



02	MESSAGES
08	NEWS
20	PROFILES
25	OUT & ABOUT
27	CLASS NOTES
29	CONVOCATION
33	ON THE BOOKSHELF

UKZN TOUCH

A UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL ALUMNI PUBLICATION



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From the desk of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Corporate Relations

AFTER just five years the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) has consolidated its position as one of South Africa's leading research institutions.

UKZN's vision to be the Premier University of African Scholarship has acted as a guiding framework within which to generate high-level knowledge at the local level and thus enter the global knowledge production system on the basis of this local legitimacy. New approaches to developing strategic partnerships have emerged, substantial resources for the performance of cutting-edge, quality research have come into the University through grants and contracts and a set of appropriate research thrusts has been identified that act as the interface between the activities of the University and the challenges of development facing

the KwaZulu-Natal region and South African society more generally.

To this end, the work done on HIV and AIDS, economic development, water and waste management, sustainable rural livelihoods and food security, in line with the developmental agenda of the South African state, has all contributed to making UKZN one of the top two academic research producers in the country (as measured by South African Post Secondary Education outputs – reflecting a phenomenal increase in research productivity since the 2004 merger).

When a whole range of indices were taken into account in the recent Beijing world ranking of universities, UKZN, together with only two other South African universities, was placed in the world's top 500 and in the top three in Africa – no mean

achievement considering that there are more than 20 000 universities in the world. Coupled with our 30 awards for communication and marketing excellence and innumerable awards to academic staff and students since 2004 one may be reasonably led to conclude that the University is in excellent shape.

Such achievement is only part of the reason why the independent Higher Education Merger Study Group, chaired by Professor SJ Saunders, the former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town, which was established by the Minister of Education to review the structure of higher education in South Africa, declared in April 2008 that the UKZN merger has been a success.

Professor Saunders and his eminent team of higher education experts concluded after a five-year study that

UKZN has a strong new identity, that the wasteful duplication of Faculties, Schools and Disciplines has now been overcome, an innovative new structure based on Colleges has been implemented, student governance has been merged and is running well, new funds have been allowed for campus upgrades and new buildings, there have been no significant disruptions at the University and that there has been a significant increase in research output.

The future is indeed looking bright for UKZN!

Professor Dasarath Chetty

(extract from an article in The Mercury, 27 November 2008)

After just five years the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)
has consolidated its position as one
of South Africa's leading research institutions.

Message from the Alumni Affairs Team

THE Alumni Affairs Team has had an exciting and busy 2008. Interaction, through social events, workshops, email and posted correspondence, telephone calls and publications has resulted in contact with over 100 000 alumni worldwide.

Particular highlights included the visits to East London, Port Elizabeth, Cape Town, the United Kingdom and America, which were extremely well supported by the locally-based graduates. The Entrepreneurship Workshop

and Project Management Workshop on the Westville and Howard College campuses, the Golden Alumni Reunion held in Pietermaritzburg, the Advocates for Democracy Reunion in Durban and the 2008 Convocation Annual General Meeting were also successes and events worthy of mention.

Esme Estrice and Desiree Goven-der have worked tirelessly on improving the Alumni Database and in updating as many records as possible. If

any graduate has recently had a change in contact details, please let us know so that the information can be updated.

In 2009 we plan to visit Pretoria, Johannesburg, Kokstad, Australia and New Zealand as well as some of the usual places visited in South Africa. Workshops, a *Cum Laude/Summa Cum Laude* event, a Golden Reunion for all those who graduated in 1959/1960 and prior to these years, and a Reunion of "Salisbury Island-

ers" are also on the programme.

As always, we look forward to ideas from graduates on events to be held and ways to communicate with alumni – the University's largest stakeholder.

We thank you for your support during 2008, send our best wishes for 2009 and look forward to interacting with you in the New Year.

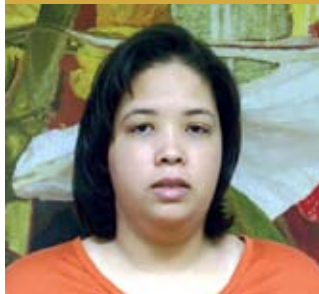
With our very best wishes,

The Alumni Affairs Team

FINN CHRISTENSEN



CORLIA OGLE



ESMÉ ESTRICE



ZANELE NDLALA



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Academic freedom at UKZN



The subject of academic freedom has become one of the most debated intellectual ideas in modern times. I will address the issue by posing two questions.

First, what is academic freedom? There is no common definition of academic freedom. In fact, the literature on academic freedom shows that the concept is subject to different interpretations and that it is a contested terrain. Further, there is the tendency, even within the academia, to conflate academic freedom with freedom of speech. Moodie (1996) and de George (1997) aptly note that such confusion “entirely misses the distinctive nature of scholarly freedom” (du Toit 2007: 22).

Although there is no universally accepted definition or understanding of academic freedom, certain basic elements are held to be integral to it. In this context, the views of the Council for Higher Education’s Task Team on the subject constitute a good starting point for us. The Task Team refers to the Lima (1988) and Dar es Salaam (1990) Declarations which conceptualise academic freedom as “the freedom of members of the academic community, individually or collectively, in the pursuit, development and transmission

of knowledge, through research, study, discussion, documentation, production, creation, teaching, lecturing and writing.” The Task Team also makes reference to the definition of academic freedom by the UNESCO-World Bank Task Force on Higher Education and Society (TFHES): “the right of scholars to pursue their research and teaching and to publish without control or restraint from the institutions that employ them.” The Task Team goes further to inform that academic freedom consists of three key pillars: scholarly freedom, academic rule, and institutional autonomy. Scholarly freedom relates to the right of the individual scholar, including the student, to teach, learn, research and publish their works without externally imposed restraint. Academic rule pertains to the rights of academics as a collective to assert their authority over academic affairs in university governance. This right is exercised typically within the framework of the Senate in a university, Faculty Boards at the Faculty level, and School Boards at the School level. Institutional autonomy implies the

right of the university to manage its affairs free from political interference by government and has meaning mainly in the relationship between a university and the political authorities.

Writing in a new book due to be published in 2009 titled, "For the Common Good: Principles of American Academic Freedom," Mathew W. Finkin and Robert C. Post take the position that the concept of academic freedom is grounded 'in a substantive account of the purposes of higher education and in the special conditions necessary for faculty [academics] to fulfil those purposes' (quoted in Fish, 2008:1). Basically, the idea of academic freedom is not anchored on a philosophical or moral imperative but fundamentally on the pedagogical factors or drivers that underpin the *raison d'être* of educational institutions. Its essence is less about principles than it is about pragmatism. As Stanley Fish (2008:1) puts it, academic freedom "is a piece of policy that makes practical sense in the context of the specific task academics are charged to perform. It follows that the scope of academic freedom is determined first by specifying what the task is and then by figuring out what degree of latitude those who

are engaged in it require to do their jobs".

What is the state of academic freedom at UKZN? Since the current debate does not involve institutional autonomy, we can concern ourselves with only scholarly freedom and academic rule. With regard to scholarly freedom the fundamental question to ask is: are scholars free to embark on research and to publish their findings without let or hindrance? A secondary question is: does the University encourage the exercise of scholarly freedom by creating conducive conditions for research? The answer to both questions is an unequivocal yes. There are no efforts made to stifle open and honest debates in the classrooms or in the Senate, Faculties, Schools, and the assorted committees that dot the landscape of our University. Scholars with opposing views are not ostracised, silenced nor prevented from taking leadership positions at the University. Basically, as obtains in virtually any respectable university environment, academics and students at UKZN do not have any untoward or irregular formal or informal strictures on any aspect of their scholarly duties.

Let us now interrogate academic rule

at UKZN. While the Senate has been opened up to broad-based membership, its rules are transparent and democratic. No efforts are made to prevent full participation in debates as virtually everyone who desires is recognised and allowed by the Senate leadership to make contributions to debates; and there are functional mechanisms in place to address any grievances against the institutional hierarchy. Much the same could be said for virtually every level of management within UKZN, from Colleges down to Disciplines.

The real issue at the heart of the current debate at UKZN is not related to academic freedom, but to the vision of transformative change that has been adopted, through a process of extensive consultation, by the highest decision-making bodies at UKZN. This involves a meaningful shift away from the old institutional culture to more broad-based participation. It is premised on the creation of a Premier University of African Scholarship that serves the needs of all South Africans and, indeed of Africa and the global community.

In essence then, academic freedom remains very much intact at UKZN. It is not squelched or abridged. No one's freedom to teach, research or carry

out formal roles has been tampered with in any way or form at UKZN. Claims to the contrary are false.

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Professor Ufo Okeke Uzodike
Head, School of Politics

Statement by the Chair of Council on Good Institutional Governance and 'Academic Freedom' at UKZN



The University of KwaZulu-Natal is an autonomous institution governed by the Council.

The Council subscribes to the highest codes of good institutional governance and acknowledges the pivotal essence of academic freedom (in its Senate and Council-approved 10 year Strategy and Council Code) and the freedom of expression as core values in the pursuit of knowledge in research, teaching, learning and community engagement. It is the Council's responsibility to ensure that in terms of the Higher Education Act and the statute of UKZN that the university, a national asset of great value, contributes to quality scholarship and service to the developmental project of South African society. This entails, amongst other things, supporting the academic project in an environment that upholds the rules, regulations and procedures necessary for orderly functioning of the Institution.

The extent to which there is a healthy balance between these fundamental values of scholarship, of freedom of expression and of a regulatory framework is really the extent to which we will be able to foster and enhance the quality of teaching, research and community engagement at UKZN. These values are not mutually exclu-

sive but mutually supportive and synergistic, being essential elements of any institution.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor MW Makgoba, and I, as Chair of the University Council, have received many comments from within, nationally and even internationally with regard to the current debate on academic freedom. We value the concerns and interest shown in this regard. I can confidently assure all concerned that the University is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic freedom and that there has been no, nor shall there be any denial or suppression of academic freedom and freedom of expression at UKZN. No academic, student or member of the support staff will be denied these rights which are enshrined in the South African constitution.

The rules and regulations that constitute a basis for order in any society, community or formal organization such as a University must be respected by all. Disregard for organizational rules and regulations results in anarchy as does freedom of expression without responsibility and

accountability. It is in this context of the need to value, respect and abide by institutional rules conducive for proper and productive functioning that disciplinary procedures are given effect.

Over the past two years the University has had to face a number of high profile cases wherein the conduct of staff and students has impacted negatively on the quality of teaching and learning, research and community engagement. The common thread in all these well-publicised cases has been a breach of University rules and procedures. All cases have been consistently approached within a context that has demonstrated transparency, justice and fairness and with outcomes that have led to improvements in the University's regulatory framework serving to enhance the quality of scholarship at UKZN.

Principled and appropriate action was taken in the best interest of the University and our quest to ensure the highest codes of institutional governance. In all these cases, given the reputational and legal implications, objective and independent legal counsel had to be sought in the interests of fairness, justice and good governance. Such action has at times been portrayed by some and in the media as a suppression

of academic freedom and the Council has listened carefully to all the diverse voices.

Academics at UKZN are free to determine what to teach, who to teach and in what way, what research to undertake, where to publish, how to disseminate the findings of research, engage with groups or communities outside the University in the processes of knowledge production and to speak their minds freely in matters of public interest especially where they have expert opinions. Such academic endeavour not only enhances the reputation of an institution and is encouraged at UKZN but also underpins the production of knowledge. However, violating University rules and procedures of governance in the name of academic freedom will not only undermine the very essence of a university but also compromise the quality of research, teaching and community engagement. This is not acceptable at UKZN, and I believe will not be acceptable at any Higher Education Institution anywhere in the world.

As Chair of the UKZN Council since July 2008, and as Vice-Chair since January 2004, I have watched with pride the significant gains that have been made by the University of KwaZulu-Natal since the merger under the leadership of Prof Malegap-

uru W Makgoba, the Vice-Chancellor, who no doubt has had strong support from the University community.

UKZN is recognised and rated as one of only three of the leading research universities in the country and on the African continent. This is no mean feat in a continent where higher education is recognized as the major driver for economic and social development, global competition and in the improvement of the quality of lives of citizens. The University has transformed as follows: the establishment of a College model as an organizational principle; the development of a strong African identity in scholarship; significant state-of-the-art teaching and research infrastructure development; a new representative Senate; an innovative model of student governance that is being copied by other institutions and has generated exceptional student leadership; the introduction of modern, objective and transparent management and financial tools; the introduction of student academic performance monitoring procedures to support and improve graduate throughput; and an emphasis on quality assurance processes across the University's operations.

Any merger implies change, even fundamental change. And change demands tolerance, understanding and compassion. I am aware of, and deeply appreciate, the commit-

ment by both academic and support staff, students and alumni who have displayed these virtues in their interaction with their colleagues and management and who have, through their efforts, advanced the scholarly enterprise of an institution that will benefit many generations of students.

In order to provide for all who expressed concern on this important matter, the Executive of Council has resolved to establish a seven person committee consisting of four external members of Council and three members of Senate. Its terms of reference will include assessing whether UKZN's governance structures and processes foster or inhibit academic freedom and/or freedom of expression; an assessment of the fairness of the University's dispute resolution mechanisms; and any other factor/s which may have a bearing on academic freedom and/or freedom of expression at UKZN.

I take this opportunity to thank UKZN's staff, students and alumni and many national and international partners and funders for their support and dedication to the cause of transforming Higher Education in South Africa, and in particular UKZN.

Mr Mac Mia
Chair of Council

UKZN physicists make quantum history

Physicists at UKZN's Centre for Quantum Technology (CQT) are set to install a quantum communication security solution over the eThekweni Municipality fibre-optic network infrastructure, making the City of Durban the world's first Quantum City. The quantum network concept was presented to the public for the first time at the SmartCity Conference and Expo at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre from 1-2 October.

Durban's complete fibre-optic network is capable of sharing its broadband access to vital services, businesses, schools, hospitals and tertiary institutions. The QuantumCity project allows the city to communicate securely. The network paves the way for a roll-out of quantum security solutions to government agencies, finance houses and large corporate clients.

The QuantumCity project is led by the CQT and UKZN's Innovation Company in partnership with idQuantique and Senetas Corporation, leading companies in quantum and classical encryption. The project is funded by the eThekweni Municipality and the Innovation Fund (an instrument of the National Research Foundation). City Manager, Dr Michael Sutcliffe, believes that quantum information and communication technology will not only boost the transformation of the Municipality into a high-tech information-driven organisation, but also make Durban an incubator for future technologies.

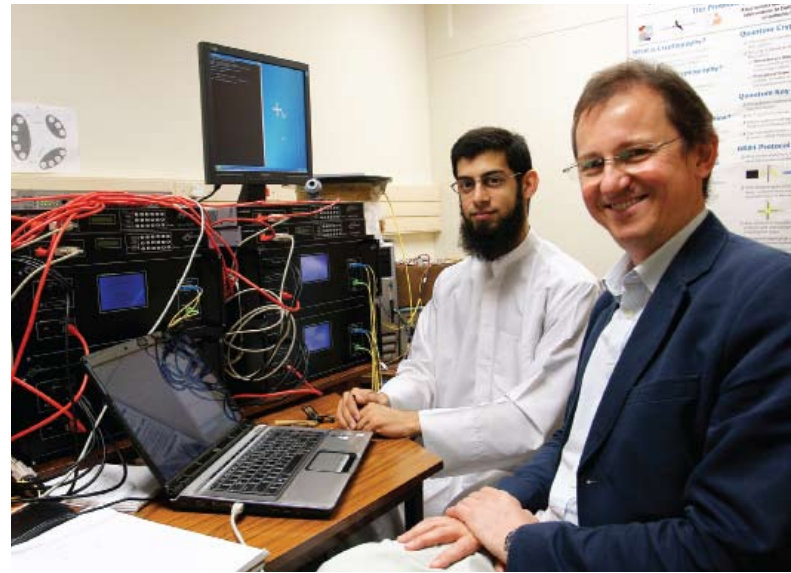
The quantum network consists

of four nodes in a Municipal Area Network star configuration linking municipal buildings in Pinetown, Westville and Cato Manor. The security of quantum cryptography is based on the physical principles of quantum mechanics, rather than on the algorithmic procedures of classical cryptography.

Quantum cryptography provides a means of Quantum Key Distribution (QKD). Professor Francesco Petruccione, head of the CQT said: "This shifts the security of cryptographic protocols from mathematical complexities to the intrinsic physical behaviour of quantum particles. Thus the security is upheld through the laws of quantum mechanics".

Quantum cryptography implements the One-Time-Pad encryption scheme. The key to the Pad is used only once and is completely random. This means that it cannot be predicted beforehand by the sender, receiver or an eavesdropper.

Mr Abdul Mirza, a physicist at CQT said: "A quantum network ... combines the power of fibre-optic



Professor Francesco Petruccione (right) and Mr Abdul Mirza operate the quantum encryption equipment to be installed as part of the QuantumCity Project.

technology with ultra-high quantum security, providing an unsurpassed communication solution".

The CQT, which is hosted by UKZN's School of Physics, was established in 2005 under the leadership of Professor Petruccione. The Centre was recently identified as the National Quantum Information Science Research Niche Area by the National Research Foundation within the Institutional Research Development Programme. Quantum Information Processing and Communications (QIPC) has also been identified as an emerging technology in the National Photonics Initiative (PISA).

Professor Petruccione said SmartCity has been a big opportunity for the Centre and especially for the

students as it allowed the team the opportunity to take their technology produced in the lab and test it in reality.

"We need to go more technological. The only chance we have to attract more students to Quantum Physics is to show them that there are jobs available. We must put the theory into practice. The University cannot absorb all of the students; there have to be more opportunities for quantum physics in industry."

Gandhi-Luthuli Chair of Peace Studies

UKZN is positioned to take the lead in the promotion of Peace Studies following the launch of the Gandhi-Luthuli Chair of Peace Studies within the College of Humanities.

Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Malegapuru Makgoba, officially inaugurated the Chair on 18 September together with the High Commissioner of India in South Africa, Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia; ANC President, Mr Jacob Zuma; the Minister of State for External Affairs in the Government of India, Mr Anand Sharma Bhatia, and the Consul General of India, Mr Harsh Vardhan Shringla.

The first Chair incumbent is Professor John Moolakkattu whose task over the next year is to design a Master's Programme in Peace Studies for the disciplines of International Relations, Law, Social Work, Development Studies and Education.

Through the philosophies of Mahatma Gandhi and Chief Albert Luthuli, the Chair seeks to engage on issues of human rights, conflict resolution, history and morality in civil society.

Welcoming the 1 500 guests present, Professor Makgoba explained that the Chair's inception was the result of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between UKZN and the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) in September 2007. He said the Chair would foster non-violence and peace through teaching.

"This (launch) is a defining moment in the history of KwaZulu-Natal and South Africa. Mahatma Gandhi and Chief Albert Luthuli were two



India's Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr Anand Sharma Bhatia (left) and ANC President Mr Jacob Zuma (right) officially launch the Gandhi-Luthuli Chair of Peace Studies.

great men who changed the face of South Africa and the world." Professor Makgoba added that he believed that the Humanities, through programmes introduced by the Gandhi-Luthuli Chair of Peace Studies, would play a crucial role in nation building which remained a major challenge in post apartheid South Africa.

Mr Zuma congratulated UKZN for the taking the lead in promoting Peace Studies through the establishment of the Chair. He said what was important for him was the Chair's role in researching South Africa's freedom struggle and undertaking research aimed at achieving peace on the continent.

EU grant

A R2,2 million European Union (EU) grant has enabled a UKZN virologist to pursue research that could ultimately lead to the production of innovative new drugs in fighting HIV and Aids.

Professor Thumbi Ndung'u of the Doris Duke Medical Research Institute at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine was awarded the grant through a consortium known as Targeting HIV Integration Co-Factors (THINC) of which he is a member. The group of eight researchers, whose goal is to create new HIV treatment strategies by "targeting cellular proteins required for HIV trafficking, nuclear import and integration", received a grant of about R29 million, a portion of which went to Professor Ndung'u's team. The grant awarded by the EU Framework 7 will be made available over a period of three years.

Professor Ndung'u described receipt of this grant as "great news." he said "We are now in a position to contribute significantly in understanding how HIV-1 hijacks the host cellular machinery for its replication. This may ultimately lead to the development of novel drugs. We also get an opportunity to place UKZN firmly as a significant global player in the fields of molecular virology and HIV/AIDS host genetic factors."

Words on Water

UKZN and the Consul-General of India co-hosted a delegation of visiting and resident authors for the literary festival: Words on Water – India and South Africa in Conversation.

The festival, featuring Indian and South African writers, formed part of this year's "Shared Histories: The Indian Experience in South Africa," which showcased recent trends and developments in Indian literature.

The event profiled Indian writers in conversation with their South African counterparts. Nayantra Sahgal, Professor Michael Green, William Dalrymple, Aziz Hassim, Kunal Basu, Gcina Mhlophe, Urvashi Butalia, Pitika Ntuli, Pavan K Swarup and Vikas Swarup were all participants in the Durban programme.

In his welcome address, Professor Johan Jacobs, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Knowledge Production and Partnerships, said the conference or conversation of writers from India and South Africa was taking place in the most appropriate city – Durban.

"The literature of your region and nation is fully engaged with the culture of your region. Durban is a

most appropriate place to host this conversation because it is a city of cultural formation and reformation. This has been witnessed through the movement of people within Africa, Europeans and migrations from India. The city is diasporic in its cultural nature."

Mr Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Consul-General of India, paid tribute to South African writers and welcomed Indian authors, remarking that it was the first time South African and Indian authors had celebrated by gathering together for a literature symposium. This exemplified shared histories in India and South Africa.

Promotion of new books, exhibitions and signings provided a great opportunity for both South African and Indian writers to interact with guests who came to support the event. Some of the new books that were promoted include Nayantra Sahgal's book *Rich like Us*, Professor Michael Green's *For the Sake of*



Urvashi Butalia and Professor Michael Cawood Green greeting each other at the literary festival.

Silence, Pavan K Varma's *The Great Indian Middle Class* and Kanul Basu's *The Japanese Wife*.

Nayantra Sahgal said: "India has always been a key character in my novels. I'm in a strange way bound to India. Staying put where you are located on the map gives you a vision and access that I will not have had if I were settled in another country. Globalisation is making the world so standardised and distinct identity is vanishing. For me staying put gives an Indian sensibility and some identities should be kept. It is important to hold on to what makes us exceptional".

Professor Green said that he did

a lot of historical work on South Africa before writing his books. "Eight years of research went into the book *For the Sake of Silence* – the silence coming through the struggle period and repositioning. The act of fiction tells the deepest truth. My books are closely attached to the region and South Africa. The truth has to come out from what I know, see and feel".

Indian Diplomat and Author Vikas Swarup said: "What unites us is the quality of being human. The aim of literature is to spread that quality of empathy."



Mr Mageshen Naidoo.

Jazz maestro

UKZN guitarist and Director of the Centre for Jazz and Popular Music, Mr Mageshen Naidoo joined the ranks of high-flying internationally acclaimed artists and pedagogues when he performed and taught at the Veracruz

International Jazz Festival in Xalapa, Mexico.

The festival, which has the prominence of the North Sea Jazz festival, and, like South Africa's Standard Bank Jazz Festival, includes a major jazz education component, attracted talented jazz students from

across the region. Luminaries who have taught and performed there include musicians Eddie Gomez, James Newton and Antonio Sanchez, based at institutions like the famous Berklee College of Music, the New England Conservatory in Boston, and the University of Southern California, where Mr Naidoo is presently

Excellence Awards for UKZN publications

UKZN picked up five Excellence Awards at the Institute for Marketing, Advancement and Communication in Education (MACE) Congress in Stellenbosch from 15-17 October. MACE, formerly known as Unitech, is the association of marketing, communication and public relations practitioners at public institutions of Higher Education. The Congress attracted 150 delegates from 18 Universities and six Further Education Training (FET) Colleges across the country.

ukzndaba (Internal Publication), and *Fatima Meer: A Pictorial Tribute* (External Publication/Brochure) won first place. *Sizabantwana*, an outreach project located in the School of Psychology that develops educator capacity to deal with psycho-social issues in their school communities took first place in the Community Development Project category. The magazine for the donor community, *Development Brief*, and the *College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science Marketing Brochure* were runners-up in the External Newsletter and External Magazine categories respectively. UKZN's five awards were the highest number of awards made to an institution, continuing a trajectory of marketing and communication

excellence begun in 2004. The Excellence Awards are adjudicated by an independent panel of judges from the marketing and media sectors.

With the need for structural change in the former Unitech, the Congress theme 'A New Leaf' was chosen to reflect the organisation's commitment to becoming streamlined, cost-effective and relevant. Delegates attended thought-provoking sessions focused on efficient marketing and communication strategies. Addressing social ills that currently plague South Africa, the issues of Xenophobia and Racism were also incorporated into the programme in a session on 'Managing Diversity on Campus' led by UKZN Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dasarath Chetty.



Mr Japie Swanepoel, Adjudicator, MACE Excellence Awards presents an award to Professor Dasarath Chetty, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Corporate Relations.

completing a doctor of musical arts degree.

At the Festival, Mr Naidoo found himself filling in for Berklee professor Matt Marvuglio (who took ill) and playing a televised gig with legendary Latin saxophonist Marco Pignataro. In addition to teaching advanced techniques in (North American)

jazz harmony and improvisation, Mr Naidoo introduced the Mexican and Latin American students to the music of South African jazz maestros Bheki Mseleku, Winston Mankunku, and Hugh Masakela. Naidoo is skilled at slipping in and out of American, African and Indian music idioms and the students were especially interested

in the unique blends of chutney and chkalaka that often flavour Durban jazz.

Mr. Naidoo said that students showed an interest in coming to UKZN. Other musicians would also like a linkage arrangement that would enable them to come and work briefly at the Centre for Jazz and Popular

Music. This, says Mr. Naidoo, would expand our students' concept and experience of jazz and expose them to fellow artists elsewhere. This has already started with the exchange programme with Gotheborg in Sweden, and crossing the Atlantic to South America will add a new dimension to the programme.

Science and Technology Centre Opens

The Minister of Science and Technology, Dr Mosibudi Mangena, officially opened the Science and Technology Education Centre (STEC) on UKZN's Westville campus on 10 October.

The R5.5 million Centre, which falls within the Faculty of Science and Agriculture, was created when the Faculty consolidated its Durban activities on the Westville campus. It provided the ideal opportunity to combine the areas and facilities used by individual Schools' outreach activities one physical space.

The main purpose of STEC is to stimulate an awareness of and interest in science and technology and to foster close links with learners, educators and the public. It will also offer a glimpse of some of the current research at UKZN and its possible applications.

Key features of the Centre include the Geology Education Museum which is the only Geology Museum in KwaZulu-Natal; a computer gallery with interactive software; an open plan display area featuring interactive exhibits; a multipurpose seminar/workshop room and a lecture theatre.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science, Professor Pete Zacharias welcomed Dr Mangena to the Westville campus which "we are now able to say, without fear of any contradiction, has the best facilities for teaching the broad sciences at any site or university in private or public hands on our continent".

Dr Mangena was treated to a small sample of the College's refurbished facilities by visiting some



Minister of Science and Technology, Dr Mosibudi Mangena (right) shakes hands with Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science Professor Pete Zacharias after unveiling the plaque at the official opening of the Science and Technology Education Centre.

of the centres housed within the Science and Technology Education Park, as well as the state-of-the-art Chemistry and Physics teaching and research laboratories.

In his address to staff, students and industry partners, Dr Mangena praised the leadership of the

University on this "important milestone in the history of the institution, which is making a significant contribution to science education in South Africa". He highlighted the need to increase public understanding of science and said, "the fact that this Science and Technology Education

Centre combines the science-based outreach initiatives of various academic Schools make it an effective platform for scientists, engineers, academics and researchers on all the UKZN campuses to interact with the general public".

Research Commons

Postgraduate students and academics have a new facility to aid their research work following the official opening of the UKZN Libraries Research Commons on 1 October.

Located at the EG Malherbe Library on the Howard College campus, the Commons Room was set up after UKZN Libraries received a grant of R600 000 from the Carnegie Corporation through the Research Library Consortium Project.

Whilst the Howard College Research Commons will be open to academics and other researchers, the focus will be on developing the research skills of students new to research.

Ms Catherine Dubbeld, the Howard College campus Librarian, said six research librarians received advanced training to assist those

using the new facilities. The glass partitioned room will offer access to 18 state-of-the-art computers, wireless connectivity for laptop computers and one-on-one consultations with skilled research librarians.

"Initially the six staff members will run operations at the Commons Room. Eventually all subject librarians will receive training. This is a marvelous opportunity for us and we're hoping the Howard College Research Commons will help us enable research capacity amongst young researchers," said Ms Dubbeld.

Professor Johan Jacobs, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research,



(l-r) Ms Catherine Dubbeld, Librarian; Professor Johan Jacobs, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Knowledge Production and Partnerships; and Ms Nora Buchanan, Director, UKZN Library Services, at the opening of the Research Commons.

Knowledge Production and Partnerships, cut the ribbon to officially launch the Commons. He said UKZN is privileged to be part of the Research Library Consortium Project.

"The Carnegie Corporation support to UKZN is important and appreciated ... We are fortunate indeed," he said.



Professor Vincent Maphai.

Former Chair of the UKZN Council Professor Vincent Maphai was hailed as a true leader at a farewell dinner held on the Westville campus on 17 October. Professor Maphai stepped down as Council Chair in June.

The new Chair of Council Mr

Farewell to Professor Maphai

Mac Mia said he was privileged to have worked with someone of Professor Maphai's calibre.

"Faced with the huge task of managing transformation in a newly-merged institution, Professor Maphai showed true leadership qualities. Today UKZN is one of the leading universities when it comes to research. We would like to say thanks, as the current Council of the University, for the contribution he has made," said Mr Mia.

Professor Maphai said it had been wonderful to have been given the opportunity to lead an institution like UKZN.

"It was an opportunity that one

will cherish for the rest of one's life. To be honest, leading UKZN in a difficult time like that of merger was an eye-opener for me. It gave me an opportunity to understand how important it is to manage change. ... Overall I enjoyed every moment of my time at UKZN."

He highlighted planning and team work as two very important attributes of any institution that strives for success.

"The reason why institutions fail is as a result of poor planning and failure to work as team. You can be a good leader but you are definitely going to fail if you don't plan carefully and ... (are not) inclusive in decisions that you

take. A leader can only be successful if they have the blessings of those that they lead. I am happy to say that the Council members of UKZN were wonderful to work with. Not to say we were always in agreement on issues. We differed on many issues but we maintained unity as a team," said Professor Maphai.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Melegapuru Makgoba said that Professor Maphai was "... one of the great leaders of our institution. He was instrumental in shaping the way forward for UKZN ... we salute his dedication, passion and commitment during his term of office."



Celebrating spring

The Economic Garden showcases economically important plant species.

Open Gardens is an ideal occasion for the University to create awareness about conservation and to share expertise and advice on plants and shrubs ideally suited to our climate. In addition to the stalwart gardeners who visit the gardens year in and year out, there are a variety of different visitors each year that emanate from around the province. A selection of indigenous grassland shrubs and rare and endemic plants were up for sale, the proceeds of which go towards buying new plants and sustaining the garden.

The UKZN Botanical Gardens are a wonderful green haven in the middle of a bustling campus, the perfect place to revel in the delights of nature. Comprising three hectares, the gardens were established in 1983 by the Botany Department when they moved to the new life sciences buildings. Professor Johannes van Staden, using external funding,

contributed substantially to the development of the gardens in the early years. Their primary purpose is to support teaching and research within the School of Biological and Conservation Sciences, and they act as a valuable laboratory for practicals as well as the perfect place for postgraduate research. Throughout the year the gardens are also visited by high schools in the area which are intent on educating their learners about biodiversity and conservation.

Maintained and managed by a horticulturalist and three full-time gardeners, the Botanical Gardens comprise various sections that add to their allure. The Evolutionary Garden, comprising examples of fossils and different types of rocks, demonstrates the equivalent evolutionary route that plants have taken over the ages. A grassland area, featuring 25 different species of grasses, shows the rich plant diversity present in KwaZulu-

Natal's grasslands. A wetland and a series of ponds are dedicated to the growing of aquatic plants that are used for teaching and research. The water in these systems is waste water that drains from the distilleries in the laboratories which is directed into the wetland and ponds. Economically important species, priorities for conservation by botanical gardens, form part of the Economic Garden. Some of these include primitive cultivars and semi-domesticates.

Medicinal plants are an important research focus of the School of Biological and Conservation Sciences. With the pressure of increasing population and also urban and rural development in the province, traditional medicinal resources have become severely strained. It is therefore imperative to conserve and propagate these threatened species. The Medicinal Plant section of the gardens supports

The University's Botanical Gardens, located on the Pietermaritzburg campus, marked the advent of spring by participating in the annual Open Gardens event held in Pietermaritzburg, the Garden City of KwaZulu-Natal. Designed to showcase private and public gardens to the general public, the first two weekends in October were dedicated to providing visitors with the rare opportunity of experiencing an eclectic range of gardens styles.

this endeavour and many of its plants are and have been used for research purposes. Many visitors to the garden request specific information on certain plants within this section, highlighting the general interest in the medicinal properties of plants.

The Botanical Gardens are a true asset to the University and many a visitor has marvelled at the range and diversity of plant material. One such overseas visitor from British Columbia University expressed her appreciation by saying that these are the best botanical gardens she has ever seen.

State-of-the-art technology

On 13 October scientists from UKZN converged on the Westville campus to celebrate the purchasing of state-of-the-art research equipment. The Schools of Chemistry and Pharmacy & Pharmacology together with the National Research Foundation and Bruker launched the purchase of the Electrospray Ionisation Quadrupole time of flight mass spectrometer (ESI-QTOF MS), Matrix Assisted Laser Desorption time of flight mass spectrometer (MALDI-TOF MS), X-Ray Diffractometer (XRD) and a CEM Microwave Peptide Synthesizer.

Dr Romilla Maharaj from the National Research Foundation (NRF) said, "The new equipment made possible by UKZN, Bruker, the NRF and the Department of Science and Technology will add value to the research group. In celebrating the success of being awarded the equipment, let us congratulate the research team on submitting a research proposal that stood up to peer review."

Dr Ralf Schaefer from Bruker, Germany gave the audience a detailed description of the MALDI-TOF. The MALDI-TOF makes use of a Smartbeam laser technology which has a long lifetime, an excellent beam profile, Gaussian energy distribution and gold standard for MALDI. The Smartbeam laser technology combines the advantages of both the Nitrogen laser performance and the highest reliability of all solid state lasers. It is also able to do protein identification with "fingerprints".

Dr Thavi Govender from the School of Pharmacy and Pharmacology who is one of the members of the research group, GGKM, presented on the Microwave Peptide Synthesis and Applications of Mass Spectrometry in the research group. The Govender, Govender, Kruger and Maguire (GGKM) Research group is only one of two research groups



(l-r) Mr Pari Antallis, Director, Bruker SA; Ms Ntombi Ditlopo, NRF; Dr Thavi Govender, Pharmacy; Professor William Daniels, Physiology; Professor Gert Kruger, Chemistry; Professor Cheryl Potgieter, Dean of Research; Ms Rakeshnie Ramoutar, Manager NRIP NRF; Dr Romilla Maharaj, Director NRIP NRF; and Dr Ralf Schaefer, Bruker Germany.

in South Africa involved in peptide synthesis.

Current peptide projects includes synthesis and testing of HIV protease inhibitors, AntiXDR-TB peptides, anti-cancer peptides which is a novel way of specific delivery to cancer cells with gold nanoparticles, inhibition of progression of Type II diabetes and Alzheimers and the study of peptide

tertiary structures on gold as a way of synthesising artificial enzyme pockets.

The equipment with a combined value totalling R12 million can be upgraded on a regular basis through its direct link with Bruker-Germany. Thus far, three students have been trained at Bruker-Germany on the use of the machines and 22 members

of staff and students were trained thereafter.

The GGKM Research Group can be accessed at <http://ggkm.ukzn.ac.za/HomePage16563.aspx>

Quantity Surveyor students shine

Seven Honours students and their supervisors from UKZN's Property Development Programmes in the School of Civil Engineering, Surveying and Construction presented academic peer-reviewed papers at the Quantity Surveying Conference held at Midrand from 9-10 October.

Dr Ayman Othman co-authored his students (M Govender, N Sirbadhoo, S D'Aubrey, and S Conrads), and Mrs Nishani Harinarain co-authored her students (K Ramiah, L Sarabjiet and S Gabriel).

The papers focused on important topics in construction including client satisfaction, partnerships, sustainability, industrialised building systems, virtual reality, and technology transfer and delay in construction.

Professor Rob Pearl, Director of the Property Development Programme was the keynote speaker at the conference and Dr Adebayo Oladapo also attended the conference. The Chair of the Conference and delegates praised the high standard of the UKZN's students' presentations. L Sarabjiet received a prize for the best paper in the discussion session.

The staff and students acknowledged Professor N Ijumba, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering for his encouragement and the financial support that enabled them to attend the Conference.



(front) Dr A Oladapo, L Sarabjiet, S Gabriel and N Sirbadhoo.

(back) S D'Aubrey, Dr A Othman, S Conrads, M Govender and K Ramiah.

Magnetometer Project

At the beginning of September, Kyushu University's Space Environment Research Centre (SERC) in Japan installed a state-of-the-art Magnetic Data Acquisition System (MAGDAS) at the Science and Technology Innovation Park located at UKZN's Westville campus.

The MAGDAS Project, which started in 2005, has 40 units deployed around the world, concentrated along three chains. The UKZN MAGDAS is an addition to the north-south portion of the Africa Chain.

The system is highly sensitive to changes in the earth's magnetic field and will monitor important geomag-

netic variations over a ten year period. This will provide scientists with a better understanding of the sun, earth and interplanetary space.

The University will have access to the real time geomagnetic data produced by the unit and envisages having a postgraduate Electrical Engineering student studying this area in 2009.



Mr George Maeda from Kyushu University's Space Environment Research Centre presents Professor Makgoba with a token of appreciation at the installation of the MAGDAS unit.

The Project is Japan's most important contribution to the International Heliophysical Year (IHY), a scientific campaign and celebration under the auspices of the United Nations. Its goal is "to become the most comprehensive ground-based monitoring system of the earth's magnetic field", and will serve to complement observations from

space. The project is led by the Director of SERC, Professor K Yumoto.

Mr George Maeda, a MAGDAS Engineer said, "Professor Kumoto and his SERC staff and KU students gratefully acknowledge the tremendously generous support of UKZN for executing and maintaining this MAGDAS installation".

Phillip Tobias Lecture

Vice-Chancellor Professor Malegapuru Makgoba has been honoured with the 2008 Phillip Tobias Lecture Award. He was nominated by Minister of Science and Technology, Mr Mosibudi Mangena. Professor Makgoba delivered the Lecture at INSITE 2008, the International Science, Innovation and Technology Exhibition at the Sandton Convention Centre on 17 September.

"We have nominated Professor Makgoba in acknowledgement of the contribution he has made as an intellectual and scientist. His ongoing contributions to the country's science systems are truly valued," said Mr Mangena.

Professor Makgoba said he was inspired and humbled by the honour "particularly because it was Phillip Tobias who has been a great inspiration and unifier for science and society in South Africa for many years. To be asked to give a lecture named after him is special to me."

The Phillip Tobias Award was developed from the establishment of the Phillip Tobias Lecture, which honours Professor Tobias' contribution to the sciences of palaeo-anthropology and genetics through anatomical studies. It is presented biannually by the Department of Science and Technology.

During his Lecture, Professor Makgoba released groundbreaking findings by UKZN scientists. "We did a study in which we tried to understand when we could begin Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) in TB treatment. We did this clinical trial because there was no real evidence for when and how to care for TB-HIV infection and as you know it is a very big problem in Southern Africa and not in the developed countries. We found that in a very short time the introduction of anti-retrovirals in early TB treatment reduced mortal-



Professor Phillip Tobias, Professor Malegapuru Makgoba and Minister of Science and Technology, Mr Mosibudi Mangena.

ity by 55%. The implications for this study in South Africa are that we will be able to prevent 10 000 deaths if we implement immediately. This is because we will be treating roughly 150 000 new patients," he said.

Professor Makgoba said many people were putting pressure on the scientific community to come up with a vaccine. "There is effective drug therapy. What the world is looking for now is a vaccine that is part of treatment and prevention to eradicate

the problem in the long term. At the moment there are enormous challenges in terms of development of the vaccine and there is pressure from society. I urge those that are here that when the markets are down, this is the time to invest. When the challenge is so great invest in the future of young scientists in the country so they can become the torch bearers."

He concluded with a suggestion that researchers should look at the new proteo-genomic approaches

in designing either antibodies or T cells: "There has been a view that because most vaccines have either been based on T cells or antibody mediated information, we should look for this, I have tried to challenge the world that actually HIV may be slightly different, that it may be neither of these two. Let's try to explore that and find out what are the alternatives in the immune system that may be generated."

Karate star

UKZN student Mr Riyaz Vawda believes that good preparation and focus will stand him a good chance of bringing back medals when he takes part in the Kyokoshin Kai World tournament scheduled in Japan in December. A junior instructor, Mr Vawda has just obtained his second black belt.

"In any major karate tournament like this one you need to prepare very well in order to bring back the medals. Without good preparation you are bound to fail," said Mr Vawda.

A second-year Sport Science student at the Westville campus, he will represent South Africa amongst the 52 countries who will be participating in the event.

"It's a good feeling to know that there are people out there who value

your talent. I will make sure that I represent UKZN and South Africa with pride. I am looking forward to the tournament and it's a good opportunity for me to learn from other top athletes who will be there," said Mr Vawda.

He also visited Japan in 2003 when he took part in the Kyokoshin amateur tournament.

"The standard is different. When I was there five years ago I

was still an amateur and had little experience, but now it's a different game altogether," he said.

In his spare time Mr Vawda enjoys assisting other young athletes who are still at junior level. "It's good to help the youngsters who are also ambitious about the sport of karate. I enjoy every moment with the kids," he said.



Mr Riyaz Vawda.



Mr Lee De Waal.

Tennis pros

After doing exceptionally well at the Federation of African Sport Union (FASU) games in Uganda the UKZN tennis team is expected to do well in the South African Sport Union (SASSU) games in North West Province December.

The UKZN team will be led by Mr Lee De Waal who won a gold medal in Uganda. Mr De Waal was recently voted Sportsman of the Year on the Westville campus.

"We learned so much in Uganda during the FASU games and I'm sure that experience will assist us to do

well in North West. Our aim is to bring as many medals as we can for our institution," he said.

Mr De Waal is a third year Sport Science student at Westville Campus who doubles up as tennis coach. He said the trip to Uganda was an eye opener for him.

"It was a wonderful experience for me personally and the team. I think there are a lot of things that we can learn from these countries in our continent. For many of us it was for the first time that we participated in a tournament outside our borders."

The 28-year old also said getting a gold medal for the first time in Uganda has motivated him to do even

better in different competitions.

"It was a good feeling standing there in the podium to receive a gold medal for my country. It meant a lot for me. It's a memory that will always be in my mind. The good thing about it is that it has motivated me even more to do better," Mr De Waal said.

He is committed to improving tennis skills among young players in the community: "It's good to be working with the youngsters but I must say it's challenging at times because you need to be patient with them. There are not enough coaches out there for tennis so it's better to do something for the kids."

Where are they now?

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

Ablort-Morgan, Jonathan Denis (Mr)	BSc Eng(Civil)'73	Govetto, Fulvia Graziella (Miss)	BSc Eng(Electronic)'81
Akbar, Ebrahim Mohamed (Mr)	Lib'77	Hadebe, Bheki Lancelot (Mr)	MBA'02
Amaidas, Nalini Utham (Miss)	BOptom'85	Hallam, Michael George (Mr)	BSc(Agric)'80, B Agric Mgt'81
Andrews, John Hilton (Mr)	BSc Eng(Chemical)'72	Henshall, Duncan Scott (Mr)	BSc'89, HDE-PG'90
Apollos, Lynette Elspeth (Ms)	BSc(Qty Surv)'98	Henwood, Tarryn Louise (Miss)	BCom'97
Bagge, Harro Rainer (Mr)	BEco'67	Hlengwa, Smanga (Dr)	MBChB'95
Bagirathi, Ranjit (Dr)	MBChB'74	Ingle, Raymond Peter (Mr)	BSc(Qty Surv)'89
Bagwanth, Twinkle (Miss)	BPharm'97	Jagersar, Renisha (Miss)	BProc'98
Baker, Anthony Kenneth (Mr)	BSc Eng(Civil)'80	James, Naomi (Miss)	BProc'99
Baloi, Vivian Nkateko (Miss)	BA'99	Jarvis, Andrew Nigel (Mr)	BMusic'90
Bhengu, Mthunzi Brian (Mr)	BCom(Hon)'03	Khayyam, Shahriar (Mr)	BSc Eng(Electrical)'91
Cahi, Adelein (Miss)	BArch'03	Khenisa, Silindile (Miss)	BAgric'02
Carr, Amanda Jane (Miss)	BSocSc'82	Khoza, Moses Mzweni (Mr)	Lib'87
Carrim, Omar (Dr)	MBChB'66	Kibi, Cynthia (Miss)	BEd'96
Cebekhulu, Msawenkosi Cyprian (Mr)	BMusic'97	Kozonguizi, Job (Mr)	BAdmin'90, Lib'93
Chellan, Munsami (Mr)	BA'72	Love, Colette Jacynth (Miss)	BPhysio'89
Chetty, Daksha (Miss)	BCom'98, PG Dip(Acc)'99	Lutchman, Ranesh (Mr)	BPharm'88
Chetty, Kamalasan (Mr)	BSc'81	Maharaj, Aleena (Miss)	BA(Law)'96
Cook, Robert Ewing (Mr)	BCom'99	Marie, Krishnaveni (Miss)	BPhysio'89
Cowper, Allison Jane (Miss)	BSc Eng(Civil)'91	Matsietsa, Godisaone Edwin (Mr)	BOptom'99
Daniel, Natasha (Miss)	BSocSc'96	Naidoo, Vathsala (Miss)	BOptom'85
Davies, Ceredig Stephen (Mr)	BSc Eng(Chemical)'71	Ngcobo, Fortunate Phumelele (Miss)	BNurs'02
Dludla, Derrick Vusi (Mr)	HDE-PG'89	Orbach, Yael (Dr)	PhD(Arts)'86
Docrat, Zaiboon Nisha (Miss)	BAdmin'91	Park, Dugald Vincent (Mr)	BSc Eng(Chemical)'86
Du Preez, Leza Bronwyn (Miss)	BCom'99	Poirier, Trevor Patrick (Mr)	BProc'99
Du Preez, Roan (Mr)	BProc'01	Taute, Catherine Joy (Miss)	BSc'69
Edington, Brian Ross (Dr)	PhD(Agric)'95	Thambiran, Arunasalam Dayalen (Mr)	BPharm'79
Fazzini, Marco (Dr)	MArts'92	Thandroyen, Francis Trevor (Dr)	MBChB'74
Gina, Nellie Ntombizodwa (Miss)	BEd(Hon)'02	Van Rooyen, Leanne (Miss)	BPhysio'87
Goge, Primrose Steziah (Miss)	BNurs'01	Vickers, Robyn Ann (Miss)	BCom'94
Goussard, Leon (Mr)	PG Dip(IR)'90	Wichmann, Brunhilde Ruth (Miss)	BSc Eng(Chemical)'85
Govender, Komalan (Dr)	BSc'99, MBChB'04	Zweegman, Ingrid (Miss)	BSocSc'85
Govender, Rirendhree (Miss)	BAdmin'96	Zylstra, Michael David (Mr)	BCom'90

COMMITTED JUDGE

Judge of Appeal in the Supreme Court of Appeal of South Africa, Judge Kenneth Mthiyane is on the panel appointed by the Minister of Provincial and Local Government to select members of the Municipal Demarcation Board who will serve the country from 2009-2014.

Born in Ndwedwe in KwaZulu-Natal, Mthiyane obtained his matric through private study whilst employed as a clerk at the Durban General Post Office. He earned his B. Iuris degree through UNISA, a Bachelor of Law in 1984 and Master of Laws in 1994 on the Howard College campus.



**KENNETH
MTHIYANE**

He is the Head and Chairperson of the Electoral Court of South Africa and Vice-Chairperson of the Rules Board for Courts of Law.

Mthiyane says that the best part of studying at Howard College was being in a multiracial institution with a welcoming environment free of prejudice.

He believes that Convocation has a critical role to play in building bridges between the University and society. "Convocation needs to broaden the University community's understanding of the needs of the society it is meant to serve." He feels that the transformation of Higher Education should be "pursued with vigour on an ongoing basis". He advises budding law students to retain an awareness of what is going on around them as they are future leaders.

Mthiyane has paved the way for his daughters, Jabu Luthuli, Zama Nkosi, Ayanda Mthiyane and Zanele Mthiyane, to pursue academic studies. All four are proud UKZN graduates.

LEADING GEOPHYSICIST

"Success is not only defined by our personal success, but also by what we have achieved in making a difference in the world we live in."

This is the inspirational force behind Ms Nomthandazo Agnes Jikelo, a woman who is making a difference in the field of Geophysics at Anglo American in Johannesburg.

Armed with a Bachelor of Science from UKZN and an MBA from the University of Cape Town, Jikelo, is the only woman to lead a team of Geophysicists responsible for the Geophysical analysis of Borehole Data.

**NOMTHANDAZO
AGNES JIKELO**



Her ascent to a leadership role in what's considered to be a male-dominated industry had come with certain challenges. "The major challenge that women faced in the mining industry was sheer access to the industry as it was perceived as a male industry. What women face today are behavioural attitudes which are still underpinned by the past tendencies of not only the mining industry but of many male-dominated industries." To meet these challenges, she suggests that women "constantly and consistently" make a mark in the areas where they work.

She favours an inclusive management style, which takes into consideration team members' contributions, and leading by example.

Jikelo served as the Chairperson of the Africa Congress Programme Committee for the World Petroleum Congress held in South Africa in 2005. She has published a number of articles in the *Journal of African Earth Sciences* and the *Oil and Gas Journal*.

DEDICATED DIPLOMAT

As a student, Ms Chantelle Naidoo dreamt of working for the Department of Foreign Affairs. Now, as she says, she is "living a dream."

Naidoo is first Secretary for the South African High Commission to the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland. Born in Pietermaritzburg, she obtained her Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in 2001.

As a diplomat, Naidoo must keep abreast of what is happening in South Africa. She must also be prepared to field sometimes tricky questions on government policy. "You need to defend the



CHANTELLE
NAIDOO

position of the country at all costs without getting emotional," she says.

Naidoo co-ordinates events for the High Commission and deals with issues like art and culture and human rights. The High Commission supports the Phelophepha project, a train which travels through South Africa's rural areas providing health care to those who do not have access to it. Naidoo is involved in co-ordinating this support. UKZN staff and students service this project.

What she enjoys most about her job is traveling, living in different countries and experiencing diverse cultures while promoting the South African brand. She is honoured to have met senior government leaders and business people, and singles out meeting former South African President, Nelson Mandela, as a special day in her life. She serves as an Executive Member of Young Diplomats of London.

ROBUST BUSINESSPERSON

Mr Guy Brazier has spent his entire working career with Deloitte, having completed 25 years of unbroken service with the company.

Brazier is the Regional Leader of Deloitte in KwaZulu-Natal, Chief Executive Officer, Deloitte Tip-offs Anonymous and a Board Member of Deloitte Southern Africa.

He matriculated at Michaelhouse and obtained a Bachelor of Commerce degree and a Postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy on the Howard College campus. He feels that the knowledge and skills he obtained at the University have made him a robust and



GUY BRAZIER

confident professional. Challenges he encounters in his current portfolio include finding and retaining the best talent.

On the transformation of Higher Education he says: "This is a business imperative and a necessary requirement to remain relevant ..." He believes that the Alumni body is a strategically significant stakeholder of the University. "It has a role to play in allowing the University to achieve its goal of being the Premier University of African Scholarship," he says. He adds that meeting new friends and like-minded individuals were some of the best things he experienced at University and encourages students to relish every moment of their time at UKZN.

Brazier is also involved in driving the Deloitte KwaZulu-Natal CSI initiatives. The company has launched a feeding scheme initiative for schools. He feels that it is very important to "give to those communities less fortunate than mine".

COMMUNITY CRUSADER

Head of the Department of Community Safety and Liaison in KwaZulu-Natal Ms Yasmin Essop Bacus is passionate about the protection of women and children. She is also committed to efficient and effective policing.

Bacus matriculated in 1984 at Windsor Secondary in Ladysmith. Armed with a degree in Criminology and an MBA from the former University of Durban-Westville, she established the Advice Desk for Abused Women on the Westville campus. She also served as a Provincial Co-ordinator for the National Network on Violence against Women.



**YASMIN ESSOP
BACUS**

She has traveled extensively, and represented South Africa in an African non-governmental organisation programme for Women and Human Rights in Zimbabwe, Namibia and Uganda.

Bacus sees her role in the Public Service as creating a safer environment for communities, especially for vulnerable groups. She has written a handbook on community policing which has been translated into isiZulu. She introduced the Provincial Crime Brief and a Management Information System to deal with crime reports and complaints against the police. She has also set up a Commission of Inquiry into policing in KwaZulu-Natal.

Her Department is hosting HIV/AIDS Campaigns and Child Protection Road Shows throughout KwaZulu-Natal as well as Capacity Building Programmes for Community Policing Forums.

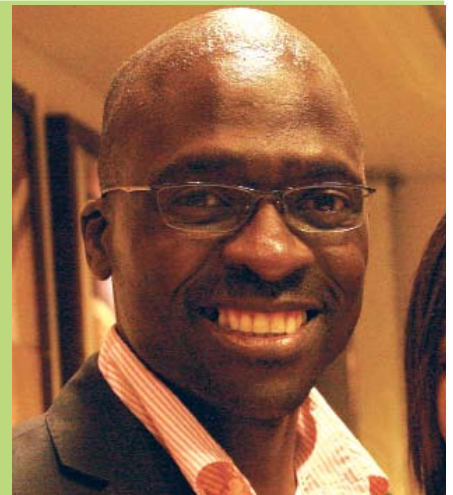
In recognition of her efforts, Bacus received the 2008 Barath Gaurav Pravasi Award from the Indian government. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, swimming and writing articles.

ACTIVIST LEADER

"The primary duty of a student, even if they are an activist, is to study hard. The University offered us the opportunity to exercise our critical minds and expand our lateral thinking. We learned to debate and to solve problems," says South Africa's Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Malusi Gigaba.

Born in Eshowe, Gigaba obtained a Bachelor of Pedagogics in 1992, and a Masters degree in Social Policy: Urban Affairs and Policy in 1994 both on the Westville campus.

In both his Parliamentary Constituency as well as in his home village, Gigaba is involved in youth empowerment projects, within



**MALUSI
GIGABA**

education and sports. He is Patron of the Nompumelelo Institute for Leadership, a youth leadership and life-skills development project and a Patron of the Oasis for Life Hospice for people living with HIV and AIDS.

Gigaba served as President of the ANC Youth League from 1996-2004. In his current portfolio, he is actively involved in transforming the Department of Home Affairs with the intention of delivering world class services both to South Africans and foreign nationals.

The Deputy Minister believes that in order to address the challenges facing South Africa, a persistent focus on the global, regional and domestic balance of forces is crucial. "Ours is not a technical process of merely governing and delivering services, but a profoundly political process to address the most basic interests of the poorest of the poor, of the hitherto disadvantaged black masses and yet of all South Africans," he says.

ROCK ENGINEER

A combination of her love for physical science and mathematics together with the influences of her geologist dad prompted Dr Lindsay Linzer's choice of a career in Geophysics.

Linzer was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Geology and Physical Science summa cum laude at the former University of Natal in 1992. Sixteen years later, she is the owner of a geophysics consultancy firm consulting to platinum and uranium mines. And she shares her expertise in mining seismology with postgraduate geophysics students at the University of the Witwatersrand's School of Geosciences where



LINDSAY
LINZER

she lectures part-time.

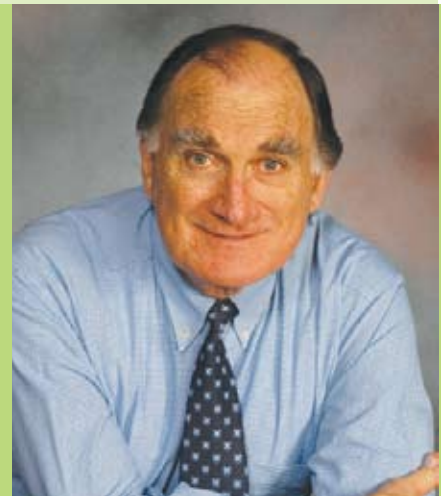
Prior to setting up her consultancy she worked for the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) where she researched mining seismology aimed at improving underground mine safety.

Linzer obtained her Bachelor of Science Honours degree (1994) and a PhD in Geophysics (2002), through the University of the Witwatersrand. She has received several awards, including the Salomon Award by the South African Institute of Rock Engineering for authoring the best rock engineering paper titled: 'A hybrid relative moment tensor methodology', the Rocha Medal in 2003 recognising her doctoral thesis as "outstanding" and a research grant by the Schlumberger Foundation in 2005 enabling her participation in a two year research programme at the University of Pennsylvania.

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR

Executive Director for Government Affairs and Policy Implementation at Johnson and Johnson, Mr Roger Crawford, believes that the private sector should engage continuously with government. This, he says, will ensure that "we don't operate in a vacuum."

A graduate of the former University of Natal in the 1960s Crawford has occupied a number of leadership positions. He is Vice-Chair of the South African Medical Devices Association, and serves as a Board Member of the South African Institute of Race Relations and the National Business Initiative. He is also an



ROGER
CRAWFORD

Advisory Board Member of the Graduate School of Business at the University of Cape Town.

"Being in a leadership position equips a person to be more responsible in whatever (they are) doing. That is why I always encourage students to participate in leadership structures," he says.

Crawford also earned an Honours degree from the University of the Free State. He received the Dr EG Malherbe award for Outstanding Contribution to Education and Science from the former University of Natal and has Honorary Life Membership of the American Chamber of Commerce.

His message to the youth of today is: "Live your vision and never give up. It is better to try and fail than fail to try."

Advocates for Democracy

More than 250 UKZN alumni, staff and guests attended the Advocates for Democracy reunion for staff and students who were at the University from the 1970s to the 1990s.

The event, co-ordinated by the Alumni Affairs Office, included a three-course dinner, musical entertainment and an impressive line-up of speakers.

Professor Dasarath Chetty, Pro-Vice-Chancellor: Corporate Relations, welcomed everyone before putting into perspective the reasons and importance for having such a reunion.

The Regional Leader of Deloitte:KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Guy Brazier, highlighted Deloitte's vision/mission and commitment to democracy. This was followed by an address from the President and Chair of Convocation, Mr André Young, and then by the personal reminiscences of student life during the 1980s and 1990s by fellow-graduates: Mr Vasu Gounden and Mr Comfort Ngidi.

The Guest of Honour and main speaker was the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Malusi Gigaba, a UKZN alumnus, who was introduced by the Speaker of the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature, Mr Willis Mchunu.

Both Mr Mchunu and Mr Gigaba provided interesting and insightful accounts of the historical and current political situation in South Africa.



Mrs Rose Yende, Mr Sandile Ngcobo, Mr Malusi Gigaba, Dr Urmilla Bob and Mrs Anitha Ramiah at the Reunion.



Mr Malusi Gigaba, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Prof D Chetty, Mr Willis Mchunu



Advocates for Democracy catch up at the Reunion.

Alumnus events

The Alumni Affairs Office held a number of successful events in the second half of 2008. Some of these activities included:

London

A UKZN event for UK-based alumni and "friends"/donors of the University took the form of a cocktail reception at South Africa House: London on 17 September. The event – attended by 55 graduates – was jointly co-ordinated by the Alumni Affairs Office, the UKZN Foundation and the Alumnus Association in Europe.

Mr Mike Miller, Deputy Chair of the Alumnus Association in Europe co-ordinated activities on the night and also provided the welcome on behalf of the Association, a representative for the South Africa High Commissioner provided an official welcome to the guests and Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Corporate Relations Professor Dasarath Chetty provided a comprehensive overview on

developments at the University. The Guest Speaker, Mr John Battersby, UK Country Manager of the International Marketing Council of South Africa and former editor of the *Sunday Independent* in South Africa, addressed the topic "South Africa: Where does it fit in the new world order?"

Prior to and after the formalities guests were able to network and chat with one another as well as with the Alumni Association in Europe Committee Members and UKZN representatives.

The main objectives of the event were to continue establishing and maintaining relationships with University stakeholders based in the UK; and to provide a timeous follow-



(l-r) Professor Dasarath Chetty, Mr John Battersby, Mr Burt Browne and guest.

up on the 2007 friend and fund-raising initiatives of the University.

Such a reception has become an annual event for UK-based alumni and

many travel long distances to meet fellow alumni and to be updated on developments at their *alma mater*.

Dates to diarise: 2009

FEBRUARY

9 February : Durban Alumni Association Annual General Meeting

MARCH

27 March : Cape Town Alumnus Event

MAY

5 May : *Cum Laude/Summa Cum Laude* and PhD Celebratory Event in Durban

15 May : Pretoria Alumnus Dinner

16 May : Johannesburg Alumnus Dinner

JULY

3 July : Golden Alumni Reunion (1959 – 1960) on Howard College Campus

13-14 July : Project Management Workshop on Howard College Campus

16-17 July : Entrepreneurship Workshop in Senate Chamber on Westville Campus

Reunion of Salisbury Islanders

A reunion of everyone who was part of the family at Salisbury Island from its inception in 1961 until its closure in 1971 is planned for 2009.

It is intended to include all Salisbury Island graduates and members of staff as well as those students who registered there and did not complete their degrees or diplomas.

If the idea of a reunion appeals to you, please provide your updated contact details (form on the next page) to

Zanele Ndlala or Esme Estrice of the Alumni Affairs Office:

Corporate Relations of the University of KwaZulu-Natal

(Email: magwaza4@ukzn.ac.za or estrice@ukzn.ac.za,

Telephone: 031-260 2947/2016 and Fax: 031-260 3265).

We look forward to receiving your information!

SALISBURY ISLAND REUNION

IT WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED IF ALL "SALISBURY ISLANDERS" WOULD PLEASE COMPLETE THE BELOW INFORMATION AND RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO ZANELE NDLALA OF THE ALUMNI AFFAIRS OFFICE.

Identity Number: Student Number:

Surname: First Names:

Maiden Name:

Degree(s)/Diploma (s): Year of completion:

Name of Spouse (if also a graduate): (maiden name:)

Degree(s)/Diploma (s): Year of completion:

Postal Address: Post Code:

..... Province:

Residential Address: Post Code:

..... Province:

Home Telephone Number: (____) Mobile Number:

Fax Number: (____) Preferred email address:

Employer: Position Held:

Work Address: Post Code:

..... Province:

Work Telephone Number: (____) Fax Number: (____)

Direct Line:

Suggestions regarding Reunion programme:

.....

.....

.....

.....

PLEASE RETURN TO:

Zanele Ndlala

Alumni Affairs, Corporate Relations

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL, Durban 4000

Tel: (031) 260 2947, Fax: (031) 260 2236 / 3265

Email: magwaza4@ukzn.ac.za

UPDATE YOUR DETAILS ONLINE:

<http://alumniaffairs.ukzn.ac.za>

Keeping in touch!

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.

1950s

RICHARD CLARK – BSc'56, MSc'60, PhD'62 retired 12 years ago, but he still does *ad hoc* editing for scientific journals and reports, and constructs/repairs science exhibits for the TUKS science exploration centre. He has been an avid motorhome-tourer of southern Africa for the past 24 years and has a passion for the British Waterways, having "done" about 1 000 miles of the available routes by narrowboat over the years.

Email: ricclark@telkomsa.net

1960s

ELEANOR PRESTON-WHYTE – BSoc-Sc'60, BSocSc (Hon)'61, PhD'70 went into full time research in Durban after graduating. This led to her PhD, and a career in Social Anthropology. She was appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research in 1994. After retiring in 2002 she teamed up with Professor Jerry Coovadia to establish HIVAN, the Centre for HIV/AIDS Networking and Research, which is still running on campus with Eleanor as the director of social science research. Concurrently she returned to Anthropology joining the School of Development Studies as an Emeritus Research Fellow. Here she mainly supervises graduate dissertations and gives the odd lecture or short course in research methodology - concentrating mainly on Ethnography, the major research tool used by Social Anthropologists, but one that is becoming popular in other disciplines. She continues her own research and publication and works with local and international researchers on a number of studies, many of which are associated with HIV and AIDS.

Email: prestonw@ukzn.ac.za

TIM TANSER – BA'66 spent several years in the Rhodesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He studied Law by correspondence and joined the firm of Scanlen and Holderness in Harare in 1969. He is currently Managing Partner and has lived through the challenging years that Zimbabwe has presented to the world.

He married a UCT graduate, Diana (nee Osterberg), they have three children and five grandchildren. His son Frank obtained his PhD through UKZN. He and his wife Leonie and their three children live in Mtunzini on the North Coast, and Frank works for the Medical Research Council at the Africa Centre in Mtubatuba. Tim's daughter Vanessa is a medical doctor.

Email: timtanser@zol.co.zw

JANET KEMPSTER (nee KIRKWOOD) –BA'67, BA(Hon)'68 has lived in Brantford, Ontario, Canada for the past 33 years and recently retired from teaching high school Visual Arts. Janet teaches photography part-time at a regional community college and enjoys travel and grandparenthood. Her past volunteer activities include being president of the local art gallery, and present activities include sitting on the City's Advisory Board for Arts and Culture. She wrote an

illustrated history of her city which was published in 1986. Janet would like to hear from any of her former fellow students.

Email: jankem@rogers.com

1970s

MICHAEL SUTCLIFFE – BSc'76, BSc (Hon)'77, MSc'8 is the City Manager of eThekweni (www.durban.gov.za). He serves as a member of the Municipal Demarcation Board (www.demarcation.org.za) which he previously served in the capacity of Chairperson. He was a Member of the Provincial Legislature (KwaZulu-Natal) (1994-1999), Director of Public Affairs: University of Durban-Westville (1991-1994) and Associate Professor: Town and Regional Planning: University of Natal (1982-1991).

Over the past 30 years, he has acted as a consultant to a wide range of local and international organisations and continues to serve as a board member of a number of developmental organisations. He has written more than 500 articles and reports on a wide range of issues, from demarcation and delimitation issues to urbanisation,

Please send contributions to:

CORLIA OGLE

Email: ogle@ukzn.ac.za

• Fax: 031 260 2236/3265

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

economic analysis and analysing political trends. He has received a number of awards, most recently receiving a prestigious professional award from the Association of American Geographers.

He has been invited to present papers at conferences in Canada, Mexico, the UK, Sweden, Turkey, France, Norway, Australia, USA, Tanzania, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Uganda, Nigeria, Mozambique, India, Kenya, Brazil, Zambia and Spain. He has also attended and presented papers at more than 200 conferences in southern Africa and South Africa.

Email: sutcliffem@durban.gov.za

ANTHONY MAEDER – BSc'79, MSc'83 has been appointed Professor in Health Informatics in the

School of Computing & Mathematics at the University of Western Sydney (Campbelltown campus), returning to the academic world after serving as Research Director for the CSIRO e-Health Research Laboratory since 2004. In his new role he will be responsible for building up the health informatics curriculum and research, in co-operation with the new School of Medicine at the university.

Email: a.maeder@uws.edu.au

2000s

LUCINA REDDY (nee AUGUSTINE) – BA'00, BA (Hon)'01 is employed at HAICU (HIV/AIDS Co-ordination, University of Cape Town). This department is based in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor and is a key programme

area for the university. She is a Project Officer responsible for the HIV/AIDS Peer Education Programme at the university campus. The work at the office encompasses policy updating, curriculum and co-curriculum programmes and courses, short courses and HIV/AIDS awareness events on the campus. Lucina got married in January 2008.

Email: lucina.reddy@uct.ac.za

SKYE DILLON – BSocSc (Hon)'02, PGCE'03 travelled to the UK to work as a supply teacher after graduation. After two years of teaching in London, she took up a position as Short Course Co-ordinator for the Centre for Sustainable Heritage, University College London (UCL). In this position, she marketed and project-managed a suite of short courses for heritage profes-

sionals (run in partnership with English Heritage). Following almost three years at UCL, she has recently joined the England's Past for Everyone (EPE) project team for Victoria County History, Institute of Historical Research, University of London. In her new position as Education and Skills Manager for the EPE project, she oversees the school, outreach and volunteer projects of the 10 participating English counties (www.englishpastforeveryone.org.uk). Since 2004, she has volunteered as a hands-on collections interpreter at The British Museum, London. It is here that she met her partner, Neil Stevenson, and they now live in Hornchurch, Essex (just outside London).

Email: skyedillon@yahoo.co.uk

GOLDEN ALUMNI REUNION

Graduates of 1959 and 1960

Please join us as we celebrate the

GOLDEN ALUMNI REUNION

for the Graduates of 1959 and 1960

All graduates who graduated in **1960** and before are welcome to attend the Campus Tour and Luncheon on

Friday, 3 July 2009 on the Howard College campus.

We request all alumni to encourage fellow graduates (1960 and prior) to attend. If any graduate has changed contact details, please send updated details to the Alumni Affairs Office. More detailed information will follow.

Contacts:

Corlia Ogle 031 260 1238 or ogle@ukzn.ac.za
Zanele Ndlala 031 260 2947 or magwaza4@ukzn.ac.za
Fax: 031 260 3265 or 031 260 2236

Convocation Annual General Meeting



Newly-elected Convex members with the incoming Convocation President: (back l-r) Mr Reshwant Brijraj, Dr Bandile Hadebe, and Mr James Trinder. (front l-r) Mr Sibusiso Mncwabe, Mr Mafika Ngubane, Mr Sandile Ngcobo, Dr Sue Higgins-Opitz, and Dr Pravin Thakur.

The Governor of the South African Reserve Bank, Mr Tito Mboweni delivered the keynote address at the Convocation Annual General Meeting (AGM) at One-on-One, Gateway, Durban on 27 October.

The meeting was well attended by the University alumni and guests.

Mr Mboweni addressed the topic of global economic crisis. He assured his audience that South Africans were relatively protected during these turbulent times:

“South African banks are insulated to the bigger economic problem thanks to the number of policies put in place. South African banks are safe, you can rest assured,” said Mr. Mboweni. However, he did warn his audience that it was time to ‘tighten belts’.

The Reserve Bank Governor also highlighted workable economic strategies during the crisis. He warned that high budget deficits do not work as they lead to high inflation. He said

that a budget surplus or a small budget deficit are preferable options.

Mr Mboweni urged restraint noting that “if people make irresponsible public statements there are consequences. It causes problems for the country. If investments are threatened, the investors pack up and go.”

The focus of the Annual General Meeting was the election of the new Convocation Executive Committee and Convocation’s approval of the draft Convocation Constitution.

Outgoing President Mr André Young, who has served in this portfolio since 2004, handed over the reins to Mr Sandile Ngcobo.

Dr Reshma Badal and Mr Young were elected as Council representatives.



The AGM was well-attended.

Mr Reshwant Brijraj, Dr Bandile Hadebe, Mr Sibusiso Mncwabe, Mr Mafika Ngubane, Dr Pravin Thakur, and Mr James Trinder were elected as Convocation Executive (Convex) members.

Re-elected Convex members were Ms Raylene J L Captain-Hasthibeer, Dr Beki Hlatshwayo, Mr Sifiso Mncube, Dr Thavan Padayachi and Mr Thami Patrick Zondi.

Senate Representatives on Convex are Professor John A Cooke

and Dr Sue Higgins-Opitz.

Newly elected Convex Secretary, Mr Mncwabe said: “It is my firm desire to see Convocation reaching the goals it has set for itself. I strongly believe that Convocation should play a very crucial role in making sure that the University emerges victorious in this era of political and economic challenges facing our country. ... A successful University means a prosperous KwaZulu-Natal community and a prosperous South Africa.”

Report by the Convocation President Mr André Young to the 2008 AGM

It gives me great pleasure to report to you that UKZN is shedding the pains that are reminiscent of mergers. Your institution is in good hands, both from a senior management perspective as well as from a governance perspective via its Council. I wish to thank all for the tireless role that they have played during these past four years in solidifying the merger.

It is now time to focus on teaching and learning, and research with the aim of becoming that Premier University of African Scholarship that we all aspire to. We are not there yet, we are surely on the road to success. I am not comfortable with being one of three African universities within the top five hundred universities in the world. Our success must not be measured by other African universities' failure to achieve. We must measure ourselves with the best in order to become the best. We must now focus on what our position is among the top five hundred.

Some may recall that Convocation's objective from our first year in office was to place Convocation within its rightful place within UKZN. I am happy to report that this objective is on track and the new incoming Convex must continue to assert Convocation's important role and function going forward. Do not let Convocation's flag down for one minute.

A special thank you to the outgoing founding Convocation Executive of UKZN for their time and excellent work over the past four years. Many thanks go to our Council representatives who at times are required to carry an extra load because of the sub-committees they are expected

to serve on. In this regard I express my thanks to Comfort Ngidi, Sandile Ngcobo and Reshma Badal. I need to also thank our other committee members namely Raylene Captain-Hasthibeer, Thavan Padayachi, Thami Zondi, Beki Hlatshwayo, Sifiso Mncube, Themba Khumalo and newcomer Ezra Masenya.

I wish to also say thank you to those alumni who regularly participate in our events throughout the year. This year, to mention but a few, these included the Durban Alumni Association AGM, the East London, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Pietermaritzburg, UK and USA alumnus events, the reunions and the Leadership and Project Management Workshops. In addition to these events we have developed a state-of-the-art Alumni publication called UKZNTOUCH which is circulated to around 100 000 graduates across South Africa and the world. Alumni are encouraged to forward submissions to us for possible publication. We have developed a Constitution which we will be asking you to approve this evening. Lots of time and effort has been put into the drafting of this document and I want to personally thank Raylene and Thavan for their assistance in this regard. Convex also officiated at

over 21 graduation sessions this year, robing over 7 000 graduates.

During the 2004-2008 period excellent relationships between the University of KwaZulu-Natal and its 135 000 plus – alumni (the University's largest stake-holder group) have been established and maintained.

The variety of events co-ordinated both locally and internationally have been attended by around 10 500 alumni. Relationships have been built with graduates with whom the University previously had minimal contact. Another positive is that through the building of good relationships with graduates and the organising of contemporary and popular events, the demographic profile of the graduate attendees at events has dramatically changed and now represents the current demographic profile of the University.

The attendance and support of young graduates through the Workshop Programme aimed at assisting recent graduates with essential life/career-skills required for their career development is encouraging and creates the foundation for a long-term bond between these alumni and their alma mater. Considerable goodwill and support has been secured for the university from VIP alumni

via personal VIP alumni visits, regular contact (corporate gifts/letters) and invitations to all events. These events, together with the joint Alumni Affairs/UKZN Foundation events, significantly contribute to providing a sound platform for the fund-raising endeavours of the UKZN Foundation (for example, the Alumni Bursary Fund and the 50th Anniversary Endowment Fund).

Such success would not have been possible without the united, well-functioning/skilled and demographically representative Alumni Affairs team as well as the comprehensive, updated and technically improved Alumni Database which contains the records of University of Durban Westville, University of Natal and University of KwaZulu-Natal graduates. This is probably one of the largest databases of alumni in the country. Valid email addresses of alumni on the database increased from around 2 500 in 2004 to almost 20 000 in 2008.

For the purposes of this AGM I hereby list the following functions and activities that were hosted by Convocation and the Alumni Affairs team. These events took place during the period: 29 October 2007 to 27 October 2008:

29 October 2007	2007 Convocation AGM and Awards
25 February	Durban Alumni Association AGM.
25 March	Time of the Writer Opening Evening
26 March	East London Alumnus Dinner
27 March	Port Elizabeth Alumnus Dinner
29 March	Cape Town Alumnus Dinner
11 April	Golden Alumnus Reunion (1957-59) on Pietermaritzburg Campus
14-15 April	Pietermaritzburg Graduations
16- 24 April	Durban Graduations
30 April	USA Alumnus Event
24-25 June	Entrepreneurship Workshop in Senate Chamber: Westville Campus
6 June	Indwe Risk Short Story Competition Prize-Giving
12 June	Launch of the GSB Alumni Association
24 June	Jomba Contemporary Dance Festival Opening Evening
24-25 June	Entrepreneurship Workshop on Westville Campus
27 June	Health Sciences Alumni Reunion at ICC
2-3 July	Project Management Workshop on Howard College Campus
23 July	29th Durban International Film Festival Opening Evening
17 September	UK Alumnus Event at SA House: London
29 September	Poetry Africa Opening Evening
18 October	Advocates for Democracy Reunion at Suncoast Casino Complex

NOTE: a Salisbury Island Reunion for graduates and staff is planned for late 2009. Discussions are currently taking place about format, timings, venue etc. In addition to the above – other achievements/successes include:

Online Registration of Alumni

The alumni online registration facility available via the alumni affairs website has continued to be very popular – with 1 450 registrations during the period.

Graduation Packages

Distribution of graduation packages for the April 2008 graduates. These packages (a joint “congratulatory” letter from André Young and Finn Christensen, a “particulars update form”, notification of the workshops and a copy of the alumnus publication: UKZNTouch) were given out to each graduate at the graduation ceremonies.

Convocation Constitution

(updated and amended for presentation to – and for the approval of – Convocation.)

Convocation Executive Meetings

During the October 2007 – October 2008 period the Convocation executive had four scheduled meetings in February, May, August and October as well as a number of sub-committee meetings to discuss both the constitution and the 2008 annual general meeting.

I wish the incoming executive all the best.

Speech by the incoming President of Convocation, Mr Sandile Ngcobo

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the outgoing Convocation Executive, especially Mr Andre Young, former President for the progress and work done on the newly-founded institution the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Having been part of the outgoing Convocation Executive it is an honour for me to have this opportunity to lead Convocation. My initial thoughts on my objectives for my term of office centre on two areas. Firstly, I am concerned about the lack of awareness of Convocation, both among students and graduates. Many students and graduates with whom I have spoken do not know about the role of Convocation, who are members of Convocation, what role the Convocation Executive plays and in fact, how as alumni, they are part of Convocation. This needs to be addressed if we are to achieve greater participation of alumni in the affairs of Convocation and ultimately, the University.

Secondly, I would like to promote a culture among alumni of identifying with the University and more importantly wanting to identify with and be associated with UKZN. An obvious starting point here is the young alumni who have qualified in the merged institution; but there is also an entire cohort of alumni who graduated 10, 20, 30 and 40 years ago who all have had different experiences. We need to embrace all alumni and appeal to all of them. Simply because of our backgrounds: the University of KwaZulu-Natal was formed through a merger between the Universities of Durban-Westville and Natal. These two institutions represented different backgrounds and culture in relation to Convocation matters. We need to recognise that and embrace it into the new institutional vision of becoming the ‘Premier University of African Scholarship.’

In essence, we need to actively foster a spirit of belong among alumni. Most of the successful alumni programmes around the world are built around participation of alumni in their *alma mater*. Participation is only likely to happen if alumni know what Convocation is about and have a desire to be part of that heritage and *alma mater* in particular.

I look forward to sharing and implementing this vision with my incoming Convocation Executive and the University Community. I would like to congratulate the newly elected executive members and look forward to our road and journey ahead...until then...“friends for life”.



New Convex Members

In this issue, we publish profiles of four of the new Convex members. The remaining three new members will be profiled in the next issue of UKZNTOUCH.



DR BANDILE HADEBE

A graduate of the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine, now in his second year of internship at McCords Hospital, Dr Hadebe has served in a wide range of structures within UKZN, and the former University of Natal, including Senate and Council.

As President of the Medical Students Representative Council (MSRC), he was amongst the student leaders who were actively involved in merger committees.

His passion for curriculum development saw the MSRC under his leadership launching the Curriculum Review Conference.

Dr Hadebe has served in provincial and national youth and student structures and currently sits on the National Council of the South African Medical Association as the Secretary General of Junior Doctors' Association.

"The purpose of any organisation whether academic, religious, or political is to give hope, real hope, to its people," he says.



DR PRAVIN THAKUR

Dr Thakur graduated in 1979 with a BPedagogics (Arts) degree and then started teaching on the Westville campus.

He continued studying and obtained a BA Honours degree in History in 1982 and a B. Education in 1985 through UNISA.

Dr Thakur enrolled for an MA in History on the Howard College campus in 1991 and graduated in 1992. He achieved a PhD in Education through the University of the Witwatersrand in 1997.

He left the teaching profession and entered business as a Financial Advisor with Liberty Life.

He is also involved in SMME development through the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where he serves as a Board Member.

Dr Thakur's two daughters, Elisha and Chersee are students in the College of Law and Management Studies at UKZN.



MR MAFIKA NGUBANE

Mr Ngubane holds a BA, Postgraduate Diploma in Business Management and Marketing and a BCom Honours in Business Management and Marketing. He has served the University in a number of structures, including the Joint House Committee as Chairperson; Choir Chairperson and the first President of the UKZN Chorale.

Mr Ngubane worked as a student assistant until his appointment as a Records Officer in Student Records. He worked in Technical Services as an Administrative Officer for two years at the Westville campus and moved to Student Housing at the Howard College campus in 2006. He is currently working as a Forensic Investigator at the Special Investigating Unit.

Mr Ngubane believes his leadership skills and experience at the University will add value to Convocation. He sees himself as a "true University ambassador".



MR SIBUSISO MNCWABE

Mr Mncwabe graduated with a Bachelor of Law on the Westville campus. He served in different student formations including the Law Students Council, Black Lawyers' Association Student Chapter, and the Street Law project.

From 2001 to 2002 he served as the Media and Publicity Officer of the Student Representative Council.

He also served as a member of the Provincial Executive Committee of the South African Student Congress (SASCO) in KwaZulu-Natal. In 2003 he was nominated by the Southern African Student Volunteers to represent South Africa in a World Youth Exchange Programme in the United Kingdom (Wales).

As a law graduate he served articles with Ngidi-Gcolotela Peter Incorporated. He is currently working for the Road Accident Fund in Durban.

He brings to Convocation the leadership skills he acquired from the structures he has served.

From the UKZN Press

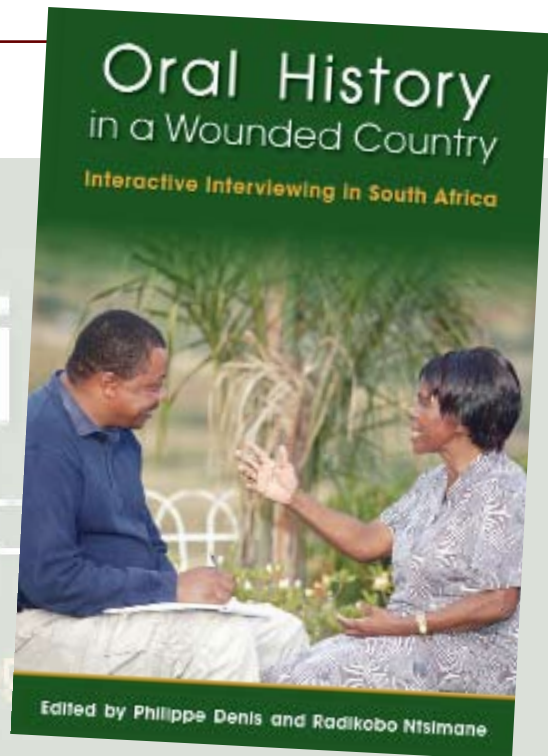
ORAL HISTORY in a Wounded Country:

Interactive Interviewing in South Africa

edited by Philippe Denis and Radikobo Ntsimane

With the end of apartheid and the exciting, but elusive, advent of a new nation, South Africa is witness to the emergence of a new generation of oral historians whose aim is to develop a broader, more inclusive and culturally sensitive understanding of the South African past. In a country still wounded by a legacy of racial discrimination, the retrieving of oral memories is a task more urgent than ever.

Oral History in a Wounded Country shows how the cultural, political, socio-economic and intellectual evolutions that gave birth to South Africa as we know it today affect the oral history process. It seeks to help practitioners, whether they use oral history as one technique among others to gain a better knowledge of the past, or envisage oral history as an academic discipline in its own right, to reflect critically on their practice and find better ways of handling the interview process. The challenge is to appreciate the complexity of South Africa's diverse histories, while being attentive to the dynamics of the interview and their effect on both interviewers' and interviewees' sense of identity.



PHILIPPE DENIS is professor of History of Christianity and Radikobo Ntsimane is a researcher in Oral History and Religious History, both at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. They are respectively the director and the deputy-director of the Sinomlando Centre for Oral History and Memory Work in Africa at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

HETEROSEXUAL AFRICA?

The History of an Idea from the Age of Exploration to the Age of AIDS

by Marc Epprecht

Heterosexual Africa? The History of an Idea from the Age of Exploration to the Age of AIDS explores the historical processes by which a singular, heterosexual identity for Africa was constructed. Epprecht argues that Africans, just like people all over the world, have always

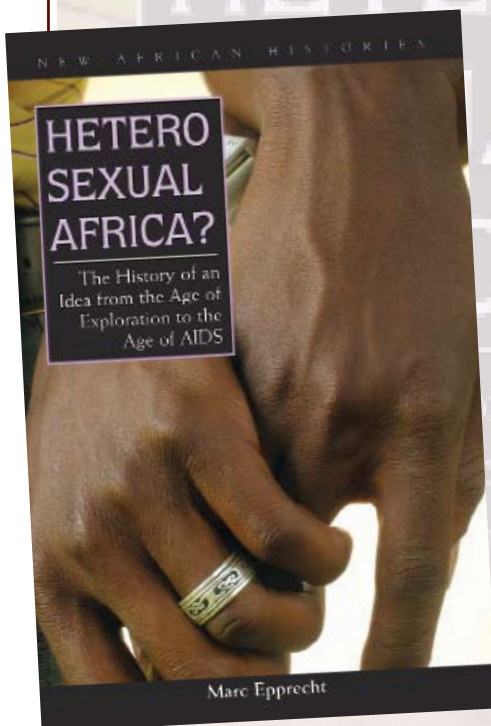
had a range of sexualities and sexual identities.

Heterosexual Africa? aims to understand an enduring stereotype about Africa and Africans. It asks how Africa came to be defined as a "homosexual-free zone" during the colonial era, and how this idea not only survived the transition to independence but flourished under conditions of globalisation and early panicky responses to HIV/AIDS.

In this timely volume, Epprecht examines a number of issues concern-

ing sexuality and the construction of sexual identities that have largely been overlooked by studies of African ethnology in the past..

MARC EPPRECHT is associate professor in the department of history and global development studies at Queen's University, Canada. He is the 2006 winner of the Canadian Association of African Studies Joel Gregory Prize for his book Hungochani: The History of a Dissident Sexuality in Southern Africa.



NEW COUNTRY

by Mxolisi Nyezwa

"Poetry is a simple way to remind us of our humanity. It guards against placing blind faith in the sciences which are constricting to the human spirit. In poetry we discover our basic selves."

for days i looked for my poems in the streets,
and since i could not find them,
light fell like a flower on the lonely square.
the light sounded the drum of a thud.
beauty came grovelling forward begging,
and children went for days
without food.

Intensely lyrical and deeply expressionist, the poems of *New Country* register the intuitiveness of Nyezwa's vision of his land and his life. Nyezwa has carved for himself a voice and a style that is entirely his own and unlike any South African poet before him.

MXOLISI NYEZWA was born in 1967 in New Brighton, Port Elizabeth, where he still lives. He works in community projects where he facilitates writing and community publishing workshops for rural and township communities. He also assists small writers' groups locally to grow a reading and writing culture in their communities.

Mxolisi is the founder and editor of the cultural magazine, *Kotaz*. In 2000 his debut collection, *Song Trials*, was published by Gecko Poetry. *New Country* is his second poetry collection, after *Song Trials* (2000).



MAGENTA

by Denis Beckett

Bart Dunn is your average South African white guy, distraught at crime and cock-up. But he also holds a rogue view: he sees up-sides to Africa, not just the sunshine and fynbos but the human factor. As he rollercoasters through the highs and lows of everyday life, South African style, he is convinced there is a way, somewhere, to grow the highs and shrink the lows. The trail propels him past:

the wrong end of various gunbarrels
the clutches of a right-wing rebel army
reluctant godfatherhood to a mixed-up teenager with an honour-grudge
the alluring ankles of the woman he'd never dreamed he could dream of
It's when he meets a shantytown visionary that the leads he has been looking for take shape. Bart remains sceptical. Everyone knows Africa needs a miracle. Who is this squatter-shack savant to claim that the morass is just an error, from which the next-phase of human advance will emerge? He must be wrong; but where, exactly, is the flaw in his startlingly simple recipe?

Magenta is a utopian thriller the likes of which you are guaranteed never to have encountered before. Beckett's formidable intelligence, deep love for his continent and impeccable ear for 'Seffricanese' will have you laughing, gasping and wincing in equal measure.

DENIS BECKETT is widely recognised as 'that guy who was on television'. He was the editor of the prestigious *Frontline* magazine for many years and has been a columnist and commentator in print, on radio and TV. His long-running actuality TV series, 'Beckett's Trek', was a South African favourite. *Magenta* is his first novel.



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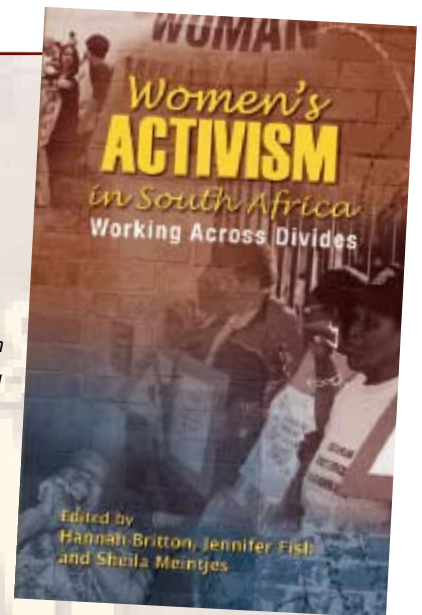
WOMEN'S ACTIVISM in South Africa: Working across Divides

edited by Hannah Britton, Jennifer Fish and Sheila Meintjes

Women's Activism in South Africa provides the most comprehensive collection of women's experiences within civil society since the 1994 transition. This book captures South African women's stories of collective activism and social change at a crucial point for the future of democracy in the country, if not the continent. Pulling together the voices of activists and scholars, South Africa's path to democracy and the assurance of gender rights emerge as a complex journey of both successes and challenges.

The collection elucidates a new form of pragmatic feminism, building upon the elasticity between the state and civil society. What the cases demonstrate is that while the state itself may not be a panacea, it still represents a key source of power and the primary locus of vital resources, including the rights of citizenship, access to basic needs, and the promise of protection from gender-based violence – all central to women's particular needs in South Africa.

HANNAH E BRITTON is an Associate Professor of Political Science and Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University of Kansas, USA. Jennifer N Fish is an Associate Professor in the Department of Women's Studies and an affiliated faculty member in the Graduate Program in International Studies at Old Dominion University, USA. Sheila Meintjes is Head of the Political Studies Department at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa.



Other publishers

HEAR THE RINGDOVE CALL

by Peter Court

Peter Court's great uncle's diary of the Siege of Ladysmith was the inspiration for Hear the Ringdove Call. Two friendly Natal farming families find themselves on opposite sides at the start of the Anglo-Boer War. Lumley Gray is a volunteer trooper with the Border Mounted Rifles. Mainly through his eyes and senses we experience a trooper's life during the siege - the dangers, the increasing hunger, the ways in which the men kept up their spirits - and his participation in the battle of Elandslaagte and his capture during the battle for Caesar's Camp.

His nursing sister, Isabel, struggles to look after the wounded, the sick and the dying in the appalling conditions of the Intombi tent hospital. Her loved one, Gerald Goodman, a half-English, half-Dutch lad brought up on a Boer farm, is among the Boers surrounding Ladysmith. The inner conflict of his love for Isabel and his duty to Die Vaderland reaches its zenith in the battle of Spion Kop.

The war polarises people but a beacon of hope is found in Old Pretorius, a pacifist Boer who gives sanctuary to fugitives from both sides on his farm. However, a dark threat looms in the form of renegades from both sides.

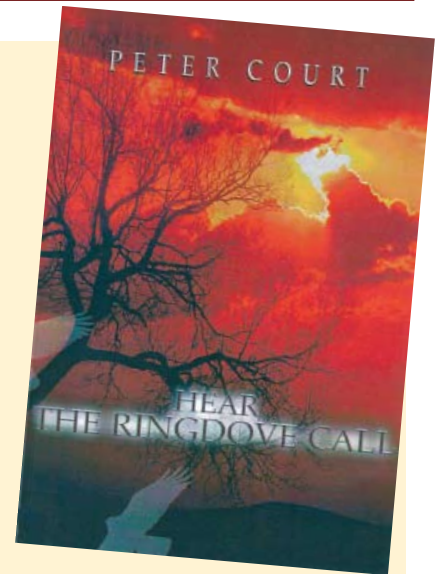
Manfred Schroen, a former Inspector of English and of Education with the Natal Education Department and now an education consultant, says "Hear the Ringdove Call is a remarkable and unique South African novel. I believe

much in emotional intelligence. ... Novels like (this) can so enhance insight into and empathy for (the) deeper humane meanings of our South African history and pupils' study of SA history; and their project work espe-

cially would benefit greatly through such vicarious, authentic experience of the human conflicts and predicaments that comprise the human texture of war that (the) plot and character-inter-connexions explore so poignantly. "

Peter Court was a BA, English Honours and UED student at both the Durban and the Pietermaritzburg campuses from 1959 -1966. He played rugby and cricket for the University and was selected in 1962 for the South African Universities B Cricket team.

Hear the Ringdove Call can be ordered at R80 per copy from Richard Court at richardc@cybertek.co.za or 031 266 0126, or through PSD Promotions at orders@psdprom.co.za, tel 011 392 6065.



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.



