

UKZN **2020** N TOUCH

A UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL ALUMNI MAGAZINE

NELSON R. MANDELA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

70th ANNIVERSARY



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This edition of *UKZNTOUCH* celebrates the University of KwaZulu-Natal Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine's 70th Anniversary and its men and women who continue to contribute to the betterment of society, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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UKZN²⁰²⁰**TOUCH**
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UKZN MEDICAL SCHOOL: 70 YEARS OF DEDICATION AND EXCELLENCE

This is a poignant moment to be celebrating the accomplishments of Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine as it marks its 70th anniversary. Typically, at such a juncture, past triumphs and future challenges would fill the stage; now, as the COVID-19 pandemic ravages the world, all of us are acutely aware of the vital importance of the work it undertakes every day - preventive and curative, research, clinical development and community engagement. The shadow of the deadly virus under which the entire University is labouring throws into sharp relief the importance of our splendid Medical School and the men and women who comprise it. We extend our gratitude to them and those who came before them and salute the commitment and leadership of the current management team under Professor Busisiwe Ncama and her outstanding College leadership team—both academic and professional services.

Let us pause to recall that a public university is first and foremost dedicated to human betterment; and although no single discipline, research avenue or profession can shoulder that burden alone, there is always a special place in our hearts for the teaching, development and practice of Medicine. It is not only life-saving dramas that engage us—difficult surgical procedures; ensuring the safety of newborns and their mothers; dealing with traumatic accidents - but the everyday business of diagnosing and prescribing; sustaining preventive initiatives that support public health; and bringing best practice to bear on the care of the sick and injured. There is nothing sentimental in our admiration; it is an expression of our appreciation of the people whose calling exemplifies what's best in all of us: care and compassion.

Beneath the visible surface of medical practice is the intellectual and pedagogical infrastructure that supports it: our Medical School. In the middle of a public health crisis, it is entirely fitting that we should highlight the expertise and dedication of the Medical School and its staff. But while the COVID-19 pandemic rightly and understandably turns attention to the work the Medical School is undertaking to prevent its spread and to combat its effects, we should not overlook the wide array of medical work that is largely unsung, perhaps because the School's many specialisms do not routinely present as public emergencies. The exception, of course, is HIV and AIDS; and while we grapple with the huge demands of the COVID-19 pandemic, other health issues have not been put on hold, especially non-

communicable diseases. With more than two dozen disciplines, the Medical School is at the heart of public healthcare in KwaZulu-Natal and beyond—not only in teaching and training, but also in advancing clinical and professional practice and more fundamental research.

Seventy years of achievement and the painstaking, unglamorous work that has made it possible is remarkable - virtually beyond living memory. In our lifetimes, it is all too easy to take those accomplishments for granted. But each man and woman involved in medical advances and each new generation of doctors, nurses and midwives has come about through the slow, patient work of scientists, teachers and every other member of the Medical School, working to expand our knowledge, sharpen our practice and expand the compass of medical care to all South Africans.

What links the medical and non-medical disciplines of UKZN in the quest for healthier and less vulnerable communities is the recognition that there is more to health than diagnostics and therapeutics. How individuals gauge health risks; whether families have consistent access to appropriate nutrition; how our logistical networks can deliver health requisites to all who need them, in a timely manner; and the basis on which we prioritise and distribute limited resources in the most equitable and effective manner - these and countless other issues cannot be addressed by Medicine alone. It takes an entire community of scholars, across every discipline, to ensure that the path-breaking research and clinical engagement of medicine bear the fullest fruit. Again, little of this work is heroic in its particulars, but in aggregate, the University functions to save lives, prevent suffering and ensure good health for the largest number of South Africans possible. The Medical School continues to lead, as it has done for three generations, but we all have a part to play; and we all have reason to be proud of what we contribute.

The national lockdown has been a very burdensome challenge for the entire UKZN community. We have made special provision for the continuance of laboratory and clinical work, which cannot be conducted remotely. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep thanks to the Medical and Science staff for their exceptional dedication in these difficult times—and of course, to the students who are determined to finish their training and begin their careers.

At this moment, it would be foolish to try to predict the future, to say when or by what means we might be able to return to more familiar modes of working and interacting with one another. But we are not helpless in the face of the current, unprecedented threat to public health—and nothing demonstrates this more forcefully than the work of our Medical School, some of which is detailed in these pages.

I am very proud to celebrate the Medical School's 70th anniversary, proud of all the men and women who have made it the beacon of learning and applied knowledge that it is, and proud of the larger UKZN community of which the Medical School is an integral part. I'm certain that our alumni, medical and non-medical alike, share my pride and look forward to a less turbulent future. □

Professor Nana Poku
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

COPING WITH THE 'NEW NORM' IN HIGHER EDUCATION



The COVID-19 pandemic dominated and impacted heavily on the lives of all South Africans in 2020, forcing us to abandon many tried and tested ways of operating and quickly adapt to a drastically different way of life - the 'new norm'.

Staff in the Corporate Relations Division carried on with their work albeit mostly from our home bases which required us to adapt in making sure we maintained UKZN's high profile and communicated with stakeholders, the media and the general public about what was happening on our campuses and with our students, academics and general staff.

I believe we adapted well and got the job done efficiently. We learned a lot in the process, including (1) how critical it is to be well prepared for all sorts of crises and to have a highly efficient crisis management framework in place; (2) that digital access has become a basic need similar to water and electricity; (3) how important it is to be creative and innovative; (4) the need to engage in constructive partnerships for the common good of the University, and (5) the need for humility and a willingness to learn and embrace the 'new norm'.

Personally, I found the situation intriguing albeit very challenging and demanding. I took up my acting position in February in the midst of student protests and the dust had barely settled when the virus made its presence felt. It was something we had never encountered before but we learned on the job and are much wiser now in terms of adapting and handling the situation which it seems will be with us for some time.

Turning to this edition of *UKZNTouch*, a variety of alumni who have achieved both locally and abroad are featured while there are also profiles on several graduates from our Nelson R. Mandela School Medical which in 2020 proudly celebrates its 70th anniversary.

Among the alumni profiled are Professor Mashudu Tshifularo, leader of the team which pioneered a surgical procedure using 3D-printed middle ear bones; Dr Ismail Bhorat, the first academic to be awarded a double PhD in the history of UKZN's Medical School; Ms Sphindile Tini, who received Dean's Commendations for eight semesters of her MBChB degree; a catch-up with Ms Nontu Mgabhi, the long distance runner who completed seven marathons in seven days on seven continents – her next challenge is the North Pole Marathon in which she hopes to raise funds to support three girls from child-headed homes; Ms Kass Ghayouri, an award winning author and the grand prize winner in the 2018 50 Great Writers You Should Be Reading Awards; and Dr Kumeren Govender, who received an MBChB *cum laude* and a Master's degree in Health Science at UKZN's Medical School and was awarded the

prestigious Rhodes Scholarship to read for his DPhil at the University of Oxford in England.

What an impressive line-up of alumni who have excelled and in the process made UKZN proud! Several other alumni are featured, with a variety of further items of special interest.

Looking ahead to 2021 which by all accounts will still be dominated by COVID-19, I am excited about the new platforms we are developing to upgrade our digital network to allow us to improve online communication with alumni. We have seen during the past year that virtual engagement – especially through webinars – with our alumni works well because they are all very busy and it enables them to be informed about UKZN without having to sacrifice too much time.

We also want to further promote UKZN's community engagement activities and are in the process of establishing a website for this purpose as well as developing a project titled: Global Month of Service in which alumni, students and staff will be invited to tell their stories about how they are assisting the less fortunate in society.

Finally, I want to express my sincere thanks to our alumni for their generosity in supporting us in a variety of ways during these very difficult times. Donations to our Hardship Fund will assist many students and staff suffering hardship because of COVID-19.

We look forward to the new academic year - better prepared to cope with all the challenges it is likely to bring but very aware it will not be business as usual!

I trust everyone enjoys this edition of *UKZNTouch* which highlights just a small sample of the achievements and good work of our University community. □

Ms Normah Zondo

Acting Executive Director: Corporate Relations Division

MESSAGE FROM THE UKZN CONVOCATION PRESIDENT



Convocation congratulates UKZN's Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Nana Poku and his Executive for their important role in assisting national efforts in the fight against COVID-19. A UKZN Campus Health "War Room" was set up early in the struggle against the pandemic to discuss and implement measures in line with Government regulations to keep the virus at bay on our campuses and in so doing help in the overall battle against the killer disease. We are proud of the contribution made by our University from the stressful days of the Level 5 national lockdown to the more relaxed Level 1 where the fight against the disease continued nonetheless on our campuses and throughout the country.

Convocation congratulates all those who graduated at the virtual Graduation ceremonies. It was unfortunate and unprecedented that we could not all be present in person to celebrate the occasion which is so important not for graduands, but for their family and friends as well. We look forward to the days when we can gather once again at graduation ceremonies and enjoy what are always grand events.

We extend our sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family, colleagues and friends of former UKZN Alumni Relations staff member, Mrs Fikisile Mabaso who died following a gender-based violence (GBV) incident. Mrs Mabaso, who was employed by UNIZULU at the time of her tragic and untimely passing, was a humble person, loving and caring, and also a conscientious worker. We thank our Corporate Relations Division for organising a memorial service which allowed us to bid farewell to her and comfort her family. The fight against GBV must continue to be waged by all men and women in an effort to rid our society of this scourge.

Looking to the issue of student unrest, we strongly condemn the destruction of property, burning of buildings and intimidation of students on our campuses which we witnessed during early 2020. Such violent actions are dangerous for the future of the University and our country as a whole. Convocation believes that there are many

constructive ways to find solutions to the problems and issues on our campuses.

The UKZN Council is indeed doing a fine job which Convocation believes could be further enhanced by the younger generation stepping forward to offer their services.

Finally, we thank the Alumni Relations team for their excellent work in keeping UKZN uppermost in the minds of alumni in South Africa and throughout the world. All alumni are encouraged to give back to their *alma mater* whenever they can. □

Mr Fanle Sibisi
President of the UKZN Convocation

MESSAGE FROM ALUMNI RELATIONS

“In 2020, we interacted with thousands of graduates via email, written and telephonic communication and various social media platforms as well as numerous webinars.”

Dear Alumnus,

Alumni Relations planned an exciting and informative range of activities for 2020 and started to action this programme in February. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic meant that we had to place everything on hold and we only managed to see a few of our alumni at the Durban Alumni Association AGM in February and at the two Cape Town events (an afternoon tea and a dinner at the Cape Grace Hotel) in March. The programme planned for 2020 was amended and hopefully we will be able to proceed in 2021.

The country specific Facebook pages for alumni based in the United Kingdom, the US, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Lesotho are active. Please let us know if you would like to join these Facebook groups. There has also been considerable interest in the main [Facebook](#) page for all alumni - please like us!

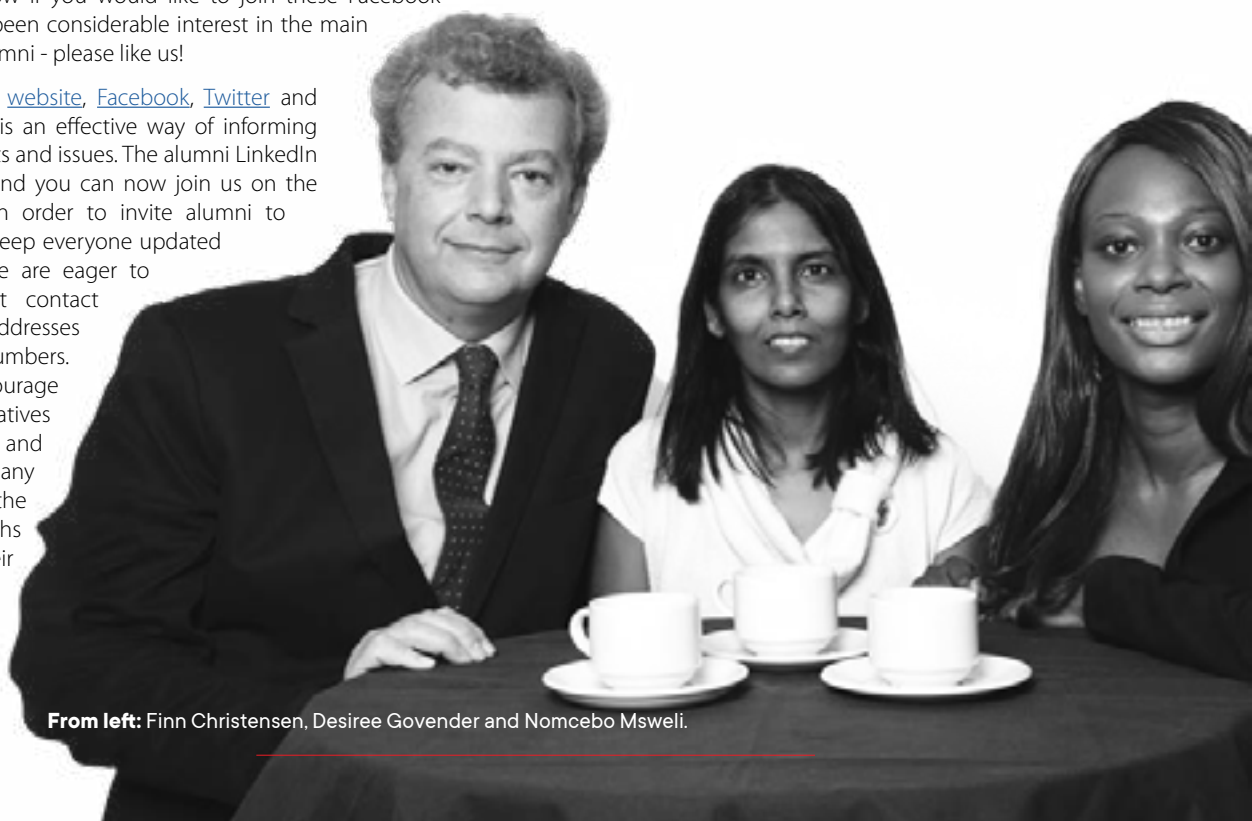
Communication via the [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and SMS has increased and is an effective way of informing graduates of UKZN events and issues. The alumni LinkedIn page has been closed and you can now join us on the [UKZN LinkedIn](#) page. In order to invite alumni to planned events and to keep everyone updated on University events we are eager to secure alumni's current contact details, especially email addresses and mobile telephone numbers. Also, please encourage any friends or relatives who are graduates and have not received any correspondence from the University in recent months to provide us with their updated contact details.

This can be done via a quick email to alumni@ukzn.ac.za or the [website](#).

We look forward to interacting with you and hopefully seeing you at some of the events in 2021.

With our very best wishes. □

The Alumni Relations team



From left: Finn Christensen, Desiree Govender and Nomcebo Msweli.

HISTORY OF THE ALAN TAYLOR RESIDENCE

The former University of Natal Medical School started training Medical students in 1951. Opened just two-and-a-half years after the now defunct Afrikaner Nationalist Party came to power, and funded largely by this government, apartheid policies came to influence the School's formation and operations in a significant manner. Two areas where this was immediately evident were the School's admissions criteria and its location. Created as a Black faculty under the aegis of the University of Natal, for several decades after its formation, it was only allowed to accept and train African, Indian and Coloured students.

The Alan Taylor Residence (ATR) was located more than 20km from the Medical School campus. Students travelled the distance daily. Furthermore, it was built as a geographically detached campus to ensure its locational separation from the main White University of Natal campus (today the Howard College campus) which is about three kilometres from the Medical School in Umbilo Road. Its students were also required to live in a racially segregated residence that was separate from those of White students. Alan Taylor Residence was not just a residence, but also served as a space where many budding Medical students developed their political consciousness. Steve Biko, Vejaynand Ramlakan, Diliza Mji and many other Black doctors earned their political stripes while at the ATR.

Named after Dr Alan B Taylor, who played a pivotal role in founding the Medical School, the residence proved controversial from the start. The University was forbidden by the Durban City Council, acting in accordance with the Group Areas Act's residential zoning laws, to build a residence to house its Black students in any White-zoned areas (of which Umbilo Road was one). As a result, it was forced to obtain, a long-term lease from the state, an old army barracks located about 10 kilometres away, in an industrial area that bordered on the Coloured suburb of Wentworth. In addition to providing housing for its Black students, sections of the barracks were also converted into classroom facilities, a laboratory, and library, to provide space for the School's premedical training.

However, the barracks accommodation was not ideal.



Alan Taylor Residence / Medical School in Wentworth, April 1978.



The students' sport field in construction in the foreground and the ATR in the background, March 1953.

From left to right: Dr Alan B Taylor, Mr B F Kenny (Managing Director, Standard-Vacuum Refinery Company of South Africa), Dr G W Gale, Mr Paul Seddicum (American Consul), Professor J A Keen (Professor of Anatomy) and Mr E W Williams (Senior Technician, Department of Anatomy).

Other than being located far from the Medical School campus, which made commuting time-consuming and expensive, its austere and cramped facilities did not provide a welcoming environment. Its location close to the Standard Vacuum Oil Refinery (later known as the Mobil and then Engen Oil Refinery), and later the Durban airport, meant that students had to endure noise, air pollution and the pungent smell of sulphur and oil on a daily basis.

"Alan Taylor Residence was not just a residence but also served as a space where many budding medical students developed their political consciousness."



The swimming pool at ATR, with oil refinery tanks in the background.



The Soccer field at ATR, with oil refinery smoke stacks nearby.



The current ATR main entrance in Wentworth (2007) after being taken over by Engen Refinery. The brown building used to be the Chemistry laboratory where all first-year medical students were taught by the infamous Mr Paris, who was feared by most if not all first-year students.

UKZN MEDICAL SCHOOL PAST DEANS



**Dr Alan B. Taylor, MBChB,
PhD (Honorary Doctorate - UN)
Dean 1950 - 1952.**

Dr Alan B. Taylor served as the first Acting Dean of the University of Natal's Faculty of Medicine from 1950 until early 1952. He was born in the United States where he trained as a medical doctor. He arrived in Durban as a young doctor to work with Dr James B. McCord at McCord Zulu Hospital. During his many decades as medical superintendent at this hospital, he won the full confidence of the Black community of Natal.

He shared McCord's ambitions to establish a medical school for Black students. They attempted to open one in 1921, but it closed within a year as it did not obtain the required approval from the authorities. While McCord retired in 1943, Taylor did not give up on the idea of training Black doctors and worked tirelessly to generate support in Natal for the creation of the Medical School.

He was the chair of the Durban Medical School Joint Action Committee which lobbied to persuade the government and raised funds from the public. The School was established in 1950

and he was appointed the first Acting Dean, stepping down in 1952 due to his responsibilities as Medical Superintendent at McCord Hospital.

Taylor remained connected with the Medical School as an active member of the Faculty Board and held honorary teaching positions in Obstetrics until his retirement in 1964. The student residence at Wentworth, the Alan B. Taylor Residence, was named after him in recognition of his many contributions.

Sources: V Noble, *A School of Struggle: Durban's Medical School and the Education of Black Doctors* (Scottville: University of KwaZulu-Natal Press, 2013), pp. 52 – 55; Julie Parle and Vanessa Noble, *The People's Hospital: A History of McCord's, Durban, 1890s – 1970s* (Pietermaritzburg: Natal Society Foundation, 2017).

Professor George W. Gale became the Medical School's first full-time Dean in March 1952. Born in Durban, he graduated at the old Natal University College with a Master of Arts degree in 1921, before heading to Edinburgh University in 1927 where he qualified in Medicine. On his return to South Africa, he spent most of his time working as a medical practitioner and district surgeon in Zululand. In 1938, after having obtained a Diploma in Public Health, Gale entered the Union Department of Public Health. He was appointed Secretary for Health and Chief Medical Officer for the Union of South Africa in 1946.

Together with a small group of 'progressive' doctors, Gale laid the foundation for the national health system through community health centres based on a model pioneered by Sidney and Emily Kark at Pholela in Natal in the early 1940s. The centres were based on the notion that healthcare should not be restricted to a medical model.

Government records are replete with Gale's frequent interventions on behalf of the health centres as well as the Institute of Family and Community Health (IFCH) at Clairwood, headed by Kark. The IFCH trained health workers for the centres and conducted research on social

medicine. Gale ensured that the Institute was part of the Department of Preventive Family and Community Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Natal.

As Dean, Gale was involved in planning and building the Medical School, initial staffing and curriculum design. He resigned in 1955 and took up an appointment as professor of Preventive Medicine at Makerere College in Kampala, Uganda in April 1955.

Sources: V Noble, *A School of Struggle*, 66–67; Shula Marks, "Public Health Then and Now, South Africa's Early Experiment in Social Medicine: Its Pioneers and Politics", *American Journal of Public Health*, 87, 3 (1997): 452–459. Available at <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdf/10.2105/AJPH.87.3.452>. Accessed 3 March 2020. The UKZN Archives in Pietermaritzburg.



**Professor George W. Gale, MBChB,
MA, Diploma (Public Health)
Dean 1952 - 1955.**



Professor Isidor (Okkie) Gordon, MBChB, Dip for Med (SA), MA, MD (Honorary Doctor of Sciences - UN) Dean: 1955 – 1971.

Professor Isidor Gordon was the longest-serving Dean of the University of Natal's Medical School, having occupied this post from 1955 to 1971. He qualified as a doctor at the University of Cape Town in 1935 and started his career as assistant pathologist and lecturer in his *alma mater's* Department of Pathology with an interest in Forensic Medicine. In 1946, he was appointed as the senior government pathologist and officer-in-charge of the State Pathology Department in Durban. Following the opening of the Medical School, he accepted a position as the first professor of Pathology in 1953.

In 1955, he embarked upon an eventful 16-year stint as Dean. He worked hard to defend the Medical School against the apartheid government's efforts to separate this Black school from the historically White University of Natal. From that date, he was also a member of the South African Medical and Dental Council and for 23 years served on the joint standing advisory committee that co-ordinated the interests of the province and the University in managing the Faculty of Medicine.

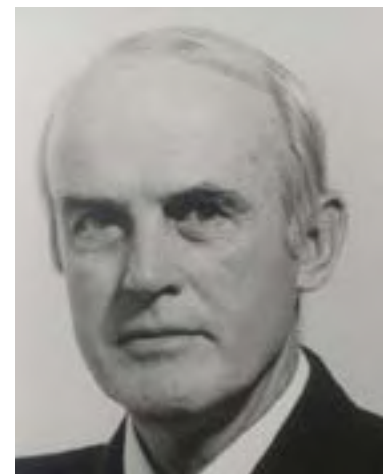
Sources: Y K Seedat, "Obituaries, Isidor ("Okkie") Gordon", *British Medical Journal*, 316 (1998): 941. Available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1112835/pdf/941.pdf> Accessed 19 November 2019; Bill Guest, *Stella Aurorae: The History of a South African University*, Volume 2: 1949 – 1976; (Pietermaritzburg: Natal Society Foundation, 2017), 144. The UKZN Archive in Pietermaritzburg.

Professor Edward Barry Adams was born in Durban. He obtained a BSc from the University of South Africa in 1937 and his MBChB from the University of the Witwatersrand in 1944. He worked for a few years at Addington Hospital and the South African Medical Corps before proceeding to Oxford to work in the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine for two years. On his return, he worked in the Department of Medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand for six months before returning to Durban to practice as a specialist physician. In 1950, he served as a visiting assistant physician at King Edward VIII Hospital, and a few years later was appointed as professor and Head of the Department of Medicine at the Medical School. He served as Dean from 1972 to 1973. Adams published several works on haematology with a focus on the nutritional aspects of anaemia, and megaloblastic anaemia of pregnancy and the puerperium.

An essential ingredient of his teaching was to question received wisdom and to offer new insights, both qualities that he instilled in members of his department who embarked on careers in medical research. Above all, he firmly believed that respect for colleagues and compassion for patients should underpin all

aspects of the day-to-day practice of medicine. While he supported specialisation in Medicine, he was against the fragmentation of internal medicine into separate disciplines, as he believed that medicine should be practiced and taught in a holistic manner. Behind the scenes, his contribution during the apartheid era was to take a principled and unwavering stand against hostile and malignant forces threatening to undermine the high ideals that his department was determined to uphold. The Medical School honoured him by naming the main lecture room in the Department of Medicine after him.

Sources: SA Tydskrif Vir Geneeskunde, "Academic Appointments and Resignations", *South African Medical Journal*, 7 (1955): 454 | Accessed 23 March 2019. The UKZN Archive in Pietermaritzburg. O Jolobe and Y K Seedat, "Edward B Adams (2 January 1918–18 November 2010) (BSc (Oxon), MD (Wits), FRCP (Lond))" *South African Medical Journal*, Vol. 101, no. 2 (2011). Available at http://www.scielo.org.za/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0256-95742011000200014 Accessed 17 February 2020.



Professor E. Barry Adams, BSc, MBChB, FRCP, MD (Honorary Doctor of Sciences - UN) Dean 1972 – 1973.



**Professor Patrick M. Smythe, BSc,
MBChB, FRCP, PhD
Dean 1974 – 1975.**

Professor Patrick Montrose Smythe was born in Pietermaritzburg and educated at the then Natal University College where he graduated with a first-class BSc Honours in Chemistry and Botany in 1932. After World War 2, he proceeded to Cambridge and the London Hospital to complete the MBChB and MRCP, specialising in Paediatrics. In 1949, he moved to Cape Town and became a Research Fellow at the University of Cape Town. In 1951, Smythe joined the Department of Paediatrics at this institution and played an important role in promoting Paediatrics as a discipline within the Medical field. In 1963, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in London. In 1968, the University of Natal appointed him as professor and Head of Paediatrics at the Medical School. He served as Dean between 1974 and 1975.

His research focused on tetanus and nutrition. Together with Professor Arthur Bull, he developed techniques that resulted in a drop in the mortality rate of patients with neonatal tetanus from 90% to 10%, the best survival rates reported at the time. He showed that undernutrition during

infancy inhibits brain growth and subsequent intellectual development in some patients with severe kwashiorkor, thereby contributing to the understanding of the immunological changes that take place in this disease. This research received international recognition and was commented on in *The New York Times*.

Two of his publications were identified as "Citation classics" by the Science Citation Index Philadelphia as the most widely quoted in the world's literature. Consultants in paediatrics who trained under him, consider him to be one of the finest clinicians they encountered in South Africa.

Before his retirement in 1978, Smythe taught at Harare Hospital in Zimbabwe and several hospitals in South Africa including Tygerberg, Baragwanath and the Red Cross Children's Hospitals. During his retirement, he assisted with ward rounds at Edendale Hospital and the ex-mission hospitals of Emmaus, Tugela Ferry, and Charles Johnson in Nquthu and Nkandla.

Sources: Natal Society Foundation, "Obituary of Professor Patrick Smythe", *Natalia*, 29 (1999): 3 – 4; Available at <http://natalia.org.za/Files/29/Natalia%20v29%20obituarie%20Smythe.pdf> Accessed 10 October 2019; Y K Seedat, "Citation for the admission of Professor Patrick Montrose Smythe to Honorary Fellowship in the Faculty of Paediatrics", Available at file:///C:/Users/Student/Downloads/CitationProfSmythePaedsTransactionsJan1989. PDF. Accessed 22 February 2020. The UKZN Archive in Pietermaritzburg.

Professor John V.O. Reid was born in Benoni and educated at St John's College in Johannesburg. He attended Oxford University where he obtained his BA honours in 1949, MBChB in 1952 and Master of Arts in 1971. Reid received numerous awards, scholarships and prizes, including the Gertrude Tomlin Scholarship to Oxford (1946-49) and Radcliffe prizes in pathology, surgery and medicine. While at Oxford, he proved to be a talented rugby player, captaining the Oxford Medical School First XV from 1951-52. He also captained his college tennis team and was a member of the cricket club. Reid appreciated music and the arts, and was married to artist, Louise Reid, whose paintings are displayed in the Medical Campus Library.

In 1957, Reid returned to South Africa with his family, and in 1958, began his teaching career in the Department of Physiology at the University of Natal, later appointed professor and Head of department in 1960. In 1964, he received the Travelling Fellowship in Education from the Commonwealth Travelling Fund of New York, gaining broad experience at medical schools in Jamaica, the US, Japan, Hong Kong and Malaysia. From 1965-66 Reid was a visiting scientist at the National Institutes of Health in

Washington. He also served as adviser to the Lesotho government on medical education.

Reid was awarded membership and Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians in London in 1972 and served as Dean of the Medical School between 1976 and 1977. After working in the Physiology Department at the University of Natal for more than 20 years, he joined the University of Cape Town in 1981 and became the acting Vice-Chancellor. Over the years, he published numerous articles on cardiomyopathy, chronic salmonellosis, nutrition of the heart, the cardiac pacemaker, factors regulating coronary blood flow in the normal and the diseased heart, the cardiovascular risks of obesity and medical education in South Africa. After serving as a top-level university manager, teacher and researcher at this institution, he retired in 1991.

Sources: University of Cape Town, "Passing of a Gifted Scholar", Available at <https://www.news.uct.ac.za/article/-2004-08-23-passing-of-a-gifted-scholar>. Accessed 13 November 2018. Bill Guest, *Stella Aurorae: The History of a South African University*, Volume 2: 1949 – 1976 (Pietermaritzburg: Natal Society Foundation, 2017), 53; Additional information provided by his son, Professor Steve Reid, February 2020.



**Professor John V.O. Reid, MA,
MBChB, FRCP, MMed, PhD
Dean 1976 – 1977.**



**Professor Theodore L. Sarkin,
MBChB (UCT) MD (Cape Town)
FRCS Dean 1978 – 1981.**

Professor Theodore ('Teddy') Leonard Sarkin was born in Carolina, Mpumalanga, and studied at the University of Cape Town during the 1940s where he obtained his MBChB. He obtained his MD in 1955 in recognition of his research on the use of synthetic materials in finger injuries. In 1956, Sarkin became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS) of London and Edinburgh.

He was awarded the Adams and Nuffield Scholarships, which enabled him to study Orthopaedics in both the UK and USA. On his return to South Africa, he was appointed as a senior lecturer in Orthopaedics at the University of Cape Town and Senior Orthopaedic Surgeon at Groote Schuur Hospital.

From 1966 to 1971, Sarkin served as the first director and principal surgeon of the newly created Accident Unit at Groote Schuur Hospital. In 1973, he accepted an appointment as professor and head of the newly created Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the Natal Medical School and King Edward VIII Hospital.

The Department's research interests were in tendon injuries of the forearm, brachial plexus lesions, organisation of an accident unit, osteoarthritis of the trapezio-metacarpal joint, injuries of the pelvis, the treatment of lumbar sacral back pain by surgical fusion and a ganglion causing tarsal tunnel syndrome.

Sarkin was appointed Dean of the Medical School in 1978, a position he held until 1981. He had an established reputation as a first-rate teacher of undergraduates and postgraduates. In addition, he won international recognition as a scientific thinker, which culminated in his book: *The shape of the secret of life* (Luthuli Publishing, 1999) in which he discussed the central importance of the helix as the template for all vertebrate anatomy. He published numerous scientific and orthopaedic scholarly articles and two orthopaedic textbooks, one of which was published after his death in January 1998.

Sources: Information available at the UKZN Archive in Pietermaritzburg; "Obituary" on the Royal College of Surgeons webpage, https://livesonline.rcseng.ac.uk/client/en_GB/lives/search/results?qu=sarkin&te=ASSET. Accessed 7 November 2018. Additional information provided by his son, Professor Jeremy Sarkin, February 2020.

Professor Hugh Philpott was born in London in 1927. During World War 2, his family moved to Cape Town. In 1943, he matriculated from Rondebosch Boys High School and joined the South African army. After the war, with the aid of an army loan, he enrolled at the University of Cape Town as a Medical student and graduated in 1952. He served his internship at a provincial hospital in Port Elizabeth. While doing his internship he was inspired to become a missionary doctor following an encounter with Dr Stanley Browne, a missionary doctor in the Congo and an advisor to the Nigerian Health Service on leprosy.

Philpott worked in Nigeria from 1954 to 1961, providing health care services to under-served rural communities. In 1961, after returning to Cape Town, he obtained a postgraduate diploma in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. He completed his registrar training at the University of Natal's King Edward VIII Hospital and was appointed chair of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in 1966. Eight years later, he returned to the Durban Medical School as professor and Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, a position he held until his retirement in 1986. Philpott was internationally renowned for his

work on the graphic monitoring of labour, which is useful for the early detection of abnormalities during labour.

During 1982 and 1983, he served as Dean of the Medical School and was the director of Student Services from 1987 and 1991. Philpott was the director of the Centre for Health and Social Studies (CHESS) between 1991 and 2006, contributing much to community obstetrics. He also published his autobiography entitled, *Learning for Life*.

Sources: Interview with Professor Hugh Philpott conducted by Kabir Abdulkareem, Botha's Hill, 27 February 2019; V Noble, *A School of Struggle*, 281; Guest, *Stella Aurorae*, Volume 2: 1949 – 1976, 325 – 326; Hugh Philpott, *Learning for Life* (Durban: Hugh Philpott, 2016).



**Professor P. Hugh Philpott, MBChB,
Diploma (Obstetrics) FCOG (SA)
Dean 1982 – 1983.**



Professor Soromini Kallichurum, MBChB, MD Dean 1984 – 1986.

Born in Ladysmith in KwaZulu-Natal, Professor Soromini Kallichurum was one of the first 12 undergraduates to enrol at the 'non-White' section of the University of Natal. She completed her MBChB degree in 1957 and 10 years later obtained a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree from the same university for her research into lung diseases in the Black population. She went on to pursue a career in anatomical pathology.

After working for several years in private practice as a specialist pathologist, Kallichurum was appointed professor and Head of the Department of Anatomical Pathology in 1978, a position she held until her retirement in 1994. In 1984, she was appointed Natal University's first female and Black Dean of the Medical School. She fought hard to break down racial and gender barriers in a world that had long been dominated by White men.

One of Kallichurum's greatest attributes was her negotiating skills, and she used this to full effect during this difficult time, liaising with Medical students, staff, and the University's

governing body. She became known for her fearless protection of students when the University authorities or security forces cracked down. Students nicknamed her 'the granite woman' because her approach to problems was at times unemotional. She was an icon at the Medical School, a strict disciplinarian who demanded high ethical standards; but she was also a role model to all academics, particularly to women, who had to work in an environment that was awash with discrimination. Kallichurum was also the first woman to serve on the South African Medical Research Council. From 1994 to 1997, she served as president of the Interim Medical and Dental Council of South Africa. She was highly motivated in approaching the important task of transforming the previously White-oriented South African Medical and Dental Council into a Health Professions Council that is representative of the demography of the country and of all the disciplines of health care. Kallichurum was the first woman to be appointed president of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA).

Sources: Information available at the UKZN Archive Pietermaritzburg and the Medical School Archive; V Noble, *A School of Struggle*, 202 – 208 and Guest, *Stella Aurorae*, Volume 2: 1949 – 1976, 325. More Information available at <https://www.sahistory.org.za/people/soromini-kallichurum> Accessed on 12 February 2020. Additional information provided by her daughter, Dr Karuna Rughubar, February 2020.

Born and raised in Johannesburg, Professor Robert ('Bob') E. Mickel graduated from the University of the Witwatersrand in 1952 with a Medical degree. He specialised in paediatric surgery and in 1964 became a Fellow of the Edinburgh Surgical College. After completing his fellowship, he returned to South Africa and worked as a consultant at King Edward VIII Hospital and a lecturer at the University of Natal's Medical School.

He developed an outstanding academic department, which became one of the leading producers of paediatric surgeons in the country. A major research highlight was the design of a paediatric operating table suitable for infant surgery for which the department received international acclaim. The criterion for admission to a paediatric surgical bed was that the patient be shorter than the 'Mickel stick', irrespective of age!

In 1975, Mickel founded the South African Association of Paediatric Surgeons. In 1982, he became the first professor of Paediatric Surgery at the University of Natal and served as Dean of the Medical School from 1987 to 1989.

Following his retirement, Mickel became Emeritus Professor in Paediatric Surgery at the Medical School. He served on the boards of Addington, King Edward VIII, Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central, and Hillcrest Hospitals, and the Natal Blood Transfusion Service. He was a leading light in Rotary and the Probis organisations and served as a doctor for an AIDS Foundation clinic in the Valley of a Thousand Hills, as well as conducting clinical research in the area on prevention of HIV transmission. For his significant contribution to service in various communities, he was made a Knight of the Order of St John.

Sources: "Obituary", published by the British Association of Paediatric Surgeons, available at <https://www.baps.org.uk/news/obituary/bob-mickel-obituary/> Accessed 12 November 2018.



Professor Robert E. Mickel, MBChB, FRCSEd Dean 1987 – 1989.



**Professor Derek D. Arbuckle,
MBChB, PhD Dean 1989 – 1991.**

Professor Derek D. Arbuckle was a Dean of the Medical School between 1989 -1991. A complete profile on Arbuckle was not included as factual information could not be sourced at the time of publishing due to the national COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

Professor James van Dellen was born in Brakpan in 1943. After completing his MBChB at the University of the Witwatersrand, he undertook his registrar training in Neurosurgery at Baragwanath Hospital between 1968 and 1971, and at Newcastle General Hospital in the United Kingdom in 1972. He served as Head of Neurosurgery at Baragwanath Hospital from 1974 to 1979 and received his PhD from the University of the Witwatersrand in 1984.

In 1980, van Dellen was appointed professor and Head of the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Natal and resigned six years later to take up an appointment at the University of California, Los Angeles and Harbor General Hospital in the USA. He returned to Durban after two years and took up his former position. His research work included shunt infections, dural substitutes, neurocysticercosis, pyogenic cerebral infections and aspects of cerebral trauma. His areas of surgical expertise included lumbar and cervical spinal stenosis; discogenic disease; cerebral and cerebellar tumours other than skull base and pituitary; cerebral trauma; adult hydrocephalus; syringomyelia and Chiari malformations, and cerebral infections.

Van Dellen was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Medicine between 1991 and 1998, a crucial period in South Africa's transition to democracy. Although he presided over the opening of the Medical School to students of all 'races' in 1994, he ensured that sufficient numbers of historically disadvantaged Black students received preference. He was a member of the South African Medical and Dental Council from 1993 to 1994, the Interim National Medical and Dental Committee from 1995 to 1996, and vice president of the College of Medicine South Africa between 1995 and 1998.

Sources: Information available at the UKZN Archive Pietermaritzburg; the UKZN Medical School Archive and <https://www.bupacromwellhospital.com/find-a-doctor/find-a-consultant/james-van-dellen/> Accessed 18 December 2018.



**Professor James van Dellen, MBChB,
FRCS, PhD Dean 1991 – 1998.**



**Professor Jagidesa Moodley,
MBChB, FRCOG, MD
Acting Dean 1998 – 2000.**

Professor Jagidesa Moodley was born in Durban in 1940. He graduated with an MBChB degree in 1968. After completing his internship at King Edward VIII Hospital, he worked as a medical officer in Medicine and Paediatrics at McCord Hospital from January to June 1970 and thereafter as a registrar in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at King Edward VIII Hospital until December 1974.

In 1975, Moodley joined the University of Natal as a lecturer. He rose to the rank of associate professor in 1986 and professor and Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology from 1996 to 2005. His areas of interest included high-risk obstetrics, particularly in the aetiology and management of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, perinatal HIV, maternal mortality, and audit in obstetric practice.

He became a member of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (MRCOG) in 1981 and a Fellow in 1989. Between 1993 and 1997, he served as Deputy Dean and then as Acting Dean of the Faculty of Medicine from 1998 to 2000. Moodley was the chair of the

National Committee on Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths in South Africa, chair of the Essential Steps in the Management of Obstetric Emergencies (ESMOE) Advisory Board, a member of the South African National Blood Service (SANBS) Maternal Mortality Committee and advisor on maternal health issues to the National Department of Health.

After his retirement, Moodley continued to serve the Medical School as an Emeritus Professor, conducting research and publishing extensively in his specialised areas of women's reproductive health and HIV and AIDS. He consistently ranks among UKZN's Top 30 researchers and has received substantial research grants from the National Research Foundation.

Sources: Information supplied by Professor Jack Moodley, 11 February 2019.

Professor Barry Kistnasamy was born in Durban and grew up in Merebank. He entered the University of Natal's Medical School in 1977 and graduated with an MBChB degree in 1982. After completing his internship at King Edward VIII Hospital in 1983, Kistnasamy worked as a registrar in Community Health at the Medical School and obtained his M.Med (Community Health) in 1987. He was a founding member of the National Medical and Dental Association (NAMDA) and coordinated various health programmes for disadvantaged communities under NAMDA. He served as advisor to the MEC for Health in KwaZulu-Natal between 1994 and 1995 and was Deputy Director General of Health, Welfare and Environment in the Northern Cape between 1995 and 2000.

Over the years, Kistnasamy received training in Health Economics at the University of York, in Health Leadership at the University of Cambridge, in Occupational and Environmental Health at the University of Michigan and in Advanced Epidemiology at Tufts University. He has worked with the World Health Organization, International Labour Organisation and the World Bank, and served on many national and international boards, committees and commissions. He has more than 25 years'

experience in health policy, health planning, and management in the public, non-governmental, and private sectors as well as the provision of occupational health and HIV and AIDS and tuberculosis interventions in South Africa.

Kistnasamy served as Dean of the Medical School from 2000 to 2005, during which time he led major initiatives including naming the School as the Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine and the opening of the Doris Duke Medical Research Institute. When he stepped down as Dean, he continued to engage in activities related to occupational health. He currently serves as Compensation Commissioner for Occupational Diseases and Head of Occupational Health in the National Department of Health.

Sources: Information supplied by Professor Barry Kistnasamy, 12 March 2020.



**Professor Barry Kistnasamy,
MBChB, MMed (Community Health)
Dean 2000 – 2005.**



**Professor Girish Mody, MBChB, MD,
FCP, FRCP Dean 2005 – 2006.**

Professor Girish M. Mody was born in Durban in 1950. He graduated with his MBChB degree from the University of Natal's Medical School in 1974 and went on to obtain membership of the Royal College of Physicians (UK) and the Fellowship of the Physicians of South Africa. Between 1982 and 1984, he undertook sub-speciality training in Rheumatology in Cape Town.

Upon his return to Durban in 1984, he was appointed Head of Rheumatology in the Department of Medicine at the Medical School, responsible for tertiary rheumatology services to nearly 10 million people in KwaZulu-Natal. He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Medicine by the University of Cape Town in 1987. In 1992, he was the inaugural Aaron Beare Family Professor of Rheumatology, a position he held until his retirement from UKZN in 2018. Mody was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London in 1991 and International Fellow of the American College of Rheumatology in 1994. He served as president of the South African Rheumatism and Arthritis Association (1990-1992), president of the African

League Against Rheumatism (1999-2003) and as a member of the executive committee of the International League Against Rheumatism (1995-2003). Among his many accolades were his election as an 'Ambassador' for the United Nations endorsed Bone and Joint Decade (2000-2010) in 2001, a Fellow of UKZN in 2002 and the 2005 Arthur Landau Lecturer by his peers in the Faculty of Physicians of South Africa. From 2010 to 2016, he was a member of the international coordinating committee of the Global Alliance for Musculoskeletal Health. He served as Dean of the Medical School from January 2005 to April 2006.

Mody's research contributed to the recognition of a wide spectrum of rheumatic diseases seen in Africa. During a career spanning four decades, he played an important role in raising awareness and promoting rheumatology education and training in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa and the African continent. In 2015, he became the first Rheumatologist from Africa to be chosen as a Master of the American College of Rheumatology.

Sources: Information provided by Professor Girish Mody, 27 February 2020.

Professor Adriaan Willem Sturm was born in The Netherlands in 1945. He graduated with an MD, Specialist Exam and PhD from the University of Amsterdam in 1976, 1979 and 1981 respectively. Sturm began his research career in The Netherlands, before becoming chair of the Microbiology Department at Aga Khan University in Pakistan between 1990 and 1992. He joined the University of Natal in 1993 as a professor and Head of the Medical Microbiology Department. Between 2006 and 2010, he served as Dean and Head of the Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine. He also served as the interim director of the \$40 million KwaZulu-Natal Research Institute for Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine and HIV from 2008 to 2010. In 2012, he was appointed as Emeritus Professor in Medical Microbiology at UKZN and also served as a consultant to the provincial Department of Health.

During his career as a medical microbiologist, Sturm studied TB, HIV, and sexually transmitted diseases. He was the lead scientist investigating the first outbreak of XDR TB in KwaZulu-Natal and a principal investigator on the project that

sequenced the genetic code of that pathogen. He has published more than 150 articles in peer-reviewed journals on sexually transmitted diseases, Tuberculosis, infection prevention and control, and antibiotic stewardship.

Sources: Information provided by Professor Sturm 10 April 2019. Also see "Medical School Bids a Farewell to Outgoing Dean" UKZNdabaOnline (2011,4:3). Available at <http://enewsletter.ukzn.ac.za/Story.aspx?id=15&storyid=176> (Accessed 12 January 2019).



**Professor A. Willem Sturm, MBChB,
MD, PhD Dean 2006 – 2010.**



Professor Umesh Laloo, MBChB, MD, FCP Dean 2011 – 2012.

Professor Umesh Laloo graduated from the Medical School in 1979. In 1986, he qualified as a physician and was appointed as a specialist lecturer in the Department of Medicine. He was awarded the Richard Ward Endowment Fund Scholarship to study respiratory epidemiology and occupational health in 1985 under Professor Margaret Becklake at the University of the Witwatersrand. Following this, he obtained his MD and Diploma in Occupational Health. In 1989, he was appointed Head of the Respiratory Unit at the Medical School. Between 1993 and 1995, Laloo was a visiting clinical scientist at the Royal Brompton National Heart and Lung Institute at the Imperial College in London.

From 1997 to 2003, Laloo was chief specialist and Head of the Department of Medicine and the Respiratory Unit at the Medical School. In 2002, he was at the helm of the successful \$72 million grant from the Global Fund – a significant resource to fund HIV and TB care in KwaZulu-Natal. He served as executive director for the KZN Enhancing Care Initiative and Executive Director of the KZN Global Fund HIV/AIDS Training Programme from 2002. Recognised both nationally and internationally as an expert in the field of Respiratory and HIV Medicine, Laloo has played an integral role in the training of health

care workers and the general public in HIV and TB management over many years. He led one of the largest HIV graduate programmes referred to as the Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI) that was managed in collaboration with the US President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

Laloo has published widely in Pulmonology and HIV and AIDS and served as the Dean of the Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine from 2011 to 2012. He was on the Board of Directors of the Medical Research Council of South Africa, the International Regent of the American College of Chest Physicians, a member of the American Thoracic Society, executive member of the South African Pulmonology Society and an international representative in the European Respiratory Society.

Sources: Information supplied by Professor Umesh Laloo, 4 March 2020.

Professor Richard Hift was born in Durban and studied for his Medical degree at the University of Cape Town between 1976 and 1981, followed by his internship at Groote Schuur Hospital. He specialised in Internal Medicine at University of Cape Town and gained Fellowship of the College of Physicians of South Africa in 1988. Thereafter, he joined the South African Medical Research Council's Liver Research Centre in Cape Town as a research fellow where he trained as a clinical hepatologist, while commencing his research career.

Hift completed his M.Med in 1992 and PhD in 2000. His research interests have included hepatitis, porphyria, as well as the cognitive aspects of learning and expertise in clinical medicine. In 1992, he joined the Department of Medicine at UCT and was subsequently promoted to associate professor and then to Professor *ad hominem*. He established the Clinical Skills Centre at the university as its first director.

In 2007, Hift was appointed Head of the Department of Medicine at the Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine, the same department where his father, Walter Hift had worked for many years. In 2012, he was appointed

the first Dean and Head of the School of Clinical Medicine which arose out of the restructuring of the College of Health Sciences to include four Schools. He held this post for a five-year term, which ended in 2016. He introduced numerous innovative and progressive educational and assessment strategies at both the Universities of Cape Town and KwaZulu-Natal and participated in national and international medical education conferences. Hift is a member of the South African Medical Association, Fellow of the College of Medicine of South Africa, Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London, and examiner for the College of Physicians and the College of Anaesthetists of South Africa, member of the South African Gastroenterological Society and the Hepatopancreaticobiliary Association of South Africa, past secretary of the African Association for the Study of Liver Disease (AfrASLD), past secretary of the Committee for the Review of Porphyrinogenicity of Drugs (CORP), and consultant to the American Porphyria Foundation, the European Porphyria Initiative and Orphan-Europe.

Sources: Information supplied by Professor Richard Hift, 10 April 2019.



Professor Richard Hift, MBChB, MMed, PhD Dean 2012 – 2016.



**Professor Ncoza Dlova, MBChB,
FCDerm, PhD Dean 2018 to date.**

Professor Ncoza Dlova was born in the small village of Mtyolo, outside King Williams Town in the Eastern Cape. She graduated with an MBChB from the University of Natal's Medical School in 1989. Following her internship in 1990 at Livingstone Hospital in Port Elizabeth, she moved to Durban to specialise in Dermatology, qualifying as a Fellow of the College of Dermatologists of South Africa in 1998. She was the first African Dermatologist to qualify from UKZN and the second African female in the country.

Dlova was Acting Head of the Department of Dermatology for three years, and received recognition from the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Health for creating a Centre of Excellence and Leadership in 2013. She was awarded a PhD in Dermatology by UKZN in 2015 and took on a permanent role as Head of Dermatology. In 2017, the American Dermatology Association (ADA), recognised Dlova for her contribution and commitment to education in Africa, by nominating her as a member of this prestigious association.

Dlova was appointed as the first African Head of the School of Clinical Medicine in 2018 and assumed office as Dean of the Medical School.

In 2019, she made a significant contribution to science when, together with her international collaborators, discovered the root cause of Central Centrifugal Cicatricial Alopecia (CCCA), one of the most common causes of scarring alopecia amongst African women. She received national and widespread international acclaim for this achievement, including the KZN MEC for Health's Annual Research Excellence Award, first prize in the Leadership Excellence section at the South African Health Excellence Awards and runner-up for the Global Excellence Award. Dlova was listed among the *Mail&Guardian's* Women Leaders in Health Science and was named Professional of the Year by the Durban Chamber of Commerce. She received the Presidential Research Excellence Award from Bio Africa and the prestigious International Society of Dermatology Maria Duran Award for Excellence in Dermatology.

Dlova has published extensively in the field of Dermatology and is the author of two books in this field and a contributor to other dermatological textbooks.

Sources: Information supplied by Professor Ncoza Dlova, 30 July 2019.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Dean's project was made possible because of the efforts of Professor Ncoza Dlova. In addition to her own funds, she obtained generous donations from Medical School alumni, such as Dr Imtiaz Sooliman from "The Gift of the Givers" and Dr Atkin Moeng Pitsoe, an activist in the field of Women's Health and Community Health.

Professor Dlova worked closely with PhD student, Mr Kabir Abdulkareem (Kaybee), Dr Vanessa Noble from the Historical Studies programme at UKZN, Professor Girish Mody (former Dean of this Medical School) and Ms MaryAnn Francis (UKZN College of Health Science's Public Relations Manager) in collecting and editing the information for this project.

A special thanks to all the former deans and their families for their contributions including Professor Steve Reid, Professor Jeremy Sarkin, Professor Hugh Philpott, Dr Karuna Rughubar, Professor Jagidesa Moodley, Professor Barry Kistnasamy, Professor Willem Sturm, Professor Umesh Laloo and Professor Richard Hift.

GROWING OUR OWN TIMBER



Professor Ncoza Dlova.

Just three years into her five-year tenure as Dean of UKZN's School of Clinical Medicine, Professor Ncoza Dlova has ticked-off several significant milestones in her mission to transform the School.

More than 72% of first-year Medical students are now African and predominantly female – a far cry from the situation when Dlova was a Medical student in the 1980s, when only about 30% of students were African.

"This is in line with our national demographic target and it's very important for people to see this positive change," said Dlova, who was appointed as the first African Dean in the School's 70-year history following an extensive and illustrious career as a specialist dermatologist and researcher.

"It is very difficult to excel in both leadership and research, so my strategy was to slow down on my personal research output and focus on empowering the people that I have been empowered to lead during my tenure as Dean."

Her aim was to establish a nurturing and supportive environment within the School, including new support structures such as annual workshops

for interns and a 'tea with the Dean' function to acknowledge academic excellence.

"We have also started a programme which includes a welcoming workshop for the 300 new registrars and an annual gala dinner for those who have passed their exams from across KwaZulu-Natal, to create a new support platform and to show appreciation for their hard work."

An annual leadership workshop was initiated for consultants and department heads, with a focus on succession-planning. Mentoring and support workshops offered career guidance on specialisation, while administrative support staff were invited to monthly workshops where speakers provided guidance on health, diet and financial planning.

"We have to nurture and grow our own timber so that we have candidates ready to take over," Dlova said.

Although the School remains constrained by both space and finance, Dlova said she has been busy raising funds (R5 million) from the

corporate sector to continue funding a variety of projects such as the new doctors' lounges at King Edward VIII and Prince Mshiyeni Hospitals, with plans for a similar lounge at Edendale Hospital. She is very grateful to Investec for their overwhelming support.

"We have built an outdoor gym at the Medical School and are now working on an indoor gym, while renovations to the canteen are in progress. We are also hoping to upgrade the outdoor spaces and gardens to make them more conducive for staff and students. Investing in the wellness of our staff and students is a priority for me."

Outside the physical boundaries of the School, several outreach programmes are underway, such as the 'Living Legends' webinar series to recognise the contributions of prominent alumni. "Waiting for people's funerals to say great things about them does not seem right."

HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED THE SCHOOL?

"Nearly 70% of our students come from disadvantaged backgrounds so many could not afford laptops for online learning and we also had to establish new digital learning platforms. There have been other challenges too, as some of our students lacked access to electricity, wi-fi or residential environments conducive to study. Fortunately, a host of companies have either donated or supported us to source PPE (personal protective equipment)."

Dlova, whose research career has centred around ethnic skin and hair care, has, together with international colleagues, established a new global teaching platform featuring online lectures by global experts to try and democratise dermatology education. A similar initiative is underway for dermatologists across Africa.

Her PhD, which was awarded in 2015, focused on ethnic skin and hair disorders, and in 2019, she gained international acclaim for her role in helping to discover a gene that is a major cause of permanent hair loss amongst women of African descent.

The seven-year study - in collaboration with a group of 20 international scientists from Israel, the US, Germany and France - suggested that there may be an underlying genetic cause for a condition known as Central Centrifugal Cicatricial Alopecia (CCCA).

Dlova is a firm advocate of natural hair and the "Black is Beautiful" cultural movement rather than aggressive treatments that involve chemicals, heating, weaves or traction and skin bleaching.

"Natural treatments are always best. People need to be proud of their natural skin and hair, whether they are Black, Brown or White," she said. "Skin bleaching and suntanning is a no-no." □



THE GIFT OF SOUND



Professor Mashudu Tshifularo, Head of Department: Otorhinolaryngology at the Steve Biko Academic Hospital/University of Pretoria.

After six gruelling years of studying to become a doctor at the 'Black Section' of the former University of Natal's School of Medicine, young Mashudu Tshifularo chose not to attend his graduation ceremony in 1988 because of racial segregation and discrimination.

This stance was adopted several years earlier by many of his Black Medical School predecessors (including current and former Health ministers Dr Zweli Mkhize and Dr Aaron Motsoaledi), said Tshifularo, who would become one of the country's first Black Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) specialists and also pioneer a revolutionary surgical procedure to restore hearing through the use of 3D-printed ear bones.

"We were very politically informed and did not want to honour the University's 'Black Section' graduation. It was a decision we did not question. When you finished studying, you checked the noticeboard to see if you had passed, you took your certificate and you left," said Tshifularo, who is currently Academic Professor and Head of Department at the Steve Biko Academic Hospital/ University of Pretoria and Medforum Mediclinic ENT specialist.

"At that time, it was more important for us to finally put on our white coats and stethoscopes and get on with the job of serving our communities and imparting knowledge to others. And tough as it was studying at that level for six years, I read every book from cover to cover because I was keen to learn and did not want to mess up my chances as one of a

handful of Black African doctors."

In any event, he recalled, his parents would not have been able to afford to travel to his Durban Graduation ceremony from their remote home in Limpopo province, where Tshifularo grew up and decided as a young teenager to become a doctor.

As an infant, he suffered from poor health and wanted to make a difference to the health of disadvantaged people. The medical profession was also prestigious and noble; there was a dire shortage of Black South African doctors and a good education was essential to escape poverty.

After working as a general practitioner for a few years, he decided to develop his skills to become an ENT specialist. Over the past two decades he has trained more than 30 ENT specialists (three of whom now head local university ENT departments) and also focused on developing innovative procedures to improve hearing and to make procedures more affordable to the poor.

The rewards of restoring hearing to his patients are immense: "You see it in their faces and in their smiles after recovering from the operation. Some people scream as they hear the sound of water, or birds and all those other sounds for the first time. I feel so honoured to help and it has added so much more purpose to my career," he said, noting that he is currently raising funds for 500 cochlear implants.



Professor Mashudu Tshifularo and his team in the operating theatre at Steve Biko Academic Hospital during a pioneering surgical procedure in 2019 to transplant three-dimensional printed inner ear bones in a 40-year-old patient.

In 2019, he and his team made media headlines after performing the first transplant surgery of the hammer, anvil, stirrup and the ossicles – that make up the middle ear – using three-dimensional printed inner ear bones.

Apart from the difficulty of scanning and designing such tiny and delicate components of the ear, how does he install them in exactly the right place so that they continue to function and also remain secure in the middle-ear?

“That’s top secret...,” he laughed, noting that it is much more complex than most organ transplants and that it took him nearly 10 years to devise some of the procedures and to patent some of the titanium-based components to ensure optimal sound transmission.

Tshifularo said several registrars and staff members in his department had fallen ill during the COVID-19 pandemic and all non-emergency surgery had to be postponed.

A pastor of his church and father of four as well as two adopted children, he is currently working towards his second PhD degree at the University of Pretoria. □

WORDS: TONY CARNIE



DIGITALIST

SHAPING MEDICAL HISTORY

Professor Ismail Borhat has traversed a long and distinguished pathway, a circular journey which brought him back to his *alma mater* last year to be awarded UKZN's first 'double PhD' degree in Fetal and Maternal Medicine, the PhD Senior.

Bhorat has helped shape medical history in South Africa by performing some of the first surgical procedures on babies still in the womb, and has contributed to international therapeutic strategies for high-risk obstetric conditions such as gestational diabetes and hypertensive disorders in pregnancy.

Remarkably, all five of his children followed in his footsteps and studied Medicine at UKZN's Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine. His eldest daughter qualified *cum laude* and was a gold medallist in her specialist physician exam; his second daughter is busy with community service; the third daughter is serving her internship and his son and youngest daughter are in their fifth-year and third-year of Medicine, respectively.

"So, yes, we are definitely UKZN fans," says Borhat who graduated with his MBChB degree from the then University of Natal Medical School in 1984.

He is currently an Associate Honorary Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at UKZN and is also attached to the Fetal Unit at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital and serves as Director of the Fetal Unit at Netcare Umhlanga Hospital. He chairs the Expert Opinion Panel, an affiliate of the South African Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology which oversees medicolegal matters in the profession.

In his early years at Medical School, Borhat commuted almost daily from the Alan Taylor Residence (at that time, located next to the Engen petrol refinery in Wentworth).



Professor Ismail Borhat.

"The standard of teaching was absolutely top-drawer," he recalls. "It prepared us brilliantly to be doctors and laid a solid base for whatever speciality we chose.

"We were taught by brilliant clinical teachers like Professors YK Seedat, Dennis Pudifin and Jack Moodley and many other consultants who contributed to and shaped our careers."

After graduating, Borhat specialised in obstetrics and gynaecology following stints in cardiology, anaesthetics and internal medicine. He also worked in private practice before completing his fetal medicine examination in the United Kingdom in 2002.

His voice lifts with excitement as he recalls some of his career highlights, which included co-leading the first successful thoraco-amniotic in-utero-shunt procedure in Africa in 2012.

This complex operation involved inserting a shunt into the womb to save the life of a 29-week-old unborn baby boy at Parklands Hospital. The team used high-resolution ultrasound and pinhole surgery to insert the shunt catheter through the mother's abdomen and uterine wall, then through the baby's ribs into his chest cavity to drain fluid from the

pleural space into the amniotic cavity via a continuous drainage process.

Because fluid was accumulating on one lung and compressing the heart, the baby would have died from heart failure if Borat had not operated quickly.

A year later, he co-led the first successful double thoraco-amniotic in-utero shunt procedure in Africa and in 2016 performed what was believed to be Africa's first successful fetal pericardiocentesis procedure. This also involved removing fluid from an unborn baby's chest - this time from the pericardial space, directly next to the heart.

"We had to act fast, and very accurately, to drain the blood that was compressing the fetal heart and slowing the heart rate. The baby's heart experienced almost instantaneous relief after the procedure and improvement of the heart rate," said Borat, who believes that in-utero surgery will become increasingly common to remedy a much wider range of life-threatening conditions in unborn children in the future.

"It is a privilege to be a pioneer in the field and the work we have already performed in fetal surgery has opened possibilities for further therapeutic strategies," he said. □

WORDS: TONY CARNIE





Miss Sphindile Tini.

A BRIGHT FUTURE

Final-year Medical Student Miss Sphindile Tini has received many accolades during her studies and looks set to reach for the stars after qualifying.

Studying Medicine has proved to be much tougher than Tini imagined six years ago, upon arrival at UKZN. “But there is nothing I would rather be doing . . . Medicine is an amazing field which fills you with satisfaction” said the Inanda-born final-year MBChB student at UKZN’s Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine.

Hard work and diligence have paid off for the 24-year-old who received a Dean’s commendations for academic excellence over eight semesters.

Tini, who also excelled in her studies at Avoca Secondary School, set her sights on becoming a doctor several years ago, partly because her grandmother suffered from asthma.

“When Gran was struggling to breathe I would look at her and ask myself, ‘What can I do to make her feel better’. So, since high school, I have wanted to be a doctor, to help the sick, to improve the quality of life of our people and to alleviate suffering.”

Tini was raised by her single-parent Nonhlanhla, a filing clerk. Despite the challenges of raising four children, her mother always made ends meet and ensured that the family remained close knit.

Due to a delayed application to study Medicine, Tini initially enrolled at UKZN’s Westville campus to study Physiology, but a year later she was able to realise her dream and transfer to the Medical School.

Since then she has immersed herself in study-leaning on her family, friends and prayer to overcome the pressure.

“I am very spiritual and I ask God to ‘take the wheel’ and guide me,” she said, also acknowledging the need to spend time with her friends and family, and to remind herself that she is still young.

COVID-19 has added to the pressure, she says, noting that it has been “a bit like learning to sail a ship without a map” at times.

“A lot has changed because of COVID. We are not allowed to be in the hospital and have to attend online lectures and to ask questions from our residence. It’s been extremely difficult and there has been a higher rate of student de-registrations this year. But I have tried to take things as they come and to adapt to the new situation and really hope that we can make it, even though practising with your hands and seeing things with your own eyes is always preferable.”

Tini said she had also been buoyed by support and inspiration from Professor Nombulelo Magula, Head of UKZN’s Department of Internal Medicine (who also serves on the COVID-19 Ministerial Advisory Committee).

“Prof Magula has been amazing, especially as I have developed a particular interest in internal medicine. I have enjoyed learning about so many disciplines, including paediatrics, rural health, obstetrics and gynaecology – but if I look forward to where I would like to specialise in future – right now, internal medicine takes the trophy.”

Tini added that she will have plenty of time to make further choices during a two-year internship (hopefully at the Helen Joseph Hospital in Gauteng), followed by a year of community service after graduation.

When she feels overwhelmed by the pressure of study, she reminds herself about where she comes from and why she chose to study Medicine.

Tini is also a member of the Medical Campus Representative Council and has been mentoring first-year students for the past three years.

“Some of the new students are intimidated and uncertain when they arrive, but I tell them ‘relax... You are smart. Don’t doubt yourself. The workload is heavy, but grab this amazing opportunity.” □

WORDS: TONY CARNIE

OPINION

EARLY RECOMMENDATION ON MASK-WEARING A GAME CHANGER IN FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

The decision by the Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC) on COVID-19 in South Africa to recommend to government that the wearing of masks be made mandatory in public places has been arguably its most impactful and important decision in the fight against the killer virus.

While no definitive evidence was available to support mask wearing on 9 April 2020 when the committee took the decision, it was a calculated risk to recommend not only masks but specifically cloth masks to relieve the pressure on the supply of medical ones... and it proved to be the right move.

This is according to UKZN's Professor Salim Abdool Karim, who is Co-Chair of the MAC originally established by Minister of Health Dr Zweli Mkhize in March 2020 to advise on measures to be taken in the fight against the pandemic. The committee comprised about 50 professionals, several of whom are UKZN academics from a diverse range of scientific and medical backgrounds who provided high level advice to the Minister and the national Department of Health.

Abdool Karim was the Over-Arching Chair of the MAC and when it was transfigured and strengthened in September to include other experts and specialists from various sectors he was appointed Co-Chair in his role as an infectious disease epidemiologist.

"The MAC issued more than 70 advisories in the first six months and certainly the recommendation about masks was a stand out," he said. "At the time we looked at the evidence which was going in all directions and the World Health Organization (WHO) had not committed themselves. We spent long hours examining the situation from all angles and eventually decided to be bold and recommend to Government that it make the wearing of masks mandatory in public.

"It was quite controversial at the time as not many countries were promoting the use of masks and there was in fact a lot of general evidence against it. However, I was very pleased that the Department

of Health accepted the recommendation and acted upon it – now most people in public places wear masks," said Abdool Karim.

"I felt it was a landmark decision because a few weeks later, on 5 June, the WHO recommended mask-wearing and more recently an article in *The Lancet* provided clear evidence that masks help prevent the spread of the disease."

Abdool Karim said South Africans should prepare themselves to live with COVID-19 for the next year and perhaps longer – even if a safe and effective vaccine was discovered tomorrow.

Although the disease had peaked in South Africa and was now on a downward spiral, the fear was that people may tire of all the precautions and a second wave would hit the country, possibly worse than the first.

"We cannot get complacent. To beat this virus, we need to be on the alert and practise all the prevention methods most people are accustomed to," said Abdool Karim.

"South Africans have really done so well in the fight against the disease so we don't want to drop the ball now." The Committee, which met twice a week in the early days of the pandemic, was required to use its expertise, linkages,

resources and influence to help the Department overcome obstacles and bottlenecks as identified by the National Department of Health in its response to the coronavirus epidemic.

Initially, this was a full time job for Abdool Karim but as the number of infections started dropping so did the intensity of the work and more recently he has been able to get back to doing some of his "other tasks".



Professor Salim Abdool Karim.

In the beginning, the Committee gave advice on an *ad hoc* basis, but after a few weeks developed a standardised format so that anyone looking at the recommendations could see how issues were addressed, what evidence was used and how a conclusion was reached.

Abdool Karim says that most of the MAC advisories have proved to be correct in their recommendations and he felt South Africa had done well in the way it handled and managed the pandemic, although there were areas where “we could have done better”.

What concerned him was that now that the number of infections was dropping, people would become complacent and stop following the ground rules of wearing masks, social distancing and washing hands.

“It can come back swiftly and we know what it can do – Spain is an example. I really hope it doesn’t happen but I worry when I see people not wearing masks. I understand everyone is tired of the virus running their lives but they need to understand that when they put themselves at risk they put everyone at risk.”

Abdool Karim said that it could take just one person to spread the disease widely. UKZN research had shown that an infected person who went to the emergency room at St Augustine’s Hospital in Durban in April for a COVID-19 test after returning from the United Kingdom became responsible for 14% of all infections in KwaZulu-Natal at that time.

The coronavirus peaked in South Africa in mid-July and the rate of infections had been falling since then. Initially, some people in denial kept punting the idea that the virus was no worse than the flu, he said, but with the millions of people infected worldwide and the high number of deaths, that notion must surely be debunked by now.

“I had anticipated a far worse situation in South Africa because I was not sure whether we could avoid an early peak but once we did my hopes were raised,” said Abdool Karim. “For the first three weeks, COVID grew in South Africa at a rate similar to that of the UK for that period. But because the South African government took such early drastic action, we scaled the virus down and our line flattened while that of the UK kept going up.

“Looking at those early decisions taken in South Africa, it is clear they were correct – they are the reason we managed to postpone the peak of the virus which allowed us to build field hospitals, get in oxygen supplies and have doctors clued up on how to treat the disease.”

Abdool Karim said a safe and effective vaccine would probably become available late 2021 at the earliest - so South Africans would have to live with the virus threat for some time yet. “Even if a vaccine is found which shows it can protect safely, the vaccine will still have to be manufactured in mass with enough doses to give to each country, and then distributed and administered – that takes a lot of time, work and expense. We will not have a vaccine-based return-to-normal any time soon.”

He added that UKZN had been amazingly proactive in combatting the virus. If the rules were followed and a reduced number of students return to campus, there could be enough protection to prevent outbreaks and academic life could resume safely.

“I think universities are going to be very different places in future. This old school education where you go to the university campus every day and attend lectures is not the future. Studying at home or in the library and then attending lectures once or twice a week will likely be the new norm.”

The behaviour of individuals will define how the epidemic is kept at bay. “My concern is although I see a lot of people wearing masks right now, I don’t know in two months’ time whether that will still be the case.”


Asked to venture a forecast of what the situation in South Africa would be a year from now, Abdool Karim responded: “There would have been a few more waves of the virus; people will be taking prevention methods more seriously and the first evidence from vaccine trials will become available so we will know the prospects in that area.”

And will we eventually beat this virus?

“I always marvel at how in the face of adversity humankind rises up and defeats the foe. There have been worse epidemics in the past – the Spanish Flu in 1918/19 and the Bubonic Plague (Black Death) from 1347 to 1351 – and humans survived and emerged more resilient.

“And so, as our suffering under COVID-19 continues, remember: ‘this too shall pass.’” □

WORDS: GREG DARDAGAN



Professor Salim Abdool Karim is a South African clinical infectious diseases epidemiologist who is widely recognised for his research contributions in HIV prevention and treatment. He is Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) at UKZN; Director of the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA); CAPRISA Professor of Global Health at Columbia University in the United States; adjunct Professor of Immunology and Infectious Diseases at Harvard University; adjunct Professor of Medicine at the Cornell University in New York, and an associate member of the Ragon Institute of the Massachusetts General Hospital, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University. His clinical research on TB-HIV treatment has shaped international guidelines on the clinical management of co-infected patients. He was co-leader of the Caprisa 004 tenofovir gel trial in KwaZulu-Natal that provided proof of concept that antiretrovirals can prevent sexually transmitted HIV infection and herpes simplex virus type 2 in women. He serves on numerous high profile international scientific and medical boards and committees and has received a variety of international and local scientific accolades and awards. Professor Abdool Karim is a Fellow of the Royal Society.

UKZN FOUNDATION SHIFTS FOCUS TO BEAT THE PANDEMIC

In a swift response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the UKZN Foundation not only shifted its focus to funding sourced from the region, but raised R1.8 million to support students and staff through the national lockdown. A further R2.5 million was sourced to offset outstanding fees among Medical Students.

Executive Director of the Foundation, Professor Anesh Singh said that while a strategic meeting at the start of the year to determine funding goals and objectives for 2020 focused primarily on breaking into the international market – particularly the Middle and Far East – once the national lockdown was announced his team moved quickly to adjust.

“As soon as we heard about the Coronavirus we realised it was a major threat to our internationalisation drive. We took a decision to focus on more regional donors and to expand our corporate reach,” Singh said.

While the annual, and very successful Mandela Day and Women’s Day campaigns were cancelled, the COVID-19 campaigns raised twice as much funding as that usually raised at the two former events. A further R1.8 million was sourced by the Foundation and R500 000 was added to the coffers for students in a fundraising drive for personal protective equipment (PPE) for Health Sciences students.

“Our Health Sciences students were going out and working among various communities during the lockdown. It really was a priority for us to make sure they were well protected. We are so grateful as the funding for PPE remains ongoing because the donors concerned are continuing to procure supplies,” he said.

Singh added that as the pandemic and the resultant national lockdown started to impact on the economy, scores of high achieving students were falling short on their fee payment commitments. While donors are usually reluctant to fund students whose fees are in arrears, “this year was different, and the University was really concerned about the growing numbers of students who were falling behind in their



Professor Anesh Singh.

fee payments. We had a major crisis on our hands, and we had to do something different.” He said his team approached a long standing group of loyal donors to the University to relax their selection criteria and to assist students who had outstanding debt.

“Our donors were very generous in their response. One donor did stipulate though that they wanted the money used for students in a College which they believed was serving an important need in the country which they identified as Medicine. We sent them a list of names and they looked at academic performance and financial need before identifying which students to support. The donor awarded amounts ranging mainly between

R10 000 and R50 000 with a few exceptional cases receiving more.”

While the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown had highlighted the Foundation team’s ability to adapt without the need for brick and mortar offices, Singh said his staff had not only shown resilience, but had adapted exceptionally well to the change in circumstances.

“I think they have been more productive than ever. They have rallied around one another to make the circumstances work for us and they have rallied around me and for that I am extremely grateful. The pandemic has also highlighted the fact that when there is a crisis we need to act fast and get into the donor space before anyone else. But, I must also say that the willingness to help among our donors has been so positive from both those who are here in South Africa and abroad, although there is tremendous pressure now on how much they are able to contribute as businesses across the globe are under pressure as a direct result of the impact of the pandemic on the global economy.”

Singh said while fundraising was one of the major pillars for the sustainable development and growth of most universities in the modern era, the COVID-19 pandemic had highlighted the fact that organisations including NPOs need to be agile to changing global circumstances.

“While many students don’t know who we are or what we do in the background for them, their words of gratitude to donors always brings a lump to my throat and a smile to my heart as I know that my team and I have played a part in that student’s happiness and success.” □

WORDS: COLLEEN DARDAGAN

PUTTING WASTE TO WORK TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND SANITATION

Working with colleagues from around the world, scientists from UKZN's Pollution Research Group are working to improve community health across Africa by developing revolutionary sanitation systems which also conserve the environment.

Earlier this year, one of the Durban-based projects which generated widespread public interest was the testing of a urine-to-electricity plant at a local informal settlement as part of a series of collaborations involving UKZN, eThekweni Municipality, Khanyisa Projects, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Water Research Commission and several global universities.

The British-designed urine-to-electricity pilot project, dubbed 'Pee Power', was linked to the outflow from urinals installed in a communal ablution block in Greenwood Park to generate a novel source of biological or 'green' electricity. The Pee Power mini plant, developed at the University of the West of England (UWE Bristol), somewhat resembles a bank of normal lead-acid batteries, each with anodes and cathodes.

In fact, it's a microbial fuel cell, explained Professor Ioannis Ieropoulos, director of the Bristol BioEnergy Centre and creator of the technology.

"A microbial fuel cell is a device which produces electricity from the natural process of biodegradation. Bacteria inside the device consume organic matter [as food] and electricity is produced as a by-product of their anaerobic respiration," said Ieropoulos.

"Although microbial fuel cells are similar to batteries . . . one of the main differences is that these fuel cells will never run out as long as fuel (i.e. waste) is provided."

Ieropoulos said the original idea for microbial fuel cells dated back to a discovery in 1910 by Michael Cressé Potter, a professor of botanology at Durham University, although the origins of 'biological electricity' go back even further to the 18th century in Luigi Galvani's work on frog legs and the movement of tissue and muscle with electricity.

Flowing from Ieropoulos' PhD thesis in 2002, his university announced plans in 2018 to start scaling up the technology to generate commercial volumes of uricity.

Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the UK's Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and the European Union, the Pee Power technology has also been successfully trialled at the



Old shipping containers have been refurbished into communal ablution blocks at a Durban informal settlement where several innovative projects are underway to reduce water waste and pollution.

Glastonbury Festival and at two schools in Kenya and Uganda with limited access to mains electricity.

Ieropoulos noted that microbial fuel cells do not just run on urine – urine is just one example of a fuel that can be converted to electricity. Anything organic (including municipal wastewater) that can flow into a fuel cell can be broken down by the microbes and converted into electricity.

This ties in with several local research initiatives led by Professor Chris Buckley and Mrs Susan Mercer, co-heads of UKZN's Pollution Research Group (PRG).

In recent decades, Durban has become something of a test bed for several research collaborations to improve off-grid sanitation and health – while



Professor Chris Buckley and community liaison officer, Mr Nelson Khumalo inspect the business end of the ‘uricity’ prototype power plant, where urine was collected from a communal ablution block at a Durban informal settlement.

simultaneously reducing the volume of water wasted when flushing toilets; reducing water pollution and transforming notions about human ‘waste’ by turning it into more valuable products such as fuel and fertiliser.

For several years, the PRG has been working with eThekweni Municipality and the Water Research Commission to examine the feasibility of extracting commercial fertilisers from large wastewater treatment works; separating urine and faeces through the development of urine-diversion toilets and by redesigning toilet pedestals to reduce the volume of water that is wasted from flushing.

As a follow-up from the Gates Foundation’s ‘Reinvent the Toilet Challenge’, the PRG and partners are helping to test nearly 20 new sanitation technologies, including an advanced urine-diversion pedestal designed by the Austrian-based EOOS Design Studios.

“Bear in mind that about 35% of the water used in most households gets flushed down the loo. With modern technology and re-engineering, it is possible to redesign toilet pedestals to use as little as 1.5 litres to flush away faeces – compared to the 10 litres used in some of the older chain-pull toilet cisterns,” said Buckley. “In a water-scarce country like South Africa, we need to keep squeezing down the volume of water that is wasted on toilet flushing.”

Buckley said that just two decades ago, the collection and management of human urine and faeces was not an issue that many academics really wanted to get involved in – but that was not the PRG’s approach.

While there is still some way to go, the team led by Buckley and Mercer has placed Durban and UKZN firmly on the map as world leaders in the arena of water conservation, wastewater treatment and the potential valorisation of unwanted human ‘waste’. □

WORDS: TONY CARNIE



Professor Chris Buckley indicates some of the movement sensors and overhead bulbs powered by uricity.



Professor Chris Buckley and community liaison officer, Mr Nelson Khumalo discuss the operation of the ‘uricity’ prototype power plant.

UKZN ENACTUS IN THE TOP 16 AT ENACTUS WORLD CUP

The Enactus UKZN team is among the top 1% globally when it comes to social entrepreneurship, innovation, and the impact made by Higher Education students.



Crowned the 2020 national champions, Team Enactus UKZN went on to represent South Africa at the World Cup.

The team undertakes projects that uplift and sustain the lives of local communities. They include environmental sustainability, educational initiatives, green energy, agriculture, and tourism.

Enactus, previously known as Students in Free Enterprise, is an international, non-profit organisation that works with leaders in business and Higher Education to mobilise university students to make a difference in their communities while developing the skills to become socially responsible business leaders.

Enactus UKZN was started in 2003 by three students on the Westville campus. Today the organisation operates on the Edgewood, Howard College, Pietermaritzburg, and Westville campuses with a membership of over 140 students and has invested more than 19 000 hours and impacted over 1 500 lives in the past year.

From inception, Enactus activities have spanned across agriculture, education, renewable energy, and food security. Some of the Enactus projects include Aloe Go, Sack Space Farming, the Pallet Project, the Jonga Phezulu Agri-Hub Farming Programme, and Cleanville.

For the sixth year, Team UKZN secured a place in the national championship.

As 2020 national champions, the team represented South Africa at the World Cup in September, where they competed against international teams from 35 countries and reached the semi-final round.

The Ford Fund also recognised the team as one of the top 14 Enactus teams responding innovatively to the challenges brought about by COVID-19, another global achievement for the team this year.

Mr Muhle Ndwalane, Executive President of Enactus UKZN, said it was a huge achievement to represent South African on a global stage.

“It was an amazing experience given the fact that it’s been eight years since UZKN represented the country. We were super excited. This was the result of our hard work and dedication, given all the challenges this year presented. It is a testament to our projects that are really meaningful to the communities we are working with.”

As one of the 14 global Enactus teams chosen as finalists in the Ford Fund COVID-19 challenge, Enactus UKZN developed projects to minimise the virus’s spread.

One such project is Smartgro, an enterprise with two units, a web-based application that allows users to order groceries and other essentials and have them delivered to their home, as well as easy access to COVID-19 related products such as masks and sanitisers. The team invested in three female-owned sewing businesses that have come to a halt due to COVID-19, and invested capital in producing COVID-19 compliant masks, with more than 100 sold.

In response to the challenges confronting farmers, Enactus UKZN developed Ubuntu Social Enterprise, which uses entrepreneurial leadership to respond to the challenges of poverty, unemployment, and inequality, through the development of sustainable cooperative businesses in communities. The team facilitated a three-day training and business development workshop for seven cooperative businesses where they started a mentorship and support programme. The members of the cooperatives were educated on sack farming.

Ndwalane said that their flagship projects for the year had been Smartgro and Ubuntu Social Enterprise. Ubuntu Social Enterprise has

been the most successful.

"It is generating much economic and social impact among the people we are working with."

The Enactus team's projects for this year include Smartgro, Ubuntu Social Enterprise, Project Sinawe, MyDigiTutor, and Plan to Sustain & Scale Impact.

Project Sinawe produces eco-friendly and cost-effective reusable sanitary pads for young women in low-income areas, reducing the strain of an added monthly expense for these women.

MyDigiTutor, an education technology (EdTech) solution, is a web-based platform that instantly connects learners with tutors through a live chatbot and a virtual classroom. This solution addresses the issue of accessing tutors and educational assistance, a problem faced by many high school learners during the current pandemic and one faced in South African townships.

Plan to Sustain & Scale Impact uses technology to create more straightforward and effective methods to operate and keep track of businesses in different communities.

Among the awards received by Enactus UKZN is the Harmony Thematic Award that goes to the team that exhibited the best business solutions for community development. The team received the Thematic Award for their SmartGro and Ubuntu Social Enterprise projects.

Enactus UKZN's Head of Research and Development, Ms Luyanda Sokhela, scooped the MW De Wet Award which recognises an Enactus student who, through their active engagement in their team, has shown immense potential or has manifested leadership skills that have positively impacted the team.

The Alumni of the Year award was awarded to Mr Skhulile Ndlovu. This award is presented to an alumnus who has best exhibited positive engagement in their team. It recognises those who still give their time and support to the team even after they have graduated.

Enactus UKZN was also voted the Most Passionate Team of the Year by their peers. □

PICTURES: ENACTUS UKZN



NORTH POLE RUN TO SUPPORT SOUTH AFRICAN GIRLS

Despite the impact of COVID-19 on funding, marathon runner, Ms Nontuthuko Mgabhi said most of the upgrades at the rural Khiphinkunzi Primary School would be done by Christmas. She has also set her sights on running the 2022 North Pole Marathon to raise funds to build homes for three child-headed households.

Thirty-four-year old UKZN Psychology postgraduate, Mgabhi was the first African woman to complete seven standard marathons (42.2 kms) on seven different continents in seven consecutive days earlier in 2020.

Her aim was to raise R1.6 million for upgrades at a deep rural and hugely under-resourced school near Mtubatuba in northern KwaZulu-Natal. She describes the school as being “close to her heart” particularly as children from rural areas are usually denied access to equal opportunities to enable them to succeed in life.

“Systemic and structural barriers hinder the development and overall achievement of children who live in remote areas. We cannot exclude them and hope for a better South Africa,” Mgabhi says.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic put a dent in the runner’s fundraising efforts as sponsors pulled out due to the financial impact of the pandemic and the subsequent national lockdown.

“We are R400 000 short. So, I have rationalised the project and prioritised five new classrooms. They will be completed at the end of 2020. But the school is in need of much more; for instance, there is no administration office and major renovations are still needed overall,” she said.

When Mgabhi – who is now General Manager for Human Resources at the Richards Bay Coal Terminal – first started running, the thrill was all about setting goals and achieving them. But now her emphasis is on inspiring and changing lives which has made the challenge not only more meaningful, but liberating.

“Running is a true metaphor for life: if you keep moving forward you will reach the finish line. It allows me to challenge myself and set new and energising goals. I get to break my own records and make my own history. Running has also provided me with an opportunity to touch lives in a way I never imagined. I run far and long for a purpose – for the education of children from the deep rural villages.”

Since completing the World Marathon Challenge in February, Mgabhi has launched her Go Beyond for a Girl Programme which involves 20 girls from Grades five to seven. The aim of the programme is to develop young girls in such a way that they are able to face the world with courage.

“I encourage them to lean in, raise their hands and show up. Support and visibility have been denied to girl children for generations and it is my dream to achieve a gender neutral society one conversation and one action at a time. I



believe it is possible!”

The next big challenge is to run the North Pole Marathon in 2022 to help three girls from the school who head their households. “I would like to build them each a decent house as their current living conditions are disheartening. If I can run the North Pole Marathon and build three houses, another goal will be accomplished.” □

WORDS: COLLEEN DARDAGAN



Ms Nontuthuko Mgbhi.



ALUMNI PROFILES

A DOCTOR ‘PURPOSE-BUILT’ FOR SA CONDITIONS THANKS TO UKZN

Newly-appointed CEO of the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) Dr Thembi Xulu describes her years as a student at UKZN’s Medical School as “some of the best days of my life”.

“I had great fun. However, from the day I arrived, my mission was to study hard, get my degree and be the best I could possibly be. Fortunately, the Medical School environment gave me the knowledge and skills to do just that.

“I received top class training and went out into the big wide world a doctor purpose-trained for South African conditions and super confident of my abilities – I was very blessed,” said Xulu.

The seasoned public health practitioner with direct and extensive experience in HIV and TB health matters was appointed Chief Executive Officer of SANAC on 1 October 2020. Prior to that she was with the Right to Care group, a leading healthcare non-profit organisation in the frontline in supporting and delivering prevention, care and treatment services for HIV and TB and associated illnesses.

She held a variety of senior executive positions during her 15 years and 11 months at Right to Care, including manager of the HIV Expert Treatment Programme, and executive director of the group and was a Board member from 2007 to 2020.

Announcing Xulu’s appointment to SANAC, Deputy-President of South Africa and Chair of the National AIDS Council, Mr David Mabuza said, “We are confident Dr Xulu has the required expertise and dedicated service - her appointment is set to strengthen the national response to TB, HIV and AIDS.” Xulu was born in KwaMashu near Durban and matriculated from the girls-only Inanda Seminary School in 1991, breezing her way through with more than her fair share of brains.

After her mother joined the armed struggle, Xulu was raised by her two great-grandmothers – one of whom had been a nurse and the other a seamstress. “They were very strict and I toed the line, living quite a sheltered life with my two gogos. I always enjoyed helping them

collect their medicine from King Edward Hospital in Durban and I think it was because of those visits that I became interested in becoming a doctor. The gogos’ feet and legs were usually sore when we got back from hospital so I would soak them in salt water and say that one day when I am a doctor I would fix them!”

Xulu registered for her MBChB in 1992 and graduated in 1997. She qualified with a Master’s degree in Public Health at Wits University in 2008; holds diplomas in Obstetrics and HIV Management from the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa; and is a 2010 Yale University World Fellow and a certified director at the Institute of Directors of South Africa.

She says her six years at Medical School were all about academic excellence and intellectual empowerment. “They were indeed some of the best days of my life. It was a humbling experience – I had come from a school where I was quite a big deal being a deputy head prefect and an academic achiever to a university where I was just one of many. However, I was happy and living my dream of becoming a doctor. I soon made friends with like-minded people and immersed myself in university life and coming of age so to speak, learning a lot about life and the need for discipline. It was a fantastic challenge, forcing me out of my comfort zone and introducing alternative ways of thinking about things.

“My mother, Sisana Machi, sacrificed a lot to get me to university so I was determined to make her proud. I wanted to show everyone that this young woman from Inanda could make it with the best!”

Xulu did her internship and community service at Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital in Umlazi where “the nurses taught me half of what I know about medicine - the other half I learned



Alumnus, Dr Thembi Xulu.

in Medical School.”

She has two daughters Thembeke (18) and Amahle (12) who appear keen to follow in mom’s medical footsteps.

Asked where she wants to see herself five years’ hence, she said: “In future, when I talk about my tenure as the head of South Africa’s HIV response, a country which has the largest HIV treatment programme in the world, I want to have a very good story to tell about all the successes. For the moment, I need to focus on the now and be the best that I can be within SANAC.

“This job is not for me or my family – I have been there and done that – this one is for the glory of God. One day when I am no longer around, I want people to remember me and always say that I was a good choice and an excellent public servant.” □

WORDS: GREG DARDAGAN

SURGEON HAILS UKZN MEDICAL SCHOOL MENTORSHIP AS LIFE CHANGING

Alumnus Professor Zach Koto not only wishes the Medical School well in celebrating its 70th anniversary, but describes his time as a postgraduate student in Durban as a ‘game changer’.

Koto, who was raised and schooled in Gauteng, is now training young surgeons at the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (formerly the Medical University of South Africa) in the capital city of Pretoria.

With a particular interest in laparoscopic surgery, Koto says it is his firm belief that training surgeons in new technologies, or perhaps better put, for a world steeped in robotics and virtual reality, is now imperative in the country.

“I am currently involved in the training of young surgeons and my mission is to train them in new technologies such as laparoscopic surgery. It really is my firm belief that we should be future focused and not training for a world that no longer exists,” he says.

And while he may be looking to the future, it was at UKZN that Koto says his life was enriched, challenged and ultimately changed for good.

“I chose to study at UKZN because of its renown in research circles. The Institution rates very highly both nationally and internationally and that was a major attraction for me.”

But the game changer, he adds, was the mentorship he received from his supervisors, namely Professor Colleen Aldous and Professor Thandinkosi Madiba.

“Professor Aldous – what a phenomenal academic and great scholar – she was so grounded, so calm and effective. Always reassuring me. She would always go beyond the call of duty to assist her students. She was the game changer for me.”

And Professor Madiba, Koto remembers, wielded a “fine tooth comb” when assessing work, was meticulous in everything he did and consistently intolerant of tardiness.

He comments that the pressure cooker environment presented by the Medical School prepared him “really well” for his work as a surgeon, “when you are making life and death decisions and constantly having to re-evaluate your patients and your management decisions. UKZN prepared me really well for that.”

For youngsters wanting to follow a career in medicine, Koto says passion for the profession is fundamental together with a high work ethic and deep care for patients laced with humility and willingness to learn. “I think it is also very important to be able to accept when you have made a mistake and be prepared to learn from it.”



Alumnus, Professor Zach Koto.

While the professor does express concern over the need for comprehensive upgrades to the School’s infrastructure he praises the way in which UKZN has “embraced” the ethos of the country’s democracy and held “real” transformation as a priority.

“I am now working for my senior PhD and I will most certainly enrol at UKZN again for that.” □

WORDS: COLLEEN DARDAGAN

NEW GENERATION OF UKZN MEDICAL STUDENTS FOLLOWING IN FOOTSTEPS OF SA HEROES

Alumnus Dr Zanele Bikitsha feels that today's students need to remember that the Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine's rich history of political activism and fighting for human rights played an important role in ensuring many of the privileges and freedoms they enjoy.

They should thus remember when they enter the portals of the building named after "that mighty man" that they are following in the footsteps of many high calibre scholars and South African heroes, with Steve Biko - who fought and died for his beliefs - being just one.

Bikitsha is a director on the board of the South African Medical Association (SAMA) and chairperson of its KwaZulu-Natal coastal branch. She is also CEO and medical manager at the Turton Community Health Centre at Umzumbe on the KZN South Coast.

Bikitsha said that today's Medical School students "carry the weight of it into what should be an exciting future."

She called on them to focus - "because at the end of it all you want to leave with a degree. So don't get side-tracked" - and encouraged them to become specialists - something African people tend to shy away from. "Let us become the experts, the specialists we need in South Africa today.

"Remember you are at Medical School to become a physician and are one day going to be the one - the doctor - who makes the difference between life and death for another person. So make sure that while you are there you engage thoroughly with the experience so you can leave a better doctor."

Bikitsha grew up in Sebokeng in Gauteng, attending boarding school from the age of six. "I loved it. I made so many friends, so it was never a problem for me." She matriculated from the Three Rivers Academy and registered at the Medical School in 2005.

"My time at medical school taught me a lot about life and the world in general. I had some fun social times but what really stands out for me is how the environment at the time sparked my political awareness. I became involved in the politics of the day and was on the Student Representative Council, immersing myself in the system, confronting issues and engaging with them. I gained acute awareness of what students before me had done and sacrificed to make it possible for me to be at the School," she said.

"I was just a drop in the ocean in the struggle for transformation but if I helped make it better for just one student, I am happy."

Bikitsha says that the education and training at the School produced good calibre doctors but also ones "purpose made" for South African conditions - physicians who are very practical and hands-on.

She served her internship at Port Shepstone Hospital and after graduating in 2010, her community service at Ngwelezane Hospital in Empangeni. "I was a member of SAMA which extended my activism into medicine working for the good of medical practitioners, getting to where I am today in the association."

After completing community service, an opportunity arose at Turton where she is today.

She is currently doing a health management course at the Foundation for Professional Development. "I am also interested in health economics as I believe that is where the future of Medicine is heading so I am considering that, but wanted to start with health management."

So what does this hard working woman do to relax? "My happy place is in a health spa or relaxing in a beautiful place enjoying a glass of bubbly and a good book." □

WORDS: GREG DARDAGAN

Alumnus, Dr Zanele Bikitsha.



SLEEP OCCUPIES THE MIND OF THIS WIDE AWAKE PROFESSOR!

UKZN alumnus and Professor of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic in the United States Dr Virend Somers has many happy memories of his student years in the late 1970s despite the turbulent political situation at the time.

Somers, whose research includes sleep and its interaction with circulatory control said: "Political upheavals, protest marches and run-ins with the police on campus impacted on our studies without doubt but that aside, the standard of the education we received at the Medical School was outstanding. We had superb teachers and our clinical training was excellent. I think we graduated with a very solid foundation of medical knowledge, skills and insights."

Somers specialises in research into obstructive sleep apnea which is the cessation of breathing during sleep with the loss of oxygen jolting the impacted person awake - a condition affecting about one in four middle-aged men and one in 10 middle-aged women. His research is funded by the National Institutes of Health, American Heart Association and the Mayo Foundation.

The Mayo Clinic was ranked at No. 1 in the United States in the 2019/20 US News and World Report Best Hospitals Honor Roll, maintaining a position at or near the top for more than 27 years.

Born and bred in Durban, Somers matriculated at Sastri College and registered at the Medical School in 1975 - one of the first on the then-innovative six-year Medical School programme. "We had a really fantastic class - smart people but also thoughtful, well balanced, supportive and highly collegial. The camaraderie was amazing and many of us remain close friends to this day. We went through trying times together, so in many ways we got to know one another really well. All the memories are happy ones, even those that were difficult," he said.

After graduating with an MBChB in 1980, Somers was offered a Nuffield Dominions Scholarship to do a PhD at Oxford University in England - a remarkable opportunity "which exposed me to the completely new dimension of research, something to which, in those days, Medical students had very limited exposure".

He was then offered a post-doctoral position at the University of Iowa where he also completed his medical residency and a fellowship in Cardiology. In 1999, he accepted an offer to move his research work to the Mayo Clinic and has been there ever since.

"I was subsequently honoured by being named a Mayo Foundation Distinguished Investigator and also as the Alice Sheets Marriott Professor of Medicine. I am truly grateful for this recognition, and am humbled by the knowledge that I have benefitted so much from the outstanding mentors, excellent education and rich experiences I enjoyed."

What message does he have for Medical students? "I have a few but



Alumnus, Dr Virend Somers.

probably the most important is one I borrow from the Mayo brothers, Will and Charlie: "The best interest of the patient is the only interest to be considered."

Somers and his wife Phyllis, who he met in Iowa City, have two children, Krishen and Kiran, and two dogs, Tess and Petey.

What career plans does he have for next year?

"To continue the work we are doing with special emphasis on artificial intelligence and machine learning strategies to better identify people at risk. I also plan to visit South Africa to make up for the one I missed this year because of the coronavirus!" □

WORDS: GREG DARDAGAN

TACKLING MATERNAL AND INFANT MORTALITY

Developing countries suffer high rates of maternal and infant mortality. Professor Salome Maswime has dedicated her research and clinical career to addressing this issue.

Complications during pregnancy and childbirth are one of the main causes of death and disability among women in developing countries, with Africa accounting for a staggering 66% of maternal deaths worldwide in 2015.

Sub-Saharan Africa also has the highest mortality rate in the world for new born babies (around 28 deaths per 1 000 live births) while the maternal mortality rate following a Caesarean delivery in Africa may be 50 times higher than in high-income countries according to recent studies published in *The Lancet* medical journal which Maswime co-authored.

These shocking statistics are part of the reason why Maswime has dedicated her research and clinical career to reducing the number of pregnant women and their babies who die before, during or after childbirth.

Maswime, who graduated from UKZN's Medical School with her MBChB degree in 2005, spent her medical internship in the labour ward of a remote district hospital – an experience which helped to shape her decision to specialise in obstetrics and gynaecology.

Currently an Obstetrician and Gynaecologist and Associate Professor of Global Surgery at the University of Cape Town, she has received international acclaim and career support for her work on maternal deaths.

In 2018, she was awarded a R2.1 million Discovery Foundation/Harvard University/Massachusetts General Hospital Fellowship to research the causes of stillbirths in HIV-positive women.

In 2019, she was named a Fellow of the Next Einstein Forum, which aims to make Africa a global hub for science and technology and to identify young African scientists who can contribute to the continent's scientific renaissance.

This year (2020) she was one of only two African women (both based at the University of Cape Town) to be included in the World Economic Forum's inaugural list of 25 'brilliant young academics' at the forefront of global scientific discovery.

She was also among the 50 women in the *Mail & Guardian's* 'Powerful Women' list for 2020 and in July she was profiled in print, in *The Lancet* as a 'Dynamic leader in Global Surgery', and also on screen on Showmax, after being awarded the OneAfrica organisation's Research in Health Award.

Why do so many African women and babies die during childbirth?

Maswime draws the analogy of ambulances at the scene of a major car



Alumnus, Professor Salome Maswime.

crash: "The sooner the ambulances arrive, the better. Unfortunately, if there are not enough available ambulances, fewer patients are likely to survive."

While many women across the world experience complications during childbirth, the survival of mother and child often depends on how quickly and effectively these complications are handled.

Part of the problem is the shortage of facilities providing comprehensive care with specialist gynaecologists and obstetricians in Africa to care for women with pregnancy complications, while some hospitals also lack specialist equipment or trained staff. Other challenges include the lack of access to ante-natal care, where potential problems could be identified in advance.

This is one of the factors driving the relatively new discipline of 'global surgery', a programme launched by the Harvard Medical School to extend surgical care and to develop more context-specific solutions for patients in poor communities.

Three years ago, Maswime founded and became President of the South African Clinician Scientists Society, a forum which recognises the challenges facing scientists who have one foot in the domain of academic research and another in daily clinical practice – sometimes battling to do justice to both.

"This is a new network to support people who want to develop as researchers, while also working as clinicians," Maswime said, noting that the society has held a number of research and leadership workshops, established the South African Health Excellence Awards and is now planning its inaugural national conference in February 2021.

COVID-19, she said, raised serious challenges following the cancellation of elective surgery procedures at the outset of the pandemic.

"Now there are thousands of people who still need operations - so there will be a huge backlog of surgery which will place further strain on our country's health system."

What are some of her memories from her early days as a medical student at UKZN?

One of the highlights was the level of social activism. She had barely arrived on campus, she recalled, when she was invited to join a campaign by fellow students.

"This helped me to realise that: 'I am not just here for myself – and that we need to advocate and speak up on important issues.' Not every university does that."

On a lighter note, Maswime said that despite the demands of Medical School, she still found time to pursue her love of music and the church - passions that persist today.

"I played the French horn for the KZN Youth Wind Band throughout my time at UKZN - probably the only reason I survived med school!", She said, noting that UKZN was also where she met civil Engineering student Gundo Maswime – now her husband and father of her two sons, Taurai (8) and Farai (5), and a lecturer at University of Cape Town. □

WORDS: TONY CARNIE



Professor Salome Maswime (right) with UCT Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng (left).

MARRYING MEDICINE AND ETHICS

Professor Ames Dhai didn't really want to be a doctor. Her dream was to study Law, but her father told her to pursue Medicine as it was likely to be more lucrative.

As things turned out, she ended up studying both - eventually fusing her knowledge from both spheres to become a nationally and internationally-recognised expert on medical law and bioethics.

As a young student at the former University of Natal Medical School in the early 1970s, Dhai recalls meeting Black Consciousness Movement leader Steve Biko.

"Steve had just been excluded from the School and was under house arrest, but he still managed to come across to the University and have meetings with the students. He taught us that we all had a common humanity, and that helped shape my mindset. When I arrived on campus I was 'the Indian girl', but six months down the line I had become a Black woman."

Shortly after graduating with her MBChB, Dhai took an eight-year break from studies to focus on nurturing her young daughter and son, supported by her husband, Dr Faruk Mahomed. When she returned to work to specialise in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, she became further enthralled by the miracle of birth.

"When a baby was delivered and cried for the first time, I found that to be the most beautiful sound I had ever heard. For me, this was the true meaning of life and I fell in love with it."

She later became involved in the gender reassignment of several patients from male to female, an experience that would ultimately inspire her critical master's dissertation on the ethical implications of such surgery in an era when the Births and Deaths Registration Act did not recognise the legal status of people who had



Alumnus, Professor Ames Dhai.

undergone sex changes.

"Here were these beautiful women. But when they went into the bank, for example, they were not recognised as women for legal purposes. Several were driven to suicide."

Her exploration of the ethical and human rights dilemmas of such surgery set the stage for further immersion in this field, and in 2004 she was appointed Head of Bioethics, Medical Law and Research Ethics at the Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine.

Three years later, she established the Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics at the University of the Witwatersrand's Faculty of Health Sciences and

served as Director of the centre until her retirement in 2019.

Dhai's work in medical ethics and law continues in her role as Visiting Professor at the Wits School of Clinical Medicine and as Specialist Ethicist in the Office of the President and CEO of the South African Medical Research Council as well as being regularly called on for input by several statutory bodies and associations at a national level.

She also serves as a consultant to the World Health Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and is Vice Chair of the UNESCO International Bioethics Committee. In 2020, she was elected as one of the less than 600 members of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), an honour which recognises the country's most outstanding and celebrated scholars.

Dhai notes that South Africa and the world stand at a critical point due to advances in medical treatment and technology (including artificial intelligence, gene therapy and gene editing) and this could have long-lasting impacts for future generations and may further entrench disparities in health care for the rich and poor.

She was recently appointed to the SA Ministerial Advisory Committee to provide advice on the future distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations.

"This will create ethical and human rights issues, not just for patients but also for healthcare workers. How do we ensure that a vaccine is made available in a fair and equitable way, when it is very likely that demand will outstrip supply?"

Dhai believes that the alleged corruption and

looting that was reported on during the pandemic is unconscionable: "For me, it is a crime against humanity. . . There are huge lessons to be learned – including how we respond to future pandemics and what our priorities should be to reduce impacts on the poor and disadvantaged.

"We have seen how much money is involved through the work of the Zondo Commission. That money must be recovered to alleviate the plight of the poor. At a time when we are talking about a 'new normal' involving face masks, social-distancing or working from home, my hope is for a new corruption-free South Africa. That would be a beautiful new normal." □

WORDS: TONY CARNIE

“When a baby was delivered and cried for the first time, I found that to be the most beautiful sound I had ever heard. For me, this was the true meaning of life and I fell in love with it.”



A COMMUNITY HERO

Dr Govindsamy (Jeff) Govender's destiny as a family doctor and working-class hero was cast from the moment of birth by his father.

On the day I was born, Dad said that I would become a doctor – so as far back as Class 1, my classmates and teachers would laugh when I told them I knew what I would do when I grew up. By the time I reached primary school, I had even calculated the date of my graduation," Govender recalls, four decades after receiving his MBChB degree from the former University of Natal Medical School.

"That is the power of a parent giving direction," says Govender. "Dad was a giver. He was a father in a class of his own.

... he came from another planet. He infused in all his children the foundational values of discipline, hard work and rising above your circumstances."

Govender has never specialised, choosing instead to remain a family doctor and community-builder in the poor neighbourhoods north of Port Elizabeth, a decision that would earn him respect and recognition from both the Medical profession and the disadvantaged communities he still serves.

His accolades include the Port Elizabeth Citizen of the Year Award in 2011 in the category of Sustainable Development; an award for services rendered during the Northern Areas Uprising of 1990; three *Herald* newspaper Hero of the Day awards; a Rotary Club award for meritorious service; the South African Medical Association (SAMA) Spirit of Medicine Award in 2015; and the IPA Foundation of South Africa-Dr Lex Visser-Discovery Health national award for "outstanding contribution to healthcare management" in 2018.

Born in a working-class neighbourhood in Chatsworth, Durban, Govender and his four siblings were raised in a modest council-owned home.

"Mum was our nurturer and rock at home and my father was the Head Wine Steward at the Royal Hotel in central Durban. His father was an alcoholic and died when my dad was in Standard 6, so he had to start selling samoosas on the streets to help support the family.

"Because of this background dad was a teetotaler and he devoted time to each of his children to check their homework and encourage them. I could not wait to get home to show him my school reports. He would often kiss my hands and praise me.

"One year I came home with five As and a B. He praised me warmly for

the As and then, very gently, and without demotivating you, he would ask 'Son, what about that B?'"

Govender remembers that over 12 years of school, and throughout his Medical School studies, he never missed a day, even when ill with bronchitis.

After graduation, he accepted an internship at Livingstone Hospital in Port Elizabeth, the city that would become his permanent home, largely because a senior colleague (Dr Solly Bemath) offered him the opportunity to take over his established private practices in Gelvandale and Windvogel.

To properly understand the symptoms of his new patients, he learned to speak Afrikaans fluently and immersed himself in his work.

"I would often work till 10pm on weekdays and 4pm on Sundays, 358 days of the year. I only took off one week a year – and looking back, perhaps I should have taken more breaks."

In 1990 the community was rocked by the Northern Areas Uprising and rent boycott which left nearly 60 people dead and several homes and businesses burned to the ground.

The practice in Windvogel was destroyed, but his patients in Gelvandale guarded his premises day and night. Though the electricity supply was cut off, Govender hauled out candles and lanterns so he could carry on treating the community, including patients injured by police buck-shot.

Several years later, he was honoured for his work during the uprising, even though Govender insists that he was "just doing my job".

For many years, Govender had been anxious to find ways to uplift his community. In 2005, he spotted two dilapidated buildings in Gelvandale and, unable to obtain a bank loan to support his vision, he liquidated most of his polices and investments to develop the new multi-purpose Famhealth Medipark complex in Springbok Road.

He says he believes that the concept of community development and 'paying it forward' extends far beyond medical care.

So, while the Famhealth centre offers a variety of conventional medical services, it also incorporates a gymnasium, community halls

I would often work till 10pm on weekdays and 4pm on Sundays, 358 days of the year. I only took off one week a year – and looking back, perhaps I should have taken more breaks."

for weddings and other functions, free extra classes for scholars, maths remediation and small-business/microloan support facilities.

In partnership with Sr Gwendoline Jacobs, Govender has helped to train nearly 2 800 home-based care-givers since 2011 and graduated 170 youth leaders since 2012 (with Professor Darelle van Greunen of Nelson Mandela University), enabling young people to leave the confines of dense urban settlements to experience hiking and other outdoor activities, along with weekend empowerment courses.

Govender is proud of his two sons – Prinesh, a chartered accountant and Kamlin, a dentist. □

WORDS: TONY CARNIE



Alumnus, Dr Govindsamy (Jeff) Govender.

SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Dr Kumeren Govender is among the illustrious alumni produced by UKZN's Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine in its 70 years of existence.

Govender completed an MBChB *cum laude* and a Master's in Health Science simultaneously on a special dual-track programme in 2017. He went on to receive the Rhodes Scholarship, one of the most prestigious scholarships in the world.

"It's one of the pinnacle moments in my life. These are all stepping stones to something bigger."

The 27-year-old from Shallcross in Durban is currently completing his DPhil (PhD) in Clinical Medicine at the University of Oxford, based in the infectious diseases department, where his focus is on metagenomic sequencing to identify and treat sepsis or bloodstream infections in a clinically relevant timeframe.

"This aims to improve patient outcomes and also reduce antimicrobial resistance, which is predicted to cause 10 million deaths each year by 2050 and could force up to 24 million people into extreme poverty as reported by the UN."

At Oxford, Govender lectures Medical Students in infectious diseases. Since his undergraduate studies he has published numerous peer-reviewed articles in this field with a focus on sepsis, HIV and TB.

He is the co-founder and chief medical officer of a MedTech company based in Cambridge, UK, that provides personalised genetic testing to optimise drug treatment efficacy. He also co-founded the Oxford Policy Advisory Group (OPAG) which aims to provide policy advice to developing settings and international organisations.

Govender holds research associate posts at UKZN's Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) and at the University of Johannesburg in the health and environment department.

He co-authored a chapter for the *Oxford Textbook of Global Public Health*, 2020 edition and was nominated as one of the *Mail & Guardian's* Top 200 Young South Africans in 2017.

During his studies at UKZN, Govender received the Vice-Chancellor's award as one of the top three students in the School and the peer-mentorship award. He was among the Top 40 Inspiring Students at UKZN and received the Abe Bailey Scholarship. He founded the South African Medical Students Association (SAMSA), a vibrant Medical body that tackles issues such as medical education, prevention of disease and COVID-19.

Govender said UKZN fostered excellence in teaching and learning, especially through practical training in both urban and deep rural areas.

"This broadens one's perspective and exposes the inequalities that permeate our communities." He added that, "CAPRISA, headed by

Professors Quarraisha and Salim Abdool Karim has played a significant role in my academic trajectory by providing unparalleled mentorship and support for research endeavours while at the University.

"I made lots of memories in the common room at Medical School where we celebrated birthdays, played pool and foosball and generally just hung out. One of my most memorable times is meeting Bill Gates after being introduced by Professor Abdool Karim."

Govender, who completed his matric with 12 distinctions at Star College in Westville, said he is passionate about infectious diseases on a global level.

"They affect the most vulnerable in society and I hope to bridge the gaps between the developing and developed worlds, leapfrogging advancement using technologies such as machine learning, genomics and data science."

He has been collaborating with Spanish researchers on mathematical modelling of policy interventions to reduce COVID-19 transmission using the COVID-19 Government Response Tracker database. He has also looked at how genetic testing can diagnose new viruses like COVID-19 in order to detect potential outbreaks much earlier using a technology called metagenomic testing.

He attributes his success to his parents Nadaraj and Sarojini Govender and grandparents Poolingam and late grandmother Ulaganiagie, and his teachers.

When not stuck in his books, Govender enjoys swimming, listening to Indian classical music and playing the Indian classical violin. □

Alumnus, Dr Kumeren Govender.

WORLD RANKINGS HIGHLIGHTS

UKZN'S RESEARCH TRAJECTORY PROPELS IT TO THE TOP



UKZN CAMPUSES

UKZN

SECURED THE TOP SPOT

IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR TOTAL PUBLISHED RESEARCH OUTPUT AND TOTAL WEIGHTED ACTUAL RESEARCH OUTPUT FOR 2018.

THIS WAS FOR THE LATEST AUDITED ASSESSMENT PERIOD BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING (DHET). UKZN HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN PLACED SECOND NATIONALLY WITH REGARD TO TOTAL PUBLISHED RESEARCH OUTPUT.



THE UNIVERSITY PRODUCED THE LARGEST ACCREDITED JOURNAL OUTPUT NATIONALLY. THE TOTAL WEIGHTED ACTUAL RESEARCH OUTPUT INCLUDES GRADUATED DOCTORAL AND MASTER'S STUDENTS. UKZN WAS THE LARGEST PRODUCER OF DOCTORAL GRADUATES NATIONALLY, CONTRIBUTING APPROXIMATELY 15% OF THE TOTAL NATIONAL NUMBER FOR 2018.



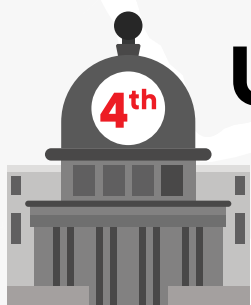
2 069.36
UNITS IN 2018

TOTAL PUBLISHED RESEARCH OUTPUT IS BASED ON JOURNALS, BOOKS AND BOOK CHAPTERS, AND CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS. UKZN PRODUCED A TOTAL OF 2 069.36 UNITS IN 2018.

THE UNIVERSITY'S 2018 RESEARCH OUTPUT REAFFIRMS ITS STANDING AS A RESEARCH INTENSIVE UNIVERSITY, AND ITS COMMITMENT TO CONTRIBUTING TO THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY THROUGH KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION AND HUMAN CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT.

HIGHLIGHTS

UKZN AMONG TOP 400 UNIVERSITIES IN THE WORLD



UKZN WAS RANKED FOURTH IN SOUTH AFRICA IN THE LATEST TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION RANKINGS.



TOP 400
BEST PERFORMING
UNIVERSITIES



351-400
BAND

UKZN WAS PLACED IN THE 351-400 BAND, A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT ON ITS PREVIOUS RANKING IN THE TOP 500 (401 - 500) IN THE 2019/2020 CYCLE.

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, UKZN WAS RANKED AMONG THE TOP 400 BEST PERFORMING UNIVERSITIES IN THE WORLD BY THE 2020/2021 TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION (THE) RANKINGS.

TOP 2.4%
OF UNIVERSITIES

THE CENTER FOR WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS (CWUR) POSITIONED UKZN IN THE TOP 2.4% OF UNIVERSITIES IN THE WORLD IN JUNE 2020, PLACING IT 477TH OUT OF 20 000 UNIVERSITIES GLOBALLY.

MORE THAN 1 400 UNIVERSITIES IN 92 COUNTRIES WERE ASSESSED IN THE WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2020/2021 FOR RESEARCH-LED UNIVERSITIES. THE USES 13 CALIBRATED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS THAT MEASURE AN INSTITUTION'S PERFORMANCE WHICH INCLUDE TEACHING, RESEARCH, CITATIONS, INDUSTRY FUNDING AND INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK. UKZN SCORED AT THE TOP OF THE COMPARABLE SCALE FOR RESEARCH AND CITATIONS.

THE UNIVERSITY ALSO MADE IT INTO FIFTH SPOT IN THE COOLEST UNIVERSITIES 2020 CATEGORY IN THE 2020 *SUNDAY TIMES* GEN NEXT SURVEY. THE SURVEY IS THE LEADING BAROMETER OF WHAT SOUTH AFRICAN YOUTH FIND ON-TREND AND DELIVERS INSIGHTS THAT ARE VALUED BY BRAND MANAGERS, ADVERTISING, AND MARKETING PROFESSIONALS. BRANDS THAT MADE IT ONTO THIS YEAR'S LIST INCLUDE CAPITEC, AVON, WHATSAPP, APPLE, UZALO, ALWAYS, DSTV, ENGEN AND WOOLWORTHS FOOD.

THE UNIVERSITY PLACED FOURTH OUT OF 57 INSTITUTIONS IN AFRICA AND RANKED #61 OUT OF 250 INSTITUTIONS FOR SPACE SCIENCE, BASED ON RESEARCH PERFORMANCE IN THE FIELD. UKZN RANKED FOURTH IN SOUTH AFRICA, AFTER THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN, THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND AND STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY. THE SEVENTH ANNUAL US NEWS & WORLD REPORT BEST GLOBAL UNIVERSITIES RANKINGS COMPARE HOW UNIVERSITIES PERFORM GLOBALLY, PROVIDING INSIGHT FOR PROSPECTIVE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS LOOKING TO STUDY ABROAD. THE 2021 BEST GLOBAL UNIVERSITIES RANKINGS ARE BASED ON DATA AND METRICS PROVIDED BY CLARIVATE, A RESEARCH AND ANALYTICS FIRM.

UKZN TIED FOR #332 IN THE WORLD'S TOP UNIVERSITIES IN THE 2021 US NEWS & WORLD REPORT'S BEST GLOBAL UNIVERSITIES RANKINGS, WHICH MEASURE ACADEMIC RESEARCH PERFORMANCE, SUCH AS HIGHLY CITED RESEARCH PAPERS, AND THE GLOBAL AND REGIONAL REPUTATIONS OF NEARLY 1 500 OF THE WORLD'S TOP UNIVERSITIES FROM MORE THAN 80 COUNTRIES.

WORDS: RAYLENE CAPTAIN-HASTHIBEER, INDU MOODLEY AND NDABAONLINE




UKZN ALUMNI MAKE IT TO THE TOP 200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS LIST



A number of UKZN alumni are listed in the *Mail & Guardian's* prestigious Top 200 Young South Africans for 2020.



HEALTH



MS AFSANA KAJEE, (34)

Medical scientist
National Health Laboratory
Services

LINKEDIN: @AFSANA KAJEE

It seems as if every day we take the wonders of modern medicine for granted but, as the world is gripped by the COVID-19 pandemic, we're reminded of the need for talented researchers behind medical advancements. Minds like that of Ms Afsana Kajee, who works at the National Health Laboratory Services, the largest diagnostic pathology service in South Africa that supports the national and provincial health departments.

Kajee completed her Master's in medical science at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, overcoming many obstacles and trials.

"Do not limit yourself. You can be anything that you want as long as you stay passionate and dedicated to your goals," she says, adding that there is value in breaking big goals into smaller ones, which brings a better perspective and a sense of accomplishment.

Kajee wants to help humanity through science, and recognises that every small bit is a contribution, even if it is a failure. Having thick skin against criticism, failure and rejection is her recipe for success.

Kajee's career is littered with a host of acknowledgements of her work, among them when she was chosen from a group of the most promising local scientists to be trained by international scientists.

She is driven to excel by the satisfaction of making her mother proud. She hopes her research will translate into shorter diagnosis times for tuberculosis and finding the best treatment for TB using novel drugs that expose people to the least toxicity.

Scott Dodds | mg.co.za

COVID-19 HEROES EDITOR'S CHOICE



DR ANGELA HARTWIG, (34)

Medical doctor

During the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr Angela Hartwig was the only doctor on duty at Adelaide Hospital in the Eastern Cape. Though pregnant, she continued to treat patients and assist nurses — giving direction from afar, even after she tested positive for the virus — shortly before she gave birth. Now on maternity leave, she is very much still present, assisting telephonically wherever she can.

Her most memorable moment over this period? When the hospital staff came to stand outside her window with a message of support after she tested positive. Throughout this period, Hartwig was also working tirelessly behind the scenes: preparing the hospital for patients, and attempting to mitigate the spread within the clinic, as well as educating and motivating the hospital staff to help them cope during these difficult times.

"I want to not only inspire but empower people to bring change to their workplaces and communities, to know that everyone doing their part together can make a difference."

If her tenacity over the past few months hasn't left you feeling misty-eyed, perhaps her words of advice in the midst of trying times will. "Don't let yourself become frustrated by things out of your control: you may not be able to change the circumstances around you, but work to make a difference in the areas you can control. Do what you can with what you have, do it with joy, and don't feel bad about what you can't do."

Rosie Goddard | mg.co.za

COVID-19 HEROES EDITOR'S CHOICE



DR LIONEL DE GOUVEIA, (32)

Medical doctor

TWITTER: @LIONEL_DG

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



DR MZAMO SHOZI, (35)

Senior Lecturer
University of KwaZulu-Natal

TWITTER: @DOC_MZA

The staff of the small, rural Manguzi Hospital near Kosi Bay in KwaZulu-Natal has become skilled in caring for COVID-19 patients, thanks to dedicated professionals such as Dr Lionel de Gouveia.

It received its first case of the virus in March, when de Gouveia was already planning and implementing its pandemic response strategy. "I had to write the protocols for the nurses and clinics because the concept of a pandemic was strange to them," he says. Manguzi suffers the usual problems afflicting rural hospitals, but it was well equipped with protective equipment, as it was already the district's specialist isolation centre for diseases such as Ebola.

De Gouveia arrived for his community service in 2015 and never left. "I'm very paediatric-centred, so you grow up with these children and become part of the family," he says.

He's a Grade 1 Medical Officer with additional diplomas in Paediatrics, HIV and Family Medicine. He was already taking a diploma in Tropical Medicine when COVID-19 struck. "Now the thing I'm studying is the thing I'm dealing with every day," he says.

De Gouveia expanded the hospital's four-bed isolation unit to include 24 adult beds, 20 beds for patients under investigation and eight paediatric isolation beds.

He also ensured the medical teams were trained to screen, test and manage COVID-19 patients and implemented proper record keeping for test results and contact tracing. He worked with community testing teams to test, teach and allay anxiety, and is a constant source of up-to-date information.

His responsibilities also include manning the Respiratory/Fever Clinic, overseeing suspected and positive COVID-19 patients, and liaising with the National Institute for Communicable Diseases and other hospitals that refer COVID-19 patients to Manguzi.

His mother is a microbiologist managing a COVID-19 laboratory at the NCID, so medical expertise runs in the family.

Lesley Stones | mg.co.za

Not many people even know what catalysis and organometallic chemistry are, but Dr Mzamo Shozi is an expert in the field, and his knowledge will help push us into a green energy future.

His work involves the conversion of sugar alcohols found in plants to valuable chemicals used in the fuel industry.

This wasn't what Shozi first decided to learn: he applied to study Medicine at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. But when he was accepted, he turned it down and decided to study Chemistry instead.

"Over the years, I came to realise that my passion was actually Chemistry, which saw me progress all the way to a PhD. I had only wanted to do Medicine because it is one of the more sought-after degrees."

In 2018, Shozi was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to conduct research at the University of California in the United States — a long way away from where he grew up in Umlazi, KwaZulu-Natal.

He says: "I grew up in a township, and I guess I see myself as one of the examples of 'it doesn't matter where you come from'. You can be what you want to be when you work hard for it."

Shozi says the future South Africa he wants to see is one in which "young, Black candidates in the fields of STEM [science, technology, engineering and mathematics] are not only afforded more career opportunities, but are also taking up more senior positions".

To that end, he is working towards becoming a professor before he turns 40. "I know what is required of me to get there. So every day I'm driven to achieve this and continuously work towards it."

Sarah Smit | mg.co.za

CIVIL SOCIETY



MR JHONO BENNETT, (33)

Architect
1to1 - Agency of Engagement

TWITTER: @JHONOBENNETT

According to Murphy's Law, anything that can go wrong, will go wrong and Mr Jhono Bennett and his fellow students learned that lesson the hard way. In 2010, led by the Slovo Park Community Development Forum (SPCDF), Bennett, his colleagues and a group of Slovo Park residents spent a university term upgrading an abandoned 1994 voting structure into a co-designed multi-function community resource as part of their final year in architectural studies.

Weeks later, alongside the Slovo Hall build team that included Jacqueline Cuyler and SPCDF leader Mohau Melani, Bennett founded the non-profit design-led social enterprise: 1to1 – Agency of Engagement. The organisation aims to support the various grassroots and national level forces that are addressing the post-1994 symptoms of spatial inequality in South Africa through socio-technical design support and projects.

Bennett says his practice works towards spatial justice and aims to critically address the legacy of apartheid spatial planning that deliberately kept South African society not only economically unequal, but spatially separate.

"I believe in the power of our urban spaces to address patterns, and provide a platform to develop new and inclusive patterns of sharing, making and growing together as a nation," he says.

Bennett is reading for his MPhil/PhD in architectural design at the University College London. He obtained his Bachelor of Architectural Studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and his Honours and Master's at the University of Pretoria.

Thando Maeko | mg.co.za

BUSINESS, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND TOURISM



MR KESHIN GOVENDER, (35)

Creative Director, Head of Strategic Initiatives at Siemens

TWITTER: @KESHINGOVENDER

His growing list of accomplishments is impressive on its own, but it's his drive and forward-thinking that make Berlin-based Mr Keshin Govender stand out. His job as Creative Director, Head of Strategic Initiatives at German multinational conglomerate Siemens brings with it the unique ability and responsibility to shape the future — not only through the ways technology is used, but also through the transformation of Siemens' content from a global perspective.

Govender is among a growing number of South Africans working in markets overseas but in an age where a global perspective is paramount to business success, the unique worldview and experience offered by talent from Africa is becoming more valuable.

Early in his career, he realised that it's difficult to make a positive contribution by maintaining the status quo or only speaking when spoken to: "To reinvent my environment I needed to bring diversity of thought and action to the boardroom," Govender says.

The lessons learned in a cutthroat office environment informed him of the things that needed changing, both about the world of business and his personal development. He believes that by avoiding the trap of seeking perfection or validation, people give themselves continuous opportunities to learn. He suggests, "acknowledge that what you know today is not as much as what you will know tomorrow".

Speaking of tomorrow and shaping the future, Govender grasps the responsibility he has in sowing the seeds for a better world in which his daughter can grow up. "My hope is that the South African spirit of collective wellbeing and inventiveness is unleashed for the world to learn from. We have more to offer the world than we realise."

Scott Dodds | mg.co.za

HEALTH



MS MALANGU BLOSE, (32)

PhD candidate (Immunology)
University of the Witwatersrand

INSTAGRAM: @MABLOSE_2_
FACEBOOK: @MALANGUBLOSE

Asked what her biggest surprise has been on her personal journey, Ms Malangu Blose says, "Being a PhD candidate was never really part of the plan. So I could say that that on its own has been quite the surprise for me." Blose's surprise will benefit the Medical community when she completes her research into vaccine-induced immunity from HIV.

Blose started as a National Research Foundation intern at the University of the Witwatersrand, where she attained her MSc degree in biochemistry and cell biology. She subsequently worked as a research associate in multiple research projects involving stillbirth, and child and maternal health at the Respiratory and Meningeal Pathogens Research Unit at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital and Royal Bafokeng Yeast Project.

Her current research aims to provide insight into vaccinating schedules for HIV-exposed individuals to ensure long-term vaccine induced protection. This study seeks to fill a knowledge gap in South Africa on the importance of vaccinating teenagers and infants infected by or exposed to HIV.

She says, "It is my wish that our health system can get to a point where effective vaccines offering long term protection are available. The world is currently fighting a pandemic and the search for SARS-Cov-2 vaccines is high at the moment. I hope that through our work, working together with other departments, South Africa as a country can be better equipped to improve the quality of life by improving immunity."

One would assume her proudest memory would be a recent one. Instead, she takes us back to school, saying: "(Winning) the first prize for a Maths Olympiad back in Grade 8. The look on my grandma's face as I went up on stage to receive my award was priceless."

Max Dylan Lazarus | mg.co.za

BUSINESS, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND TOURISM



MR PHILANI POTWANA, (32)

Chief Executive Officer
First National Bank (FNB)

LINKEDIN: @PHILANIPOTWANA

Mr Philani Potwana is the person to thank for giving people the ability to withdraw money from their bank accounts without using their bank cards. The cardless cash withdrawal system led to FNB being named the most innovative bank in the world in 2012.

Having led the team that came up with the innovation, Potwana says he learned one of his most important lessons, "acknowledging the team of people around me and that we are stronger together".

He started his career at FNB straight after completing his Bachelor's degree at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and was chosen for the bank's graduate programme. At the age of 20, he was appointed as a trainee systems analyst.

Potwana is FNB's youngest chief executive and looks after the bank's feeder base of customers earning up to R120 000 a year. He believes that growing up in the rural Eastern Cape puts him in the best position to understand the needs of the bank's customers. "We have an incredible opportunity to educate and help them with their finances. This is not just a job for me," he says.

He is interested in development and imparting financial management principles to consumers, and mentors learners in Alexandra, Johannesburg.

Thando Maeko | mg.co.za

ENVIRONMENT



MS PRESHANTHIE NAICKER-MANICK, (34)

Deputy Director
South African Department of
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries

TWITTER: @PRESHANTHIEN
LINKEDIN: PRESHANTHIENAICKER-
MANICK

"Striking a balance and integration of my intelligence, spiritual and emotional quotient has been very important to me," says Ms Preshanthie Naicker-Manick. The deputy director at the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries also has her hands full as a mother and a Master's candidate in environmental microbiology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Naicker-Manick credits her experience as a mother for augmenting her already established and extensive academic experience. "Being a leader is an innate trait for me. However, being a mom has shaped me to create my leadership blueprint based on the principles of self-confidence and empathy," she explains. The balance that she's established allows her to use her life experiences and advanced knowledge in sciences to provide a service for the benefit of all life forms. Spiritual experiences are vital for a well-rounded self, and have allowed her to establish the direction of her spiritual compass.

"Being on pilgrimage in India with my parents, and singing Christmas carols with my guru has certainly been my proudest moment for my mind and soul," she says. "My spiritual experience during the pilgrimage has set my true North in my spiritual compass."

While a five-year plan is effective as a goal-oriented guide, Naicker-Manick suggests that living in the moment and riding the right wave can benefit your career and personal life in ways you might not expect. She believes it's her responsibility to serve South Africa through her knowledge and experience in the environmental and small business sector. Focusing on inclusive development for women, youth and those with disabilities gives Naicker-Manick the drive to excel, and ensures her impact will be felt across generations.

Scott Dodds | mg.co.za

HEALTH



DR SANDIKA BABOOLAL, (34)

Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon,
Lecturer, Researcher, PhD candidate,
Glaucoma Fellow, University of
KwaZulu-Natal

LINKEDIN: @SANDIKABABOOLAL

Dr Sandika Baboolal is a consultant ophthalmic surgeon, lecturer and PhD candidate, as well as the first South African to be accepted into the Glaucoma Fellowship at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London, a prestigious and internationally renowned institute in the field of eye care.

"Glaucoma is the leading cause of irreversible blindness globally and most severely affects those of African descent," Baboolal explains. "I was inspired to apply as a consultant in South Africa, treating advanced and complex glaucoma patients with limited options. There are no similar programmes offered in South Africa or on the African continent."

Most surgical fields are male-dominated, and ophthalmology is no different. Baboolal's presence as a researcher, practitioner, and teacher has inspired many other young women of colour to enter surgical specialisations, and she has directly helped many of them along their path. "My proudest moment is being able to return to my undergraduate university, ten years after I graduated with my first Medical degree, as a consultant ophthalmic surgeon and lecturer," Baboolal says. "This position helped me mentor other female surgeons of colour en route to becoming specialist eye surgeons. It is not an easy road."

Upon her return from the fellowship in London, Baboolal aims to work on improving the academic and clinical resources for surgical trainees. She also hopes to work in the public sector, saying: "With the skills learnt, I also aim to improve the outcomes of advanced and complex glaucoma patients, helping to more effectively preserve their sight." What drives her to work so hard? "Being able to make a meaningful contribution to the lives of others through striving to heal, being kind, mentoring and inspiring definitely drive me towards excellence."

James Nash | mg.co.za

EDUCATION



MR SICELO BHENGU, (33)

Senior Deputy Headmaster
Southdowns College**LINKEDIN:** @SICELOBHENGU

Mr Sicelo Bhengu was deputy head prefect of a prestigious school and, naturally, when he matriculated there were expectations about his career choice. It came as a disappointment to some when he chose teaching. This did not deter him from fulfilling his purpose and doing what he is passionate about. Today, Bhengu is Deputy Headmaster at one of the most prestigious schools in the country, Southdowns College.

His wish is for young people to take their education seriously. His belief in education as a tool to unlock one's potential was why he co-founded Linking Notes in 2011, a finishing school that helps young people to improve their matric results. In 2015, he also co-founded Catholic Youth Development, which fundraises to pay the registration fees of young people wishing to study at university.

"To a person younger than me: choose a career that you are passionate about and not one that people believe is the right fit for you ... Don't let expectations from the people around you deter you from fulfilling your purpose," he says.

After all, if Bhengu had dwelled on others' disapproval of his career choice he would have ended up in a job that he did not like and would be miserable. He says even though he is confident that he has worked hard to be where he is, the biggest surprise of his career is holding such a senior management role at a relatively young age, in an environment where he thought all obstacles were against him. Bhengu is currently completing his Master's degree in Leadership and Policy Education at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Bongekile Macupe | mg.co.za

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



DR SULAIMAN SALEEM PATEL, (26)

Senior Analyst in Emerging
Technology
KPMG South Africa**LINKEDIN:** @SULAIMANPATEL

Dr Sulaiman Patel says that being one of the youngest ever doctoral graduates in electronic engineering from the University of KwaZulu-Natal counts as a proud but humbling moment. What made the moment more special was seeing how his achievements were inspiring and motivating his community.

Thinking of himself as representing more than himself but also his family, community and religion is something that gives Patel the motivation to excel.

Getting to where he is wasn't an easy journey but Patel had support and encouragement from the people around him. At the end of his Master's, he experienced personal problems but, with support from his supervisor, he was able to produce work that was presented at a conference in Europe. His paper also received an award at the conference.

"Knowing the personal challenges that I had to overcome, receiving this award was both the biggest surprise of my career and one of my proudest moments," he says.

One of the things Patel has learned is to never be afraid of making mistakes. He believes mistakes should be used as opportunities to grow and improve.

Patel doesn't just want to use what he knows to get ahead for himself, but to make a difference in the world.

"I believe that technology is the greatest tool for uplifting our country, which has really been highlighted during the national lockdown," he says.

Fatima Moosa | mg.co.za

OPINION

THE SCOTTSVILLE CARBIS ROAD JAMAAT KHANA/ISLAMIC CENTRE A STUDENT-LED INITIATIVE

“The establishment and growth of the Islamic centre/Jamaat Khana for Muslim students on the Pietermaritzburg campus.”

In 1984, I started my Bachelor of Arts/ Law degree at the University of Natal, Natal (now UKZN), on the Pietermaritzburg campus. At the time, there were very few Muslim students due to apartheid regulations. The rules were just starting to be relaxed, which is how some Muslim students were able to enrol at what had been a Whites-only institution.

On arrival, we found the Muslim Students Association (MSA) already in operation. It was led by committed members who were active in supporting the cause of Muslim students in an environment not well-served in religious diversity.

One of the students' most fundamental needs was to find a venue for the weekly Friday prayer. At our first Friday prayer, we found that the MSA had secured a room that also housed the Student Representative Council (SRC) offices, canteen, main hall for events, and radio station; a noisy environment not conducive to prayer. At that stage, we were few in number. Following representations by the MSA, we were given a venue close to the Drama Department, a small room that was more peaceful. We appreciated the willingness of the University authorities and the SRC to accommodate our needs.

The number of Muslim students grew as the years progressed. Given that our senior leaders would soon be leaving the University, a new group was required to lead the MSA. In 1986, I was elected to lead the MSA together with a highly committed committee. This proved to be one of the most educational periods of my university life.

One of my first aims was to establish an Islamic centre/Jamaat Khana for Muslim students at the University. We explored the idea of buying a house for this purpose. This would require that we raise substantial funds from the community. We also sought the advice of Muslim community lawyers, consultants and Imams. In addition, we had to identify a Muslim who was designated 'White' who would be willing to undertake such a project as the Group Areas Act limited the sale of property to people of the 'White' race group in that area.

However, most importantly, as it was a student-led project, we had to garner the support of fellow Muslim students.

Ultimately, the realisation of our dream was dependant on the vision that it was a project that catered for a few at the time but would fulfil the needs of many in the future. This was not an easy task during the dark days of apartheid.

Armed with faith and vision, the plan began to unfold, with a property being identified at 15b Carbis Road in Scottsville, in the immediate vicinity of the University.

The MSA executive committee formed a working group with prominent members of the Muslim community. Golam Moosa from Willowton Oil agreed to provide some financial support, with the remainder of the funds to be raised. This entailed us walking the streets and visiting individual community members at their places of business in Church and Retief Streets.

Under the guidance of our accountant, Ahmed Saeed Mulla, we were able to manage the financial side of things, while our lawyer, Faisal Mulla, helped us to attend to the legal issues. Of great importance was obtaining the blessing of a prominent Imam. Moulana Murchie recognised our vision that would benefit the present and future Muslim community in the area.

The Pietermaritzburg University Jamaat Khana (Pty) Ltd was created to purchase the property and Dr Abdus Samad Miller, a French lecturer at the University agreed to be its 'White' nominee.

Once all the important role-players had agreed to the plan, everything proceeded smoothly and the property at 15b Carbis Road was purchased in 1989 for R102 000.

On the evening of the opening of the Jumaat Khana/Islamic Centre, residents in the Carbis Road area threatened to call the police to prevent the house from being used as an Islamic centre and house of prayer. However, we had done our homework thoroughly and considered all the legal aspects and their action failed. The opening was an enormously satisfying event for all the role-players. It is noteworthy that 7 July 2020 marked 70 years since the Group Areas Act was passed. It was officially repealed on 30 June 1991 by means of the Abolition of Racially Based Land Measures Act.

Many people whose names I have not mentioned or remembered contributed to the creation and continued success of this project. They include local heroes and visionaries of the great city and people of Pietermaritzburg and alumni of the University, as well as leaders and members of the MSA.

This article is small testimony to their actions which are often forgotten



as at that time there were no cellphones or Facebook to capture the moments that make life meaningful.

In many ways, my life as a South African diplomat was shaped and guided by my experiences at the University of Natal through the exchange and tolerance of diverse views and the creation of an Islamic centre that reflects the values and ethos that give effect to the Quranic verse that is so relevant today: "O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know each other (not that you may despise each other)."

Through 15b Carbis Road, we undertook to serve our fellow students and the broader Pietermaritzburg community.

In time, the Jumaat Khana in Carbis Road became a centre of learning; a place to promote gender equality and women's rights; a place to house cultural exhibitions; a counselling and social centre; a place of mediation and prayer; a place to plan demonstrations against apartheid and undertake humanitarian mission; and a place to break the fast during Ramadan.

The message conveyed through the Jamaat Khana to the University, the broader community of Pietermaritzburg and the congregation, is that the MSA is dedicated to a future in which all are equal and in which a person's character and not race, religion or gender is the determining factor. It began to represent a new South Africa before the Rainbow Nation was born, and served to remind us that we share a common humanity.

Many of us found our true spiritual home at the Carbis Road Jumaat Khana. Today, it consists of the original property together with three other plots that were consolidated with the original one. The total area is now 3 151 square metres and the Jumaat Khana serves more than 200 families from the surrounding areas. It is managed by a new generation of individuals under the Scottsville Muslim Society, some of whom also studied at my prestigious *alma mater*. The hope is that all who pray, visit and reside at the Jamaat Khana in Carbis Road continue to find a special spiritual place.

Advocate Mohamed Cassimjee, Minister Plenipotentiary at the South African Embassy in Berlin.

PHOTO: MOEKETSI MAMANE



UKZN NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

CLINICAL VIROLOGIST APPOINTED HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Newly-appointed Head of Virology in UKZN's School of Laboratory Medicine and Medical Sciences, Dr Nokukhanya Msomi aims to take the Discipline to new heights when it comes to research excellence, and increase its visibility. She believes that this will be achieved by forging strong collaborations nationally and internationally.

Msomi has a wealth of experience and training in HIV management and her research has been published in peer-reviewed scientific journals. She is currently completing her PhD on the evolution of the Hepatitis B virus and its variants.

WORDS: LIHLE SOSIBO



Dr Nokukhanya Msomi.



Fallen music legend, Dr Bhekizizwe Joseph Shabalala.

UKZN MOURNS DR JOSEPH SHABALALA'S PASSING

UKZN joined South Africa, Africa and the rest of the world in mourning the death of Bhekizizwe Joseph Shabalala – the legendary musician and founding member of multiple Grammy award-winning vocal group, Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

Shabalala had close connections with UKZN. He was an Honorary Professor of Music at the University in the early 1990s. In 2004, Ladysmith Black Mambazo and the late Lebo M delivered a soul stirring performance at the installation of Dr Frene Ginwala, the first Chancellor of UKZN, and Professor Malegapuru Makgoba, the University's first Vice-Chancellor and Principal. In 2010, the Institution awarded Shabalala an Honorary Doctorate in Music for his distinguished contributions to the advancement of South African music.

WORDS: GREG DARDAGAN



UKZN NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

ALUMNUS COMPLETES FULBRIGHT TEACHING ASSISTANT PROGRAMME

School of Education alumnus, Mr Mboniseni Dlamini, completed a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Scholarship programme in the United States. He received a Fulbright grant based on academic and professional achievements, as well as leadership potential.

A qualified English teacher, Dlamini served as a teaching assistant at Pennsylvania University and took language courses at the university. While in the US, he shared his language (isiZulu) and culture with local communities as well as being a cultural ambassador, encouraging Americans to travel to and study in South Africa.

WORDS: MELISSA MUNGROO



UKZN alumnus, Mr Mboniseni Dlamini.



Some of the UKZN COVID-19 team members. Back from left: Professor Saloshni Naidoo, Dr Lilishia Gounder, Dr Velile Ngidi, Dr Saajida Mahomed, and Sr Jabu Hlophe. Front from left: Sr Nozipho Jali, Professor Mosa Moshabela, Dr Richard Lessells, and Sr Jane Taylor.

UKZN LAUNCHES FIRST COVID-19 UNIVERSITY INTERVENTION IN AFRICA

UKZN launched a ground-breaking Campus Health “War Room” in March 2020 to support international efforts to fight the deadly COVID-19 outbreak.

The University created an email address: covid19@ukzn.ac.za and the hashtag: #ukzncovid19 for staff and student queries related to the pandemic. A hotline was established to communicate with its stakeholders about the virus and a leaflet on the virus, its symptoms and where to get help was circulated among staff and students.

The University’s College of Health Sciences, headed by its Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Busisiwe Ncama, instituted large-scale high level surveillance, prevention and response measures.

WORDS: NDABAONLINE



UKZN NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

UNP ALUMNI FOR DIGNITY LAUNCHED

A group of friends, patriots and alumni of UKZN have formed a not-for-profit company, UNP Alumni for Dignity NPC to pool resources and skills to make a positive contribution to addressing the challenges confronting South Africa.

UNP was the fond nickname of the Pietermaritzburg campus when these alumni attended the University in the late '80s and early '90s.

Speaking on behalf of the group, Ms Mpume Nyandu said that the company's mission is to "contribute meaningfully to the sustainable development of UKZN, its underprivileged students and the feeder communities surrounding it." Funds to the tune of R100 000 were raised at the launch and the group is confident it will raise sufficient funds to implement a high-impact programme of action.

WORDS: RAYLENE CAPTAIN-HASTHIBER



UKZN Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Nana Poku, receiving a token of appreciation from Ms Mpume Nyandu.



INFORMATION ON COVID-19

THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE OUTBREAK CONTINUES TO SPREAD AROUND THE WORLD. UKZN CONTINUES TO MAKE SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF ITS STAFF AND STUDENTS A PRIORITY BY TAKING ACTIVE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE IN THE UNIVERSITY FEELS INFORMED AND SUPPORTED.

UKZN ESTABLISHES HARDSHIP FUND

As South Africa and the rest of the world continued to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, the University launched the UKZN Hardship Fund which aims to address food insecurity and menstrual hygiene among students and staff. Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Nana Poku, was the first to contribute, pledging a third of his monthly salary for the next three months. He called on all UKZN stakeholders including staff, students, suppliers, service providers, funders, alumni, the donor community, friends of the University and other loyal stakeholders to contribute.

WORDS: NDABAONLINE



UKZN NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

PROFESSOR OFFERS FREE MATHS TUTORIALS THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

School of Accounting, Economics and Finance academic, Professor Msizi Mkhize and his son, Commerce Master's student, Mr Siphesihle Mkhize, used Facebook to share their Mathematics study material and solutions with the country's Grade 12 pupils during the COVID-19 national lockdown.

The user-friendly maths solutions prepared in a step-by-step method enabled Grade 12 learners to practice at home during the lockdown.

Mkhize's use of innovative and creative Mathematics and Accounting teaching and learning strategies earned him a 2019 Excellence in Teaching and Learning Award from the Higher Education Learning and Teaching Association of Southern Africa.

WORDS: THANDIWE JUMO



UKZN academic, Professor Msizi Mkhize.



Professor Suna Kassier.

LINK BETWEEN COVID-19 AND OBESITY EXPLAINED

Professor Suna Kassier of the Discipline of Dietetics and Human Nutrition at UKZN offered insight into the role obesity plays in the COVID-19 pandemic, providing advice to people on how to keep their spirits up and weight down during the lockdown.

She explained that obesity is associated with an increased risk of developing non-communicable diseases including Type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, high blood pressure, a stroke and asthma. Type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure weaken the immune system, and this viral infection could send blood pressure levels soaring, making it fatal in patients with existing hypertension.

Contracting a respiratory illness such as COVID-19 would also put the respiratory systems of obese patients under significant strain.

WORDS: CHRISTINE CUÉNOD



UKZN NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

UKZN PARTNERS TO BOOST KZN COVID-19 TESTING

The College of Health Sciences handed over 10 mobile COVID-19 testing clinics to the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health.

The handover - at KwaZulu-Natal's Disaster Management Centre in Durban - was done with University partners in the project: the Aurum Institute through its subsidiary Global Health Innovations, as well as corporate sponsors: Nedbank, Spar Group, and Chroma Capital.

The clinics have equipment and trained staff to test an average of 120 to 150 people during a six-hour day. The testing is completely free of charge to the community.

WORDS: MARYANN FRANCIS



At the handover of the mobile clinics. From left is UKZN's Campus Health "War Room" Head, Professor Mosa Moshabela; KZN Premier, Mr Sihle Zikalala; Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of UKZN's Health Sciences College, Professor Busisiwe Ncama; and KZN Health MEC, Ms Nomagugu Simelane-Zulu.



Professor Evariste Bosco Gueguim Kana. On the right are CXR images of (from left) a healthy individual, other viral or bacterial pneumonia, and a COVID-19 positive patient.

PROFESSOR COLLABORATES ON DIAGNOSTIC TOOL FOR COVID-19

Academic Leader for Research and Higher Degrees in the School of Life Sciences, Professor Evariste Bosco Gueguim Kana collaborated with researchers in South Africa, Nigeria, Cameroon and the UNESCO regional office for Southern Africa to develop a web-based diagnostic tool for COVID-19 which employs machine learning to detect evidence of COVID-19 on chest radiographs (CXR).

The method could provide much-needed decision support for radiologists and clinicians tackling the pandemic.

The system, freely accessible online, is intended to help where there is a lack of available medical expertise and high demand for swift results to determine a diagnosis.

WORDS: CHRISTINE CUÉNOD



UKZN NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

“SHAPERSCARE” DISTRIBUTES HAMPERS TO NEEDY DURING NATIONAL LOCKDOWN

The Durban hub of the Global Shapers Community - an initiative of the World Economic Forum staffed by UKZN students, alumni and others - spearheaded a COVID-19 response campaign dubbed “ShapersCare” to distribute food and hygiene hampers to the most vulnerable within eThekweni Municipality during the national lockdown.

This initiative, which included partners the Domino Foundation, the Durban Chamber of Commerce and the Disaster Management team of eThekweni Municipality, aimed to deliver about 100 000 food and hygiene hampers to augment the food supply of the vulnerable whose livelihoods were badly affected by the lockdown.

WORDS: NDABAONLINE



Global Shapers, staff of the Domino Foundation and representatives of the Durban Chamber of Commerce at the delivery drop-off in Clermont, Durban.



Student and animated film maker, Ms Kayleigh Gemmell.

ARTS STUDENT’S ANIMATED MOVIE PREMIERS AT INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

The Next Few Months – an animated film by Master of Arts student, Ms Kayleigh Gemmell premiered at the first virtual Anney International Animation Film Festival in France.

Anney is a competition for animated films of various techniques, including animated drawings, cut-out papers, modelling clay and computer generated imagery.

The film - among four selected from South Africa - is the practical component of Gemmell’s Master’s thesis in Digital Art and Animation Studies on the topic of animated documentaries and whether they can be considered viable forms through which to represent documentary narratives. It is a highly personal animated documentary dealing with the after-effects of terminal illness, more specifically, on Gemmell’s father’s cancer diagnosis and treatment from the perspectives of those closest to him.

It can be viewed on video platform Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/368453877>

WORDS: MELISSA MUNGROO



UKZN NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

SCIENTISTS WARN AGAINST ANTIBIOTICS USE IN COVID-19 TREATMENT

Healthcare providers treating COVID-19 patients have been urged to be prudent in prescribing antibiotics because of the danger of increasing resistance to treatment.

The call was made by UKZN's Professor Sabiha Essack, who is the South African Research Chair in Antibiotic Resistance and One Health, and collaborating scientists, Dr Ariel Blocker of France and Dr Maarten van Dongen of The Netherlands.

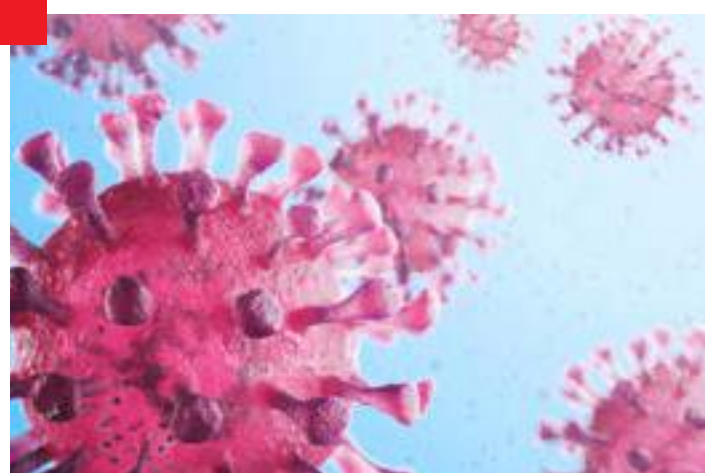
The three, who are part of the international Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Insights Ambassador Network, expressed concern about inappropriate use of antibiotics to treat COVID-19 patients, which can lead to antibiotic resistance.

According to the WHO, "Antibiotics do not work against viruses, only bacteria. Since the new COVID-19 is a virus, antibiotics should not be used as means of treatment or prevention."

WORDS: MARYANN FRANCIS



From left: Professor Sabiha Essack, Dr Ariel Blocker and Dr Maarten van Dongen.



A stock image of the coronavirus.

MEDICAL STUDENTS RESPOND TO COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19/SARS-Cov-2 pandemic, the final-year Medical class at the Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine formed an Anti-COVID-19 group.

Recommendations were made around community education and raising awareness. Some group members also expressed willingness to be part of ward-based caregiver teams to help explain the concepts of hygiene and social distancing to communities using pictures, illustrations, art and media.

The group was also approached by the Human Sciences Research Council to participate in national public surveys in relation to COVID-19. Seventy-seven UKZN students were trained and conducted telephonic interviews in partnership with students from other South African universities.

WORDS: LIHLE SOSIBO



UKZN NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

UKZN SECURES COVID-19 RAPID TESTER

UKZN's College of Health Sciences secured an advanced instrument, the ILEX Genechecker (ultra-fast pcr) valued at \$10 000 to conduct rapid testing for COVID-19.

The instrument was donated by Gift of the Givers following a request by UKZN researchers: Professor Anil Chuturgoon, Dr Veron Ramsuran and Dr Lorna Madurai. The latter is a collaborator in the COVID-19 testing platform.

This instrument was handed over to UKZN on 25 June and was placed at the Microbiology Laboratory on the Howard College campus, a laboratory facility used for testing for COVID-19.

WORDS: LIHLE SOSIBO



From left: Professor Anil Chuturgoon, Dr Veron Ramsuran and Dr Lungi Mkhize-Kwitshana with the ILEX equipment.



Mr Sazi Nxumalo, one of 17 UKZN students who are part of the Numeric Distance Learning Project.

UKZN STUDENTS SUPPORT DISTANCE LEARNING PROJECT

The Numeric Distance Learning Project attracted 17 UKZN Education students who offered their teaching services and knowledge for high-impact after-school Mathematics programmes aimed at primary school learners in Gauteng, the Western Cape, and KwaZulu-Natal.

Numeric is a public benefit organisation and a community engagement partner with the School of Education, which helps young South Africans excel in mathematics and also trains teachers.

"Given the national lockdown and not being able to meet with our learners face-to-face, we implemented an innovative distance learning solution powered by low-data technology whereby we were able to reach about 1 550 of our learners across the country through WhatsApp groups, Facebook, and SMS," said Numeric CEO, Ms Kristen Thompson.

WORDS: MELISSA MUNGROO



UKZN NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

CURRENT AND FORMER PUBLIC PROTECTORS TEAM UP TO DELIVER WEBINAR

Improving the reporting skills of African Ombudsmen and their staff was the focus of a webinar hosted by the African Ombudsman Research Centre (AORC) which is based at UKZN.

Attended by more than 700 participants, the webinar was facilitated by South Africa's Public Protector and African Ombudsman and Mediators' Association (AOMA) President, Advocate Busisiwe Mkhwebane and featured a presentation by AORC Founding Chairperson and Former Public Protector, Professor Thuli Madonsela. It was the first in a series of planned webinars aimed at enhancing the capacity of African Ombudsmen across the continent to prepare persuasive reports and contribute to the development of skilled resources within Ombudsman institutions.

WORDS: LUNGILE NGUBELANGA



Advocate Busisiwe Mkhwebane (left) and Professor Thuli Madonsela.



UKZN alumna, Dr Anuschka Coovadia.

ALUMNUS SPEARHEADS COVID-19 HOTLINE

UKZN alumna, Dr Anuschka Coovadia spearheaded a national medical support hotline: Doctors on Call to assist South Africans as the number of COVID-19 cases spiked.

Four hundred and fifty doctors provided free healthcare services to more than 40 000 people and ran an awareness campaign on COVID-19 which reached over 10 million.

This joint initiative by the KwaZulu-Natal Doctors Healthcare Coalition, Usizo Advisory Solutions and learning system app Vula involved a call centre helpline, and support for the rollout of a free testing programme.

WORDS: LUNGILE NGUBELANGA



UKZN NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

YOUNG UKZN ALUMNUS EXCELS IN THE OPTOMETRY WORLD

UKZN alumnus, Ms Duduzile Sibisi owns two optometry practices at the tender age of 25.

Sibisi, who grew up in the rural KwaZulu-Natal town of Dannhauser, completed her studies on the Westville campus in 2016. She now owns Sibisi Optometrists at Tugela Ferry and co-owns Central Medical Centre in Pietermaritzburg which was established last year.

Sibisi said when she started studying optometry she did not know much about the profession - and had never even had an eye test! "Because it seemed an interesting career at the time I took it on."

Apart from her business, the Centre's rooms are occupied by an occupational therapist, a physiotherapist, a social worker, a dietician and a clinical psychologist.

WORDS: NOMBUSO DLAMINI



UKZN alumnus, Ms Duduzile Sibisi.



Psychiatry Registrar, Dr Thejini Naidoo.

HIGH LEVELS OF BURNOUT, ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION AMONGST KZN DOCTORS

A study by UKZN's Dr Thejini Naidoo, a Psychiatry Registrar based at King Edward VIII Hospital, found a high prevalence of burnout, anxiety and depression amongst Medical doctors in KwaZulu-Natal.

The study, which was conducted in five public sector training hospitals in KZN, formed part of her Master of Medicine specialising in Psychiatry.

Of the 150 participants, 88 screened positive for burnout indicated by emotional exhaustion or depersonalisation. A fifth also screened positive for anxiety and depressive symptoms.

Organisational factors found to contribute to burnout included a lack of clinical supervisor support and hospital resources, particularly in resource constrained training hospitals.

Individual and organisational factors associated with burnout included work stress and anxiety; balancing work and personal life; long working hours; high workloads; poor working conditions; public system-related frustrations; insufficient vacation time; inadequate equipment; poor management support and low work satisfaction.

WORDS: MARYANN FRANCIS



UKZN NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

ALUMNUS DONATES ROYALTIES TO 2 000 VULNERABLE FAMILIES

House musician and UKZN alumnus, Mr Zakes Bantwini visited Ubuntu Pathways in Port Elizabeth's Zwide Township to hand over his donation of royalties from his collaboration with global American Singer Lauv in which Bantwini remixed the *Modern Loneliness* single.

Ubuntu Pathways is a non-profit organisation that provides a transformative support system to 2 000 vulnerable children and their families in Port Elizabeth townships.

WORDS: MELISSA MUNGROO



UKZN alumnus, Mr Zakes Bantwini.



UKZN alumnus, Mrs Siphokazi Pearl Mahapa.

ALUMNUS SHINES IN OPTOMETRY WORLD

Bachelor of Optometry alumnus, Mrs Siphokazi Pearl Mahapa owns two optometry practices in Gauteng's suburbs of Randburg and Midrand... and plans to open more!

Mahapa, who grew up in Pietermaritzburg, completed her studies on UKZN's Westville campus in 2009. She is the owner of Visioneyes Optometrist which offers holistic eye care services.

WORDS: NOMBUSO DLAMINI



UKZN NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

ALUMNUS OPENS PRIMARY HEALTHCARE PRACTICE

Alumnus, Dr Amanda Zondo has opened a private healthcare practice, Fema Medica, in Hillcrest near Durban.

Zondo, who has a passion for assisting the community, also offers her services at a baby wellness clinic in Ntshanga run by the 1 000 Hills Community Helpers and works three afternoons a week with substance abusers at Newlands Park Care Centre.

WORDS: NOMBUSO DLAMINI



UKZN alumnus, Dr Amanda Zondo.



UKZN academics with taxi industry role-players.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST GBV IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT

In collaboration with the Ayanda Msweli Foundation, the Commission for Gender Equality and the minibus taxi industry, UKZN launched a campaign against gender-based violence in the transport industry at Durban West's Pinetown taxi rank.

The Phepha, Thembeka, Vikela Against Gender-Based Violence campaign aims to engage the taxi industry - associations, owners and drivers - as well as other key stakeholders to promote respectful and non-violent behaviour towards commuters; prevent sexual and gender-based violence and harassment, particularly manifestations of sexual violence; and promote gender equality and the safety of women and children within the taxi industry

WORDS: NOMBUSO DLAMINI



UKZN NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

UKZN HOSTS VIRTUAL GRADUATION CEREMONIES

In accordance with the national lockdown and social distancing regulations, UKZN hosted two virtual graduation ceremonies in 2020.

On 29 May, the University awarded 9 963 degrees - 6 505 to undergraduates and 3 458 to postgraduates. These included 414 master's and 228 doctoral graduands. Overall, 104 degrees were awarded *summa cum laude* and 270 *cum laude*. Female graduands continued to lead with 70% of the *summa cum laude* and 67 percent of the *cum laude* achievements.

Eighty students with disabilities graduated, including 31 postgraduates. There were 276 international graduands. The event was broadcast live on SABC3.

UKZN's virtual Spring Graduation ceremony took place on 30 October. A total of 1 781 degrees were conferred, including 1 004 undergraduates and 777 postgraduates. There were 483 master's (thesis) and 202 doctoral graduands.

As has been the trend in previous years, 57.7% of the graduands were women. Thirty-nine degrees were awarded *cum laude* and there were 15 graduands with disabilities, seven of whom completed postgraduate studies. A hundred and seventy-six international students graduated. □



In a previous UKZN Graduation ceremony, an elated Mandisa Mkhize celebrates as she walks the graduation stage.

THE LEGACY FUND

100

The Legacy Fund 100 is intended to leave a living legacy for the University to grow its infrastructure, improve teaching and learning spaces and to introduce a vibrant sporting and arts programme for generations to come.

The donor community are very specific with regard to the use of their donations to Higher Education Institutions. The bulk (>45%) of donations are intended for bursaries followed by research support, and community engagement. Teaching and learning and infrastructure development at UKZN receive less than 10% of donor income in an academic year.

The University does not receive large gifts of unrestricted donor funding which limits its ability to grow. Alumni are a very important source of unrestricted income which in the USA in 2018 accounted for 26% of donor income amounting to \$12.15 billion. Individual giving to South African Higher Education accounts for less than 3% of the donor income into the sector. Similarly, individual giving at UKZN accounted for 1% of income in 2019.

- The primary goal of the Legacy Fund 100 is to raise R100 million in five years
- The secondary goal is to raise steady income for the University thereafter

I appeal to each alumnus to sign a debit order of R100 per month for life. Your contribution will be invested in an endowment which will only be used once the primary goal has been reached. We need at least 17 000 alumni to reach the primary goal by the year 2026. Join your fellow alumni to promote the welfare of UKZN and its future generations of students by enabling greatness through your generosity and by recruiting alumni in your network to donate. Donations in South Africa do not go unrecognised. The UKZN Foundation will issue you with a tax certificate which you could submit to SARS for a tax rebate (subject to the terms and conditions of the prevailing income tax legislation).

Professor Anesh Singh

Executive Director: UKZN Foundation

“Alumni are a very important source of unrestricted income which in the USA in 2018 accounted for 26% of donor income amounting to \$12.15 billion.”

The UKZN Foundation is the fundraising arm of the University of KwaZulu-Natal. The Foundation is registered as a non-profit organisation (NPO) and public benefit organisation (PBO) and is run by a Board of Trustees. Its sole mandate is to raise funds for the multifarious activities of the University. To find out more about the Foundation and how you could make a difference at UKZN, visit our website at www.foundation.ukzn.ac.za

A UKZN STALWART

Well beyond retirement, former UKZN staff member and alumnus Dr Abdool Sataar Gani continues to contribute to the Institution.

Gani lectured at the University from 1979, mainly at the Graduate School of Business where he taught Operations Research and Decision Making, and is now occasionally involved in moderating research projects. He studied at the Transvaal College of Education, Johannesburg; University of Panjab in Lahore and the former University of Durban-Westville.

Gani, 84, of Isipingo Beach, said he enjoyed the academic environment and fellowship. The great great-grandfather was a recipient of an alumnus award for his contribution to the Graduate School of Business.

In a student survey on Gani's teaching quality, students described him as follows:

"He is the best! Better than the rest. ...a very pleasant and understanding lecturer."

"He is old, but he is very good, always comes prepared, willing to interact with us. He was very approachable."

Gani, who loves writing poetry, has published a book of prose and poetry, entitled: *Whisperings in the Mist*. In closing his teaching career, he penned a touching poem which reflects how transient his teaching life has been.

"An epoch adventure spanning over 50 years traversing schools, technikons, colleges, universities and industries, both here and overseas. The task given to me at the Graduate School of Business at UKZN, where I spent most of my teaching days was precise. I was to develop and deliver a course in Operations Research and Decision Sciences for the MBA programme, this mainly because of my previous studies in Mathematics and Physics, notwithstanding my limited knowledge of management," said Gani.

He added that the task was challenging. "The science of physics is presented to the world as an ideal science. It seems to fulfil all the criteria that make an enquiry scientific. Thus, it rests upon observation and experiment; all its terms are exhaustively defined, and it reaches its conclusions



Alumnus Dr Abdool Sataar Gani.

by the impeccable method of mathematical reasoning. It is a vastly mechanistic and intensive body of knowledge; a cultivated discipline with its quantitative and objective assessment of reality. It implores us to use our creative talents to extract concepts from worldly impressions and reduce them to generalisations and scientific laws so as to discover the natural order among physical systems. By contrast, the study of management is considerably more complex than I initially assumed. Real management problems are problems of a changing world where nothing ever happens twice."

“He is the best! Better than the rest. ...a very pleasant and understanding lecturer.”

An Equation Too Far

DR AS GANI TTLTD BSC MSC MBA DCOM

The morning dawns the birth of another day
 Rays of light like a magnetic pulse now stir my path
 A new raw cosmic presence unfolds
 It is a time for parting, the moment to say farewell
 Years have mellowed with what fate bestowed
 Earnest whisperings of love and service resonate
 Time has nurtured me to set my own clock
 These were rhythms that harmonised with my inner self
 And created a dimension to set my own pace

Life's pendulum oscillates between now and then
 Now assured by success now subdued by failure
 Shapes my very own geometry of stars and oceans
 A multitude of waves break into the shores of my destiny
 Oftentimes clouds of myth obscure the face of reality
 Failures, like wounds to embrace and heal
 Even lost my way a little; even roamed in empty spaces
 All are deeds like dynamic mosaics
 To explore the inner core of my beliefs
 To assess criticism, to value applause
 Yet not to be restrained by either
 They now conjure different images of my energy
 Yet forever resonate images of vanished days

My days of teaching are now done
 Always felt an overwhelming emotion
 In the presence of my students
 Always felt a compulsive urge
 To weave a harmonious web of interconnectedness
 Between myself, my students and my teachings
 Always to pour warmth and blood into the fruits of scholarship
 Always to be creative, give resurgence to our learning
 Always to guide my students to make their own synthesis
 Always to lace my offerings with humour and anecdote
 Together our efforts wriggled their way up
 We became wanderers in a world of reality
 Searched literature, listened to the learned and the wise

Heard great argument of this and that
 Harnessed emptiness to create the number zero
 To go beyond mental deliberations
 And understand the rhythmic expression of nature
 Engaged mathematics to crystallize concepts and theories
 For simplicity and comprehensiveness
 Explored the unfathomable mysteries of time and space
 Enlightenment emerged with each thrust
 Studied the universe from a grain of sand
 Found harmony from the very essence of love
 Created ventures from a simple twist of the mind
 Always an earnest desire to express ultimate reality in terms of energy
 Inspiring thoughts captured me, yet freed me from myself
 It matured insight, I found rudiments of truth
 From gazing through windows
 From images in mirrors
 To learn to equate thought with emotion

They were wondrous searches into the unknown
 To discover what lies above and beyond the heavens
 Yet my efforts remained timeless searches into the unknown
 Often conjured images of doubt and confusion
 I imparted knowledge that I never fully grasped
 I always needed to think the way I think
 Absolute truth still remains illusory

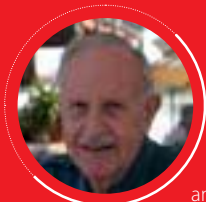
A divine cosmic presence now unfolds
 To repose and enter new dimensions of reality
 Yet again to rediscover my own centre of gravity
 Let bolder years now shape my destiny
 I carry into deed my own musings
 A divine cosmic presence now unfolds
 New thoughts to incite my native imagination
 Mould my faith with cosmic energy
 Now to create my own repose
 I retreat with humility; my work is done



Dr Gani delivered his last lecture at UKZN in 2018. He is one of the very few in South Africa who have a doctorate in Operations Research and Decision Sciences. □

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

1950s



DEON FOURIE

– BSOCSC '53

Deon is a professor of Strategic Studies at Unisa. Contemplating his next birthday, he thought of another that was important, his 21st when he was a final-year Bachelor's student in the 1950s at the University of Natal. Looking at the photo of his sherry party guests, he can see how mobility divided them; the guests are now spread all over the world. Deon took up an appointment in the diplomatic service then moved into law and finally to Unisa and married and raised a family in Pretoria. When he was in his twenties, he expected to maintain a cruising speed between the 20s and 30s and being as old as 40 never crossed his mind. He now cruises in his 80s.

Email: dfsfourie@lantic.net

1950s



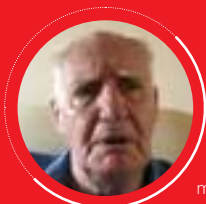
MALCOLM MITCHELL

– BSCENG(CIVIL) '56

Malcolm has fond memories of the then University of Natal and the Ansell May residence. Since then he has been awarded two doctorates, a D.Eng. at the University of Pretoria and a PhD at the University of Johannesburg, as well as an M. Admin at Unisa, and other lesser degrees, including studies in theology. He is a professional engineer with a career spanning 64 years in the public and private sectors. He has published more than 100 academic papers as well as a book on the history of roads in South Africa and has received numerous awards. He is currently mentoring young engineers and has assisted 23 to gain professional registration.

Email: mally2@vodamail.co.za

1950s



JACQUES VAN POPERING

– BSCENG(MECH)'59

Jacques commenced his working career at the Transvaal Roads Department in 1960 where he was involved in the maintenance and procurement of road building equipment as well as control of the more than 30 workshops across the Transvaal. He joined Roberts Construction (now Murray & Roberts) as a project engineer in 1964 and was subsequently promoted to project manager and project director. In 1994, he took early retirement and thereafter managed multidisciplinary upgrade projects including the automation and capacity doubling of the light (= petrol) blender in the Shell/BP refinery in Durban, the refurbishment, automation and capacity doubling of the road and rail tanker loading facilities of Shell/BP at Island View in Durban and the process pump replacements at Engen refinery in Durban. He has been fully retired since mid-1999. He has two sons and participated in golf, motor racing, sailing and Alpine skiing from 1960 until recently.

Email: jvanpope@gmail.com

1950s



CHARLES HUMPHREY

MULLER – BA '65

Charles MA (Wales), PhD (London), D.Lit (UFS), D.Ed (SA) obtained his BA degree from the University of Natal. He was professor and head of the department of English at the University of the North for 10 years, and senior lecturer in English at Unisa before that. He is the author of numerous academic textbooks and literary studies. Moving to Scotland in 1988, he founded his editing and publishing business, Diadem Books. He recently moved to Spain where he continues to write.

Email: charles@diadembooks.com

1960s

JENNIFER BERLINE

– BSC(CHEM & ZOOLOGY)'60

also has an MA in Cell and Molecular Biology (1987) from San Francisco State University. She taught Biology at a community college for eight years, and then got a job at the University of California Medical Center, San Francisco; where she worked for Dr Joel Palefsky as a research associate. His interest is human genital Papilloma Virus. Samples from all over the world were treated, amplified, blotted, probed, typed and sometimes sequenced. All techniques were new to her, and there was always more to learn! She is now retired and enjoys hiking in the parklands over the Golden Gate Bridge and taking art classes.

Email: jenny.berline@comcast.net

1960s



ELIZABETH BERRY

(NEÉ HUNN) – BA'68

Elizabeth went on a working holiday to the UK in 1969, where she married Englishman Ian in 1970. They have just celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary. They moved to Isle of Man in 1987. Liz is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and before her retirement she worked as a senior policy and legal adviser for the Financial Supervision Commission responsible for legislation introducing a regulatory regime for corporate and trust service providers.

Email: lizberry@manx.net

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

1970s

PETER D.E. BERTRAM

– BSC(AGRIC)'70

Peter worked for the Department of Research and Specialist Services in the Ministry of Agriculture of the then Rhodesian government for two years. In 1972, he transferred to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, served in Gutu and Sinoia, and became the district commissioner of Gokwe and Marandellas districts. Peter took early retirement in 1982 and studied at St Paul's Theological College, Grahamstown for two years. He was ordained in the Anglican Church in Harare in 1985 and served in Highlands, Mabelreign and Borrowdale parishes. He graduated from the University of Zimbabwe with a BA Hons (Religious Studies) in 1992. In 2005 he transferred to the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist, Limpopo in South Africa and served in Polokwane. In 2009 he became the pastor of the Hoedspruit Community Church, where he is still serving. He was awarded a Post-Graduate Diploma in Ancient Studies from Stellenbosch University in 2015.

Email: polo.dave@yahoo.com

1970s

ROY BALLANTYNE

– BA'73, BA(HONS)'74, HDE-PG'75, MA'81

Roy left UCT in 1990 to work in Brisbane, Australia. He recently retired although he still undertakes research work as an emeritus professor at the University of Queensland. He returns to South Africa often and works in the areas of 'visitor environmental behaviour change', 'ecotourism' and 'heritage and environmental interpretation' together with academic colleagues and friends working in SAAMBR and SANParks. He was recently appointed as a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa. Roy would welcome contact with past university friends and colleagues.

Email: r.ballantyne@uq.edu.au

1970s

ADRIAN FURNHAM

– BA'73, BA (HONS)'74, MA '75, DLIT'97



Adrian was a lecturer in Psychology at Pembroke College, Oxford, then professor of Psychology at University College London. He is now professor of Management at the Norwegian School of Management. He consults to organisations in various business sectors and many different countries. Adrian presents around a dozen keynote speeches a year to conferences across the world. He has written over 1 300 peer-reviewed, scientific papers and 95 books, is on the editorial board of a number of international journals, and is the founding director of Applied Behavioural Research Associates. He lives in central London.

Email: a.furnham@ucl.ac.uk

1970s

MARILYN PATTENDEN (NEË CHERRY)

– BA'75

Marilyn completed the Higher Diploma in Librarianship and worked at the Pietermaritzburg Main Campus Library, the Hluhluwe Game Reserve's provincial library services provided bookroom and a private school library. Now retired and living in Port Alfred in the Eastern Cape, Marilyn is still involved with information and knowledge as she is currently the part-time curator of the Kowie Museum whose focus is the 1820 Settlers in the Lower Albany district.

Email: marilynapat@outlook.com

1970s

BILL PIERCE

– BSCENG(CIVIL)'75



Bill qualified as a civil engineer. He was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to study for an MA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford University from 1975 to 1978. He worked as an engineer in Durban for several years to secure his professional engineer's ticket and then joined a management consulting firm in Johannesburg in their marketing department. This persuaded him to complete an MBL through Unisa. He joined Plessey Communications as marketing director and was appointed managing director after a few years. Over the next 20 years, he was managing director of several engineering firms, being head hunted as a "turnaround specialist", which is what he achieved in every firm he managed. In 2007 he qualified as a management coach and has been coaching senior staff since then. He also lectures at the Wits Business School in project management. He has been married to a wonderful Durban woman for 40 years. They have two children.

Email: bpierce@mweb.co.za

1970s

KEVIN LEO-SMITH

– BSC(AGRIC)'79

Kevin lived near Hoedspruit from 2013 after a seven-year stint in Johannesburg while establishing Sustainable Forestry Management Africa. It was recently renamed the African Conservation Development Group that is involved in a 950 000ha sustainable development project in Gabon. Kevin also formed Safari Investment Advisory with two partners in April 2019. He is a non-executive director of Immedia, a leading platform developer in Durban.

Email: kleosmith@me.com

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

1980s

IVAN THOMPSON

– BSOCSC'83

Ivan lives in Dallas, Texas. He retired from his position as chief human resources officer at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in 2018. His wife, Alison is a software developer and they have two daughters.

Email: raidthompson@gmail.com

1980s

KEVIN LOVELL

– BSCAGRIC'83



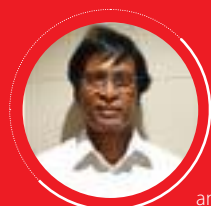
Kevin lives outside Johannesburg. He works in the animal welfare field for the International Egg Commission and his most recent full time position was CEO of the South African Poultry Association.

Email: Ariadne@iafrica.com

1980s

RAJENDRAN MOODLEY

– MBCHB'83, MMED'92



Rajendran is a specialist physician who lectures at UKZN's Medical School. He practices in Umhlanga and Tongaat and is involved in clinical research (contract drug research). Rajendran has been given the title Clinical Fellow (honorary).

Email: rjmoodley@mweb.co.za

1980s

MARTIN MILTON

– BA'86



Martin lives in London. A chartered psychologist and registered psychotherapist, he is professor of Counselling Psychology at the School of Psychotherapy and Psychology at Regents University, London and also runs an independent practice in psychotherapy and supervision (see <https://www.swlondonpsychology.co.uk>). His most recent book is *The personal is political: Stories of difference and psychotherapy* published by Macmillan.

Email: milton@regents.ac.uk

1980s

SHANIL BATOHI

– BSCENG(ELECT)'88



Shanil worked in various engineering roles including engineer in training at Durban Electricity, hardware and software design engineer, technical manager and technical director at an industrial electronics company where he was involved in a wide range of innovative projects and completed his MBA. He moved into management consulting as a lead consultant for major IT strategy and enterprise architecture projects, finally heading the IT effectiveness business unit. He completed his doctorate in team innovation and started his own business optimisation consulting practice. He is also involved in community-based initiatives and engages in visual arts as a hobby.

Email: sbatohi@gmail.com

1980s

GRAHAM TRUSLER

– BSC ENG(CHEM)'87, MSC ENG'89



Graham lives in Sandton. A founder of Digby Wells Environmental, www.digbywells.com, he is working on solutions to the environmental challenges that confront us. He is married to Jessica and they have two sons.

Email: graham.trusler@digbywells.com

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

1980s



ANGELA CATLETT

– BSOCSC'89, BSOCSC(HON) PERSONNEL MGT'90

Angela began her career in human resources in Durban and emigrated to Australia in 2009 after being head hunted by an oil and gas company. She lives in Adelaide, Australia where she is vice president of Human Resources for an aviation company. Her interest lies in change management, and mergers and acquisitions.

Email: angela.catlett@gmail.com

1980s



VUSI INNOCENT NGIDI

– BA'89, BED'92, MED'96, PGDIP (IR)'18

Vusi lives in Durban and has always had a passion for the teaching profession. He has been a teacher, principal and a circuit manager in Durban. He also worked in the offices of the Department of Education, KZN as a deputy director-HRM. Most of his course work in partial fulfillment of his MEd degree was done with the University of South Carolina. Currently, Vusi develops capacity building programmes for middle managers in education. He has also lectured PGDip-Education Management and Leadership students at Regent Business School and assesses student teachers at Stadio (Embury Institute).

Email: vusingidi206@gmail.com

1980s



COLLIN PILLAY

– BA(GEOGRAPHY)'89, HDE'90, MA(DEVELOPMENT STUDIES)'00, PHD'20

Collin is currently employed at Ethekwini Municipality as a chief policy analyst. He also completed his Bachelor of Education with Unisa. He is married and his hobbies include sports, community service and gardening.

Email: Collin.Pillay3@durban.gov.za

1990s



VIKRAM JEETAH

– BSC(QTY. SURV.)'91

Vikram is a chartered quantity surveyor. He completed a Masters in Project Management at the University of Mauritius and an MBA at Wits Business School. He was the chair of the Mauritian Institute of Management in 2008 and is the founder and managing director of Jeetah Consulting Ltd, a consultancy firm offering construction and management services. He is married to Nirmala who has a triple masters, and has two sons. He has travelled to more than 60 countries across five continents and in 1998 had lunch with President Nelson Mandela at the State House, Mauritius in his capacity as president of a Mauritius-South Africa friendship association upon an invitation by the then President of Mauritius.

Email: vjeetah@intnet.mu

1990s



VENISHREE MAYER

– BA'91, LLB(HONS)'94

Venishree headed directly into a corporate career within the automotive sector (Mercedes Benz SA) and then went abroad to the UK and Germany. After a successful career spanning more than 20 years, she returned to SA in 2016 to care for her ailing mum and bought a wine and olive estate with guest accommodation in the Cape Winelands. Fraaigelegen Farm has won many awards since 2016. Venishree is the proud founder of the ADHARA EVOO extra virgin olive oil brand and the first female producer/owner of colour to win an award for her EVOO in SA (2018). All the grapes are sold to the exclusive boutique Paserene Wine Estate in Franschoek. Venishree has expanded her olive oil business by offering it on their online shop (CAPE GOODS) in Germany. In July 2020, ADHARA EVOO won the Best Design in Africa award at the International OLIO NUOVO Competition held in Paris and Abu Dhabi.

Email: fraaigelegenfarm@gmail.com

1990s



MIRANDA DLAMINI

– BCUR'98, MASTERS (PUBLIC HEALTH)'20

Miranda is the national sales manager, Vaccines Division for Pfizer South Africa.

Email: mm.dlamini@gmail.com

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

1990s

HALIMA KHUNOETHE

– UDAE'98.MASTERS(PUBLIC ADMIN.)'17

Halima is the head of COGTA's Capacity Building Unit, where she is responsible for developing the capacity of municipal councillors and administrators in the province. She is currently finalising her PhD. She is the author of *SMARTER Municipality against the ILLS of local government* that tackles ethics, governance and maladministration in the local government sector, and *Gender Activism at Work, from 16 Days to 365 Days a Year: How to Implement Gender Equality in a Government Workplace*.

Email: halimak2010@yahoo.com

2000s

JASON MYHILL

– BSCENG(ELECT)'00



Jason is the managing director of Dynaminds that focuses on business strategy. He has more than 15 years' business and consulting experience and has been involved in more than 300 strategic engagements.

Email: jason.myhill@dynaminds.co.za

2000s

BAVANI PILLAY-GOVENDER

– BSC'01, BSC(HONS)(CHEM)'02, MSC'03,
PHD(CHEM)'10



Bavani is employed at Sasol, an international integrated chemicals and energy company. She completed a postgraduate diploma in Business Administration and has been involved in tutoring, mentoring and coaching. Philanthropy is close to her heart and she participates in various community projects.

Email: bavani.pillay@sasol.com

2000s

ADESH PEDNEKAR

– PGDIP(BUSMGTDISTL)'02, MBA'04



Adesh received his Bachelor in Computer Engineering from the University of Pune in 1996. He has more than 25 years' experience in maximising business results and has a track record of delivering optimal results in high-growth environments across India, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe. Adesh has worked with KPMG, Oracle, and Infosys and has been involved in startups like Sagax Solutions, Brahmaand Technologies and QVidalabs. He is currently the co-founder and managing director at QVidalabs. See <http://www.qvidalabs.com>.

Email: adesh@qvidalabs.com

2000s

ANDRÉ BOSHOFF

– MCOM(ORG. & MGT SYSTEMS)'03



André is a consultant on remote employment, a subject that has come to the fore during the COVID-19 pandemic. He coaches strategy and management executives and small business entrepreneurs. André is the past chair of Forestry SGB, past Forest Owners representative on FITPA, and was part of the South African delegation to the Swedish Programme on Forestry Policy and Strategy in 2003.

Email: andrebohoff1958@gmail.com

2000s

PHILLIP NYEBERAH MUNHUWEYI

– BTHEOLOGY(HONS)'03, MTHEOLOGY'08



Phillip lives in Masvingo, Zimbabwe where he is a part-time lecturer at the Zimbabwe Open University. He has been lecturing theological and religious studies as well as serving as a pastor since 2012.

Email: pnmoonway@gmail.com

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

2000s



XOLELWA ZULU-MAGWENYANE

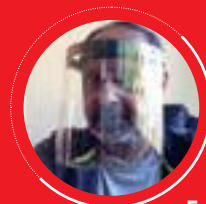
– BSC(PUREAPPLCHEM)'06, BSCHONS(CHEM)'07,
PHD(SCIENCE)'16

Xolelwa is currently reading for a Master of Science in Technology and Innovation Management. In 2019, she was appointed as the deputy chair of the Locally Engaged Staff Association (LESA) at the Foreign and Commonwealth

Office of the British Government. She serves as an independent director for CenGen (Pty) Ltd, is a Black Women in Science (SA) fellow for 2019/2020, an alumnus of the South African Brightest Young Minds Initiative and a member of the KwaZulu-Natal Innovation Advisory Committee of the Moses Kotane Institute. Xolelwa is a manager for strategic, research, development, and innovation at the CSIR and the managing director of her company, Hlumelo Research and Advisory Pty (Ltd).

Email: xolelwa.zulu1@gmail.com

2000s



MAHOMED F MOOSA

– BED(HONS)'10, MED'12

Mahomed lectures at UMgungundlovu TVET College in the Department of Business Studies.

Email: moosamf@hotmail.com

2000s

TAMUNOTONYE IBIMINA IDONIBOYE-OBU

– PG DIP(INFO STUDIES)'11, BLIB & INFO SC(HONS)'12, MASTERS(INFO STUDIES)'14, PHD(INFO STUDIES)'17

Tamunotonye works in the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment as a principal labour officer. He lives in Port Harcourt, Rivers State and teaches part-time at the Department of Library and Information Science in Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Port Harcourt.

Email: tamunotonyei@yahoo.co.uk

2000s

CECIL MADONDO

– DBA'12

Cecil is a business rescue practitioner who leads Stonehouse Consultants (Private) Limited in Zimbabwe. He is probably the first Black indigenous business leader in this sector, which demands consistent break through and creative thinking.

Email: drcmadondo@thconsultants.co.zw

2000s



KAMINI GOVENDER

– BSC(BIO CHEM & MICRO, BIO)'12, BSC(HONS)'13,
MSC'16, PHD(PHARM, CHEM)'20

Kamini was inspired by brilliant scientists such as Rosalind Franklin and Marie Curie. For her PhD study, she successfully biosynthesised human insulin and purified biologics using sub/supercritical fluid (SFC) chromatography using innovative SFC technology. She aspires to be a world renowned scientist.

Email: kaminigovender23@gmail.com

2000s



NKOSINATHI NKOSI

– BSC(BIOCHEM)'13, PGCE'14

Nkosinathi started working as an educator in January 2014. He has continued to develop himself by completing certificates in moderation, assessor and facilitation as well as a BEdHons in Natural Science at Unisa. He has now applied for a Masters in Science Education, also at Unisa. He is forever grateful for the opportunity that UKZN gave him to kickstart his career.

Email: willynkosinathi@gmail.com

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

2000s



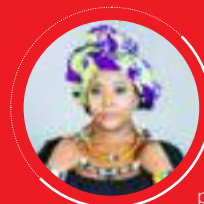
LINDIWE MDLASO

– BCOM'14, BCOM(HONS)'15

Lindiwe is married to fellow graduate Sphehile Mdlalose BSc(Geology)'09. Lindiwe left her job as a materials buyer for Mahle Behr SA to join Sphehile in running their own geotechnical engineering business, iLZ Consulting. They grew the business to add a new division, borehole drilling, the youngest company and individuals in the province in the borehole sector. Their main focus is providing clean underground water to schools, hospitals, farms and households.

Email: mamlaba01@gmail.com

2000s



SIPHOKAZI MAPHUMULO

– BSOCSC'15, BSOCSC (HON)'16

Siphokazi is a full time musician. Popularly known as Nonzwakazi, she also co-owns a publishing and project management services company. She won the 2019 Afrimusic Song Contest, which led to an invitation to perform at the 2019 Eurovision Village in Israel. She also won a Gagasi FM Shero Award in the Category Creative Arts and released her debut album in August 2019.

Email: nonzwakazibookings@gmail.com

2000s



SAMUEL A. O. OSUNGBEJU

– PHD '15

Samuel is a full-time member of the clergy of the Church of Nigeria - Anglican Communion, and has continued to share the academic knowledge he gained at UKZN with others as a lecturer at the Diocesan Bible College, academic supervisor and member of the Bishop's Examining Chaplains of his diocese. He is planning to publish a compilation of his weekly Sunday reflections, as well as a book on the challenges posed to the church by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Email: adekunles741@gmail.com

2000s



IRENE MINKIE MMALECHA SEGOPOLO

– PHD(CULTURAL & MEDIA STUDIES)'15

Irene is a lecturer at the University of Botswana in the Communication Skills and Study Skills Unit. She has coordinated a health communication course since 2010. Her research interests include discourse and semiotics analyses and cultural and media studies.

Email: impule@gmail.com

2000s

LOUIS OKON AKPAN

– PHD(EDUCATION)'16, MCOM'17

Louis lectures at the National Open University of Nigeria, where he is a vice chairperson of the Examination and Ethics Committee and co-ordinator of the Course Materials Review Committee. He has published in a number of renowned journals.

Email: airmailo@yahoo.com

2000s



ADEOLA SHOBO

– PHD(PHARM. CHEM.)'16

Adeola collaborated as a postdoctoral fellow with Professor Gert Kruger on nano-formulation and alternative delivery routes of anti-tubercular drugs to the brain. The findings were published in the prestigious journal, *Nanomedicine* in 2018. In 2017, Adeola was invited to take up a postdoctoral research post at McGill University in Canada where he worked with Professor Gerhard Multhaup, a distinguished researcher in the field of Alzheimer's disease. He has published in numerous highly ranked journals and presented at many conferences. He is married to fellow alumnus Christiana and they have two children.

Email: ashobo2003@yahoo.com

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

2000s



DEREK FISH

– PHD(SCIENCE)'17

Derek was offered an opportunity by UKZN to pursue a Masters and then a PhD in Physics Education and was the oldest candidate at graduation in 2017. These studies allowed him to reflect on his work at the Unizulu Science Centre for the past 30 years assisting disadvantaged rural schools in northern KZN with Maths and Science. He has seen about half a million children, many of whom have gone on to pursue studies and careers in science. He represented South Africa on the world Science Centre body for some of the time. In lockdown times, Derek is rolling out a virtual matric workshop to thousands of pupils in northern KZN designed for areas which do not have reliable internet access.

Email: thefish@iafrica.com

2000s



JENNIFER SHEOKARAH

– BED(FET)'16, BED(HONS)'17, MED'18

Jennifer was a demonstrator, tutor, marker, and contract lecturer at Edgewood campus and is currently an English teacher in Richards Bay, KZN. She is registered for a PhD in Language and Media Studies at UKZN.

Email: jennifer_sheokarah@yahoo.com

2000s



TERTSEA JOSEPH IKYOIVE

– PHD(ED)'17

Tertsea also holds a BA and MA degrees in Theatre Arts from the Benue State University and University of Ibadan, respectively. His areas of specialisation are African dramatic literature, cultural studies, performance aesthetics, and language pedagogy, theories and criticism. He has published six articles in reputable journals, six conference proceedings and six papers under peer review. Tertsea has also published three books, the latest being, *To KwaZulu-Natal and Back*; a personal account that reflects on his UKZN journey. He is a post-doctoral research fellow with UKZN, a Fellow of the life Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS); nominated fellow of the Institute of Management Consultants of Nigeria (FIMC) and a life time member of the Eurasia Research Group.

Email: ikyovetj85@gmail.com or itertseajoseph@yahoo.com

2000s



THANDI NGCOBO

– PGDIP(SOCSC)'17, MSOCSC'20

Thandi is an academic, community development practitioner, businessperson and social entrepreneur. She implements impact driven programmes and projects through Fuze Institute for Humanitarian and Development Praxis, an institute she founded in 2014 under the name of the Dr John Langalibalele Dube Humanitarian and Development Institute. The institute offers skills and learnership programmes, places learners in workplaces and supports others to start their own businesses, linking them to markets in the different value-chains and partnerships she has created. She is pursuing a PhD in the field of Human Sciences and has opened an aviation academy that will enable young Black people to work as pilots in the previously White-dominated aviation industry. Thandi has also made her mark in the agriculture and agribusiness sector where she has adopted climate smart and resilient agricultural practices and technologies. She was appointed to the Presidential Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture in 2018.

Email: ngcobot4@ukzn.ac.za

2000s

MALITHAPELO MOSUOE

– PHD(ED)'17

Malithapelo works for the National University of Lesotho Institute of Extra-Mural Studies as a part-time lecturer and has supervised two Masters of Education students. His areas of research are the effects of child marriage on rural girls and capacity assessment of local government structures in Lesotho. He lectures a course on Human Resource Management at Masters of Education level for adult education students.

Email: malithapelo@yahoo.com

2000s



SIMANGALISO BAYABONGA ZULU

– BSOCSC'17, BCOMHONS(MKTG. MGT)'19

Simangaliso is an academic development officer of management disciplines in the College of Law and Management Studies: School of Management, IT and Governance (SMIG) on the Pietermaritzburg campus. He is also the research assistant for the SMIG and a teacher by profession. He is currently doing his Masters of Commerce at UKZN.

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ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

2000s



ABIMBOLA OLUFEMI OMOLABI

– PHD(TOWN & REG.PLANNING)'18

Abimbola is an urban planner, consultant and researcher with international experience as an urban specialist with the United Nations Development Programme, Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia. He lectures at Yaba College of Technology, Lagos and is the author of books and articles in international journals.

Email: bimboomolabi@yahoo.com

2000s



OYEBAMIJI JOHN OKESOTO

– PHD(BUILT ENV. & DEV. STUDIES)'18

Oyebamiji is a lecturer at the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Yaba College of Technology. He is currently the dean of the Faculty of Environmental Studies in the College.

Email: banjiokesoto@gmail.com

2000s



NTOMBIKAYISE NOMSA MATHABELA

– PHD(LIBRARY & INFO SCIENCE)'18

Ntombikayise is an assistant librarian, readers' services and law at the University of Eswatini. She also teaches information literacy courses to undergraduate and postgraduate students in the university, is the Secretary General for the Eswatini Library Association, a 2010 Fulbright Scholar and an OCLC/IFLA Jordan 2014 Fellow.

Email: nnmathabela@gmail.com

2000s



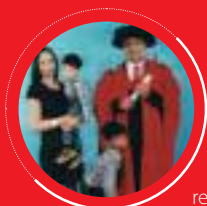
SAMUEL I. A. ABOGUNLOKO

– PHD(ED)'18,

Samuel a former lecturer on the Edgewood campus, is an educator and generalist with multi-disciplinary training. He is currently the director of Academics and Operations at The Livingsprings (International) Schools, in Lagos, Nigeria. He oversaw the accreditation processes by Cambridge Assessment International Education and that of the British Council is on-going. Samuel is part of the leadership team of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) in Lagos and has served in numerous national and international conferences as a committee member and anchor person.

Email: sabogunloko@gmail.com

2000s



VIKASH BAICHOO

– PHD(ED)'19

Vikash nostalgically recalls his days at the then University of Natal from 1992 to 1995. He had to return to Mauritius in 1995 and completed his BA in Psychology at St Cloud State University in the US. After graduating, Vikash was employed as an educational psychologist at the Ministry of Education from 2004 to 2006 and completed his Master's degree in Psychology of Education at the Institute of Education, UK in 2005. His career path changed when he was offered a job as a lecturer in Psychology at the Mauritius Institute of Education in 2007. In 2012, he started his PhD in Higher Education Studies with UKZN and graduated last year. Graduation in Westville was a wonderful moment.

Email: v.baichoo@mie.ac.mu

2000s



ISIAKA TOYIN BUSARI

– PHD ENG(BIORESOURCES IRRIG.)'19

Isiaka has 16 years' experience in irrigation engineering/agricultural water management. His PhD produced four journal articles. He worked with the FAO of the United Nations in Nigeria and Tanzania as a national consultant and is a team member of the World Bank assisted project "Nigeria CARES" – COVID-19 Action Recovery and Economic Stimulus – and a member of the National Livestock Transformation Plan. He is currently the chief irrigation engineer with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in Kwara State, Nigeria.

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ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

2000s



MFANAFUTHI A. M. JOKWENI

– BSOCS(IND. WORKING LIFE)'19, BSOCS (HONS)'20

Mfanafuthi lives in Umgababa, KwaZulu-Natal and is currently a Master's student at UKZN. He has served as a union official for the South African Transport and Allied Workers' Union, and represented South Africa through advocacy work on HIV treatment in Denmark. He also served as a member of the board of the Alliance of Youth NGOs

Email: arthurmogbohozi@gmail.com

2000s



PATIENCE S. DLAMINI

– PHD(ED)'19

Patience is an instructional designer in the Institute of Distance Education at the University of Eswatini. Her academic home is in English Language Education, and she has since developed an interest in open and distance learning and work-based learning. Patience presented an ignite session paper at the Advance HE STEM conference in Manchester in January 2020.

Email: patiencesd33@gmail.com

2000s



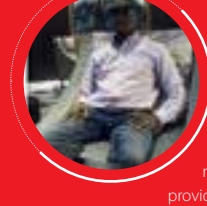
MUKANDA GELEON KADIMA

– MPHARM'19 (CUM LAUDE)

Mukanda is a pharmacist who is working towards a PhD. His areas of interest include pharmacy practice, clinical pharmacy, traditional medicine and water.

Email: gedeonkadima@gmail.com

2000s



BENJAMIN J. KAZULE

– MSOCSC'19

Benjamin is the regional coordinator of Fracarita Southern Africa, a Catholic development organisation specialising in mental health service provision, education and disability care. He provides technical leadership in translating Fracarita International's global objectives and strategic directions into regional or national guidance, strategies and priorities in collaboration with various stakeholders. Currently registered for a PhD at the Centre for Communication, Media and Culture at UKZN, he has participated in regional and national development sector working groups on education, mental health, disability care and HIV and AIDS. He previously worked for an international development organisation, MS-Kenya Action Aid Denmark as the transitional justice advocacy and communications officer attached to PeaceNet Kenya in the wake of the 2007 post-election violence. He has conducted a number of data quality assessments within the health system in Zambia and is also involved in planning, budgeting, and budget tracking and assessment within this sector.

Email: kazulebj@gmail.com

2000s



TANDIWE KATSWARA

– MSC'19 (CUM LAUDE)

Tandiwe is a veterinary surgeon and a member of the Association of Catholic Tertiary Students.

Email: thandiwekats@gmail.com

2000s



KAYISE TEMANTIMANDZE KUNENE

– BSOCS(IND.PSYCH & CRIM)'19, PGDIP(HUMRESMGT)'20

Kayise went on to obtain a postgraduate qualification in human resource management. She works at Liberty Centre as an HR administrator.

Email: kayisetemantimandze@gmail.com

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

2000s



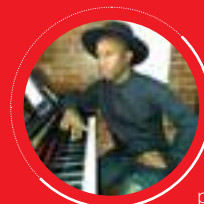
MUNYARADZI MAGIGA

– PHD(ED)'19

Munyaradzi holds four degrees from internationally recognised universities. He is currently employed by the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission as manager of ethics and public education. He is in charge of initiating and implementing national anti-corruption interventions with the objective of raising anti-corruption awareness.

Email: m.magiga@gmail.com

2000s



LUXOLO MAHLASELA

– BA(MUSIC)'19, BA(HONS)'20

Luxolo has worked with the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra, and leads the performance of the UKZN anthem at graduation ceremonies.

Email: songomxo@gmail.com

2000s



HAPPINESS MKHULISE

– BSOCWRK'19, BSOCSCHONS(CRIMFOR)'20

Happiness planned to celebrate her graduation this year by hosting a get-together for those who supported her after she lost her parents at a young age. Sadly, COVID-19 made this impossible.

Email: 215040170@stu.ukzn.ac.za

2000s

SAMUEL OKUNADE'S

– PHD (CONFLICT TRANSF.& PEACE STUDIES)'19

Samuel research focuses on borders and migration, especially in relation to human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Africa. He is also interested in examining how social and ethnic cleavages in border communities could be used for economic integration and social cohesion on the continent. His work has been published in high impact journals.

Email: samuel_okunade@yahoo.com

2000s



RAMESH RAMGOOLAM

– PHD(ED)'19

Ramesh could not attend university after completing matric due to financial difficulties. He worked as a cotton cleaner in a clothing factory, and as a petrol attendant, bottle capper, textile weaver, till slip checker, shoe packer, canteen worker, junior debtors clerk and eventually bookkeeper in different companies. At the same time, he obtained a teaching qualification through correspondence. He taught in three primary and three secondary schools and completed an Honours, Masters and eventually a PhD in Education. Ramesh's book, *From Destitute to Doctor – A long walk to Stardom* details his struggles and triumphs. He is currently an external postgraduate examinations and assessments moderator at an international university.

Email: rameshramgoolam@gmail.com

2000s



MOHAMED HOESEN SULEMAN

– BPHARM'19 (SUMMA CUM LAUDE)

Mohamed is currently a second-year Medical student at UKZN. In 2018, he received the 50th Anniversary Endowment Scholarship which was awarded to only one student in the College of Health Sciences and is based solely on academic merit. Mohamed is a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society.

Email: mohamedhoosensuleman@yahoo.com

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

2000s



ELIMBOTO YOHANA'S

– PHD(SC)'19

Elimboto thesis' involved pioneering work on forecasts of cosmological constraints using 21-cm cosmology. He is an assistant lecturer in Mathematics at the Dar Es Salaam University College of Education (www.duce.actz) and the founder of TSSFL (www.tssf.co) and TSSFL Open Discussion Forums (www.tssf.com).

Email: ey@tssf.com

2000s

ANDRIAS CHINYOKA

– DBA'20

Andrias is employed as a finance director at Great Zimbabwe University and is also a part time lecturer in the Faculty of Commerce, teaching public sector accounting and financial management to masters students. His research interests are in the areas of public sector management, public sector financing, auditing and accounting.

Email: chinyokaa@gmail.com

2000s

KASSIMU ISSAU

– PHD (MGT STUD)'20

Kassimu is an assistant lecturer at the School of Business, University of Cape Coast, Ghana. His research interests include market orientation, innovation orientation, learning orientation, entrepreneurial orientation and management. He has published articles in a number of journals.

Email: kassimuissau@gmail.com

2000s

NKOS'KHONA KUNENE

– BSCENG(ELECT)'20



Nkosikhona is the first graduate in his family and the first engineering graduate in Emange farm, his home village.

Email: nkoskhonacebo@gmail.com

2000s

SANDISE KUMALO

– BAGRIC(AGRIC. EXT. & RURAL RESOURCE MGT)'20



Sandise hails from Tsolo in the Eastern Cape. He served as president of the Student Representative Council at Cedara College of Agriculture in 2018 and was awarded three Dean's Commendations during his studies. He is currently working on vegetable production in home gardens while seeking employment in the agricultural sector.

Email: kumzak77@gmail.com

2000s

NOKUBONGA MBATHA

– PGCE(SP&FET TEACHING)'20



Nokubonga obtained her BSc in Agriculture (Animal Science) at the University of Zululand. She completed a Post Graduate Certificate in Education at UKZN in 2019.

Email: nokubongambathah@gmail.com

ALUMNI OUT AND ABOUT

UKZN ALUMNI ENTERTAINED IN CAPE TOWN



UKZN Cape Town based alumni and University staff members.

UKZN's Alumni Relations Office organised two successful get-togethers in Cape Town.

The first event on 13 March was an afternoon tea date hosted by the Alumni Relations team at The Cape Grace Hotel on the Waterfront.

President and Chair of Convocation, Mr Fanle Sibisi and Acting Executive Director of Corporate Relations, Ms Normah Zondo warmly welcomed everyone. Guests were provided with an overview of the current events at their *alma mater*, the opportunity to network with each other and an excellent selection of eats and refreshments to enjoy.

On the following day, the second event comprised a three-course dinner and an entertaining and informative talk by UKZN alumna, Ms Les Aupiais.

The well attended event provided an enjoyable opportunity for alumni, donors and friends of UKZN to renew old acquaintances, meet fellow alumni and be updated on developments at their *alma mater*.

Aupiais's address was titled: Don't Put your Daughter on the Stage, Mrs Worthington.....the profession is overcrowded and the struggle's pretty tough and admitting the fact, she's burning to act, that isn't quite enough... it wasn't!

The presentation included a series of witty anecdotes on her career and life experiences and conveyed a positive and encouraging message to the audience.

In his address, Sibisi highlighted recent developments that had taken place at the University and encouraged everyone in

the audience to support the University in whatever way they could.

Zondo welcomed guests, introduced speakers and helped answer the many questions posed.

Guests were given information packs containing a selection of UKZN publications and a corporate gift. □

WORDS: FINN CHRISTENSEN

PHOTOGRAPHS: NOMCEBO MSWELI



ALUMNI WHO PUBLISHED BOOKS RECENTLY

THE ART OF LITERATURE

Award-winning author and UKZN alumnus, Ms Kass Ghayouri nurtures fresh talent by motivating her students to indulge in the art of literature by reflecting on home grown stories.

Ghayouri was the international winner of "50 Great Writers You Should Be Reading", an annual competition run by *The Guardian* newspaper in England. She was selected from hundreds of authors by public vote for her book of poetry titled: *Universe Poetry and Illustration*.

"The win was based on my ability to generate imagery and visual symbolism in my poems. I view imagination as a tool that is valued in all learning environments to bring about positive thinking. I utilise my imagination in poetry to instil positive change in my readers and students."

The mother of two who hails from Durban and is now living in Canada, is a prolific writer who has penned a number of books. She is also a five star award winning illustrator.

In 2015 she was named international winner of the "50 Great Writers You Should Be Reading" for her historical fictional novel *An Era of Error*.

The book is about an Indian girl growing up during the period of racial segregation enforced by the apartheid government in South Africa from the late 1940s until democracy in 1994.

"*An Era of Error* is about my existence and my unique footprint on planet earth," said Ghayouri.

Her other award winning books include *The Fugitive's Baby*, *I Tried But I Died* and *A Note from the No Fire Zone* – which gained the attention of politicians worldwide and is a memoir of a medical doctor who worked to alleviate pain and suffering in the war zone in Sri Lanka.

Through her books, she addresses the issue

of racism. She aims to raise awareness of this scourge worldwide so as to eradicate it.

Ghayouri completed her Bachelor of Arts in English and Psychology at UKZN in 1986.

"UKZN impacted my subsequent success by enhancing my accumulated knowledge through dedicated professors who instilled in us management skills, and a supportive academic climate. I developed the mindset to meet life challenges."

She said that while exploring Higher Education and meeting deadlines, she was inspired and distracted by the ducks that swam in the pond on campus.

"They evoked my sense of sight and created imagery in my mind which reminded me to de-stress and unwind."

Ghayouri is a Grade 12 English teacher who also runs a tutorial school. As a teacher, she encountered an ailing reading culture.

"I try to nurture fresh talent, extrinsically motivating my students to indulge in the art of literature, by reflecting on home grown stories.

"After years of teaching I have engaged in repeated anecdotes to my students. I now utilise my novel to place these anecdotes on page, through the legacy of writing. I engage in the genre of human rights and social injustice issues. I have a passion for writing historical fiction that explores profound issues which encompass an entire life span."

Ghayouri is currently working on a novel titled, *Kiss Innocence Goodbye*, which portrays social injustices and human rights issues through a philosophical, spiritual and psychological lens. □



Ms Kass Ghayouri with the mayor of Markham, Ontario, Canada, Mr Frank Scarpitti.

ALUMNI WHO PUBLISHED BOOKS RECENTLY

STELLA AURORAE (VOLS, 1, 2, 3): THE HISTORY OF A SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITY BY BILL GUEST



In 2013, I won an Amafa AKwazulu-Natali Award in recognition of my contribution to heritage conservation in KwaZulu-Natal. My three-volume history of the University of Natal, *Stella Aurorae* followed in 2015 (1909-1949), 2017 (1949-1976) and 2018 (1976-2003). I am currently completing an updated history of the Royal Agricultural Society, 1984-2019. I am a graduate of the former University of Natal, Durban (MA with distinction, PhD) and University of Cape Town (Secondary Teacher's Diploma). The *Stella Aurorae* volumes and *A Fine Band of Farmers Are We!* which provides an overview of the establishment of formal agricultural studies in KwaZulu-Natal and focuses on the Faculty of Agriculture at UKZN can be purchased from Ladybean Books, Rosehurst, 239 Boom Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201 (ladybean01@gmail.com / 072 781 4375). My earlier books can be bought from the UKZN Press and the KwaZulu-Natal Museum and Msunduzi-Voortrekker Museum, both in Pietermaritzburg.

**This article was provided by Bill Guest –
email: bcguest@iuncapped.co.za**

Complimentary copies available: *Stella Aurorae* - The History of a South African University, Volume 1 - Natal University College (1909-1949) by UKZN Alumnus, Professor Bill Guest.

This volume covers the Natal University College years from 1909 to 1949. It looks at the personalities, events and significant milestones in the early history of the university's two city campuses that helped shape its future role as one of the country's leading universities.

The UKZN Alumni Office has a number of copies of this book available. If you are interested in receiving a copy, please send an email with your name and postal address to alumni@ukzn.ac.za. The book will be posted to you.

ALUMNI WHO PUBLISHED BOOKS RECENTLY

NOW THAT LIFE IS OVER – AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY BY CHARLES MULLER

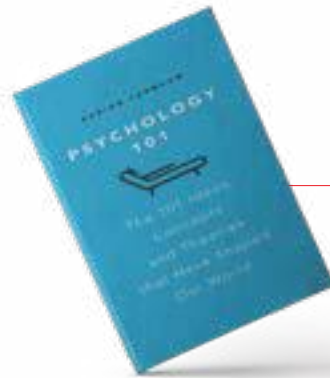


What was life like growing up as a baby boomer in apartheid South Africa? The author looks back with wry humour and ironic touches on his early life in South Africa, and recalls the twists and turns that took him through the rest of his life as a rolling stone, or loose cannon, forever chasing rainbows in many countries, with occupations ranging from Professor of English in South Africa to hotelier in Scotland. "I have had so many different lifetimes compacted into a single lifetime, and each one—in South Africa, England, Scotland, Nova Scotia, New Zealand, and finally Spain—saw a dream come true," he concludes. "The song 'Don't fence me in' comes to mind—though in a sense I long to be fenced in, to find myself safe and settled in a permanent home with my soul mate." Still seeking a permanent safe harbour, or sanctuary at the end of the rainbow, he is, by the end of the book, perhaps 'running on empty' as his final allotted years, days or moments, peter out in Spain.

Available from Amazon - <https://www.amazon.com/Now-That-Life-Over-Autobiography/dp/B08CJPKSQY>.

This article was provided by Charles Muller – email: charles@diadembooks.com

PSYCHOLOGY 101: THE 101 IDEAS, CONCEPTS AND THEORIES THAT HAVE SHAPED OUR WORLD, BY ADRIAN FURNHAM



I have written 94 books, some edited, others co-authored but over 50 on my own. The most successful by far, was *50 Ideas You Really Need To Know: Psychology*.

It has been translated into more than 30 languages and sold over a million copies. It was published 10 years ago and my latest book follows the same pattern: around 1 000 words on 101 topics.

For the earlier book the topics were chosen for me; but in this one I choose them... and they reflect my idiosyncratic and broad interests in all aspects of psychology from the applied to the experimental.

So there are entries from Accident Proneness to Workplace Deviance as well as on smiling, mate selection and lying. It was fun to write and reflects my very wide interests in psychology, shaped by my excellent teaching at the former University of Natal. I should add that this is the third book I will publish this year, mainly as a function of lock-down freedom. They are published by Bloomsbury, Palgrave and Cambridge University Press and are available from Amazon. Nearly all my books are dedicated to my wife and son, who are relieved to know that my target of 100 books is in sight.

This article was provided by Adrian Furnham - Email: a.furnham@ucl.ac.uk



CALL FOR CLASS NOTES 2021

The Alumni Relations Office requests graduates to please send in “Class Notes” for publication in the University of KwaZulu-Natal’s alumni publication: *UKZNTouch 2021*.

‘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. We are eager to receive information from graduates for ‘Class Notes’ as well as profiles and articles for possible inclusion in the rest of the publication. You may include a high resolution photo of yourself.

Please submit all contributions (maximum 10 lines and no CV’s will be accepted) by 30 June 2021 to the Alumni Relations Office, Email: alumni@ukzn.ac.za, Fax: (031 260 2236 or Post: Alumni Relations, University of KwaZulu-Natal, 232 Mazisi-Kunene Avenue, Howard College Campus, Durban, 4041



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CONTACTS & SOCIAL MEDIA



International and Lesotho Alumni Facebook Groups

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

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

These Facebook groups are private and each group will be administered/ monitored by Ms Desiree Govender, UKZN Alumni Relations. We encourage you to interact with one another and our office and to spread the word to other UKZN alumni about these sites. Should you require any further information, please contact the Alumni Relations Office via email: alumni@ukzn.ac.za or govenderd@ukzn.ac.za.

Ideas/suggestions on how to improve the site are most welcome.

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



Alumni Relations Office

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

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

Fax: +27 (0)31 260 2236

Email: alumni@ukzn.ac.za

Web Address: <http://alumni affairs.ukzn.ac.za>



<https://web.facebook.com/UKZN-Alumni-100665579978579>



<http://twitter.com/UKZNAumni>



Join us on UKZN LinkedIn!

The Alumni LinkedIn page has been closed. Join UKZN alumni and current students on the UKZN LinkedIn site:

<https://za.linkedin.com/school/university-of-kwazulu-natal/>



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CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Identity Number: _____ Student Number: _____

Surname: _____ Maiden Name: _____

First Names: _____

Address (please tick the address to where correspondence should be sent):

Residential / Current Address: _____

Post Code: _____ Province: _____

Postal Address: _____

Post Code: _____ Province: _____

Home Telephone Number: _____ Cell: _____

Email address: _____

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

Campus attended (please tick): Howard College Pietermaritzburg Edgewood
Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine Westville

Residence at University: _____

Employer: _____ Position Held: _____

Work Telephone Number: _____ Email address: _____

Fax Number: _____ Direct Line: _____

Name of Spouse (*if a graduate of this University*): _____

Cell: _____ Email address: _____

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

Please return to: Desiree Govender – Alumni Relations
University of KwaZulu-Natal, Howard College Campus, 232 Mazisi-Kunene Avenue, Durban 4041

Tel: (031) 260 2958, Fax (031) 260 2236 or Email: govenderd@ukzn.ac.za or alumni@ukzn.ac.za

UPDATE YOUR DETAILS ONLINE: <http://alumniaffairs.ukzn.ac.za/updateservices.aspx>

INSPIRING GREATNESS



DURBAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SUBSCRIPTION FORM – 2021

DETAILS OF PRINCIPAL MEMBER

Surname: _____ First Name: _____
 Identity Number: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Please cross (X) the relevant box below:

Membership Type:	University of KwaZulu-Natal GRADUATE Membership	
	AFFILIATED Membership	

Address: _____
 _____ Postal Code: _____
 Telephone: Home: _____ Work: _____
 Fax: _____ Cell: _____
 Email: _____

DETAILS OF ADDITIONAL MEMBER

Surname: _____ First Names: _____
 Identity Number: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Please cross (X) the relevant box below:

Membership Type:	University of KwaZulu-Natal GRADUATE Membership	
	AFFILIATED Membership	

Address: _____
 _____ Postal Code: _____
 Telephone: Home: _____ Work: _____
 Fax: _____ Cell: _____
 Email: _____

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	COST PER PERSON	TOTAL COST
Principal Member	R50. 00	
Additional Member	R50. 00	
TOTAL		R

Please complete the above form and return with payment: (CHEQUES to be made payable to: University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban Alumni Association) DIRECT DEPOSITS: Standard Bank, Account No.: 053080998, Branch Code: 045426, Reference: Your Name & 8101 30063

Please Return to: Nomcebo Msweli, Alumni Relations Office,
 University of KwaZulu-Natal, Howard College Campus, Durban, 4041
 Telephone: 031 260 2016, Email: mswelin@ukzn.ac.za



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

WHO CAN JOIN?



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

ACTIVITIES?

The activities (approx.: 6 per year) arranged cover a wide range of interesting visits and talks and all take place in KwaZulu-Natal. The talks are held on the Howard College campus and the tours/outings are within the region.



COST?



The cost of membership in 2021 is R50.00 per person – which simply covers postage of invitations. If you prefer email invites, membership is free.

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE?

Contact Nomcebo Msweli on: mswelin@ukzn.ac.za or on telephone 031 260 2016.
We look forward to welcoming new members and receiving ideas on interesting events to arrange.



INSPIRING GREATNESS

UKZN FOUNDATION TRUST LEGAL DETAILS

DATE REGISTERED : 27 MAY 2003 (From NUDF to UKZNF)

AMENDED DATE : 12 JULY 2013 (Amendment to the Deed of Trust)

NPO NUMBER : 030-967-NPO

PBO NUMBER : 9300 12812

TRUST DEED NUMBER : IT 589/03

TAX NUMBER : 0324 483 163

BANKING DETAILS

Account Holder : The University of
KwaZulu-Natal Foundation Trust

Account No. : 242 095 305

Type of Account : Business Current Account

Branch Code : 045426

Account held at : Westville

Swift Code : SBZAJJ

(To be quoted for international funds
to be received)



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YAKWAZULU-NATALI

FOUNDATION

INDIVIDUAL - DONATION FORM

DONOR DETAILS

Title: Initials: Surname: Email Address:
 Postal Address: Postal Code:
 Phone (w): Phone (h): Phone (c):
 Referred by:
 Are you an alumnus of UDW, UND, UNP, UKZN ? : Yes No

DONATION DETAILS

Please select the amount you would like to contribute monthly:

R100 R200 R300 R400 R500 R1 000 R2 000

Other amount (kindly specify)

Monthly Debit Date: 1st 16th 26th

or

Please select the amount you would like to contribute Annually:

R1 200 R2 400 R3 600 R4 800 R6 000 R12 000 R24 000

Other amount (kindly specify)

Annual Debit Month:

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec

I agree to an annual increase of: 5% 10% 15% 20% Other % (kindly specify)

I, the undersigned, confirm that I have agreed to make a regular donation to the University of KwaZulu-Natal via monthly or annual payments. I hereby instruct and authorise the University of KwaZulu-Natal Foundation Trust to draw against my current (cheque)/transmission/savings account with the set amount which is due and payable by me in terms of this agreement for the University of KwaZulu-Natal Foundation Endowment Fund. This order will remain effective until cancelled by me in writing. I may choose to cancel this debit order instruction at any time, giving 30 days' notice in writing. I understand that there are bank charges associated with this debit order (as with all debit orders). I further understand and confirm that if however, the date of payment instruction falls on a non-processing day (weekend or public holiday) I agree that the payment instruction may be debited against my account on the following business day. All debit orders are administered by the University of KwaZulu-Natal Foundation Trust and will appear as such on your statements.

Date of First Payment:		Bank Name:	
Account Name:		Branch Name:	
Account Number:		Branch Code:	
Type of Account:		Swift Code:	

Signature: Date:



ALUMNI BENEFITS

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

- 1. An active Durban Alumni Association** – talks and outings are arranged on a regular basis for graduates in KwaZulu-Natal. The subscription form may be downloaded at: http://alumniaffairs.ukzn.ac.za/Libraries/Membership_Information/ALUMNI_BENEFIT_CARD_APPLICATION_FORM_2014.sflb.ashx
- 2. An Alumni Benefit card** – allowing all UKZN graduates access to any UKZN library at 50% of the normal annual fee. This card can be obtained directly from the Alumni Relations Office (Howard College campus) or through any of the five campus libraries. You may also email the alumni benefit card application form: http://alumniaffairs.ukzn.ac.za/Libraries/Membership_Information/ALUMNI_BENEFIT_CARD_APPLICATION_FORM_2014.sflb.ashx and a photo of yourself to our office.

Physical Address: Alumni Relations Office, University of KwaZulu-Natal, 232 Mazisi-Kunene Avenue (King George V Avenue), Howard College campus, Durban 4041. Contact: Desiree Govender email: govenderd@ukzn.ac.za/alumni@ukzn.ac.za. Phone: +27 (0)31 260 2958.
- 3. Regular updates and information on UKZN developments and activities** – via our monthly online/electronic newsletter, email, and the alumni website as well as Facebook and Twitter. An annual alumnus publication (*UKZNTouch*) is also posted to alumni or can be viewed here: <http://alumniaffairs.ukzn.ac.za/publications/ukzntouchalumnimagazine2015and16.aspx>. Alumni are most welcome to make contact via Alumni Relations' dedicated email address (alumni@ukzn.ac.za) should they require University-related information.
- 4. Invitations to exclusive events both on and off campus** – a number of annual off-campus events are co-ordinated across South Africa and internationally. These offer excellent networking opportunities for graduates and the chance to receive updates on their *alma mater*.
- 5. The Alumni Relations office has the following UKZN contacts in the UK and USA:**

UK: Bruno van Dyk, Chairperson: Alumnus Association, Europe. Email: bruno.v.dyk@gmail.com

USA: Ambassadors: Mandy Dhillon (Howard College, 2008) and **Cheetah Haysom** (Pietermaritzburg campus, 1969). Email: usa.ukzn.alumni@gmail.com
- 6. A daily updated career portal is available for our graduates.** The Alumni Relations Office provides a career 'Super-Highway' for our alumni that links you to the top companies in South Africa – including consulting and auditing firms, banks, and blue chip corporations. The portal lists available high profile jobs and career opportunities. It:

 - Provides information on a multitude of job opportunities in a single place so that you don't need to consult different sources
 - Names the different companies that are employing so that you know exactly who you are applying to
 - Allows you to apply directly to the employer by linking you directly to their career site
 - To access the alumni career portal visit:
 - <http://alumniaffairs.ukzn.ac.za/Careers.aspx>
- 7. An online update facility is available for easy access.** All graduates are encouraged to stay in touch with the Alumni Relations Office by updating their contact details, especially mobile numbers and email addresses. All information is strictly confidential, and will only be used by UKZN. If you experience any technical problems or are unable to find your name, please contact the Alumni Relations Office at alumni@ukzn.ac.za. Update your details online at: <https://ukznalumni.devman.co.za/devman/online/findme/>
- 8. Find-a-Friend facility** – Get in touch with University classmates and friends! Try searching the Find-a-Friend alumni directory: <https://ukznalumni.devman.co.za/FindAFriend/>. If you experience any problems, please contact the Alumni Relations Office – Email: alumni@ukzn.ac.za □

ON THE BOOKSHELF

RECENT PUBLICATIONS FROM THE UKZN PRESS



AMAGAMA EZINYONI ZULU NAMES OF BIRDS

Adrian Koopman, Roger Porter and
Noleen Turner

Amagama Ezinyoni: Zulu Names of Birds lists all the bird species found in KwaZulu-Natal and surrounds, gives the proposed standardised Zulu name for each species, and explains the underlying meaning and how the name came into being. All earlier names for these birds, even if no longer in current use, have been recorded here, making this a historical repository of Zulu bird names as well.

This book is the result of the six-year Zulu Bird Name Project. Between 2013 and 2018, annual workshops, organised and facilitated by the three authors, brought together a total of eighteen mother-tongue Zulu-speaking bird experts to research the names of bird species present in the Zulu-speaking area of South Africa. At the start of the project, only approximately 40% of the bird species of this area had species-specific Zulu names; by the end of the project all 550 species had unique names.

The comprehensive introduction explains the methodology used in the Zulu bird name workshops, providing a template for linguists and ornithologists who might

wish to do similar bird-naming exercises in the other African languages of southern Africa. The introduction also provides some linguistic and onomastic insights into bird naming generally and Zulu bird names in particular.

Adrian Koopman is an Emeritus Professor of Zulu at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He is the author of *Zulu Names* (2002), *Zulu Plant Names* (2015) and *Zulu Bird Names and Bird Lore* (2019).

Noleen Turner is an honorary research professor in the African Languages Department at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban. Her areas of research interest include Second Language (Zulu) Teaching, Zulu Oral Studies, Onomastics and Humour Studies.

Roger Porter has had a life-long interest in birds and has travelled extensively on bird trips to several countries in Africa as well as to Madagascar, India and Antarctica. Before retirement, he was a wildlife ecologist and conservation planner at the Natal Parks Board and KZN Wildlife. □

ISBN: 978 1 86914 450 0
Price: R365.00
Format: 230 x 150mm, 320pp, incl. 32pp fullcolour section. Softcover
Interest: Linguistics, African studies, bird-naming, onomastics
Rights: World
Pub Date: March 2020

Ordering:
Blue Weaver Marketing
orders@blueweaver.co.za

Distribution:
Booksite Afrika
orders@booksite.co.za

ON THE BOOKSHELF



BAHLABELELELANI – WHY DO THEY SING? GENDER AND POWER IN CONTEMPORARY WOMEN'S SONGS

Nompumelelo Zondi

ISBN: 978 1 86914 464 7
e-ISBN: 978 1 86914 465 4
Price: R195.00
Format: 230 x 150mm, 208pp. Softcover
Interest: Urban and rural studies, gender-based violence, cultural studies, human rights
Rights: World
Pub Date: November 2020

Ordering:
 Blue Weaver Marketing
orders@blueweaver.co.za

Distribution:
 Booksite Afrika
orders@booksite.co.za

Indigenous societies that are steeped in patriarchy have various channels through which they deal with abusive characteristics of relations in some of these communities. One such route is through songs, which sanction women to voice that which, bound by societal expectations, they would not normally be able to say. This book focuses on the nature of women's contemporary songs in the rural community of Zwelibomvu, near Pinetown in KwaZulu-Natal. It aims to answer the question '*Bahlabelelani – Why do they sing?*', drawing on a variety of discourses of gender and power to examine the content and purposes of the songs.

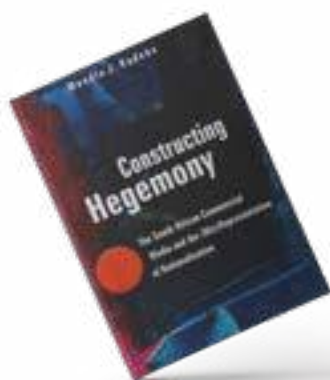
Restricted by the custom of *hlonipha*, women resort to allusive language, such as is found in *ukushoza*, a song genre that includes poetic elements and solo dance songs. Other contexts include women's social events, such as *ilima*, which refers to the collective activity that takes place when a group of women come together to assist another woman to complete a task that is typically carried out by women. During *umgcagco* (traditional weddings)

and *umemulo* (girls' coming-of-age ceremonies), songs befitting the occasion are performed. And neighbouring communities come together at *amacece* to perform according to *izigodi* (districts), where local *maskandi* women groups may be found performing for a goat or cow stake.

The songs, when read in conjunction with the interviews and focus group discussions, present a complex picture of women's lives in contemporary rural KwaZulu-Natal, and they offer their own commentary on what it means to be a woman in this society.

Nompumelelo Zondi is an associate professor and Head of the Department of African Languages at the University of Pretoria. As a way of challenging the hegemony of Eurocentric theories in addressing African problems, she is currently exploring techniques of shifting away from such approaches by researching approaches to address African problems using Afro-centric paradigms. □

ON THE BOOKSHELF



CONSTRUCTING HEGEMONY THE SOUTH AFRICAN COMMERCIAL MEDIA AND THE (MIS)REPRESENTATION OF NATIONALISATION

Mandla J. Radebe

Post-apartheid South Africa continues to face challenges in its attempts at economic transformation for the benefit of the majority of the people, who were marginalised under decades of apartheid and colonisation. This need for transformation has resulted in various policy initiatives, including the ongoing demands for the nationalisation of the economy. The commercial media has a central role in shaping policy debates. But this media is an ideological tool as much as it is an economic resource since it is owned and controlled by people with political and economic interests. It therefore tends to support and promote the interests of the owners.

This book provides a Marxist critique of the representation of the nationalisation of the mines debate by the South African commercial media. Radebe examines corporate control of the media in order to articulate the interrelations between the state, capital and the media, and the way the commercial media represents, shapes and influences public policy. He concludes that beyond factors such as ownership,

commercialisation and the influence of advertising on news content, the global capitalist hegemony has a more powerful influence on the commercial media in South Africa than previously thought.

Mandla J. Radebe is a senior research associate at the University of Johannesburg's School of Communication and a fellow of the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study. He is an experienced communication practitioner with over two decades of experience in the public sector, financial services, information and communications technology, and Higher Education. □

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ON THE BOOKSHELF



ETHNIC CONTINUITIES AND A STATE OF EXCEPTION GOODWILL ZWELITHINI, MANGOSUTHU BUTHELEZI AND JACOB ZUMA

Gerhard Maré

OFF-CENTRE: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON PUBLIC ISSUES VOLUME 3

As we enter the third decade of the twenty-first century, South Africa continues to function under the oppressive burden – felt directly as such by all but the elite – of three continuities from apartheid: race thinking, capitalism and the politics of tradition. It is the last of this triad that is the focus of this book. Yet, as Gerhard Maré argues, continuities in the politics of tradition cannot be understood as separable from the other two, nor from the intimate metapolitics of patriarchy.

Building on his previous research into how apartheid templates of ethnic separatism, and its popular mobilisations, played out in calamitous violence in Natal and Zululand, Maré now takes the story into post-1994 South Africa. He sets as his focus three powerful men – Goodwill Zwelithini, Mangosuthu Buthelezi and Jacob Zuma – to illustrate how, from different social locations, each has relied on claims to Zulu tradition to occupy powerful and financially rewarding positions.

This book alerts readers to the dangers of tradition as a formal, structured politics, which enriches a narrowly elite minority while

overriding democratic rights, effecting a 'state of exception' for the governance of millions who are rendered as 'subjects'. At the same time, tradition in this form leaves intact another divide, at a time when health disasters, inequality and climate catastrophe can be addressed only through shared and collective human engagement.

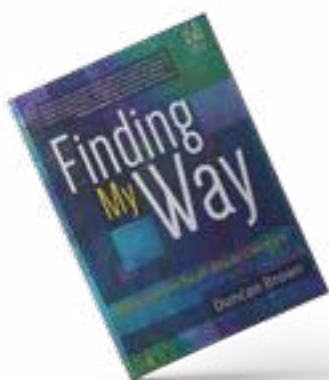
Gerhard Maré is an Emeritus Professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. During his tenure, he served as chair of Sociology, director of the Centre for Industrial, Organisational and Labour Studies and he was founding director of the Centre for Critical Research on Race and Identity. He is the author, most recently, of the award-winning *Declassified: Moving beyond the Dead End of Race in South Africa*. □

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FINDING MY WAY REFLECTIONS ON SOUTH AFRICAN LITERATURE

Duncan Brown

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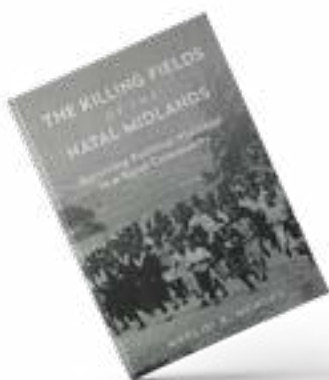
This book offers a series of reflections on the field of South African literature from the perspective of 2020. It emerges from Duncan Brown's experiences of three decades of working in this field of writing and scholarship, and is both a personal intellectual exploration and an engagement with the institutional history of literary studies in South Africa and elsewhere. Several interrelated questions are woven through the chapters: recovering 'the literary'; literary studies 'after theory'; religion and spirituality; 'other' modes of writing and reading; rereadings; South African literary history postapartheid; canonicity; national/transnational identity; and multilingualism and translation.

As well as being a book about the changing field of South African literature, *Finding My Way* is also a series of attempts to find more creative, engaging and intriguing modes of writing about literature and the humanities more generally. It is a book that seeks to recover a sense of the imaginative, the literary, the affective, not only as things to value in the literary texts we read, but also as ways of

understanding and reading texts, as ways of writing criticism – of registering how books make us feel, as well as how they make us think.

Duncan Brown is a professor of English in the Centre for Multilingualism and Diversities Research at the University of the Western Cape. He has published widely in the field of South African literary and cultural studies. His books include *To Speak of This Land: Identity and Belonging in South Africa and Beyond* (2006), *Religion and Spirituality in South Africa: New Perspectives* (2009), *Are Trout South African? Stories of Fish, People and Places* (2013) and *Wilder Lives: Humans and Our Environments* (2019). He is also a Fellow of the University of KwaZulu-Natal and a Fellow of the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study □

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THE KILLING FIELDS OF THE NATAL MIDLANDS SURVIVING POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN A RURAL COMMUNITY

Mxolisi Mchunu

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The Natal Midlands was ravaged by conflict in the 1980s and 1990s between supporters of the United Democratic Front and Inkatha. The violence left thousands of people dead, injured, homeless and emotionally wounded. This book provides a historical study of the origins, causes and nature of political violence in the rural community of KwaShange in the Vulindlela district. This was one of the areas most affected by the political violence in the Natal Midlands, but it has been the subject of only patchy and partial investigation. Mxolisi Mchunu threads individual and local factors with regional and national forces and, through a local study, explains to great effect the political violence that rocked parts of Natal in that period. The account offers the testimony of survivors and the effect of the violence on community members in the ensuing years. One central contention is that the influence of the violence was transmitted across generations and sexes, through whole families and communities. Mchunu tells a story of ordinary people caught up in

the cycle of revenge and despair in the killing fields of the Natal Midlands.

Mxolisi R. Mchunu is an honorary lecturer at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and a research associate at the University of Johannesburg and the University of Cape Town. In 2019, he was selected as a Distinguished Humphrey Fellow to study Development Economics at the School of Public Policy at Duke University. Mchunu currently serves as the deputy chairperson of the Luthuli Museum Council. This is his first book. □

'Reading this book will be a rich and illuminating experience on many levels. For those who are willing, it will also be a mirror for self-reflection and help others on their journey to healing and wholeness.'

— **FATHER MICHAEL LAPSLEY, founder and director of the Institute for Healing of Memories**

ON THE BOOKSHELF



PHONEMES, GRAPHEMES AND DEMOCRACY THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ACCURACY IN THE ORTHOGRAPHICAL DEVELOPMENT OF ISIXHOSA

Zandisile W. Saul and Rudolph Botha

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The period 1823 to the present was an important phase in the standardisation of isiXhosa orthography. The early pioneers of a written form of isiXhosa experienced significant challenges in reducing this African language to writing, since there was no reference material other than that designed for the European languages. Over the years, the development of isiXhosa orthography has progressed considerably. However, various inconsistencies and anomalies remain that require the attention of African language specialists.

This book provides comprehensive guidelines on important aspects of isiXhosa orthography such as word division, spelling and capitalisation. However, the authors' primary focus has been those challenging areas of standardisation which have not yet been attended to. This work will make an important contribution to the development of isiXhosa into a fully functional medium of teaching and learning in Higher Education, and facilitate the enhancement of its status as one of South Africa's official languages.

ZANDISILE SAUL, the primary author of this book, is a Senior Lecturer in African Languages at the University of Fort Hare, where he has been involved in the teaching of isiXhosa linguistics for many years. He received his doctorate in isiXhosa Applied Linguistics in 2013.

RUDOLPH BOTHA is an Adjunct Professor in African Languages at the University of Fort Hare, with a doctorate from the University of Stellenbosch. In addition to his academic commitments, he serves as the Deputy Chairperson of the Eastern Cape Provincial Language Committee. □

ON THE BOOKSHELF



THE TRAINING OF AFRICAN TEACHERS IN NATAL FROM 1846-1964

Nicolas Schicketanz

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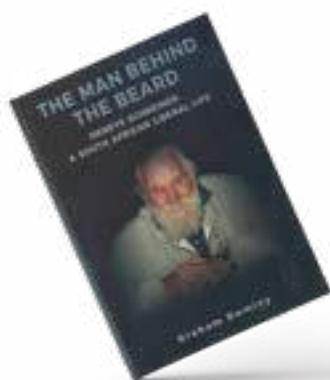
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The history of African teacher training in Natal is one of the most neglected and under-researched aspects of educational history. This book attempts to set out the administrative history of this field as a first step in stimulating the further research that is so urgently needed. It provides an overview of how and why African teachers were trained in the colony and province of Natal, starting in 1846 with the arrival of the first missionaries and ending in 1964, 10 years after the Bantu Education Act was passed. By focusing on the past, the book also aims to provide a historical lens through which modern educational problems can be viewed. The quality of an education system, past or present, depends on its teachers, and the most vital task of any education system is to ensure that teachers are properly trained to do what they should do: inspire and intellectually stimulate the young generation.

Nicolas Schicketanz is a history specialist with a particular interest in the education field. His interest in South African history began during his practical teaching term at the German School in Pretoria in 2006. He obtained his doctorate from the University of Basel in 2015 and currently teaches English and German at the Openbaar Lyceum in Zeist, The Netherlands. □

ON THE BOOKSHELF



THE MAN BEHIND THE BEARD DENEYS SCHREINER: A SOUTH AFRICAN LIBERAL LIFE

Graham Dominy

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Deneys Schreiner was one of an illustrious family that produced a world-famous author (his great-aunt Olive); a prime minister of the Cape Colony (his grandfather, W.P, who also defended a Zulu prince against specious charges in a colonial court); and Appellate Justice O.D. Schreiner, his father, who fought against National Party efforts to remove Coloured people from the common voters' roll.

Deneys was an academic, a scientist and a man of strong liberal principles, with a good sense of humour and widespread interests in the sciences, arts and public affairs. These qualities enabled him, in his quiet, steady way, to transform what was then the University of Natal and the society around it. Between the 1960s and 1980s, he supported and initiated several important endeavours to promote constitutional futures other than those imposed by the apartheid government. One of the most significant of these was the Buthelezi Commission, which he chaired.

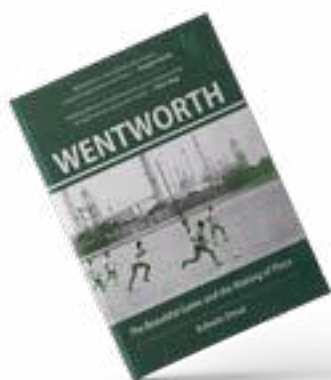
This biography sets out the contexts of Deneys's forebears, his youth, wartime service, studies in Britain and America, family life, and

tenure as vice principal, as well as the context of the times in which he lived. It is based on extensive archival research, supported by interviews with family members, former colleagues, friends and journalists. The picture that emerges is of a man who made a great contribution to the struggle for democracy in South Africa.

And then there is the story of his beard, once described as a potent symbol of his presence and implacable integrity.

Graham Dominy is a Research Fellow in the Department of History at the University of South Africa. An archivist and heritage specialist, he was the national archivist of South Africa for more than 10 years. More recently, he worked as Knowledge Centre and Collections Specialist at the Oman Across Ages Museum in Muscat, Oman. He is married to Anne and they have a son, daughter-in-law and a pride of cats. □

ON THE BOOKSHELF



WENTWORTH THE BEAUTIFUL GAME AND THE MAKING OF PLACE

Ashwin Desai

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In the early 1960s, the city of Durban consolidated racially circumscribed group areas with brutal intensity. In the tiny enclave of Wentworth, designated a Coloured area, newly relocated residents made their homes and sought work in the numerous heavy industries that proliferated on its edges. As people built places of worship and newborn friendships reached across fences and staircases, soccer became the game of choice. Rudimentary pitches were marked out, cool drinks staked and the game unfolded with a mixture of delicate touches and bruising tackles. By the early 1970s, Wentworth's ability to spawn soccer talent, headlined by the glamorous Leeds United, grew into the stuff of legends.

Ashwin Desai digs deep into this history, bringing to life those who inspired and played the game when Wentworth was nothing more than a jumble of shacks and whitewashed blocks of flats, watched over by plumes of smoke from local factories that blackened the sky and slowly poisoned the body. The book's power comes from its ability to keep its focus on

soccer while situating the game in the broader social relations, as geography and history, spatial and temporal meld into a beguiling narrative. Page after page reveals writing of haunting power and sensitivity as memories are cajoled from ageing soccer legends and the interior lives of families are illuminated. It is an evocative exemplar of how community history should be brought to life.

Ashwin Desai is Professor of Sociology at the University of Johannesburg. Among his books on sport are an edited collection, *The Race to Transform: Sport in Post-Apartheid South Africa and Reverse Sweep: A Story of South African Cricket Since Apartheid*. □

