

Dear UKZN Alumnus,

Why Bother?

It was with regret that Foundation Executive Director Anesh Singh cancelled his trip to New York and the alumni cocktail reception at the South African Consulate General this month, because he was only able to secure one appointment during his visit. We, as foundation ambassadors, have also found that engaging UKZN alumni in the interests of our own networking, raising awareness/funds for the university and soliciting involvement in events is increasingly difficult - even as the importance of the university and its recognition as an outstanding research institution has grown.

Professor Singh points out that even though disconnection from the alma mater is understandable as the various campuses merged to create UKZN in 2004, the new institution is one to be proud of. It's at the forefront of HIV research, its engineers are producing solutions to everyday challenges, its accountants are getting highest recognition – and there are many more reasons to help grow the institution and help its students. He hopes renewed interest amongst UKZN alumni will justify a trip in the near future.



South African Flea Market

May 18

The Third Annual South African Flea Market will be held at 540 Lenox Avenue, Harlem, New York, from 9 am to 6 pm on Saturday May 18. The UKZN USA Foundation will again host a stand where it will sell South African foods, including samosas, and various other items.

Last year the UKZN table raised hundreds of dollars for the university. The popular annual event, held on a tree-lined street, always features a range of South African goodies for sale, including beadwork and original art.

This fun and friendly fundraiser attracts South Africans from throughout the region and is a wonderful taste of home for people of all ages.

Anyone interested in providing articles or food for sale should contact Mandy asap on 347-884-2205.

UKZN Alumnus Gives Keynote Address at NY Law School

At its 2019 Commencement Ceremony on May 20, The New York Law School will award an honorary Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) degree to **Nicholas Haysom**, the United Nations (UN) Special Advisor on Sudan, and former Chief Legal and Constitutional Advisor in the office of South African President Nelson Mandela.

Prof. Haysom, who graduated from the University of Natal, Durban, with a BA. Hons, in 1975, and studied law at UCT, will also give the Keynote address at the 2019 commencement ceremony, being held at Lincoln Center.

Haysom has served as the go-to UN envoy for the world's most heated conflicts, including Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan and Somalia. NYLS said: "Mr. Haysom has demonstrated lawyers' power to forge lasting peace, promote the rule of law, and strengthen the institutions that support a free and fair society." When he isn't travelling for the UN, Haysom lives with his wife and two sons in Brooklyn, NY.

Our Mission

As the USA UKZN Ambassadors our mission is to form a community here in the USA, where we can freely network and collaborate to build more successful opportunities both for ourselves and for our alma mater, UKZN.

The UKZN alumni in the United States includes many extremely accomplished people working at the highest levels of academia, medicine, law, business, media and in charitable organizations. We have featured several of them in previous letters. In this issue we introduce you to Dr. Penelope Andrews, the outstanding, ground-breaking legal academic and a Professor at New York Law School, who has taught at legal institutions around the world.

Another Fabulous Alumnus

Penelope Andrews: Distinguished Visiting Professor, New York Law School, and Co-Director, Racial Justice Project.



Professor Penny Andrews grew up in the working-class 'coloured' community of Kensington and Bonteheuwel (the latter on the Cape Flats). After her mother died at age 33 (when she was 13) she and her two sisters and brother were separated and went to live with relatives. Penny went to Immaculata High School where the nuns took care of most of her economic needs. They put her on the path to academic excellence that has taken her as a legal expert and educator in countries around the world - an outstanding legal professional with a long string of awards and honors.

This fabulous alumnus did her B.A. (1980) and LL.B (1982) at the University of Natal, Durban, and then got a scholarship to study at Columbia University, New York, where she did her LL.M. She taught at La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia, for eight years, part of overseas legal teaching that at various times took her to Germany, back to South Africa, Canada and to several US legal universities.

She was the first Black dean at the University of Cape Town Faculty of Law from 2016 to 2018, and from 2012 to 2015 she was the first female dean of Albany Law School in New York. She was previously the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law and Director of International Programs at Valparaiso Law School.

Penny joined New York Law School in January 2019 as Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law and teaches comparative and international law courses. She also serves as Co-Director of NYLS's Racial Justice Project, focusing on international and South African issues. She was the 2018–19 Sabbatical Scholar at the Center for the Study of Law and Culture at Columbia Law School.

Professor Andrews has received many awards for her work, including, in 2015, the National Bar Association's International Award for her global human rights advocacy. In recognition of her human rights work, the University of KwaZulu-Natal provides an annual award in her name.

She is an editor of the *International Journal of Law in Context*, the *Human Rights and the Global Economy E-Journal*, and the *African Law E-Journal*.

She has also published several books and many articles that focus on comparative constitutional law, gender and racial equality, and human rights – all issues that are profoundly important to her.

At New York Law School Penny co-founded (with the late Professor Stephen Ellmann) the South African Reading Group (SARG), a regular gathering of South African – or South Africa interested – academics, policy experts and political figures who meet to discuss legal and policy issues or to launch a new book. The SARG list has about 195 members, including those not living in New York, although the meetings generally attract between 15 to 30 people.

Although Penny admits that New York is her spiritual home, she has always had long ties to South Africa, including her family, friends and professional networks.

A kind, warm and upbeat woman, Penny says that she loves being a law teacher. "I feel like I'm parenting my students, playing a role in their professional development. For me, the real privilege in my life is the work I do with young people."

(Prof. Andrews' full resume:

https://www.nyls.edu/faculty/faculty-profiles/faculty_profiles/penelope-andrews/)

Sincerely,

Mandy Dhillon (Howard College, 2008)

Cheetah Haysom (University of Pietermaritzburg, 1969)

