Final year Music Performance student Bulelani was astonished to hear he had won. "Being the only baritone I did not expect to win. Such competitions are usually won by tenors and sopranos." He attributes his success to the fact that "I do what I want to do. I have developed my talent and I hope that, with my voice, I can go places".

His passion for music began at junior secondary school in Bizana Village, Eastern Cape. His high school music teacher, Mr V Dumela, brought him to UKZN for an audition and he was accepted into the course. He is grateful to his music teacher, Colleen Philp, and pianist Andrew Warburton.

Bulelani says that many people in the rural areas are not aware of opera music. On completion of his studies he would like to expose them to it. He does not have a particular role model, but admires Leo Nuci, an Italian male soloist's technique and voice. "When I try to imitate Leo's style it works for me."

Mhlaba came sixth in the tenor soloists' category. He is a final year Bachelor of Music (BMus) student on the Howard College campus. He

was born in Nkandla, and raised and educated in Manzini, Swaziland. He says preparing for a competition is not only about perfecting vocal skills. The singer needs to understand what the composer of the song had in mind and the feelings he/she wanted to convey to the audience. His passion for music began at primary school, where he sang in the choir from Grade 4. "Being involved in community choir usually plays a role in developing black musicians in South Africa." He is inspired by Andrea Bocelli, a visually challenged opera singer.



**WINNING BARITONE** Bulelani Madikizela sings with Nomveliso Nocuze.



**DRAMATIC** Mhlaba Buthelezi.



The 9th annual Time of the Writer festival brought together an amazing array of literary talent. As in previous years, it was not only about writers from different parts of the world getting together to discuss their work. The festival co-ordinator, UKZN's Centre for Creative Arts (CCA), is committed to interacting with Durban's inner city and township communities through providing access to the culturally diverse literary talent brought together by the festival.

CCA Director Peter Rorvik says that this is "part of the process of nurturing interest in literature, tapping into a wealth of creative expression and facilitating an interactive space for often marginalised voices". Outreach programmes included an Educators' Forum at Chatsworth, a graphic art workshop at the Ekhyaya Centre in KwaMashu, writers running workshops with school learners, and creative writing workshops at Westville Correctional Services.

## SCHOOLS

All the writers participating in the

# Writers reach out

Writers attending the *Time of the Writer* festival shared their skills with communities around Durban



**PRISON WORKSHOP** (from left) Chris Abani, Kobus Moolman and Brian Fulela conduct creative writing workshops at Westville Correctional Services to help young inmates better understand the craft of writing.

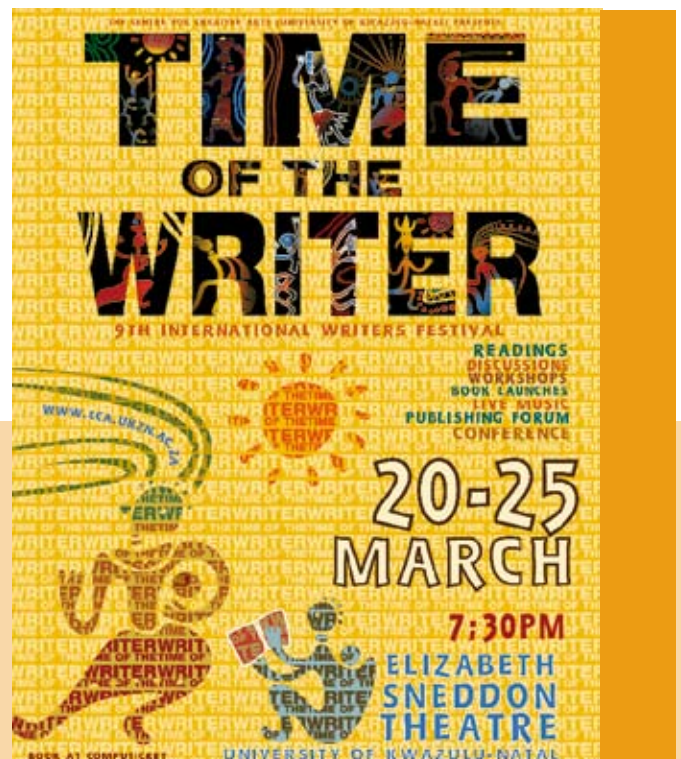
festival visited schools to engage with learners and teachers about reading, writing and literature.

Amitav Ghosh from India and South Africa's Ingrid Winterbach visited Mowat Park Secondary, which combined with Clairwood High. Forty learners attended the session, which was enjoyable and beneficial for the writers as well, according to Lorelle Royeppen of the CCA.

## Graphic art

Award-winning cartoonist Zapiro made a unique contribution to the festival, linking graphic art to narrative structures and contributing a cartoonist's perspective on the highly topical subject of Freedom of Expression

versus Social Responsibility. Zapiro, together with Andy Mason and Themba Siwela, conducted a cartooning workshop with talented young cartoonists at the Ekhyaya Multi-Arts Centre in KwaMashu. >





**Time of the Writer is about nurturing an interest in literature, tapping into a wealth of creative voices**

Schools were asked to report back on the success of the visit and these comments were passed on to the writers. In total, 29 schools and 2 000 learners were reached.

## PRISONS

The Prison Creative Writing Project held at Westville Correctional Services has become one of the features of the Time of the Writer festival and is organised in partnership with the University's CCA and English Studies department. Under the direction of Kobus Moolman, students Andile Mnguni and Brian Fulela successfully co-ordinated this year's workshops. Mnguni and Fulela, who are students in English Studies, helped young male and female inmates experiment with expressing themselves through creative writing.

Mnguni worked with female inmates and Fulela with males who are already part of the school programme that exists at the prison. At the end of the workshops the inmates produced a body of work, in the form of stories, which helped them better understand the craft of writing.

Moolman, who has been co-ordi-

nating the creative writing workshops at Westville Correctional Services for some years, commented that the project is a way of empowering inmates: "They gain confidence and experience in expressing themselves through written language, and they also learn some of the basic elements of fiction writing and poetry."

He adds that the workshops also benefit the senior English Studies students as the project develops their talents and helps them gain



experience in teaching in the non-formal sector.

## EDUCATOR'S FORUM

The Educators' Forum brings writers and teachers of literature together to discuss topics relating to the teaching and learning of literary works in schools. Marita van der Vyver, Amitav Ghosh, Kagiso Lesego Molohe and Brian Chikwava attended the Forum.

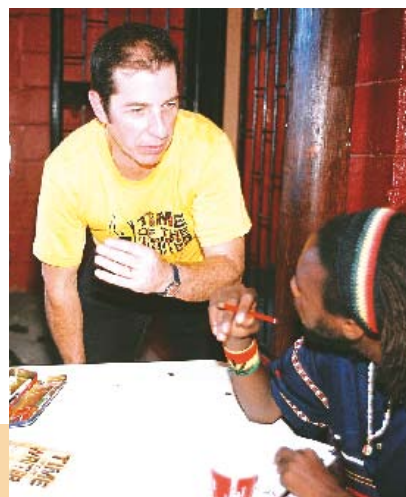
Inanda, Ntuzuma, KwaMashu (INK) Urban Renewal Programme, and the Ekhaya Multi-Arts Centre.

According to Mason, Zapiro's contribution during the Time of the Writer festival provided an "ideal



## YOUTHFUL INSPIRATION

*South Africa's Ingrid Winterbach with Mowat Park Secondary and Clairwood High learners.*



## CARTOONING TALENT

*Award-winning cartoonist Zapiro encourages budding cartoonists at the Ekhaya Centre in KwaMashu.*

➤ The initiative was organised by the Durban Cartoon Project – a voluntary group of cartoonists based at and sponsored by Artworks Communications – that collaborated with the CCA, the Ethekwini Municipality's

opportunity for aspiring cartoonists to learn about the art of political cartooning from one of its greatest exponents".

He comments that the inclusion of Zapiro in the Time of the Writer

festival was an inspired choice – soon afterwards Zapiro won the Mondi Journalist of the Year award for 2005 – recognition that cartooning is closer to journalism and literature than it is to fine art. ■

## Chemistry students embrace change

**Thirty eight third-year chemistry students based on the Westville campus are taking the recent Science and Agriculture faculty relocation changes in their stride.**

Once a week the students are bussed from the Westville campus to Howard College for their afternoon practical session. This move is necessitated by the high-tech laboratory that exists at Howard College.

As a result of the beginning of the consolidation of the Faculty on the Westville campus, a process that should be complete in 2007, Chemistry is currently maintaining a presence on both the Howard College and Westville campuses. This is not an ideal arrangement for the students but John Cooke, Dean of the Faculty, says that "the Faculty is very mindful of the concerns of students and will make every effort to minimise disruptions".

Professor Andy Kindness, Head of the School of Chemistry, feels that "most of the students have adapted quite well to the change in environment and are doing well in the class". The students are getting used to the change but admit that it is still "quite hectic". They have to catch the shuttle at 1pm at Westville which arrives just in time for their practical.

Deshni Pillay was positive about the change and said that the high quality equipment that they are exposed to makes up for the disruption



**HIGH-TECH** (from left) Third year Chemistry students Tshedza Mudau, Khumbulani Mzobe and Khethiwe Mpungose in the lab on the Howard College campus.



in their schedules. Meshach Govender said he is still getting used to the new environment but feels that it will benefit him. Most of the students interviewed said that their main objective was to learn and gain experience and were therefore happy to adapt to the changes.

Leticia Pillay, the staff member who leads the practical, said that the students had settled in well and were embracing the challenge. She said that "the effort they expend to ensure they are competent shows that they are truly interested and willing to make the necessary sacrifices".

## MOU with the University of Massachusetts

UKZN signed a memorandum of understanding with the University of Massachusetts on 20 February. The five-year agreement encourages direct contact and co-operation between Faculties, and research and administrative staff.

This relationship was initiated by Professor Leana Uys, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Health Sciences, and Dr M Williams of the University of Massachusetts, after prolonged informal collaboration between their faculties, especially around preparing health workers to address the challenges of HIV and Aids treatment and health care.

The two institutions will initiate study abroad programmes and student exchange programmes and also involve themselves in information exchange and collaborative research activities. Dr

Williams noted that both institutions have a rich research tradition and that the partnership will make a significant contribution to confronting issues that are common to South Africa and the United States.

The high-profile delegation from the University of Massachusetts included James Karam, Chair, Board of Trustees, Dr Jack M Wilson, President, Dr Marcellette Williams, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and International Relations, Ruben and Dr Patricia King-Shaw, Trustee, Stacey Rainey, Trustee, Robert Connolly, Associate Vice-President for Communications, Susan Kelly, Assistant to the President, and Donna Gallagher, Principal Investigator/Director: New England Aids Education and Training Centre.



# Crucial insight for HIV vaccine design

Ground breaking research into the GB Virus type C (GBV- C, also referred to as hepatitis G virus) may impact on new approaches to treat and or prevent HIV infection and provide important insights to HIV pathogenesis that may be crucial for vaccine design, according to Dr Aslam Sathar, medical scientist at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine.

The study was undertaken with scientists from Iowa City VA Medical Center, and Departments of Internal Medicine, the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, USA.

Whilst the developed world experiences a decline in morbidity and mortality due to HIV, the HIV epidemic has yet to peak in KwaZulu-Natal. With no effective vaccine in sight, the data from this study suggests that African variants of GBV-C may influence HIV disease progression by inhibiting HIV replication via the induction of soluble factors, says Dr Sathar. In the epicentre of the HIV pandemic further such studies on the relationship between African variants of GBV-C and HIV are warranted.

GBV-C is a newly discovered virus which may have ancient African origins. GBV-C has not been conclusively associated with liver disease or any other clinical disease. It is a very common infection in humans, with approximately 10%-20% of the general population in Africa actively infected. Because of shared modes of transmission, GBV-C co-infection occurs in 15%-43% of individuals with HIV infection. GBV-C isolates from around the world segregate into five distinct genotypes.

Genotype 2 is predominant in Western Europe and North America. GBV-C isolates in Africa are primarily genotypes 1 and 5, with the latter predominant in South Africa. Several studies conducted in Europe and North America of

compared to those without GBV-C. However, some studies have not found a significant difference between GBV-C infected and non-infected individuals.

In the laboratory it has been demonstrated that co-infection of



GBV-C co-infection among HIV-infected people report that those with GBV-C infection have higher CD4+ cell counts, lower HIV RNA levels, slower disease progression, prolonged survival and better response to treatment when

cells with GBV-C genotype 2 and HIV results in the inhibition of HIV replication. This inhibition is mediated by soluble factors (chemokines, cytokines and others as yet unidentified) that are induced by GBV-C replication.

## DORIS DUKE: A WORLD CLASS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The Doris Duke Medical Research Institute (DDMRI) at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine opened on 29 July 2003. It is the site of crucial HIV/Aids research, and significant breakthroughs have already been made. Particularly notable is the painstaking collaborative work with international partners that has led to the identification of immune-system genes that appear to play a key role in the body's defence against HIV. The DDMRI also provides scientific capacity to confront other debilitating diseases that accompany HIV/Aids.

The R40 million Institute was funded primarily by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, with additional grants by Pfizer (SA), the 13th World Aids Conference Trust, the governments of Flanders and Japan, Investec Securities, the Victor Daitz Foundation and the Stella and Paul Lowenstein Trust. The University of KwaZulu-Natal provided seed funding of R6.5 million.

DDMRI is equipped with 10 state-of-the-art specialist laboratories. The HIV/Aids Information Gateway, a cutting-edge information system, supplies up-to-the-minute information on new findings and technology that can be accessed 24 hours a day by medical personnel and researchers worldwide.



## Water partnership

**UKZN's Pollution Research Group has given effect to the eThekweni Municipality partnership by signing an agreement by means of which the Municipality provides financial support for planning and policy development in the area of water and sanitation.**

Mr Neil Macloed, Head of eThekweni Water and Sanitation, announced that the Municipality will sponsor the project to the tune of R1 million a year for five years.

The Pollution Research Group was established in the 1970s in the University's Department of Chemical

Engineering to investigate problems of industrial water management in the Durban area. In 2003 it expanded by forming an alliance with researchers in the School of Biological Sciences. However, because of the multi-disciplinary nature of water management, it draws on experts from various academic fields. Combining resources available at the University, these experts provide technical expertise, explore socio-political imperatives, examine community safety and assess environmental issues. The group is also working on a number of other large projects for industrial water to ensure that water is pollution-free and is re-useable.



**GENEROSITY** (From left) Professor Dasarath Chetty, Executive Director, Public Affairs & Corporate Communications; Mr Logie Naidoo, Deputy Mayor, eThekweni Municipality; Professor Fikile Mazibuko, DVC College of Humanities; Mr Obed Mlaba, eThekweni Mayor; Dr Mike Sutcliffe, City Manager; Mr Neil Macloed, Head, eThekweni Water and Sanitation; and Professor Chris Buckley, Head of the Pollution Research Group in UKZN's Department of Chemical Engineering.

"The eThekweni Municipality had faith in what we do and developed a relationship in order for us to answer specific research questions about low cost sanitation, treatment of water and provision of quality domestic water, which is the critical part of service delivery," says Mr Chris Brouckaert

from Chemical Engineering. Group member Mrs Kitty Foxon says that other research has focused on developing technology for sanitation, designing charging systems (tariffs), examining the safety of water in storage tanks, and looking at sustainable water supply and treatment systems.

## APSTAR boost for public sector

**UKZN's School of Development Studies celebrated the graduation of its APSTAR II students on 3 April in the garden of the University's Campbell Collections.**

The APSTAR programme aims to contribute to South Africa's development by training public servants.

The programme, which was first established in 1999, is a partnership between the University, South Africa's Department of Social Development and the United Nations' Population Fund (UNFPA).

APSTAR II courses started in July 2005. After eight months of

hard work, the students received their certificates.

Student representative Ms Helen North delivered a thought-provoking speech at the graduation. She highlighted the fact that population and development issues are becoming increasingly pressing. There is an urgent need to develop capacity to address these issues among government officials.

Ms North said that APSTAR II contributed towards capacity-building in three main ways: students gained knowledge, they learned leadership skills and they were taught how to access, collect, analyse and utilise information.



**DEVELOPING CAPACITY** APSTAR II students pose proudly with their certificates.

The lecturers took what appeared to be unfathomable and daunting calculations and translated them into understandable techniques. She said that being a mature student was an added advantage.

In his congratulatory speech,

Mr. George Nsiah from the UNFPA said: "We commend the South African government for addressing these issues. Testimony that the country has made progress is the fact that you are sitting here today".

# Home-grown sound

**Not only is UKZN's School of Music the sole provider of music education at tertiary level in KwaZulu-Natal, but the School has produced some of the finest artists and musicians both locally and abroad.**

In 1999, when the University of Durban-Westville closed its Department of Music, the Department of Education declared its intention to establish a single School of Music to serve KwaZulu-Natal. The University of Natal was asked to consider whether it would be in a position to house such a School. Students from Westville were transferred to the Howard College campus and the music programme at the Durban Institute of Technology began merger talks with UKZN. Once the conversion of the old Frances Stock building on the Howard College campus is complete, former DIT staff and students will move over.

"The merger means that we are now offering a full-year access

programme in music (the Music Foundation Course) in addition to our previously existing means of alternative access," explains the Head of the School, Professor Beverly Parker.

## PROGRAMMES

Some of these programmes are primarily practical and others include a mix of practical and academic subjects. The School currently offers specialised curricula in jazz, popular music, African music and dance, music technology, opera, choral studies, composition, music education, musicology and ethnomusicology, performance, and orchestral performance. Undergraduate qualifications on offer include a Diploma in Jazz and Popular Music, a Bachelor of Practical Music, a Diploma in Music Performance, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Arts in Music, and the Bachelor of Arts in Music and Drama Performance. It also offers a major in Music within the BA degree and curricula that lead to a full range of postgraduate qualifications.

## HIGH FLYING ACHIEVERS



**TRIO4** Music School Piano Lecturer Dr Liezl-Maret Jacobs (centre) with Geza Kayser (violin) & Cecilia di Cecco (cello).

Amongst UKZN's high flying achievers in the music industry are Master of Music graduate Mark Kilian who wrote the music for Academy Award winning South African movie *Tsotsi*. If you listen closely, you can hear Master of Music graduate Brendan Jury on viola.

In February 2006 graduate Bronwen Forbay was awarded the 3rd prize, worth R90 000, in the Unisa International Voice Competition held at the Unisa Pretoria campus. Forbay completed her BMus. in Voice Performance under Colleen Philp at UKZN in 1998.

Bachelor of Music graduate Concord Nkabinde is the winner of

soloists also made waves at the South African Opera Competition held at Wits University in February 2006 in Johannesburg. Bulelani Madikizela and Mhlaba Buthelezi were placed in first and sixth positions respectively, scooping cash prizes and beating 10 other finalists from other institutions of higher learning. Bulelani is doing his final year in Music Performance. Mhlaba is a final year Bachelor of Music (BMus) student at the Howard College campus.

## HEART AND SOUL - CLASSICAL

### INSTRUMENTALISTS (from left)

David Solomon (trombone), Mkululi



# Metallon bursaries

**“It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mine worker can become the head of the mine, that the child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another.” (Nelson Mandela, *Long Walk to Freedom*)**

Nine students are realising their dream of studying at UKZN after receiving bursaries from the Metallon

Group. The students obtained good matric results but could not afford to come to university.

The Metallon Bursary Programme is a partnership between the Metallon Group and the National Department of Education. It aims to nurture students who wish to pursue a career as Science or Mathematics teachers.

The programme began in 2005 and the funding is channelled through the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS). The bursaries cover the full cost of tuition and residence fees, as well as meals, books and notes.

Siyanda Thabede, 20, is doing his second year in Education on the Edgewood campus. “I had lost hope. Without the bursary I would not have been able to study at university. I am very happy.”

Emely Veeraragulu, 22, from Phoenix, is another proud recipient of the Metallon bursary. She hopes to teach mathematics and accounting, making a contribution to reducing the shortage of teachers in these fields. She hopes that other needy students will also get assistance. Her brother is also studying at UKZN through assistance from Student Funding.

Other Metallon bursary recipients are Zamekile Sithebe (B Ed) Pietermaritzburg campus, Sifiso Kubheka, Mondli Sibiya, Patricia Zuma, Prince Mhlongo, Zamokuhle Mhlongo and Mellisa Elappen, all from Edgewood campus.

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**WINNERS ALL Bursary recipients**  
*Siyanda Thabede, Sifiso Kubheka, Mondli Sibiya, Prince Mhlongo, Zamokuhle Mhlongo, Emely Veeraragulu, Mellisa Elappen and Patricia Zuma.*  
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In another milestone achievement, Michael Shazi from kwaMadlala in Port Shepstone has been able to

**The Metallon Bursary Programme is a partnership between the Metallon Group and the National Department of Education. It aims to nurture students who wish to pursue a career as Science or Mathematics teachers.**

complete his Bachelor of Commerce in Human Resources after receiving assistance from Student Funding for the past three years. When he came to the University in 2003, he did not have the minimum registration fee of R1 700. He could not pay for accommodation and meals. Because he scored distinctions in matric, he qualified for a fee remission. Today he is doing an Honours degree in Information Systems and Technology on the Westville campus and is well on the way towards fulfilling his dream of becoming an IT specialist.



## Canoeists make their mark

Two of UKZN finest paddlers made their mark at the 2006 Hansa Powerade Dusi Canoe Marathon. Brett Bartho and Trenton Lamble were placed in the top 20 of this prestigious event.

This year's Dusi Marathon involved 120 kilometres of canoeing, including 25 kilometres of portaging.

Brett partnered with Clinton

Pretorius to finish the race in 8.5 hours, coming out in 10<sup>th</sup> position. The pair represented South Africa in the World Marathon Championships in London. They finished in third position, winning themselves a bronze medal.

When the marathon started the pair was leading the race. Portaging hindered their position. “We were not good at running, that's why we lost

our position” said Brett. From position 18 on the first day, and 12th on the second day, they finally made it to 10th position.

Brett is preparing for the World Cup Surfski race, which will be held in New Zealand and Tahiti in April. Not only will he be raising the South African flag, he will also be elevating the status of UKZN.



# A dream fulfilled

Fortune smiled on UKZN student Siphilisiwe Makhanya on Friday 10 March when it was announced live on Lotus FM that she had won a full bursary from the Serving Humanity Bursary Fund.

Makhanya, 18, completed Grade 12 in 2005 with As in English and History and applied to the University to pursue a Social Science degree. She

clothing voucher by clothing outlet Ooh Lala, and a book voucher by Adams Bookshop.

The good news was given to Makhanya on air by UKZN Professors Sihawu Ngubane and Jean-Philippe Wade from the College of Humanities, Development and Social Sciences as well as by Dr Suraya Naidoo.

"We at Culture and Media Studies



**WINNING COMBINATION** (from left) Professor Jean-Philippe Wade (CCMS), Professor Sihawu Ngubane (Deputy Dean, Humanities, Development and Social Sciences), Siphilisiwe Makhanya and Dr Suraya Naidoo.

was accepted but unfortunately could not meet the registration and tuition costs. She applied to the Serving Humanity Bursary Fund for possible funding.

Started by the 2004 Miss India South Africa, Dr Suraya Naidoo, the Fund was put in place to assist deserving students to pay for their studies.

Makhanya was the only student to receive a full bursary for 2006 while seven other students had their registration costs paid. In addition to her bursary she was given a R1 000

are immensely proud to have such a gifted young writer joining our department," said Professor Wade.

The Serving Humanity Bursary Fund receives donations from the community as well as from fundraising events.

Makhanya is thrilled at the prospect of studying at UKZN and is very grateful for the bursary, "I am happy that I can now study and fulfil my dream of becoming a print journalist, as well as make a difference in the world."

## TSOTSI CONNECTION

Did you know that the music writer for the famous South African gangster drama, *Tsotsi*, is UKZN alumnus, Mark Kilian? *Tsotsi* won the Oscar for Best Foreign Language film at the 78th Academy Awards in Hollywood on 5 March. The film is an adaptation of a novel by Athol Fugard.

Born in Benoni and now resident in Los Angeles, Kilian is a respected full-time film and TV music composer. Ecstatic about the Oscar, he says that "all I know is that I love what I do and that's all I want to do". He obtained a Bachelor of Music (BMus) in 1991 and a Masters degree in Music (MMus) in 1994. He wrote the music for *Tsotsi* with his friend and fellow composer, Paul Hepker, working with accomplished singer, guitarist, percussionist, composer, arranger and band leader, Vusi Mahlasela.

Kilian describes *Tsotsi*'s message as "one of self realisation. It is one man's journey and self discovery in a world where the hand that was dealt to him sent him on a certain path... when he reaches a crossroad in his life, he chooses a certain path... the movie, like life, is a combination of the hand you are dealt, and what you choose to do with it. It is a story of hope."

He says that "I wouldn't be writing music for film in

Hollywood if it weren't for the great people at the University's music department who selflessly invest themselves in teaching their art". As a way of giving back, he would like to be a visiting teacher at UKZN.

Kilian's TV work in the US has included original music for several Discovery Channel



**TRIUMPHANT** Mark Kilian at the Academy Awards in Hollywood.

series, as well as for Fox, NBC and Disney. His music has been featured in several films, television programmes and video games, including *Raise Your Voice*, *Jake In Progress*, *F/X (The Series)* and *The Animatrix*. He is currently recording a second album with "The Ape Quartet," a live techno improvisational band, and is also working on a solo album.

# Digital hope

## How can the digital divide between urban and rural schools be broken down?

What role can Media Education play in challenging some of the circumstances that continue to separate 'have' and 'have not' schools when it comes to digital technology? How can the University contribute to and extend the idea of multi-literacies through new media? And how does technology itself contribute to 'digital hope' in an age of Aids and as part of social change?

These are some of the questions

projects around chat rooms, websites and digital storytelling.

One answer, they discovered, is to twin schools that do have technology with those that don't. In the course of the module a group of 15 students from Nonhlanhla Meyiwa's high school English class at Zifikele High School 'twinned' with primary school learners at Wykeham Collegiate through postgraduate student Maureen St.John-Ward. The

potential for 'democratic learning': when children are focusing on the screen and helping each other to type in their responses, they care less about age, gender, race or class and more about 'speaking out'. While the idea of twinning is not new and there are other advantaged schools in the province that have community outreach programmes, this 'experiment' highlights the significance of digital technology as part of youth culture to bring groups together physically as well as in cyber-space.

In another project 39 Grade Five learners from student Thembinkosi Mbokazi's Sundumbili Higher Primary School took over the four terminals at an Internet café. Again they joined

on a Saturday morning. Some of the learners who took part in these on-line discussions are developing their own digital stories to address issues of violence against youth.

Foundation Phase learners in Nonhlanhla Nzama's school, Gulube Primary, near Mid-Illovo, a school that only got electricity last year and as yet has no telephone lines, are beginning to cross the digital divide. Nonhlanhla and fellow student Caryn Barnes have been communicating (on-line) with Tony Kelly, a doctoral student at McGill University who visited UKZN last year and is the principal of a small rural school near Digby, Nova Scotia. Together they are developing a joint rural 'digital hope' project, called "Imagining our

This 'experiment' highlights the significance of digital technology as part of youth culture to bring groups together physically as well as in cyber-space.

Futures: East Coast Rural Horizons". But more than anything the teachers in the group have revealed the significance of 'starting with themselves', developing in small groups their own digital stories using a program called 'Movie Maker'. Their narratives highlight many of the issues that they deal with in their own classrooms: HIV and Aids, sexual violence, poverty and family break up. They will be posted on a dedicated exhibition space on [www.digitalgirls.org](http://www.digitalgirls.org) (developed as part of a project through McGill University and Concordia University in Montreal, Canada) and will be linked to the Centre for Visual Methodologies for Social Change site: <http://cvm.zr5tux.za.net/>



**WIRED** Wykeham Collegiate and Zifikele High School students taking part in the discussion on the UNICEF site "Voices of Youth".

that a group of teachers enrolled in a postgraduate module through the Centre for Visual Methodologies for Social Change at UKZN's School of Language, Literacies, Media and Drama Education grappled with and began to answer as they developed

co-operation between the learners from the two schools revealed that more than digital divides are crossed! Learners from both schools logged on to the UNICEF "Voices of Youth" website to speak out about violence against children. They revealed the

the global community of youth online, speaking out against violence against children. Another group of learners affiliated to Masters student Lucky Govender, from Woodside in Chatsworth, joined the discussion by logging on at the Edgewood campus



**MAKING CULTURE COUNT** (from left) Eliza Moodley and Bren Brophy of HIVAN, and Lynn Dalrymple of DramAidE.

# Our voices, our future

**A generous grant from the National Development Agency (NDA) will enable UKZN's Highly Effective Art (HEART) programme to demonstrate the important contribution that the cultural arts can make in the HIV/Aids arena.**

Located within the Centre for HIV/Aids Networking (HIVAN), the HEART team has several years' experience of mobilising arts and culture organisations to develop and deliver innovative training and intervention programmes which contribute to social and economic upliftment. For its work on the NDA project, HEART will be partnering DramAidE, an established and highly experienced cultural arts organisation based at the University of Zululand. The NDA award represents a significant investment by national government in the vision of these two creative organisations.

The programme, called *Izwi lethu – ikusasa lethu: Our voices,*

*our future*, is a cultural tourism initiative that will be located in the Uthungulu district of KwaZulu-Natal. Its core objective is to develop a participatory cultural arts training and income generation programme for learners from schools in KwaDlangezwa, Uthungulu. Although KwaDlangezwa has a rich and varied cultural heritage and significant local talent, the ability to harness it into marketable and sustainable income-generating products is lacking. Research has shown that young people find it particularly difficult to secure employment because, even with matriculation certificates or university degrees, they lack the experience required by employers. This programme will strive to empower young people to live within their environment and make the most of the opportunities it provides. The emphasis will be on the development of sustainable income-generating projects driven by the learners and their communities. In addition, through participatory cultural arts workshops, participants will be trained in research methods and participatory techniques aimed at preserving the community's cultural

heritage, history, environment, culture and visual arts. Participants will then record, document and archive the Uthungulu district as a cultural heritage site in Zululand.

Once their research is complete,

The emphasis will be on the development of sustainable income-generating projects driven by the learners and their communities.

participants will be assisted to develop sustainable income-generating projects at a district level. This will involve significant guidance and mentoring. A co-operative will be formed with various community representatives to assist and monitor the progress of the young entrepreneurs. Relationships with existing tourism operations will be nurtured, with the project offering innovative and truly authentic alternatives to what has often become a somewhat jaded cultural experience for visitors to the area. The project, which runs for a two-year cycle, started in April 2006.

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## PRIME TIME

**eNews Prime Time news anchor Pat Pillai believes that media, entertainment and education are powerful empowerment tools.**

After a tough life on the Cape Flats, Pillai won a scholarship to study English, Drama and Education on the Westville campus. In 1988 he launched his first business, SATCOM, which produced and marketed low cost theatre to marginalised communities across South Africa. Pillai moved into the business of radio and



PAT PILLAI

television, where he spent a few years working as a broadcaster and TV channel marketer. He was part of the very small team that grew TSS into NNTV, which was then launched as SABC3. He moved on to become Head of Corporate Marketing at the SABC, Executive Producer at Primedia Pictures, and Director in charge of new business development at Ster-Kinekor Theatres. Serving on the Board of Ster-Kinekor Theatres was a great challenge. He developed new models and projects for new markets, including the Bollywood Movie Circuit. He has written, produced and acted in many plays, TV dramas and films and won numerous awards.

Eight years ago, Pillai founded Life College, a non-profit project which develops emotional intelligence in youth through mentorship, with self-leadership and entrepreneurship being the ultimate goal. The college has benefited more than 1 400 students and has offices in Johannesburg, London and New York.

## CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

**As a student, Eric Apelgren boycotted his graduation ceremonies in protest against the apartheid policies of the time.**

Today, he is proud to be an alumnus of a transformed UKZN, which he describes as a “people’s university”. Currently Head of International and Governance Relations for the eThekweni Municipality, Apelgren drives the Municipality’s 12 co-operation agreements with Durban’s international sister cities. He was previously a senior manager at the KwaZulu-Natal Tourism Authority.



ERIC APELGREN

Apelgren says that he enjoys being part of the strategic management team of the City and making a contribution to the transformation and development of eThekweni. One of his responsibilities is to align the programmes of the Municipality with that of the provincial and national governments. His department also provides an events and logistics service to the administrative and political structures of the City. He believes strongly in the value of a university education.

A Catholic who is married to a Buddhist, and who can trace his ancestry back to Swedish and Zulu roots, Apelgren is the epitome of multi-culturalism. He particularly enjoys his job when he gets an opportunity to bring different people together to celebrate Durban’s cultural diversity. In his spare time, he enjoys soccer and swimming.

## BACK TO BUSINESS

**In his fortnightly column in Durban's morning paper, *The Mercury*, Professor Bonke Dumisa expresses forthright and not always popular opinions on a range of issues affecting the business sector.**

The charismatic CEO of the Durban Chamber of Commerce has moved smoothly from his position as Professor and Director of the School of Business Management on the Westville campus to heading up the largest stand-alone Chamber of Commerce in South Africa.



BONKE DUMISA

The Chamber has 3 500 paid-up members, ranging from multinational corporations to one-person businesses. He reaches out to a variety of stakeholders, including politicians. "Being principled and effective in promoting and protecting the interests of business can be very challenging."

Prior to joining the University in 1990, Professor Dumisa was a Training Manager with the Beares Group/ Game Discount World, the Trade Marketing Assistant Manager at Unilever's Van den Bergh & Jughens and an Economics Assistant at the Unilever Head Office. In 2004/5 he served as the Economic Advisor to the KwaZulu-Natal Premier.

Professor Dumisa is also the Chair of the Natal Sharks Board, and the Vice-Chairperson of the Consumer Affairs Committee at the national Department of Trade and Industry.

## PAVING THE WAY

**In 1961 Professor Esme Hennessy was the first woman to be appointed as a lecturer at the University of Durban-Westville. But because she was married, she was a temporary staff member for 20 years!**

Born in Umzinto in 1933, where her father had a medical practice and was also District Surgeon, Hennessy obtained her BSc on the Pietermaritzburg campus of the University of Natal. The road from undergraduate degree to PhD was long and arduous, as she also had to raise



ESME HENNESSY

a family and earn a living. Specialising in Taxonomic Botany, she retired in 1993.

Professor Hennessy is remembered by generations of students for her ability to impart her love for her subject to receptive young minds. When the politics of the time intervened, she simply rode over the obstacles.

She is concerned that in today's university, technical competence may take precedence over the intellectual development of students, and fears that materialism may overwhelm the academic tradition. "It boils down to what can the University give me versus what can I contribute to the reservoir of human knowledge. However, pendulums swing and only time will tell the outcome."

## HIGH FLYER

**High-flying alumnus Ivan Clark is the Chief Executive Officer of Grindrod Limited, South Africa's largest shipping and logistics group. He qualified as a Chartered accountant at the Howard College campus in 1968.**

A dedicated professional, Clark won the 1995 Natal Mercury/British Airways Businessman of the Year Award for business excellence. While CEO he has turned Grindrod around and helped take its share price



IVAN CLARK

to new heights. He describes the shipping industry as "a big ticket industry that is romantic, yet tough. It is not for the fainthearted."

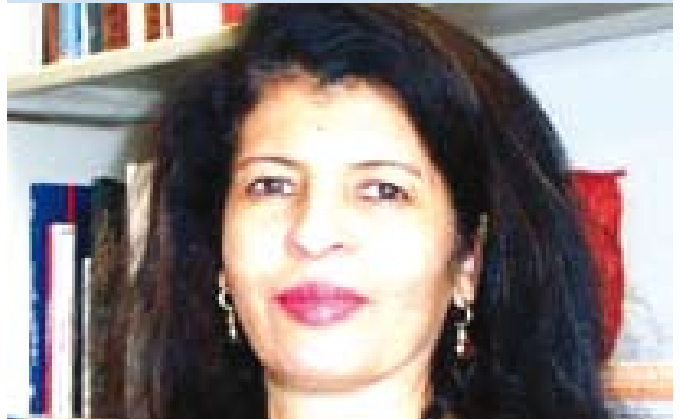
He says that his university education gave him a solid base, not only in how to do the numbers but also how to go about business. Studying part-time was also character-building. During his time at university, he made lifelong friends. He is grateful for the work done by UKZN's Alumni Affairs Team: "It would be such a pity if no track was kept of graduates once they leave the University. It is wonderful to see the fruits of study as many alumni become successful in their respective fields. It also allows for graduates to network."

## HUMAN RIGHTS

**Professor Penelope Andrews is an internationally respected human rights activist.**

Currently Professor of Human Rights and Constitutional Law at the City University of New York School of Law (CUNY), Andrews was one of the keynote speakers at the international conference on "Comparative Constitutionalism and rights: global perspectives" held at UKZN in December 2005.

She was born in Cape Town and received her BA and LLB degrees from the University of Natal in Durban.



PENELOPE ANDREWS

A stint at the Legal Resources Centre in Johannesburg was followed by graduate studies at Columbia University, where she received an LLM degree. She spent a brief period at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund in New York before being appointed the Chamberlain Fellow in Legislation at Columbia Law School. Prior to joining the faculty at CUNY, she taught anti-discrimination law and policy, and Aboriginal Law in Melbourne, Australia.

Andrews has written extensively on human rights issues in South Africa and Australia and is active in a variety of international human rights and peace organisations.

The Penelope Andrews Human Rights Award was inaugurated by the UKZN Faculty of Law in December 2005.



## JAZZ MAESTRO

**Concord Nkabinde is the winner of the 2006 Standard Bank Young Artist Award for jazz. Past recipients include Johnny Clegg and Andile Yenana, who is also an alumnus of UKZN.**

Nkabinde is a multi-instrumentalist and talented creative jazz artist in music. He runs his own company, DROCNO MUSIC. He writes music for other artists, for documentaries and short films, and for the advertising industry. He also conducts workshops on various aspects of the



CONCORD NKABINDE

music industry. He completed his Bachelor of Music (BMus) in Jazz studies in 1994 on the Howard College campus.

Nkabinde believes that the music industry has a long way to go: "Most musicians don't really understand the importance and responsibility that comes with being on a public stage. They don't know what impact they can make on people's lives through the gifts and talents that have been given to them."

The Soweto-born artist has featured with Gito Baloi, Busi Mhlono, Wanda Baloyi, Don Laka, Allou April Umanji, Hugh Masekela and Jonas Gwangwa. His debut album "The time, The season" shows that it is his time to shine.

He has played as bass guitarist for Hugh Masekela, Abdullah Ibrahim and Zim Ngqawana, and has toured overseas with Darius Brubeck, Johnny Clegg and other top artists.

## TAX BOFFIN

**Coming from a rural community didn't hold Zwelodumo Mabhoza back. The tax advisor and partner at Deloitte in Johannesburg did a Bachelor of Accountancy and a postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy at the Westville campus.**

A qualified Chartered Accountant, he also holds a Masters degree in Tax.

Born in Flagstaff in the Eastern Cape, Mabhoza was educated there and attended Sithukuthezi High School.



ZWELODUMO MABHOZA

He was previously employed at Nampak and ESKOM. He enjoys his current job and notes that, with legislation changing all the time, he has to keep up to date with current research. Giving back is part of his credo – he assisted a student financially to complete his Bachelor of Accounting degree and Diploma in Accounting. The student is now completing his articles with one of the big auditing firms.

He advises young people to define their goals and work hard in order to achieve them. He adds that there are many good people out there who offer excellent support and advice freely: "Look for them and work with them."

## Successful events from around the region

The Alumni Affairs office has already held a number of successful events in 2006. The Alumni Affairs Team looks forward to meeting more alumni at future events. Please ensure that your postal and email addresses are up-to-date so that you will receive invitations to our special events. Some of the activities included:



*Bloemfontein*



*Swaziland*

### EASTERN AND WESTERN CAPE

The Alumni Affairs Team co-ordinated four very successful and fun events in the Eastern and Western Cape during March 2006 and met more than 200 alumni.

On 14 March a dinner at Grazia's in East London was the venue for 50 graduates to meet and reminisce about their *alma mater*. The food was delicious, the conversation stimulating, and the Guest Speaker, UKZN Executive Director, Public Affairs and Corporate Communications, Professor Dasarath Chetty, provided a very informative overview of the new structure and recent events at the University. Guests left reluctantly around midnight after receiving promises that

a similar event will be held in the area in 2007.

The following night witnessed another successful dinner for 45 graduates at the Old Austria Restaurant in Port Elizabeth. A good time was had by all and alumni requested that another visit be made to the area next year.

The Baxter Theatre in Cape Town was the venue for the third-leg of the visit. On 17 March nearly 100 graduates met in the foyer of the Baxter Theatre for a cocktail party followed by the production of *Amadeus*. It was rewarding to see so many regular faces as well as quite a few new ones.

On 8 March a tour of Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, followed

by a breakfast, was organised. The tour was most informative and the breakfast readily consumed after the early start.

At each of the events alumni posed a number of questions to Professor Chetty, with the most interest around the research output and ratings of the University, the relocation of various faculties/schools on the campuses and the status of sporting activity at the University.

The visits to the Eastern and Western Cape were a great success and the enthusiasm and excellent response from alumni very encouraging. The Alumni Affairs Team looks forward to the 2007 visits and welcomes ideas for events/venues for next year.

### BLOEMFONTEIN

Free State-based alumni met at the Southern Sun Hotel in Bloemfontein on Saturday 22 April. The Guest Speaker was Professor Fikile Mazibuko (Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Humanities). Professor Mazibuko presented a very comprehensive overview of the current status of the University and her talk was extremely well received by alumni. Graduates were keen to know what physical changes had taken place on the various campuses and where various departments are now located. The talk and question-and-answer session was followed by a lunch.

The group decided to continue >

to meet on an informal basis and contact details were exchanged. If you would like to participate in these proposed informal get-togethers, please contact the Alumni Affairs Office.

## SWAZILAND

Sicelo Dlamini's (BSc Mechanical Engineering '04) dream of an alumni event in Swaziland came to fruition on Saturday 8 April.



East London

A group of 52 alumni from all over Swaziland met for a three-course lunch and a talk at the Tum's George Hotel in Manzini. The group thoroughly enjoyed meeting one another, swapping stories of their university experiences and exchanging contact details. A range of professions was represented by the graduates – including geologists, agriculturalists, teachers, lawyers and medical practitioners.



The graduates were addressed by Professor Dasarath Chetty (Executive Director of Public Affairs and Corporate Communications) and they were pleased to receive an update on the latest developments taking place at their *alma mater*. A number of questions were posed – many regarding the current registration and funding procedures for international students – as many alumni hope to pursue postgraduate studies at the University.



## UKZN's School of Nursing celebrates 50 years of academic excellence in teaching, service and research

Two major conferences and an alumni reunion are amongst the many activities planned to celebrate the School of Nursing's golden anniversary this year.

### ALUMNI OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Alumni Reunion Banquet on 6 October 2006 at the Royal Hotel, Durban. Contact Carol Williams on Tel: 031 260 4582, E-mail: williamsc1@ukzn.ac.za Fax: 031 260 4410.

## Diarise our 2006 Convocation AGM and Awards Ceremony

The 2006 Convocation Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Awards will take place in Durban on the evening of Monday 30 October 2006.

Details (including venue and time) of this important

event will soon be emailed to graduates and placed on the University's Alumni website.

For further information please contact Corlia Ogle by telephone on 031-260 1238,

by fax on 031-260 3265 or email: ogle@ukzn.ac.za

Your attendance and support at the Convocation AGM and Awards is encouraged.

## Dates to diarise

### AUGUST

4 August Women's Day Lunch

### SEPTEMBER

12 August Pietermaritzburg Alumnus Event

14 September Golden Reunion to be held in Pietermaritzburg

19 September Golden Reunion to be held in Durban

### OCTOBER

30 October Convocation AGM and Awards

### NOVEMBER

7 November Barnyard Supper Theatre



## Keeping in touch!

We are eager to receive information from graduates for Class Notes, as well as profiles and articles for inclusion in the rest of UKZNTOUCH.

Class Notes is a collection of short biographies sent to us by alumni from all over the world, highlighting their personal and professional achievements. Through these notes, alumni keep in touch and find old friends.

### Please send contributions

to Corlia Ogle

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

Fax 031 260 2236/3265

Post Alumni Affairs  
University of  
KwaZulu-Natal  
Westville Campus  
Private Bag X 54001  
Durban  
4000  
South Africa

### 1950s

**John Charles Poynton** BSc'51, BScHon'52, MSc'55, PhD'61 has been elected a Scientific Fellow of the Zoological Society of London. He is a Scientific Research Associate of the Natural History Museum, London, and is the current President of the Society for Psychical Research, a society founded in London in 1882.

**Margaret Wyllys Poynton (nee Black)** BSc'58, UED'60, BEd'74 is the librarian of the Psychical Research Society. They live in London's Marylebone where she is involved in several activities.

E-mail: [poynton@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:poynton@ukonline.co.uk)

**Colleen Ellefsen (nee Carte)** BSc'58, BScHon'60 travelled in Europe for a year with a cousin - and a short spell of working! In Norway, they sailed on the Coastal Express up the coast, around the North Cape and on this trip met her future husband - Torbjörn

Ellefsen - and is still happily married 43 years later! Before they married and while Torbjörn was completing his 18 month military service, Colleen returned to Durban and lectured Physics at the then new 'Indian University' on Salisbury Island.

They married in Oslo and lived a most enjoyable and interesting five years there. They came to South Africa in 1967, spent the next couple of years on gold mines in Springs and Evander, and then moved to Johannesburg, where they started their own construction company. They later bought a small engineering business supplying machinery and equipment to the grain milling industry. The focus has changed over the years and they now mainly manufacture specialised industrial mixers and dryers, under license to a Norwegian company. Colleen looks after the financial side, which she learnt along the way. They are very fortunate in that all four children and their families live in Johannesburg.

E-mail: [coll@acenet.co.za](mailto:coll@acenet.co.za)

### 1960s

**Lynn Ribton-Turner** BA'66, MSocSc'96 recently completed her DLit Phil in Psychology through RAU (now University of Johannesburg), graduating in 2005. She lives in Johannesburg and works in private practice as an Industrial Psychologist. She is studying further in the field of hypnotherapy and will be using her new skills for counselling and coaching in the workplace.

E-mail: [ribton@iafrica.com](mailto:ribton@iafrica.com)

**Jeffrey Stephen Newman** BSocSc'69 and his (Canadian-born) wife Maddi have lived in central British Columbia since their 1993 return from seven years in South Africa. Their home is in the semi-rural community of 108 Mile Ranch, from where Jeffrey operates his web design and marketing business - [www.jnweb.com](http://www.jnweb.com) - and Maddi her graphic design business - [www.maddi.ca](http://www.maddi.ca)

E-Mail: [jn@jnweb.com](mailto:jn@jnweb.com)

### 1970s

**Judith May Sandison** BA'74 studied at Southwest Texas State University (MSc) while on a Rotary Fellowship and has a BProc from UNISA. She currently heads the innovative New Media Unit at SABC News, which incorporates the website [sabcnews.com](http://sabcnews.com) and other news on demand services such as NewsBreak 082-152. An award-winning broadcast journalist, parliamentary reporter and regional editor, she is also a gender activist and has done volunteer work for a range of women's rights groups. A founder member of the South African National Editors Forum (SANEF), she currently serves on the SANEF National Council. She enjoys hiking in the Drakensberg Mountains with her husband, Malcolm Millar, who is a mountain ultra runner, and recently climbed Mount Kilimanjaro as a member of the Highway Hospice Kilimanjaro 2005 Charity Climb.

E-mail: [sandisoj@sabc.co.za](mailto:sandisoj@sabc.co.za)

## 1980s

**Riccardo Sergio Brizzi** BSc'84 BScHon'85 has been in Monza, Italy since 1996. After 18 years consulting to major European and global organisations Riccardo decided to get a 'real job' and accepted an offer to join Vodafone plc as the Global IT Director for Enterprise Systems working out of Newbury in the UK. Riccardo travels extensively throughout the 18 countries where Vodafone has subsidiaries. Riccardo is married to Cindy and has three children.

E-mail: Riccardo.Brizzi@vodafone.com

**Colin Michael (Mike) Mason** BSc-Agric'84 travelled in 1984 to the USA and caddied on the US Professional Golf Tour. In 1985 he joined the Tobacco Research Board in Harare, Zimbabwe, and was the Senior Productivity officer for three years before leaving to become a farm manager. In 1991 he leased a farm on his own and purchased it in 1995. He grew tobacco, maize and developed a 15 000 layer poultry unit. In 2001 he was evicted from his farm during the land invasions and went to Madagascar as a tobacco consultant for a year. In May 2002 he joined a large tobacco company in Harare where he is still employed as the Regional Agronomy Manager. Mike is married to Sharon and has four children. He enjoys golf, fishing and spear fishing.

E-mail: cmason@aointl.com

**Sharlene Versfeld** BA'85, BAHon'86 has been living in Durban since leaving University. Sharlene joined the then-NAPAC (Natal Performing Arts Council) in 1987 and was employed there for six years working through the ranks to Marketing Manager. In 1993 she began her Public Relations

consultancy promoting mostly theatre, arts and culture events in KwaZulu-Natal. Two years later she took on a business partner and they won the inaugural Arts & Culture Publicist of the Year Award of the President in 1998. Since 2001 she has been running the consultancy independently and services some large corporate and national clients but still has her hand in some of the major arts and culture events in the City. Sharlene took a 'sabbatical' in 1999 for six months to backpack with husband Donald Jolley - visiting Egypt, Greece, Turkey, India and Nepal. Donald and Sharlene have a three-year old daughter.

E-mail: Sharlene@Versfeld.co.za

**Stephen Bradley Saad** BCom'85, PGDipAcc'86 is a qualified Chartered Accountant. His exceptional leadership and entrepreneurial spirit earned him the coveted Ernst & Young 2004 World Entrepreneur of the Year Award for South Africa. He narrowly lost the World Entrepreneur title in a vote-out. Stephen is currently the Group Chief Executive of Aspen Pharmacare Holdings Limited. For relaxation, he enjoys the wildlife at one of his lodges with his wife and four daughters. Website: [www.aspenpharma.com](http://www.aspenpharma.com)

E-mail: [vrensburgc@aspenpharma.com](mailto:vrensburgc@aspenpharma.com)

**Alan (Woody) Robert Wood** BSc'86, HDE'87, BScHon'90, MSc'95 obtained his PhD in Agriculture in 2004 from the University of Stellenbosch as a weed pathologist researching the biological control of alien invasive weeds in South Africa. He is currently based at the Stellenbosch campus of the ARC-Plant Protection Research Institute. Alan is married to Kerry-Lyn (nee Miller) BSc'90, together they have a son.

E-mail: WoodA@arc.agric.za

**Hans Fransen** PhD'88 in History of Art, obtained while he was a senior lecturer in that discipline on the Pietermaritzburg campus. He and his wife Anneen moved to Cape Town in 1990 where he took up the directorship of the Michaelis Art Collection. Since his retirement in 2001 he has produced a standard reference work on Cape architecture, with other books on the way, and has been active as a heritage consultant.

## 1990s

**Ian Frederick Souch** BCom'90 majored in Marketing and Business Administration. Taking a very different route, he developed an interest in Alternative Medicine, and undertook a three-year course in Acupuncture at the College of Integrated Chinese Medicine in Reading, England. Ian now practices Chinese Medicine in Marlow in the UK and teaches several classes in Tai-Chi. He has produced his own instructional Tai-Chi DVD. Website: [www.iansouchacupuncture.com](http://www.iansouchacupuncture.com)

E-mail: [souch@waitrose.com](mailto:souch@waitrose.com)

**Beauty Jabulile Sekete** BSoc-ScHon'91 was the 2005 Shoprite Checkers, SABC3 Woman of the Year – Arts & Culture award winner, the 2005 Professional Soccer League/Telkom award winner, and a 2005 Provincial finalist in the Old Mutual, Sowetan, SABC2, Community Builder of the year. She is currently taking part in the British Council's Interaction Leadership Programme. A professional Nurse/Tutor for 35 years, and a founder member and chairperson of a registered non-governmental organization, Sakhisizwe-e-Afrika (Nation-building in Africa) she is affectionately known

as the 'Mother of the community', or 'the bird that never rests'.

**Timothy Michael Gifford Wells** BA'91, HDE(PG)'93 worked full-time for NAPAC as a performer after obtaining his first degree. He completed his HDE in 1992. He has freelanced since 1993 in numerous productions, both drama and musical and in recent years has concentrated on studio work. He has also appeared in television commercials and corporate videos. This affords him the flexibility to work on projects which interests him. He writes his own material and is currently working on a CD for release next year, the pre-production for which he is recording in his small home studio. His debut CD was released in 1999 and songs from that album are still heard on national airwaves. Four of his songs have been chosen for inclusion on Joseph Clark's debut CD. Website: [www.wells.co.za](http://www.wells.co.za)

E-mail: [tim@wells.co.za](mailto:tim@wells.co.za)

**Yolande Ursula Mahabeer (nee Israel)** BCom'99 moved to Gauteng in January 1999 as a Graduate trainee. She joined Nedcor on their Leadership Development Programme in 2000. She is currently working for First National Bank in their Commercial Banking Division as Project Manager to the Chief Operating Officer. E-mail: [Yolande.Mahabeer@fnbcommercial.co.za](mailto:Yolande.Mahabeer@fnbcommercial.co.za)

## 2000s

**Jabulani Bethuel Lushaba** BA'00LLb'01 is presently employed at Geyser Du Toit Louw and Kitching Attorneys as a Professional Assistant after qualifying as an Attorney. She has also qualified as a Conveyancer. >

## 2000s continued

➤ She misses her student days.

E-mail: jabulani@gdlk.co.za or jabulani@gldl.co.za

### **Fezeka Lwazilwandile Makiwane**

BSocSc'00 was recruited by the SA Police Services and spent four years and five months as a Police Constable in Paulpietersburg. In September 2004 she was elected as Provincial Treasurer for police union POPCRU. In March 2005 she bought her discharge from SAPS and joined Masonite (Africa) Limited in their Estcourt mill as an HR Practitioner: Recruitment and Selection.

E-mail: FMakiwane@masonite.co.za

### **Letuka Gerard Thabiso Teba**

BAHon'03 is currently serving as a lecturer at the Lesotho College of Education (Maseru Campus).

### **Candice Carol-Ann Govender**

Llb'03 is an advocate of the High Court of South Africa practicing at the Johannesburg Bar, after passing the National Bar Exam.

Email: candi2@webmail.co.za

# Prestasi prize winners

Entries for the 2005 Prestasi Short Story Competition were received from alumni in South Africa and around the world. The three judges found the process of narrowing down the winners a difficult and challenging task.

At the prize-giving at Brookfield Farmhouse in Hilton on 10 March

2006, it was announced that Moraig Peden had won first prize, with second prize going to Leon Marais and third prize to Maja Zwolinski. Two of the winners, Moraig Peden and Maja Zwolinski, attended the function.

Snippets of the winning entries are included here. The full stories are

accessible on the Alumni Website: [www.ukzn.ac.za](http://www.ukzn.ac.za)

The prize-giving, which was hosted by Angela Donval of Prestasi, was a fun event, with entrants discussing their stories, good food served and with everyone looking forward to the next Short Story Competition.

## 1ST PRIZE JOURNEY OF ADVENTURE

"They make the sweetest couple," someone said after the wedding.

It was not a wedding with frills and flounces. It was a wedding about meaning. Elizabeth's sister read a poem to the wedding guests from under the big tree where they were



**MORAIG PEDEN**

married:

"Weave real connections, create real nodes, build real houses. Live a life you can endure: make love that is loving". There was more to it, beautiful gnarled organic words, which unfortunately not everyone heard because a breeze came up and the tree was noisy. The minister had asked if he could use the word "god" in the ceremony, and after some thought they had agreed, as long as it was understood that it

was a generic, open-hearted eclectic god, as they both had strong feelings about the other kind.

A feast followed. Platters of whole-wheat bread, lentil salads, homegrown vegetables, farm cheeses, carob cakes and carrot cakes, elderberry flower wine. Huge bunches of sunflowers stood upright in vases while other flowers, wild and rambling from so many gardens tumbled out of vases and strayed across ethnic tablecloths. There was no meat, it was before the time that Mathew felt that it was ethically acceptable to raise cattle for slaughter. They would later joke that they got married in their "lentil (and salad) days"

Elizabeth spoke first. She, with her plain face, brown hair and freckles, in a simple cotton dress, declared that they would live simply so that others could simply live. This was no idle claim, she didn't eat meat, she made her own clothes and when the time came, she would use cloth nappies. In fact the list of her simple virtues could go on and on.

"It's my wedding," announced Mathew, "and I can talk as long as I like!" He pulled out his notes, an entire ream of dot matrix printing paper, which trailed from the floor and he declared his love for Eliza-

beth, a love that was a ship on the stormy sea of life, a ship built to last a lifetime, giving him the strength to change the evils in the world.

"He should have been a minister," thought Elizabeth wryly, "he would have loved that captive audience once a week, and ... they would have loved those warm twinkling eyes."

About six years ago Moraig Peden (Menvdev '04), participated in The Artist's Way, a course designed to unleash creativity. This led to a few unexpected turns in her life including starting an organic vegetable business, buying a horse, taking up belly-dancing, and daring again, after the crushing experience of studying English at university in the 1970s, to write creatively. Since then, Moraig has written articles for newspapers and magazines, but the story written for this competition was her first piece of fiction. She finds fiction gives her the freedom to explore deeper realities than is possible in so called 'true stories' and is now building up a collection of short stories.

Moraig lectures in the Faculty of Education on the Pietermaritzburg campus.



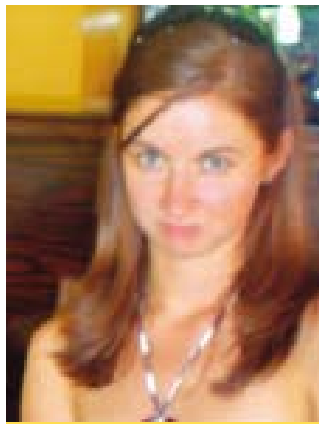
## 2ND PRIZE THE STORY OF AN AFRICAN PIG

This is the true story of an African pig. Well, not an ordinary pig as you know it, but rather a warthog; the tough, charismatic member of the Family *Suidae* that is common on the open savannah. Warthogs, known to science as *Phacochoerus aethiopicus*, are found wherever their needs for mild weather, housing and water are met. For such suitable housing they modify the burrows in large termite mounds made by other creatures, such as the mysterious armadillo and the prickly porcupine. They spend the dark hours in their burrows to stay warm and avoid predators, emerging after sunrise to feed on grass roots, bulbs and fruits and to wallow in mud puddles. They are endearing creatures with a somewhat humorous character and appearance. With big warts on the face (whence they derive their name), a decidedly porcine snout and oversized tusks they are by no means attractive animals. Yet, as is often the case, what they lack for in looks they make up for in personality. They bring character, humour and light-heartedness to the bush – all unintentionally of course. Despite their diminutive size they are extremely tough and never go down without a good fight, as many a surprised predator has discovered.

This particular pig grew up to become a hero among hogs and his story would become a legend throughout the land. He would come to be called 'Samson the Great' by those who witnessed the tragedies that befell him, and who would believe that one single hour of his life could, at the same time, be both his darkest and his finest?

Leon Marais graduated with BSocSc in 1997, and a Geography Honours Degree in 1998. He spent much of the next seven years guiding at various game lodges in the Sabi Sand Game Reserve and other reserves of Limpopo and Addo National Park in the Eastern Cape. Leon had a brief stay in London during 2001/2002 and spent four months in the USA, travelling and conducting environmental education. He is currently settled in Johannesburg, working as a specialist bird guide and freelance writer and is studying Journalism and Media Studies part-time.

## 3RD PRIZE THE DAY THE OLIVES WENT ON STRIKE



MAJA ZWOLINSKI

Adventure? The term usually conjures up visions of travels, discovery, Peter Pan and the likes thereof. Who would have thought adventure could (and did one seemingly normal Sunday morning) find its origins in my kitchen.

Now I'm not what you would call the 'adventurous type', wielding a courageous heart, mischievous grin nor for that matter a pint-sized fairy but I most certainly do not go out looking for something which

was lost to me when I was a boy.

I have however put the horse in front of the cart and have not even introduced myself. My name is John Mills. I live with my boring wench..ergmm, I beg your pardon, my darling wife and have two blissful children who thankfully now pay (most of) their own bills. I am your uncomplicated, middle class, everyday Joe, living on 42 Windham Road and my hobbies include golfing, gardening and being one step ahead of my dearest neighbour, and biggest adversary, Steve Cunningham.

I like order and structure in my life. My gardening tools are all clean and hung up in their places, my parallel parking skills are immaculate and my dishes always clean. In fact I actually find washing my dishes to be rather therapeutic-the soap suds buzzing in hot water, clean dishes stacked neatly in the drier, the kitchen clock ticking away, the draining gurgle of water as leftovers leave my kitchen. There is a sense of quiet routine to the practice which I savour as I sponge down the spotted sinks and counters.

So where does that leave adventure you ask? Well...

I found myself one windy Sunday morning, after our usually large brunch, indulging in this quiet routine and enjoying it even more so as I had the whole house to myself, my wife having gone off to her tennis club. I whistled softly to myself as the bubbles in the dirty-dish sink fizzed and popped; sighing I slide a soapy plate into the clean sink and retrieved another object to metamorph. I was washing a spoon when I heard it-the sound of a rather disdainful voice sneering, "I'm not that dirty you know,".

Maja Zwolinski (BSocSc '06) travelled all over the world while growing up, but finished her schooling in Pietermaritzburg. She is currently studying toward an Honours degree in Media at the University of KwaZulu-Natal on the Pietermaritzburg campus. Reading and writing have always been a passion, and Maja is planning on pursuing a career in advertising or film.

## Three new books from the UKZN Press

### A DAUGHTER'S LEGACY

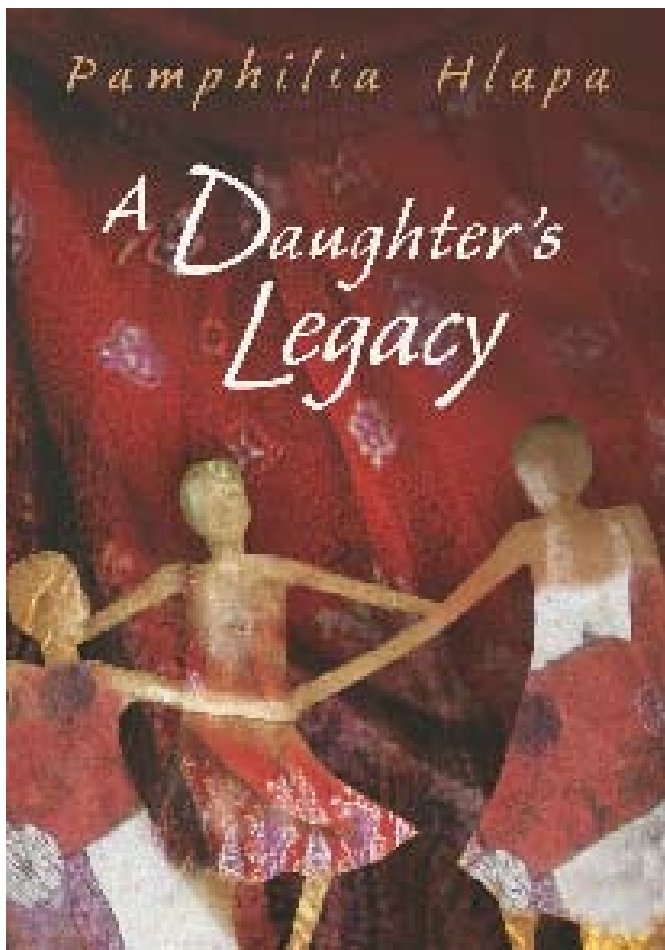
'... what I know and what I have seen, I will tell. Things did happen to me and to other girls right in front of me. By silencing me, you

childhood to parenthood, from the dusty streets of her home village to the modern worlds of university and working life. Determination and resilience battle with fear and insecurity in Kedibone's searing

raised in Botlokwa, a rural village north of Polokwane in Limpopo Province, South Africa. She now lives in Johannesburg in Gauteng, where she works as a Communications Consultant.

### BEAUTY... A BLACK PERSPECTIVE

The beauty and fashion world attracts enormous interest. Everybody knows who Naomi Campbell is, but few know who South Africa's local Naomi

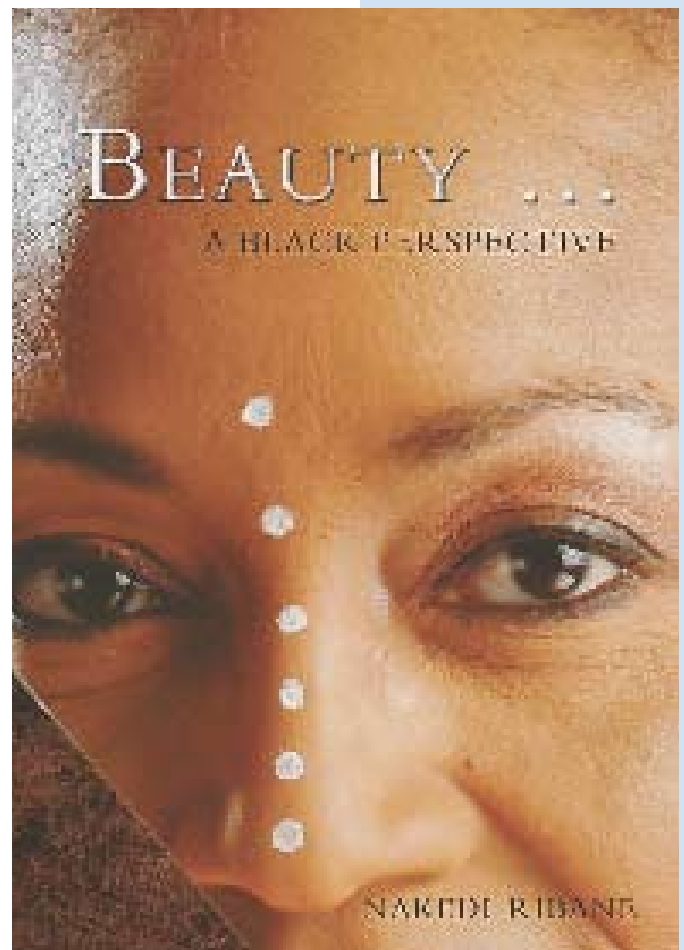


let it happen to me and others, but I cannot let it happen to the daughters of the world, the daughters I might have ... I have found the strength to want to leave a different legacy for my children, both girls and boys.'

*A Daughter's Legacy* is the story of Kedibone's journey from

engagement with relationships and personal growth. This novel is a bold and necessary statement that exposes the taboos and abuse that a male-dominated culture allow, if not engender. It breaks the silence and connivance in a way that has never been done before.

Pamphilia Hlapa was born and



Campbells were (and are)!

This book is an extraordinary mix of glamour, nostalgia and social analysis. It takes the reader on a journey through South African history and politics from the unusual perspective of the beauty industry. Backed by a photo gallery of classic



icons from the 50s, 60s and 70s to the present, it celebrates the inspirational role of beautiful and courageous Black women, especially models and beauty queens. It also looks at the business of beauty

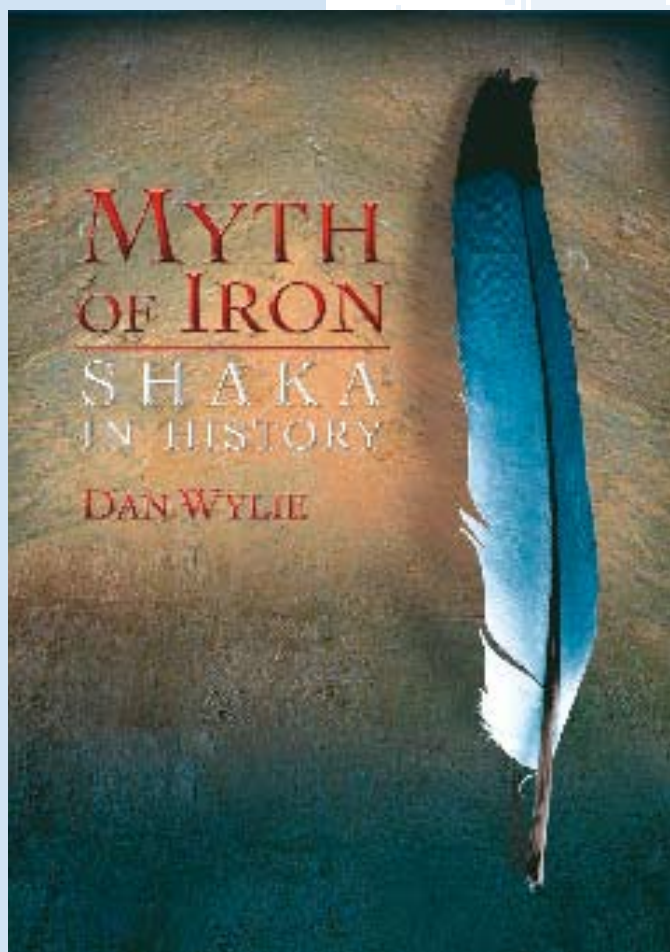
## MYTH OF IRON: SHAKA IN HISTORY

Over the decades we have heard a great deal about Shaka, the most famous – or infamous – of Zulu leaders. It may come as a surprise,

heroic, juggernauts on – truly a ‘myth of iron’ that is so intriguing, so dramatic, so archetypal, and sometimes so politically useful, that few have subjected it to proper scrutiny.

*Myth of Iron: Shaka in History* is the first book-length scholarly study to be published. It lays out, as far as possible, all the available evidence – mainly hitherto under-utilised Zulu oral testimonies, supported by other documentary sources – and decides, item by item, legend by legend, what exactly we can know about Shaka’s reign. The picture that emerges in this meticulously researched and absorbing ‘anti-biography’ is very different from the popular narrative we are used to.

Dan Wylie teaches in the Department of English at Rhodes University in Grahamstown. He has published *Savage Delight: White Myths of Shaka* (2000); a memoir of the Rhodesian war, *Dead Leaves* (2002), and some volumes of poetry. He is currently most preoccupied with ecocriticism and environmental literatures in the southern African context, and with escaping to rock faces whenever possible.



and recounts the struggles and successes of Black practitioners trying to make it in this competitive sector.

Nakedi Ribane was a leading model of the 1980s and co-owned one of the very few Black modeling agencies of note in South Africa.

therefore, that we do not know when he was born, nor what he looked like, nor precisely when or why he was assassinated. In Shaka’s case, even these most basic facts of any person’s biography remain locked in obscurity.

Meanwhile the public image, sometimes monstrous, sometimes

**Contact the University of  
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# Short-story Competition for Alumni of the University of KwaZulu-Natal

## "Food for thought"

**First Prize – R3000**  
**1st runner up – R1500**  
**2nd runner up – R500**

Once again Prestasi Brokers, South Africa's leading independent short-term insurance broker invites you, the alumni of the University of KwaZulu-Natal to enthral us with a tale! We challenge you to come up with a winning "Food for Thought" story. Your submission can either be fiction or non-fiction, printed in double spacing and between 4000 to 8000 words long. If submitted in a printed format, please submit on A4-sized paper.

Send your "Food for Thought" story to **Prestasi Short-story Competition, PO Box 2795, Pietermaritzburg, 3200** or submit it via email to [shortstory@prestasi.co.za](mailto:shortstory@prestasi.co.za). Submissions close on 31 August 2006. Please include your name, address, contact numbers, year of graduation and email address. For any further queries please contact Angela Donval on (033) 394-6120.

As a specialist short-term insurance broker, Prestasi is fundamentally service driven but you do not have to take our word for it. In a recent Markinor/Sunday Times survey Prestasi was voted amongst the Top 10 brands, since 2002, in the field of motor-, household- and business insurance. However, our track record goes back a lot further than that. We have been building up a solid reputation as a leading South African short-term insurance broker for no less than 33 years.



**Prestasi**  
Brokers

#### RULES OF THE COMPETITION:

- Submissions must be original.
- Previously published work will not be accepted.
- A prize-giving function will be held towards the end of the year in which finalists will be invited, but they must be prepared to find their own way to the function.
- Winners must agree to have their photographs and submissions published in the *Alumni Magazine*, the newsletter of the university and that of Prestasi as well as local papers. No entry fee or entry forms required.
- Closing date for submissions to be received via post or e-mail, by 31 August 2006.



**UNIVERSITY OF  
KWAZULU-NATAL**

# Meet your Convocation Executive

We continue our series of profiles on Convocation Executive members

Dr Labby Ramrathan registered as a full-time student at the University of Durban-Westville in 1979 straight out of matric. He had to suspend full-time study due to financial constraints. In 1982 he was appointed Junior Laboratory assistant in the Science Education Laboratory within the Faculty of Education. He continued with his studies and completed a BSc degree in 1986.

Having completed his doctorate in Education in 2002, he was



**LABBY RAMRATHAN**

appointed a Senior Lecturer and Head of School of Education Studies in the Faculty of Education on the Edgewood Campus.

Dr Ramrathan is a senate representative on Convocation. "Convocation is a crucial body as it is a strong link between the economic and education sectors. Through Convocation, we can build relationships between the world of industry and academia. Each influences the other, both in knowledge production and responsiveness to the needs of our country."

Ms Raylene Captain-Hasthibeer is a media and communications specialist. She graduated *cum laude* with a degree in Cultural and Heritage Tourism from the University of Durban-Westville. This was followed by a postgraduate qualification in the same discipline. In 2002, she received the Goldman Sachs Global Leader Award for leadership and academic achievement. Goldman Sachs also presented her with Top Honours in New York later that year.



**RAYLENE CAPTAIN-HASTHIBEEER**

She was thrice awarded National Research Foundation (NRF) scholarships.

Her work experience has mainly been in public affairs, having served at the University of Durban-Westville, UKZN and latterly the Durban University of Technology. She has travelled extensively in Asia, Africa, North America and Europe. She rates her university education as comparable to the finest in the world and considers it a great honour to be invited to work in the Convocation of her *alma mater*.

Mr Thami Zondi is a youth specialist, in the field of economic empowerment for the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development. He graduated in 2004 with a Bachelor of Accounting from UKZN. He says that his degree gave him the skills and knowledge he needs in his position. His portfolio requires an understanding of business and economic issues, from general business management to business finance. "I am proud to say that my degree provided me with



**THAMI ZONDI**

the right tools."

Whilst a student, Mr Zondi was the president of a student organisation called SIFE (Student in Free Enterprise). He served this body for two consecutive years. He believes that Convocation allows University graduates to re-connect with their *alma mater*.

Mr Sfiso Mncube is a Bursary Manager for UKZN. He completed his degree in Business Administration at the University of Durban-Westville in 1995. He also has an Honours degree in Business Administration, a Postgraduate diploma in Management Development and is currently completing a Masters in Business Administration (MBA).

He says that Convocation is an important body as it connects the university with its graduates thereby



**SFISO MNCUBE**

ensuring that there is a continuous relationship between the two. He also says that Convocation is responsible for safe-guarding the image of the Institution. It contributes to the governance of the University through its participation in the University Council and other structures.

Mr Mncube feels very fortunate to be an executive member of Convocation, as this allows him an opportunity to play his part as a member of the University family.

## Nominations for 2006 Convocation Awards

The annual Convocation Awards honour those alumni who personify the University of KwaZulu-Natal's mission to achieve excellence, thereby bringing distinction to themselves and their *alma mater* through their outstanding accomplishments. Past recipients of the Awards include Alec Erwin, Harriet Ngubane, Jay Pather, Stephen Saad, Mamphela Ramphele, Virend Somers, Phyllis Naidoo and Navi Pillay.

The categories for the five Convocation Awards are:

- ☐ Award for outstanding contribution to the Arts and Humanities
- ☐ Award for outstanding contribution to Human Freedom and Endeavour
- ☐ Award for outstanding contribution to Education, Science and Industry
- ☐ Special Award for a graduate and employee of the University of KwaZulu-Natal who has contributed significantly to the field of work engaged in at the University of KwaZulu-Natal
- ☐ Special Award for a young up and coming graduate who has displayed potential to excel in his/her field.

The University of KwaZulu-Natal is proud to honour its alumni with these Awards and is asking for your help in continuing the tradition. We therefore invite you to identify and nominate worthy individuals for the 2006 Convocation Awards. If you know of any alumnus who is deserving of an Award, please complete the nomination form, noting

the criteria, and mail it to Corlia Ogle at the Alumni Affairs Office, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Private Bag X54001, Durban, 4000 by Monday, 14 August 2006. The awards will be presented at a ceremony which will take place on Monday, 30 October 2006.

Criteria to be met by nominees for all Awards are as follows:

- (1) The nominee must be a graduate of the University of Natal or University of Durban-Westville or University of KwaZulu-Natal.
- (2) The nominee should personify the University's tradition of excellence.
- (3) The nominee should be recognised by his/her peers.
- (4) The nominee should have made an outstanding contribution to his/her own particular field.
- (5) Ideally the nominee should be of pre-retirement age, although consideration will be given to retired nominees of an exceptionally high calibre.
- (6) Honorary graduates and members of staff are not eligible; except in the case of the Special Award category.
- (7) Nominations which reflect the race and gender profiles of the University to be actively encouraged.

Should you wish to clarify any of the above or require an electronic copy of the Nomination Form, please contact either Corlia Ogle or Finn Christensen at the Alumni Affairs Office. Telephone: 031-260 2823 or 1238 and Email: christensenf@ukzn.ac.za and ogle@ukzn.ac.za. We look forward to receiving your nominations.

## Nomination form

Please complete the information below and attach the following documentation

- (1) A comprehensive and current curriculum vitae of the individual you are nominating.
- (2) A motivation by yourself, the proposer.
- (3) An independent assessment by a third party e.g. Dean of Faculty, Head of School, prominent businessperson.

I nominate

NAME .....

For the (please select an award category)

- ☐ Award for outstanding contribution to the Arts and Humanities
- ☐ Award for outstanding contribution to Human Freedom and Endeavour
- ☐ Award for outstanding contribution to Education, Science and Industry
- ☐ Special Award for a graduate and employee of the University of KwaZulu-Natal who has contributed significantly to the field of work engaged in at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.
- ☐ Special Award for a young up and coming graduate who has displayed potential to excel in his/her field.

Nominee: Personal Details

ADDRESS .....

CODE .....

TELEPHONE .....

FAX .....

E-MAIL .....

Nominator: Personal Details

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

CODE .....

TELEPHONE .....

FAX .....

E-MAIL .....



# Where are they now?

If you can provide the updated contact details of the following alumni, please contact the Alumni Affairs Office

Abbott, Fiona Jane (Miss)	B Physio'91	Naidoo, Ashira (Miss)	BAcc'94
Abdi, Shalle Hussein (Mr)	BA'00	Naidoo, Ashley Ronald (Mr)	BSc'95
Bhana, Vijay (Mr)	BCom'92	Neuwirth, Susan Dale (Mrs)	BSc'74
Bhanlal, Shereen (Miss)	BA(Social Work)'92	Nzimande, Justice (Mr)	BSc'94, BSc(Hon)'96
Bharoochi, Aisha (Miss)	BSc Eng(Chem)'98	Ownhouse, Lyndon Bradley (Mr)	PG Dip(Acc)'99
Cassim, Ebrahim (Mr)	BSc'79, BProc'97	Padayachi, Lloyd Morganathan (Mr)	BA'77
Cele, Mbali Annamaria (Miss)	Dip Ad Ed'99	Peter, Jan Anthony (Mr)	BEco'70
Ditshego, Patrick Lenkise (Mr)	BAdmin'96	Pillay, Ivershini (Miss)	BSc'90
Dlamini, Crescentia, (Miss)	BA'98, HDE-PG'99	Powell, Deborah (Miss)	BA'99
Dunn, Adam (Mr)	BSc Eng (Civil)'77	Powys, Managey (Mrs)	UED'94
Ebrahim, Thaslima (Miss)	BOptom'95	Ramlakhan, Verusha, (Miss)	BSc'93, BOptom'96
Essack, Rehana (Mrs)	BA(Law)'84	Reddy, Somasundram Govindasamy (Mr)	BPaed in Science'89
Frame, Royi (Mr)	BSc Eng (Mech)'82	Roets, Elisabeth Maria (Mrs)	MA'96
Francis, Karen Dale (Miss)	BA'84	Sidzumo, Zen, (Miss)	BA'94
Govender, Kartheeksin (Mr)	BEng'85	Singh, Chitrekha Preathlall (Mrs)	BPharm'96
Govender, Kasenderi (Miss)	BPharm'97	Singh, Deepak (Mr)	BPaed in Science'88, BSc(Hon)'92
Habib, Omar Feizal Ismail (Dr)	MBChB'85, M Med '94	Skwatsha, Taba (Mr)	BA'93
Hartevelde, Niek (Mr)	BOptom'96	Smit, Diana Norah (Dr)	BSc'80, BSc(Hon)'81, PhD Sc'86
Hiss, Christian Kenneth (Mr)	BSc'80	Smith, Joanne Patricia (Miss)	BSc'87
Hlabisa, Lesley Sizwe (Mr)	BA'98	Thushini, Mthokozisi Erick (Mr)	BA'97, BA(Hon)'98
Hlahane, Mapule Elizabeth Petunia (Miss)	BProc'97, Lib'00	Todd, David John (Mr)	MBA'96
Jansen, Steven Verel (Mr)	BSocSc'86	Toolo, Lancelot Kagiso (Mr)	BSc'99
Jarmaine, Debra-Anne Cherelle (Miss)	BSc'91, BSc(Hon)'92	Turner, Julie Anne (Miss)	BA'91
Kovacevich, Michael John (Mr)	BSc Eng(Elect)'90	Tyaliti, Mteteleli (Mr)	BOptom'90
Krueger, Ludwig Udo Ernst Robert, (Mr)	BA'65	Underhill, Derek George (Mr)	BCom'78
Lawther, Bradley Kerr (Mr)	BSc'95	Urisohn, Arnold Edward (Mr)	BA'50
Lala, Sunil (Mr)	BSc'88	Wilkinson, Lesley-Anne, (Miss)	BCom'89, PG Dip(Acc)'92
Lekker, Buyiswa (Miss)	BA'90	Williams, Rochelle Amanda (Miss)	BCom'88
Madima, Johannes Tshisamphiri (Mr)	M Town Planning'84	Winfield, William John (Mr)	BOptom'96
Mack, Kerry Gaye (Mrs)	BPrimEd'92	Wiseman, Jonathan Angus (Mr)	M Agric Mgmt,'00
Majola, Eric Mbuleka (Mr)	BEd'93, BA(Hon)'94	Zungu, Vivienne (Miss)	BAdmin'90
Mhlongo, Pearl (Dr)	MBChB'04	Zwane, Innocent Thulani (Mr)	BSc'96

# Vision, Mission, Goals and Core Values for the University of KwaZulu-Natal

## VISION

To be the Premier University of African scholarship.

## MISSION

A truly South African university that is academically excellent, innovative in research, critically engaged with society and demographically representative, redressing the disadvantages, inequities and imbalances of the past.

## PRINCIPLES AND CORE VALUES

The University commits itself to the principles and values enshrined in the constitution of the Republic of South Africa and articulated in the preamble to the Higher Education Act of 1997 (as amended).

## GOALS

The goals of the University are to:

- Promote access to learning

that will expand educational and employment opportunities for the historically disadvantaged, and support social transformation and redress.

- Create and develop an enabling environment for all learners and scholars to pursue their studies in accordance with the principles of academic freedom.
- Advance knowledge and culture through globally competitive teaching, learning, scholarship and research, innovation and scientific investigation.
- Foster a capacity for independent critical thinking, free engagement in fundamental discovery and a reappraisal and extension of traditional views of the world amongst students and staff.
- Support and contribute, across the academic enterprise, to national and regional development, and the welfare and upliftment of the

wider community.

- Provide holistic education which promotes an awareness of social responsibility and sound ethical practice in a diverse society.
- Promote and foster tolerance and respect for multilingualism, diverse cultures and social values.
- Promote excellence in teaching and learning through creative and innovative curriculum design and development, pedagogical strategies and assessment practices in accordance with sound quality assurance principles.
- Strengthen the institution through local and international collaboration, exchanges and partnerships with the private sector and higher education institutions in teaching, research and development enterprises.
- Conserve the physical environment and foster a culture of

responsible, ethical and sustainable use of natural resources.

- Increase opportunities for lifelong learning in response to the educational, social, political, scientific and economic challenges of our time.
- Equip graduates to serve as future leaders of the nation.
- Ensure effective governance through democratic representation, accountability and transparency.
- Promote the social and personal wellbeing of staff and students and foster the realisation of their full human potential.

The University views this vision and mission statement as a reflection of its core values and commitments. In carrying out its various activities, the University seeks to contribute to the building of a just South African society.









UNIVERSITY OF  
KWAZULU-NATAL

# UKZN TOUCH

A UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL ALUMNI PUBLICATION

JULY 2006 EDITION



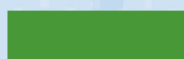
MESSAGES



NEWS



PROFILES



OUT & ABOUT



CLASS NOTES

SHORT STORY COMPETITION

ON THE BOOKSHELF

CONVOCATION



UNIVERSITY OF  
KWAZULU-NATAL

