

ISSUE 1 2011

UKZN TOUCH

A UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL ALUMNI MAGAZINE



Elephant Leadership •

Age
Plays a
Pivotal
Role

Research Excellence

GETTING TO GRIPS
WITH RACE

Lessons from the
Japanese Nuclear Crisis

GEOLOGISTS USE
CORAL TO TRACK
CLIMATE CHANGE

Biologists Unearth
New Species

RHODES SCHOLARSHIP
FOR TOP UKZN
SCHOLAR

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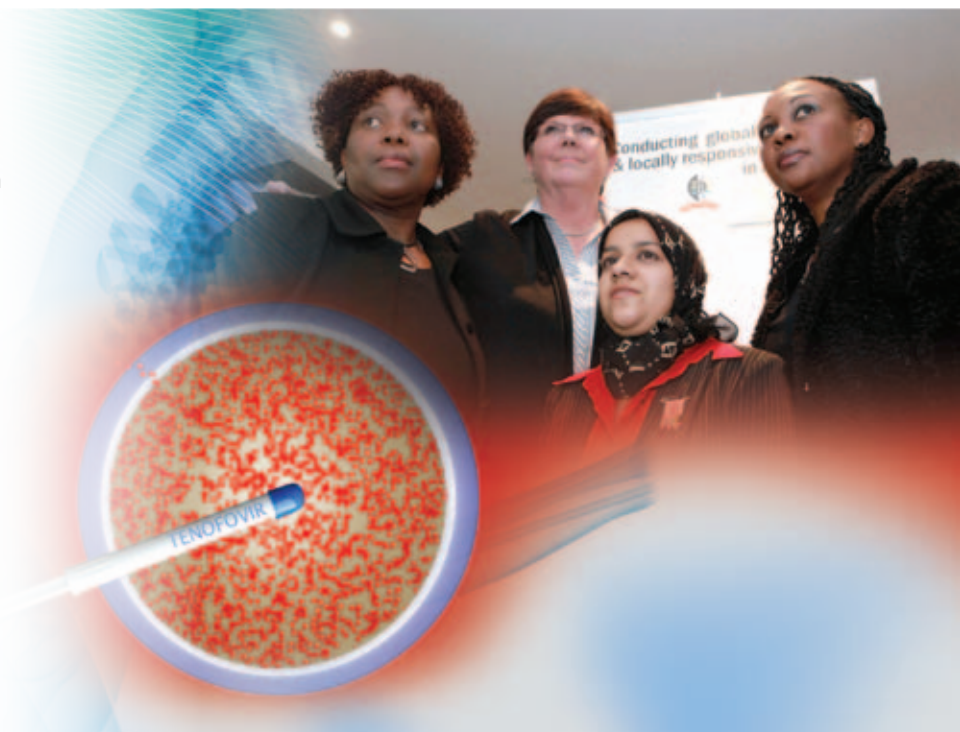
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SINCE
THE MERGER
THERE HAVE BEEN

WORLD BREAKTHROUGHS BY UKZN

2012 will be a watershed year for the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) when more than 200 Higher Education decision makers attend the second QS Middle East and Africa Professional Leaders in Education Conference taking place at the University. Liz Clarke spoke to UKZN's Vice-Chancellor about where the Institution has come from, where it is going and the prickly route so far.

The merger of the Universities of Durban-Westville and the University of Natal, which began in 2004, was never going to be an easy process.

Nobody knows that better than Professor Malegapuru Makgoba Vice-Chancellor and Principal of UKZN.

'It's like being part of an explosive marriage. There have been good times and even exciting ones. There have been very bad times, and a lot of good going on in the middle.'

The evolving partnership, he says, still requires 'principled, careful and honest' managing.

'But whatever turmoil we've been through we've no intention of getting divorced,' he quips. 'Or indeed, separated. We are now UKZN with a distinct identity and future. But I am the first to accept that we've been through a very painful chapter in our history. I believe – and sincerely hope – the worst is over.'

Makgoba, according to his peers, has a unique style of leadership, which does not include compromise.

'I think that is true,' he says. 'There is no place for second best in anything I do or lead. My driving passion is to achieve for this Institution academic excellence and quality research that "will illuminate the world". I won't deviate from this goal and focus and I will clash with people who don't have or share this same goal and vision.'

Taking UKZN to higher levels, he says, means matching and even surpassing the Higher Education organisational systems employed by other universities throughout the world as well as forging "smart" global partnerships.

'Otherwise why are we here?'

With just three and a half years to go before retirement, Makgoba, a Molecular Immunologist and former President of the South African Medical Research Council, has no qualms about telling you that on an excellence scale of one to 10 – the merged university UKZN, in his view, currently scores five.

'A few years ago we were at zero. But sound foundations, I believe, are now in place and now it's about embracing the newly transformed University and moving swiftly forward.'

We sometimes forget, he says, in the heat of recent events, that there is a 'far, far bigger picture for Higher Education in our country' we should be looking at.

'Since the merger, there have been world breakthroughs by UKZN in areas of medical research like microbicides to prevent HIV, groundbreaking commercial processes using quantum physics and innovative ways to harness natural gas, which are already generating power. Our scientists have discovered new plants, found new non-invasive

'But we have to look at the reality. The facts are that standards remain high and are improving year on year.'

The University, he said, was the only institution from South Africa for example to be invited to the launch of the United Nations Academic Impact Initiative held in November in New York.

'It will be UKZN academics who will co-ordinate the initiative "addressing poverty through education" globally.'

sued. From 2006 onwards, academic achievements were swamped by high-voltage accusations, recriminations, leaked documents, emergency meetings. The latest in this "war" was the University's audit that the CHE withdrew and never published because of what was seen as flawed processes and perceived bias. A number of disgruntled academics also accused the University of a "culture of hostility" and "stifling debate".

At the height of the controversy, talk of ethical fault-lines, cover-ups, conspiracies and skeletons in the cupboard elevated the ongoing saga to the level of a political thriller.

As we sit chatting in the Vice-Chancellor's office high in the Westville campus admin block with its burnt orange and golden brown reminding one of an African winter sunset, it's clear that Makgoba accepts that the barrage of complaints were mostly levelled at him.

'As someone once said, Higher Education is not for sissies. I am at the nerve centre and even though decisions are made through consensus and throughout the University, many of them not mine, it's inevitable that I will be the target of whatever criticism is levelled at the University. I am after all the face of UKZN.'

Makgoba says he accepts that. 'My job is not about being popular,' he says. 'Nor is it about individuals. It's about the greater good and best interest of the University; it is also getting the best out of "herding cats".'

He recalls with a smile the Meredith Belbin Team Role Analysis report some years ago that said his 'particular strength may lie in the ability to get the best out of talented, but awkward individuals.' It was suggested that he should 'steer his career into an area where people problems exist and treat this field as a challenge and one in which you may be able to make a special contribution'.

He believes that as part of that challenge the outpouring of dissension was not a bad thing.

'Frankly in a robust environment like a university – that is the way the democratic process must work. We

The University was the only institution from South Africa to be invited to the launch of the United Nations Academic Impact Initiative held in November in New York. 'It will be UKZN academics who will co-ordinate the initiative "addressing poverty through education" globally.'

methods to administer insulin to diabetic patients and conducted life-changing clinical trials.' He says the University 'can hold its head up high' as the only merged institution rated amongst South Africa's research-intensive universities. It is currently ranked number three in South Africa and 472nd out of 1 200 in the world (Shanghai Rankings).

'We achieved these with an academic staff equity profile of 54 percent Black. I think that by any standard this is remarkable! We have not only confounded the apartheid logic but also disproved it.'

Makgoba says that since the merger, the number of research-active academics had risen from 43 percent in 2005 to 75 percent in 2011.

He says that no top academics were lost during the difficult merger process. However, he accepts that the furor surrounding the merger caused a spillover of negative perceptions about UKZN's academic standing.

There were many reasons he said, why students and parents chose other universities for study purposes, other than UKZN.

'The fact remains though that this year alone we had 65 000 applicants for the 8 000 places available in first year. Many of the applicants were KZN's top achievers who could have gone to other universities if they had chosen to.'

Makgoba believes that there was 'no chance whatsoever' of the merger process ever being a smooth transition.

'You're talking about 5 000 staff and 42 000 students. Not to mention political and racial divides, different histories and cultures, job losses, redundancies, power struggles and finances. All that was bound to lead to outright insecurities and confrontation!'

And it did.

Few would have missed the well-documented "war" of words that en-

were shaking things up. After 100 years, transformation had to take place. Non-racial principles had to be embedded. More than 60 policy changes were made, which included the way the Senate and other structures were composed and run – and yes many feathers were ruffled and some brutally plucked.’

Contrary to how people may view his management style, Makgoba says he has no problems with people expressing what they think and taking appropriate action – ‘as long as it is done within the constitutional bounds of the University framework i.e. governance is a non-negotiable.’

Having said that, are there things that he would have done differently?

‘In hindsight I think the merger process may have been too slow. It was always going to cause pain. Perhaps a less protracted process would have been better and we could have set about the rehabilitation process much earlier.’

History, he says, must take care of that side of things.

‘Now we need to move on to the challenges we face in Higher Education. Not only do we need the right structures in place, but we also need to test the academic waters beyond our own learning environment.’

As part of this process UKZN is putting itself in the global limelight to be counted amongst the world’s best, and worst.

‘We have an open book ranking policy with the British-based Times Higher Education (THE), the QS Rankings and the Shanghai based Academic Rankings of World Universities (ARWU) for them to publish exactly where we score in the world relative to our peers on a scale of quality and excellence.’

Makgoba said that while the latest university profile from THE showed that UKZN was attracting sizeable funding for its staff and internationally competitive research units, the University was underperforming on the numbers of doctorates that were coming out of the Institution.

‘We are essentially a research-based

university, so it is independent assessments like these that dictate and point the way forward.’

In that regard, says Makgoba, UKZN is going to address this particular research challenge ‘head on’.

Among the bigger issues he believes can create relevant and competitive scholarship at UKZN and in South Africa and abroad are research on HIV/AIDS, crime, racism and climate change.

Looking back over life, two defining elements, he says, have dictated his destiny. The first was an invitation as a research student to work in a lab run by Dr Harsadroy Desai at Medical School while a third year medical student. Dr Desai was a PhD protégé of the internationally renowned immunologist, Professor Ivan Roitt. ‘He introduced me to the world of basic research. I was still an undergraduate student then. Looking down the microscope I saw for the first time how T lymphocytes attached themselves to a sheep’s red cell in what became known as “resetting”. A South African, Dr Peter Brain working at the Natal Institute of Immunology discovered this widely-used method of separating human lymphocytes. I didn’t appreciate then how much these early investigations would impact on T cell immune recognition and HIV/AIDS research, but the excitement of these early observations kept playing in my mind and ultimately persuaded me that I must become an immunologist.’

This decision also took him to Oxford University where he completed his PhD in the ‘structure and polymorphism’ of human leukocyte antigens (HLAs) – sometimes referred to as the “immune response genes” in the functioning of the immune system.

Today the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine, he points out, has attracted multi-billion rand funding for research with the new international collaborative HIV/TB centre (K-RITH), the Doris Duke Medical Research Institute, the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research

in South Africa (CAPRISA) and further afield the Africa Centre, funded by the Wellcome Trust.

‘In any language these are huge pluses with state-of-the-art research facilities and international partnerships on our doorstep.’

Makgoba says the second big influence in his life was his early childhood in Limpopo Province, where as the eldest of nine children in an African-rooted family – his father was a schoolteacher – and the grandson of the local chief, he was often asked to listen and debate community issues ‘observing how power was discharged by my grandfather and my uncles. I lived and grew up with power and its role.

‘It was as a young boy looking after my family’s flock of sheep and goats, isolated in the veld – not yet seven – that I had to shoulder responsibility. It also taught me that the art of making difficult decisions, where the buck stops with you, is often a very lonely process. You don’t always get it right. But that’s what learning and evolving is all about.’

Some of the “right” things, he believes is the diversity of cultures and nationalities that make up the UKZN family. He is concerned, however, that there is not more understanding of the Zulu language.

‘There is so much contemporary tacit knowledge and perception that remains unlocked in Africa and within Africans and which should be the basis of our research and contribution to global knowledge.’

He also bemoans the fact UKZN does not have a famous School of Zulu.

‘Yet there’s one in Manchester!’ he says with a shake of the head.

Higher Education in all its diversity can be likened to the currency value of shares on the stock market, says Makgoba. ‘When the quality drops, so does the value of the shares. We can’t allow that to happen – and nor will we at UKZN.’



**MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE
OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
CORPORATE RELATIONS DIVISION,
MS NOMONDE MBADI.**

Communicating with our alumni and indeed with all our stakeholders is an imperative which I am passionate about. Escalating costs required an objective assessment of our activities and how we could employ effective and new modes of operation and effective communication whilst maintaining costs. I am pleased to report that we will continue to publish two editions of *UKZNTOUCH* – an electronic and a print version. This is the first electronic version of this publication which uses ISSUU – an online publishing platform that has converted the document into a flip book. ISSUU is used by leading organisations like the *New York Times*, Nokia, The World Bank, NASA and Google.

This edition of *UKZNTOUCH* features articles written by UKZN academics on current issues like the new Consumer Protection Act and the Muslim Marriages Bill. The aftermath of the earthquake and the tsunami in Japan earlier this year raised important questions around the safety of nuclear energy. Professor Nelson iJumba UKZN's Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research points out that there has to be 'the energy mix to complement the conventional sources'. He laments the fact that hydropower sources are a neglected area in the discussions on the alternative sources of energy.

Our students are always a source of immense pride and their exceptional achievements showcase the excellence of our academic programmes. UKZN alumnus Dr Vivek Naranbhai was elected as the 2011 KwaZulu-Natal Rhodes Scholar, one of 10 Rhodes scholars from southern Africa. Dr Naranbhai, who submitted

his PhD in immunology at the young age of 24, will undertake his second PhD at Oxford University in the UK.

The University is recognised for the scope and depth of its academic expertise. The launch of the African Ombudsman Research Centre (AORC) on March 15 at the Howard College campus is testimony to the wealth of legal expertise in the Law Faculty. The Research Centre will serve as a focal point for the African Ombudsman and Mediators' Association (AOMA).

The nostalgia of graduation ceremonies remains for me, undoubtedly, the most important event in the University's calendar. The University had 19 ceremonies over a seven-day period at which 7 471 graduates received their degrees. As you know UKZN is committed to the advancement and empowerment of women and in this regard 61.2 percent of the total graduates were women.

During the months of March and May I had the pleasure of meeting UKZN alumni at special alumni networking events in Johannesburg and Cape Town. The enthusiasm and interest in the developments of the University was indeed impressive. In conclusion, I urge alumni to send us your contact details, including email addresses, which will enable you to receive the electronic version of *UKZNTOUCH*. I am confident that you will enjoy this edition of *UKZNTOUCH* and invite you to forward me your comments at mbadin@ukzn.ac.za

Warm regards

Nomonde

MS NOMONDE MBADI

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: CORPORATE RELATIONS DIVISION

**UMYALEZO OPHUMA KUMQONDISI
JIKELELE KA CORPORATE RELATIONS,
MS NOMONDE MBADI.**

Ukuxhumana nezifundiswa kanye namalunga wonkana eNyuvesi yiqhaza engilithakaselayo. Esimweni somnotho esintengentenge cishe zinsukuzonke sekudalule ukuba sisungule amacebo amasha azosiza ukuba inqubomgomo yethu ihlale isezingeni eliphezulu noma izimo zingezinhle. Kuyintokozo enkulu ukunazisa ukuthi sisazoqhubeka nokukhiqiza ibhuku lethu, i-UKZNTOUCH, kabili ngonyaka – ezoposwa kanye nezothunyelwa ngohlelo lokuxhumana ngekhompiyutha. Lena kungeyokuqala i-UKZNTOUCH ezothunyelwa ngohlelo lokuxhumana ngekhompiyutha, ekhiqizwe kusetshenziswa i-ISSUU – uhlelo lobuchwepheshe kwezamakhompiyutha olusetshenziswa yizinkampani eziphambili njengeNew York Times, Nokia, The World Bank, NASA kanye noGoogle.

Kulomkhiqizo we-UKZNTOUCH kuhlangele izindaba ezibhalwe ngongqongqondo baseNyuvesi ezihlaziya ezisematheni njenge‘Consumer Protection Act’ kanye ne‘Muslim Marriages Bill’. Ukuzamazama kanye netsunami ezweni laseJapani kulonyaka kuphakamise imibuzo eminingi mayelana nekuphepha kwamandla kagesi. USolwazi Nelson

Ijumba oyiDeputy Vice-Chancellor yezocwaningo eNyuvesi ubeka obala ukuthi kumele kube khona izindlela ezihlukile zokusebenzisa amandla kagesi.

Siyaziqhenya ngabafundi bethu abangazibekile phansi ezifundweni zabo, nabaphumelela ngokuvelele zikhathi zonke. Isifundiswa sase-UKZN, uDkt Vivek Naranbhai ungomunye wabalishumi eNingizimu Afrika abakhethwe njenge‘Rhodes Scholar’. Kumbe eneminyaka engu-24 kuphela, uDkt Naranbhai uzoqedela izifundo zobuchule kwezobudokotela (PhD) kwi-Immunology e-Oxford University, e-United Kingdom phesheya.

INyuvesi iphinde inconywa ngeznga lobuchule nobuchwepheshe elibambayo. Ukusungulwa kweAfrican Ombudsman Research Centre (AORC) ngomhlaka-15 kuMbasa esikhungweni iHoward College kungubufakazi kobuchwephehse bomkhakha wezomthetho eNyuvesi -iFaculty of Law. I-AORC edingida konke okubhekene ne-African Ombudsman and Mediators’ Association (AOMA).

Kuko konke okwenzekayo eNyuvesi enyakeni akutho okungithokozisa njengesikhathi lapho abafundi bethola khona iziqu zabo. Kulonyaka iNyuvesi ibambe imicimbi engu-19 ezinsukwini eziyisikhombisa lapho abafundi abangu-7 471 bethole iziqu zabo. Njengoba nazi, i-UKZN iyakugcizelela ukuthuthukisa abantu besifazane, kanti kulonyaka bangamaphesenti angu-61.2 abathole iziqu zabo eNyuvesi.

Ngenyanga kaMbasa kanye noNhlabane ngibe nethuba lokuhlangana nezifundiswa zase-UKZN emicimbini ebibanjelwe eGoli naseKapa. Kuyinjabulo ukubona ukuzimisela ngentuthuko eyenzeka eNyuvesi kulezi zifundiswa. Sengivala, nginxusa ukuba izifundiswa zase-UKZN zisithumele iminiginigwane esingazithola kuyo, zifake nama-email addresss, okuzosiza zithuyelwe i-UKZNTOUCH ngekhompiyutha. Ngiyathemba nizokuthokozela ukufunda lomkhiqizo we-UKZNTOUCH, ngiphinde ngininxuse ukuba nithumele uvo lwenu ku mbadin@ukzn.ac.za.

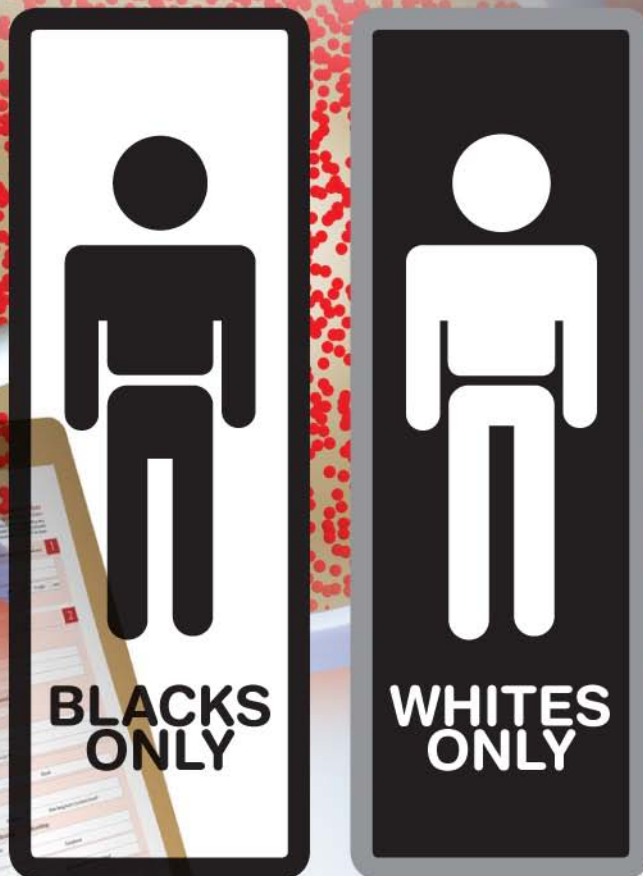
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Nomonde

MS NOMONDE MBADI

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: CORPORATE RELATIONS DIVISION

RESEARCH Excellence



UKZN RESEARCHERS HAVE MADE AN IMPACT ON GLOBAL RESEARCH TRENDS



*UKZN continues to invest in a strong research ethos that positions the University as a centre of research excellence on the continent. **Greg Dardagan** outlines some notable recent achievements.*

While the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) commemorated a century of Higher Education in KwaZulu-Natal in 2010, it also celebrated research achievements over the years which today sees the Institution ranked as the third highest in South Africa for productivity and excellence in the field.

UKZN's *Research Report 2008/2009*, published at the end of 2010, notes that in 2009, UKZN had 156 National Research Foundation (NRF)-rated researchers compared to 137 two years previously. Of those five are A-rated – the top classification achievable. This is in addition to the eight Chairs held through the National Research Foundation (NRF)'s South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARCHI), one of which is held by a woman.

UKZN's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Malegapuru Makgoba, says grants and contracts worth R477 million were processed by the University between 2008 and 2009 while another R100 million was raised to support various research and development activities.

In 2009, UKZN and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) in the United States signed an agreement to fund infrastructure and research programmes for the KwaZulu-Natal Research Institute for Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS (K-RITH). The funding included R218 million for the construction of an ultra-modern state-of-the-art research facility on the grounds of the Medical School in Durban and a further R280-million for research capacity development over a ten-year period.

Professor Makgoba said UKZN's library had started work on a huge project to digitise all the University's theses and dissertations as well as launching a research space facility for accessing digitised material, thus improving capacity to disseminate knowledge. The UKZN Press published more than 40 books in 2008/09, some of which were authored by UKZN staff and featured in the best seller lists.

The Top Published Researchers for 2008 and 2009 were announced at the UKZN Annual Research Dinner on December 1, 2010. Professor Johannes van Staden and Professor Steve Johnson, both of the School



Above: (left to right) Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Professor Nelson Ijumba; Mrs Louise van Staden; and Professor Johannes van Staden, recipient of the DVC Research Award for the Top Published Researcher for 2008, at the UKZN Research Dinner on December 1. 2010. Inset: Professor Steve Johnson, Top Published Researcher for 2009, who was unable to attend the Research Dinner.

of Biological and Conservation Sciences, were the top researchers at UKZN for work published in 2008 and 2009 respectively.

Professor Van Staden is the author/co-author of 1 059 papers which have been published in ISI-rated journals and recently fell within the top 0.5 percent of the internationally most cited authors.

Professor Johnson, who holds the South African Research Chair in Evolutionary Biology, is a leading specialist in the field of plant pollination biology. He has published more than 160 peer-reviewed scientific papers, co-authored a book on

the *Natural History of Table Mountain* and has also written many popular science articles.

The top women researcher for work published in 2008 is Professor Colleen Downs of the School of Biological and Conservation Sciences, while in 2009 it was Professor Sarojini Nadar of the School of Religion and Theology.

Professor Downs and her students have made contributions to the understanding of and conservation of several endangered species as well as contributing to the management of several species and of protected areas. Some of their findings have

been novel and include folivory in mousebirds, heterothermy in passerines, no crop in sunbirds, use of airbags in hornbill nestlings, and the regulation of body temperature of leopard tortoises, tree-rats and Nile crocodiles.

Professor Nadar's research has developed over the years from a limited focus on feminist biblical hermeneutics to a wider interest in other areas of gender and religion, such as masculinities, gender violence and HIV and AIDS in the African context. It is this focus of her work that secured her appointment as the director of the only postgraduate programme in Gender and Religion in



Above: University Dean of Research, Professor Cheryl Potgieter, with the Top Woman Published Researcher for 2008, Professor Colleen Downs (left) and Dr Sarojini Nadar (right), the Top Woman Published Researcher for 2009, announced in 2010.

Africa. Her work in the field of gender and religion has gained international recognition and she has been invited to present papers at conferences in over 20 different countries across the world.

Besides editing books in her field, she has also written and published 28 peer-reviewed journal articles dealing with a range of contemporary gender concerns such as violence, ethnicity and poverty. Her further research interest in the intersection between religion, gender and HIV and AIDS resulted in herself and five colleagues from South Africa and Oslo winning a collaborative research grant from the National Research Foundation and the Norwegian Research Council.

The University has identified a number of strategic research focus areas where expertise has been built up during sustained research involving multi-disciplinary and international collaborations and where UKZN researchers have already made an impact on global research trends. These areas are HIV/AIDS, TB and Health Promotion, Social, Development and Economic Studies, Water, Environment and Bio-diversity, Agriculture and Food Security, Biotechnology, Energy and Technology for Sustainable Development, Gender, Race and Identity Studies, Indigenous African Knowledge Systems and Maritime Studies. In addition, the full spectrum of research – from curiosity-driven to application-based

and participatory action research – is undertaken.

As the pre-eminent academic institution at the epicentre of the HIV epidemic in South Africa, UKZN has taken up the challenge of providing leadership in response to HIV and AIDS, and of undertaking research to enhance and strengthen the broader societal response to the epidemic.

Partnerships include networking and collaborating with AIDS researchers within UKZN, at other South African academic institutions and around the world. In developing partnerships at a global level, UKZN strives to nurture international institutional partnerships

such as the long-standing relationship with Columbia University and Harvard University in the United States. The world-class research centres in HIV/AIDS and TB have attracted funding from international organisations such as the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the Wellcome Trust and National Institutes of Health, the European Union (EU) and DfID.

UKZN made world headlines in 2010 with the announcement that research had shown that a newly developed gel could prevent women from being infected with HIV/AIDS during sexual intercourse.

The 30-month-long Caprisa 004 trial took place through the UKZN's Centre for the AIDS Programme of Researchers in South Africa (Caprisa) and was led by the Centre's director and its associate scientific director – the husband and wife team of Professors Salim and Quarraisha Abdool Karim.

Results of the trial, which have great significance in the fight against HIV/AIDS and gave a further boost to the empowerment of women were presented by the two researchers at the 18th International Aids Conference in Vienna, Austria.

UKZN's HIV/AIDS and TB Strategic Research focus area includes several well-established HIV research groups and projects, including:

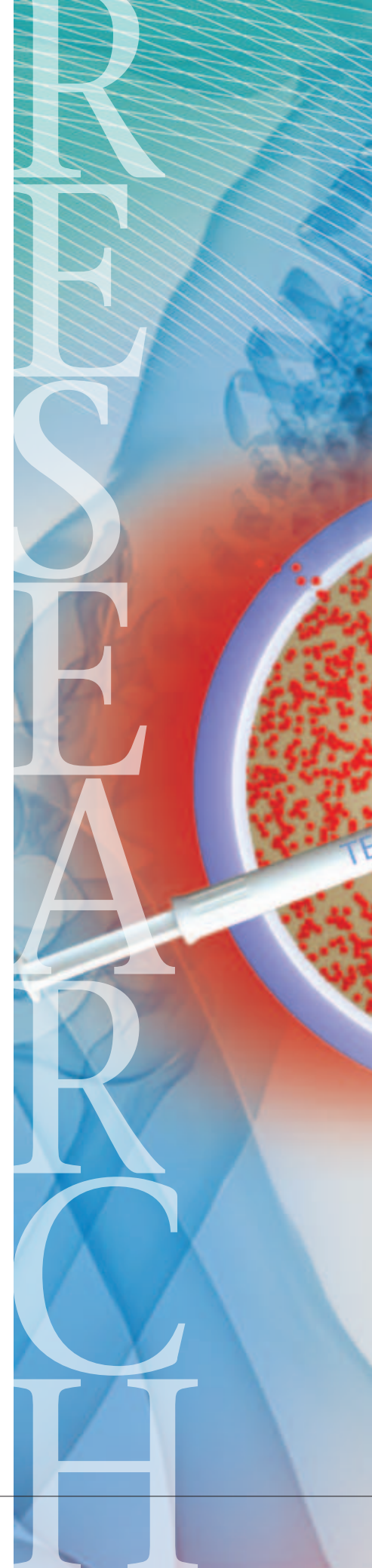
- Caprisa, the Africa Centre based in Hlabisa in rural northern KwaZulu-Natal and the Doris Duke Medical Research Institute in Durban.

Major areas of research at the Africa Centre are demographic surveillance and the role of breast feeding in mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

- The HIV Economic and Research Division (HEARD) investigating the socio-economic impact of Aids.
- Indigenous Health Care Systems which conducts basic and applied research into traditional medicines and the Indigenous Health Care Systems.
- The KwaZulu-Natal Research Institute for TB and HIV/AIDS (K-RITH).

In commemorating 100 years of academic endeavour in KwaZulu-Natal in 2010, UKZN recalled and celebrated earlier research outputs and achievements by UKZN's fore-runners:

- During World War 2 the Faculty of Engineering pioneered the development and use of radar and communication equipment used extensively by the army and navy.
- In the 1960s, researchers from the Faculty of Science and Agriculture developed a method in which rabbits were used as living incubators for the transportation of fertilised ewe ova from England to South Africa, where they were successfully transplanted into surrogate ewes. The Faculty also produced the Honey Gold female paw-paw, which was the oldest paw-paw clone in the world.
- The Faculty of Law was the first in South Africa to launch a dedicated centre for Postgraduate Legal Studies.





Above: Research scientists from the Centre for the Aids Programme of Research in South Africa (Caprisa), left to right, Koleka Mlisana, Janet Frohlich Leila Mansoor, and Sengeziwe Sibeko were part of the team of UKZN researchers that performed clinical trials on the anti-AIDS gel, Tenofovir.

International RECOGNITION FOR CAPRISA 004 TRIAL

The findings of the CAPRISA 004 trial have garnered several prestigious international accolades.

UKZN's Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (Caprisa) is among the largest and most successful research institutes in Africa.

The CAPRISA 004 trial of tenofovir gel by Caprisa scientists under the leadership of Professors Quarraisha and Salim Abdool Karim provided the first evidence that an antiretroviral drug used in a gel form can reduce

sexually transmitted HIV and herpes in women. The results of the groundbreaking study were reported in July 2010 at the XVIII International AIDS Conference in Vienna, Austria and simultaneously in Durban.

The CAPRISA 004 trial has since been hailed as one of the top 10 Scientific Breakthroughs of 2010 by the *Journal of Science*. The journal *Nature* also lauded the research finding and listed

it among their top science news for 2010.

Furthermore, the eminent medical journal, *Lancet* announced that the Caprisa research paper was voted a close second as the *Lancet* Paper of the Year for 2010. In the highly competitive field of medical research, this "silver medal" achievement is a major accomplishment.

STATISTICS

TELL THE STORY





SOUTH AFRICA IS GEARING UP FOR ITS BIGGEST CENSUS IN POST-APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA

*But beneath that process is a more focused layer of information that tells you what ordinary people think and what they really want. **Liz Clarke** spoke to Professor Dori Posel about this far-reaching project.*

Do African families want their children to be taught in English or their mother tongue? Is marriage a dying institution in South Africa?

Two key questions with far reaching consequences, says Posel, the current holder of the National Research Foundation South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) Chair in Economic Development.

‘They are difficult topics. But if we don’t address prickly issues, how will we find solutions?’

Posel is part of a research team delving into, amongst other things, the anomalies, differences and the plain unexpected

in data collected from 30 000 South African homes.

From Deepkloof to Durban, KwaMashu to Klerksdorp the occupants supply information on a voluntary basis, describing life as it really is – who has a cell phone, how many hours members of the household spend collecting water, who is married, the language spoken at home, who works and who doesn’t – and why.

They might sound like very basic issues, she says, but the answers are critical in our understanding of the dynamics of ordinary family life in South Africa.

‘Unlike the quantitative national census which gets under

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WHAT ORDINARY PEOPLE THINK AND WHAT THEY REALLY WANT

way in October this year and is only held once every 10 years, qualitative focused household data gives us a specific and detailed snapshot of life,' says Posel. 'Almost like Google maps zoning in your house in a particular street!'

The research, explains Posel, is done in conjunction with Statistics South Africa, whose detailed Labour Force Survey questionnaire is used as the founding document for individual household studies.

'What we land up with is a giant Excel-like document, rich in focused information.'

The survey, taken year on year is, she believes, a strong indicator of national trends.

'In this way we can pick up changes in lifestyle, job opportunities, income, and skills training in a way that might not be apparent in more general longer term surveys.'

Posel said that since 1994 surveys from a number of sources have been providing valuable information.

'But it is only now that we can start to extract meaningful comparative data.'

An example of changing trends, she says, is the state of marriage in South Africa. A recent study conducted by the School of Development Studies at UKZN, found that less than a quarter of African women aged between 20 and 45 were married (far less than in 2004), while the rate of cohabitation among young African women and men has risen considerably.

'The research team also found that marriage rates had dropped faster in KwaZulu-Natal than in any other part of the country, decreasing from 31 percent in 1995 to just 12 percent in 2008.

'The simple truth is that with high unemployment rates, marriage for

young African couples is just too expensive,' said Posel. 'It would seem that *ilobolo* or "bride wealth" paid by the groom to the bride's family and the growing "commercialisation" of this payment may be a constraint.'

It was also noted that the practice of *ilobolo* was most widespread in KwaZulu-Natal, where figures showed that in 2000 the bride price was around R20 000 – 13 times the monthly earnings of African men at that time.

Whereas in the past, African men could pay off their *ilobolo* in instalments, the study found that the family of the bride preferred that the full amount be paid before the marriage took place. Internet credit card payments were also part of the modern payment mix.

Looking back in history, during the first half of the 1800s the documented number of cattle paid rarely exceeded five, whereas now it can be as high as a hundred.

'We discovered that rising *ilobolo* payments have made marriage an unattainable goal for many young men. It has led to polygamy among rich and old men as well as an increasing number of "forced marriages".'

Posel points out that there is still widespread support for the practice of *ilobolo* despite its hindrance to marriage.

Within this context Posel said that the survey showed there was a 'striking' difference between the marriage rates of African and White women. Even though marriage rates for both sectors had dropped since 1995, twice as many White women were married than African women.

Posel said that another important survey conducted recently, focused on household language preference. For this survey, the National Income Dynamics Study (NIDS) under the umbrella of the Southern Africa Labour

and Development Research Unit (SALDRU) sampled 28 000 people. 'One of the more unexpected findings in this study,' said Posel 'was that Black South Africans preferred English as the language of teaching. Furthermore it was found that those who report to be proficient in English did better in the job market than those who said they couldn't read or write English very well.'

Other key points of this study included the finding that while policy makers encourage mother-tongue instruction in schools, most school governing bodies dominated by parents have chosen English as the language of instruction. The general view of those surveyed was that English was a language spoken by the elite and successful, whereas mother-tongue instruction was tainted by 'its association with the apartheid government policy of Bantu Education which made it compulsory for the first eight years of school.'

It was also found that KwaZulu-Natal, which has the largest percentage of isiZulu speakers, had the lowest English language proficiency in the country.

The problem with these findings, Posel said, was that they give little incentive to switch to an African language as the language of teaching and learning in schools.

'There's a negative side to this. Substantial evidence shows that if children are not well-versed from an early age in their mother tongue, they will not reach an adequate competency in a second language like English.'

Politically sensitive areas, yes. But it is the airings of issues like *ilobolo* and language preference that Posel believes will determine the path that needs to be taken by South Africa's policy makers.



Professor Dorit Posel is the NRF (SARCh1) Chair in Economic Development at the School of Development Studies at UKZN, a former Research Fellow in Development Studies at Princeton University, USA and a recipient of the UKZN Vice-Chancellor's Research Award.

A photograph of a woman and two children in a rural setting. The woman, wearing a blue headwrap and a floral-patterned dress over a blue top, stands in the foreground with her hand on a large white plastic water container. Behind her, a young girl in a red patterned dress looks on with her hand near her mouth. To the right, another child is partially visible, looking towards the camera. They are gathered around a public water tap where water is flowing into a white bucket. Several other large white plastic containers are on the ground. The background shows a dirt path, some buildings, and a chicken, suggesting a rural or informal settlement environment.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION



A Challenge to the new Councillors

Dr Betty Claire Mubangizi debates the role of councillors in the aftermath of the May 2011 local government elections.

Decentralisation and the concomitant creation of local government structures such as municipalities are ideally intended to improve governance by fostering transparency, accountability by leaders and participation by the citizenry.

Many countries have undertaken decentralisation of one form or another in the last few decades and South Africa is no exception. The country's voters have just been to the polls to elect the third set of local government councillors since the dawn of democracy. They did so against the backdrop of service delivery protests that have increased in numbers, magnitude and levels of violence since 2005. A look at local government's constitutional mandate and current scenario might provide insight into these protests and provide the new councillors with insight on how such protests can be avoided in future.

In South Africa, local government has been the primary means through which public services such as water and electricity as well as waste removal, are rendered. The Constitution of South Africa (S155) (1) establishes three categories of municipalities. In 1999, the Demarcation Board of South Africa

demarcated 283 municipalities for the whole of the country. Of these, six are metropolitan municipalities, 47 are district municipalities and 231 are local municipalities. While metropolitan municipalities have exclusive municipal executive and legislative authority over their area of jurisdiction, district municipalities share their authority with local municipalities (Municipal Systems Act 32, 2000). This is to say, a cluster of local municipalities, typically found in small towns and rural areas, make up a district municipality.

Metropolitan municipalities and local municipalities are further subdivided into municipal wards. The Municipal Demarcation Board of South Africa delimited a total of 4 277 wards for the 2011 local government elections and elevated two local municipalities to metropolitan status. When the country went to elections on May 18, voters were electing ward councillors to represent them at the local, district or metropolitan council.

What then can people expect of their councillors and of their municipalities?

Section 152 (1) of the Constitution mandates local government to:

- provide democratic and accountable government for local communities;

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

A CHALLENGE TO THE NEW COUNCILLORS

- ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner;
- promote social and economic development;
- promote a safe and healthy environment; and
- encourage the involvement of communities and community organisations in the matters of local government.

But this constitutional obligation is constrained by the very next clause in the Constitution, (S152 (2)) which states that “a municipality must strive, within its financial and administrative capacity, to achieve the objects set out in subsection (1)”. Herein lies a fundamental challenge. Obviously, municipalities are variously endowed; their ability to provide for their citizenry varies in time and space depending on the resources (natural, financial and human) at their disposal.

Nonetheless, the Constitution recognises a municipality’s right to govern, on its own initiative, the local government affairs of its community (S151 (1)) and the importance of involving communities in matters of governance. This is the main advantage of decentralisation and one on which the new councillors should capitalise. The Local Government Municipal Systems Act (2000) places a high premium on community participation and involvement in all aspects of local government. It is important that voters and councillors alike recognise that voting is only the first aspect of involvement in a municipality’s affairs. Beyond the regular voting activity which happens every five years, there are other avenues for community participation.

Of prominence is the opportunity for community participation in the integrated development planning process of their municipality. The compilation of an Integrated Development Plan (IDP) is prescribed by

the Local Government Municipal Systems Act. Each municipal council must adopt an IDP for the development of its municipality and this should be done in consultation with the citizenry. A municipal IDP outlines community development goals as well as clear activities for their implementation and monitoring. IDPs are intended as anti-poverty as well as growth and development strategies that, ideally, emanate from a common or shared community vision of meeting locally identified needs.

The IDP, if produced by a legislatively engendered joint-planning process, provides a forum where citizens can come together and exchange ideas on the development ideals of their municipality. In an environment where diversity and inclusiveness are difficult to accommodate, joint planning processes for the development of IDPs provide a safe “invited space” where people from different walks of life can share ideas and begin to establish community development activities. The process places development planning firmly in the hands of the community members – individually or through their chosen community structures, instead of leaving it to the whims of local government officials and councillors.

A well-managed IDP process provides an opportunity for learning and sharing ideas. It also has the potential to bring together people from different cultural backgrounds to work towards a shared vision for their communities. A legislated process like the IDP which nurtures community involvement and joint decision-making typifies “invited spaces”. Invited spaces represent serious attempts by local government to engage local communities in joint planning processes and to prevent social unrest and antisocial behaviour. For this to happen, a high degree of awareness of one’s rights and responsibilities is required on the part of community members.

Equally, a high degree of political will is required on the part of councillors. It is worth noting however, that even with political will on the part of councillors, nurturing community involvement and participation can be costly in terms of time and resources. Indeed, wealthier municipalities, with well-developed communication processes, are in a more advantageous position to mobilise for, implement and monitor successful IDP processes.

For the most part, however, we have seen several communities having to work with what can be called “invented spaces” wherein grassroots communities spontaneously construct informal structures for community participation and action. Such service delivery protests typify invented spaces. Since 2005, South Africa has witnessed activists in far flung pockets of the country mobilising themselves to manifest service delivery discontent in unprecedented and often violent ways. This unrest suggests that invited spaces, though created by the Constitution, the White Paper on Local Government and the Local Government Municipal Systems Act, have not been exploited. The result is that the opportunity for understanding state-society relations, cultural factors and community aspirations in specific local government contexts has, in some municipalities, been lost.

The numerous service delivery protests that South Africa has witnessed in the recent past should spur the new councillors to encourage and utilise the invited spaces as created by policy and legislation so as to entrench community involvement. When municipal councillors fail to make use of invited spaces and thus create dialogue with the communities they represent, there will always be spontaneous creation of invented spaces as expressions of exclusion from dialogue and closed communication processes.



Dr Betty Claire Mubangizi is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Public Administration and Development Management and Assistant to the University Dean of Research at UKZN. This is an abridged version of an article co-authored with Professor Mel Gray titled: "Putting the 'public' into public service delivery for social welfare in South Africa." *International Journal of Social Welfare*. 2011. Vol 20 (2) pp 212-219.



Professor Nelson M Ijumba



Lessons from the Japanese Nuclear Crisis

Professor Nelson Ijumba argues that the recent nuclear crisis in Japan is an opportunity for South Africa to think Hydro and Regional.

The nuclear reactor failure at Fukushima Daiichi complex Japan consequent to the tsunami on March 11, 2011, has once again rekindled the debate in South Africa on the rationale of expanding nuclear sources in our energy plan.

This debate centres on the environmental effects of nuclear and fossil fuel coal-based energy sources in comparison with renewable energy sources. Concerns include South Africa's capacity to deal with a nuclear accident, as well as the consequences of such an accident and the disposal of nuclear waste.

The negative effects on the environment of emissions from fossil fuel-based sources are well known. About 85 percent of South Africa's generation capacity is based on coal fired power stations. This is bound to increase with the commissioning of the planned and currently under construction stations. Renewable energy sources, while environmentally friendly have limitations in terms of capacity, considering the levels of the country's energy demand. For the foreseeable future, renewable energy sources cannot, on their own meet the country's energy demands. They have to be part of the energy mix to complement the conventional sources.

Consideration of South Africa's sustainable energy mix is pertinent

to the security of supply. It is unfortunate that hydropower sources hardly feature in the discussions on this mix. This is understandable, given the scarcity of large-scale hydro sources in the country. Currently, only about 5 percent of South Africa's generation capacity is hydropower based, including pump storage schemes. Yet, South Africa is part of the region which has the bulk of hydropower potential in Africa. It is estimated that about 51 percent of Africa's hydropower potential is in central, south eastern Africa. To think of the country's energy security outside the context of the region, which we are very much part of geographically and economically, is to miss the point. Much of the hydropower potential is in countries where it cannot be fully utilised, but it could be shared through an integrated regional grid system.

Currently, South Africa is drawing close to 2000 MW from Mozambique's Cahora Bassa Dam. It is also sharing power with its neighbours through the Southern Africa Power Pool. This initiative can be extended through regional power generation and transmission projects to include sources such as Inga in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kafue Gorge in Zambia and Bujagali Falls in Uganda.

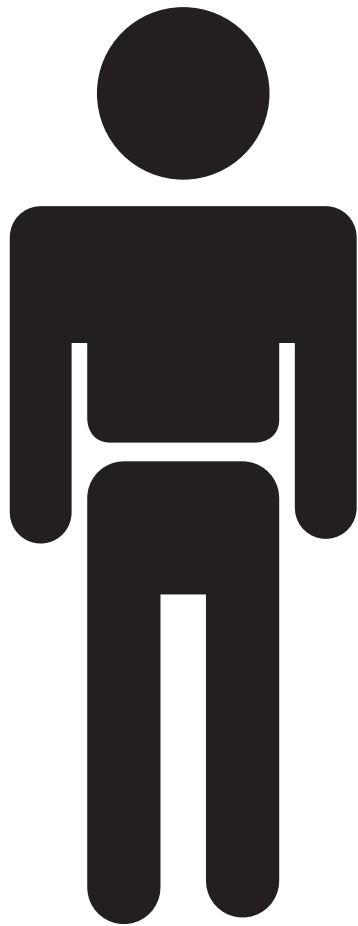
One of the frequently advanced arguments against regional projects is national politics. However,

the existence of structures such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), has demonstrated that there is sufficient political will in the region, necessitated by economic realism, which should create an enabling environment for such projects. Furthermore there are a number of cases in which energy continued to flow across borders of countries with political differences.

Hydro schemes are usually located in remote areas. The linking of the stations to load centres will require long distance transmission lines, the most economically feasible being high voltage direct current (HVDC) lines. The technology would also be more appropriate for the interconnection of the different countries' network to form a regional grid. Such power projects will require massive investments to develop and would be more economically feasible if shared by many countries. This is why it is necessary to consider regional projects.

In a recent Eskom Road Show, the parastatal's Chief Executive alluded to Eskom's regional strategy. This would be the best opportunity to implement the strategy.

Professor Nelson M Ijumba is Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research at UKZN. He writes in his personal capacity.



**BLACKS
ONLY**



**WHITES
ONLY**



Getting to grips with Race

Race and identity are such sensitive subjects that most people steer well clear of them. Liz Clarke spoke to a UKZN academic who believes the time has come to examine the past, closely.

Race classification – just the mention of these words is enough to send a chill down the spine of modern South Africans.

It conjures up images of gums, fingernails, hair, the back of the neck all being subjected to a scrutinising procedure that once deemed whether you were White, Black or somewhere in between. It conjures up signs on benches at bus stops and demarcated beaches.

Even if we remember these things, we don't want to think about it. We don't want to hear about it.

Academics like Professor Gerhard Maré, director of the Centre for Critical Research on Race and Identity (ccri), believe that painful, embarrassing, and distasteful though the apartheid structure might have been, examine it closely in its complexity we must.

'It's the only way we will ever understand what is happening now and how the past, abhorrent though it was, still affects the present, beyond the obvious "legacies",' he says.

It was one of the key topics that took centre stage at a Symposium and two public events in Durban as a

wide range of academics and members of civil society came together to grapple with awkward truths that most would rather put on the back burner.

If a spark were needed to light the litmus paper at just such a gathering, says Maré, it came in the form of a seemingly innocent question on the first evening from author of *Native Nostalgia*, Jacob Dlamini.

His question was: 'Do we know what apartheid was. Shouldn't we know?'

'It's a natural enough thing to steer away from something as repugnant as apartheid. Why should we discuss a failed structure when the country has freedom of speech and association, a constitution protecting human rights and a working democracy?' asks Maré.

'Better we pretend we weren't part of it, or it was them not us.'

But Dlamini, he says, made the point that Black people were also agents in everyday life, composed, painted, sang, got married, had children, and addressed aspirations, during the apartheid years. 'Not everything was in response to apartheid.'

The complexity of the past, says Maré also has to acknowledge

Colour of the skin, Maré believes, should not solely define who should qualify for preferential treatment, such as admission at university. Other proxies for disadvantage should be explored, such as whether that person is a first generation student at tertiary level, the challenges faced during school life, lack of resources, deaths in the family during crucial years of development. These are the pertinent things, not the amount of melamine in your skin. Critical issues require critical answers. Answers that should disturb generally accepted ideas.

‘active citizens with choices’, some of them as oppressors, exploiters, and collaborators.

The simple answer to Dlamini’s opening question, says Maré, is no, we don’t know enough and yes, we should know more.

‘Like some magician’s rabbit, we’ve collectively shovelled it away as though it never happened, thrown much of it into the dustbin of history. Yet we are continually trying to rectify the imbalances it created and come up with appropriate solutions. But how can we come up with solutions when we don’t know the problems, the complexities, the issues that dominated that 40-year-old structure of governance?’

The current truth as Maré sees it is that race classification hasn’t gone away.

‘In fact it is alive and well in the new South Africa, dominating many, if not most, facets of our society. We have four race classifications, just as they had in the past. We have legislation that relies on classification, just as they had before.’ Even if the Population Registration Act was scrapped.

It is time then, he believes, for honest talk.

‘Affirmative Action, Black Empowerment’ – icons of a transforming South African society – ‘are “unashamedly” race-based’. Nobody will disagree with that.

‘But neither of them is working, even in their limited goals – and we need to understand why through frank and robust dialogue – at all levels of society, and the classification on which they rely has disturbing consequences.’

Maré says that in his view classification in itself is not the problem.

‘Classification is part of life as we know it. Whether it’s books, plants, birds, Nguni cattle or people, we’re all classified in one way or another as a form of identity. Without classification there would be chaos in the complex world we humans have created. It is how we manage classification and what we do with it that is important.

‘It is something that as a society, we’ve got to agree upon. Just as the creation of apartheid categories based on race had dire consequenc-

es, we have to ensure the same situation does not occur now. It is when individuals become simply specimens of a category of humankind that we have to be worried, very worried.

‘We have to be worried when a child says to another at school “what are you?” – in other words, what race are you – instead of “who are you?”. It’s these attitudes that perpetuate racism and promote an unequal society.’

But understanding the legacy of the apartheid past and ‘the dire consequences’ it spawned are only part of the picture. It is what happens from now on that history will judge us by, says Maré.

‘We no longer have forced removals, at least not based on colour. There is no equivalent to the Population Registration Act that divided people on ethnic and racial grounds. But we still have a terribly unequal society and angry voices, large groups that have been left out, people who will protest about service delivery, creating the climate for mass action.’

He believes it is those voices of active citizenry that need to be harnessed



Above: Professor Gerhard Maré heads the Centre for Critical Research on Race and Identity (ccrri) at UKZN. The Symposium attended by more than 30 national and international delegates was part of the lead up to the International Social Science Council's World Social Science Forum in 2012.

to define a shared vision; we need to find a 'common language' that will resonate with all South Africans.

'It is not race-based affirmative action that we need as sole solution, but exploring approaches to corrective actions that are aimed at the consequences of apartheid such as race discrimination and capitalist exploitation. As I would call it, "regstellende aksies".'

That 'corrective action', he says, would require a new understanding of what classification stands for in South Africa, where the colour of the skin is not the sole, defining benchmark, but rather where one

should consider the varied locations of the individual – as female, as young, as illiterate, as unemployed, and so on.

Colour of the skin, Maré believes, should not solely define who should qualify for preferential treatment, such as admission at university. Other proxies for disadvantage should be explored, such as whether that person is a first generation student at tertiary level, the challenges faced during school life, lack of resources, deaths in the family during crucial years of development. These are the pertinent things, not the amount of melamine in your skin.

Critical issues require critical answers. Answers that should disturb generally accepted ideas.

'There are ways forward. As a fluid society we just have to find them,' says Maré.



The Muslim Marriages Bill

Ms Munirah Osman-Hyder urges the Muslim community to engage with proposed legislation which will give dignity to Muslim marriages and provide proper legal channels to address disputes.

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or six years Ayesha was abused physically, verbally, emotionally and sexually during her marriage to Ebrahim. One day when Ebrahim pointed a firearm at her, she decided she had had enough.

Ayesha and her two minor children went to live with her father. Despite her many requests, Ebrahim refused to grant her a divorce (*talaq*). A *talaq* is the dissolution of a Muslim marriage, immediately or at a later stage, by a husband or his agent.

While it was easy for Ayesha to apply to the South African secular courts for relief from a lack of maintenance, as well as for the domestic violence and assault she suffered, she could not apply to the courts to terminate her Muslim marriage. The main reason for this is that South African law does not recognise Muslim marriages and hence Muslim marriages cannot be terminated by the civil courts.

This doesn't mean that in Ayesha's case, Islamic Law leaves the wife in a destitute position without any redress. Islamic law provides a remedy in the form of a *faskh*, in the instances where a husband, such as in this case, refuses to grant his wife the *talaq*. *Faskh* is a decree of dissolution of the marriage granted by a judicial body upon the application by a spouse on the grounds permitted in Islamic Law. Two such grounds existed in Ayesha's case. Firstly, the husband failed to maintain her, and secondly, he treated her with cruelty, which rendered cohabitation intolerable. Islamic law requires only one ground to be proved.

M U S L I M M A R R I A G E S B I L L

GIVING DIGNITY TO MUSLIM MARRIAGES

‘You got into this mess, now you get out of it,’ was the reply Ayesha received when she sought assistance from the local body of theologians (ulama) to obtain a *faskh*. In the absence of any legislation regulating Muslim marriages, women in Ayesha’s position have to approach the ulama for a *faskh*.

Ayesha was forced to turn to another ulama body to get relief. The second theologian (aa’lim) told Ayesha in a telephonic conversation that he had spoken with her husband and if she dropped the court cases for maintenance, assault and domestic violence he would grant her a *talaq*. Angered by the idea of having to negotiate her freedom she promptly asked the aa’lim if he will be able to

Ayesha did not manage to get a *talaq* but she did manage to obtain a *faskh*. Not every Muslim woman in her position is that lucky. For many, as a recent research report compiled by Drs Shaikh, Hoel and Kagee at the University of Cape Town shows, getting a *faskh* and definitely a *talaq* is almost impossible.

The study shows that the main reason for this is that the ulama bodies are insistent on reconciliation and have on many occasions proved to be partial to men. Also, they do not have the skills of applying laws in a judicial setting since their training as religious scholars is limited to issues of faith and faith based practices.

sues around the continued non-recognition and non-regulation of Muslim marriages. Even though aspects of Muslim marriages have been given limited recognition through the cases that have come before the secular courts, this piecemeal recognition through the development of the common law (case law) is problematic for various reasons.

Access to courts is not always an option as it is generally the financially marginalised that need redress in such matters. It took more than 300 years for us to arrive at the current common law position. In the interim Muslims, especially the women are facing many hardships in the absence of legislation.

In desperation, Ayesha turned to a third ulama body for assistance. At a meeting where both Ayesha and Ebrahim were present, the aa’lim asked Ebrahim for his reasons for not granting a talaq. Ebrahim’s response was, ‘I do not want Allah’s arsh (throne) to shake’. This is in keeping with the Islamic view that of all the things permitted by God, God hates divorce the most. The aa’lim’s reply was unconventional: ‘Do you think that God’s throne does not shake when you abuse your wife and when you refuse to maintain her?’

compel Ebrahim to pay maintenance and to stop abusing her.

In desperation, Ayesha turned to a third ulama body for assistance. At a meeting where both Ayesha and Ebrahim were present, the aa’lim asked Ebrahim for his reasons for not granting a *talaq*. Ebrahim’s response was, ‘I do not want Allah’s arsh (throne) to shake’. This is in keeping with the Islamic view that of all the things permitted by God, God hates divorce the most. The aa’lim’s reply was unconventional: ‘Do you think that God’s throne does not shake when you abuse your wife and when you refuse to maintain her?’

What seems clear is that while Islamic Law itself provides a wide framework for the protection of women’s rights and for upholding their dignity, this kind of *ad hoc* application and lack of implementation of Islamic Law, has led to severe injustices and hardships for Muslim women. And, it is not only in cases of divorce that Muslim women experience such challenges.

They also have difficulty in obtaining maintenance, and the continued non-regulation of polygyny leads to much abuse.

This raises some very pertinent is-

Furthermore, some decisions emanating from the secular courts are at odds with Islamic Law, as was the case in Hassam and Daniels, when the wife received maintenance according to South African Law which was contrary to Islamic Law.

And in the absence of legislative recognition, parties in a dispute are forced to approach the local ulama bodies that do not have the will (as in Ayesha’s case) or the authority to enforce a decision. Very often the aa’lims themselves differ in how they apply the religious law.

For these reasons, the Muslim com-



Ms Munirah Osman-Hyder is a lecturer at the Faculty of Law at UKZN, an executive member of the Association of Muslim Accountants and Lawyers and the Secretary of the Coalition of Muslim Women.

munity has engaged with government for the past 17 years to seek the recognition and regulation of Muslim Marriages through appropriate legislation. After a drawn-out and legitimate consultative process between all sectors of this community and government, Cabinet has finally approved the Muslim Marriages Bill (MMB) and has published it for public comment. The MMB sets out a legislative framework for the recognition and regulation of Muslim marriages. The legislation is not intended to be forced upon the community as it gives parties the option to choose to be governed by such a marital regime. Further, it regulates polygyny and the registration of a *talaq*, all with the purpose of estab-

lishing equity between the spouses and to bring relief to the hardships faced.

In Ayesha's case, if the Bill were in place, she would have been saved the trauma of having to retell her story to three groups of men. She would have had immediate recourse in the South African courts. The MMB sets out the definition, grounds and procedure for obtaining a *faskh*. Also, any order granted by the court can be effectively enforced.

This is but one way in which the legislation and regulations will significantly reduce the hardships Muslim women face in the absence of any law regulating Muslim marriages.

Some other aspects, as mentioned earlier, of the MMB that seek to protect and provide dignity to women are regulating polygyny and the registration of an irrevocable *talaq*.

The Muslim community now has an opportunity to rally together to effect a law that will give dignity to Muslim marriages and provide proper legal channels to address disputes in a fair and just manner. To take any other stance but one of engagement is incongruous with the concept of public interest in this instance.



The POWER of Scent

New UKZN study
reveals plant's
powerful lure

Recently released research, conducted by Professor Steve Johnson and his team at the School of Biological and Conservation Sciences over a period of six years, reveals just how adept plants are at communicating with animals.

Their study, published in *Proceedings of the Royal Society: Biological Sciences*, involved the plant *Cytinus visseri*, and is the first to isolate the plant's specific chemical scent and discover its effect on ground-dwelling mammals responsible for pollination.

It is well known that flowering plants use a variety of methods/signals to attract pollinators who facilitate their reproduction. Scent is one such method. It is particularly effective because of the diversity of volatile chemicals in flowers and because of animals' heightened sense of smell. In addition, scent is extremely valuable to plants pollinated by small mammals that do their work at night when visual cues are less effective. However, little research exists as to what kinds of scents are most attractive to pollinators. According to Johnson, humans find flowers pollinated by ground-dwelling mammals to be 'yeasty' or 'pungent' smelling. However, 'the chemical composition and attraction function of the floral scents of species pollinated by ground-dwelling mammals have remained unknown.'

Cytinus visseri is a parasitic flowering plant that does not produce chlorophyll but instead relies totally on its host plant. It produces dark maroon, unusually robust flowers and resulting fruits which are hidden under the dense canopy of host shrubs. Its floral features are similar to those of other southern African plants which rely on pollination by ground-dwelling mammals.

The field component of Johnson's study was conducted at Mauchsberg, the highest point on Long Tom Pass in Mpumalanga and home to the largest known population of *Cytinus visseri* plants. His colleagues included researchers from the South African National Biodiversity Institute, the University of Calgary and the German University of Bayreuth.

The researchers collected the scent from male and female flowers and analysed

the samples in the laboratory using gas chromatography mass spectrometry. The scent comprised over 30 different compounds, with the main volatiles being 1-hexan-3-one, 3-hexanone and ethyl butyrate. To ascertain the exact identity of the pollinators attracted to the scent, the researchers observed the plants for an extended period. Because of the nocturnal nature of some pollinators, the researchers placed cardboard discs covered with black soot around the plants in order to pick up the footprints of animals. As expected, no insects or birds were observed. Instead, rodent footprints and tail-drag marks were found on the cardboard, clearly indicating that the pollinators were small nocturnal mammals – striped field mice, pygmy mice, dormice and elephant shrews.

To test the mammals' response to the floral volatiles isolated in the laboratory, the team conducted trials with striped field mice by placing them in a y-shaped maze consisting of different scented pathways. Results revealed that one compound, 3-hexanone, consistently attracted the mice, suggesting that they find it innately attractive. Previous research has revealed that 3-hexanone may also function in mammalian communication as it is present in the urine of some mice and has found to elicit responses in the sensory centres of rats brains. Johnson suggests that the presence of 3-hexanone in *Cytinus visseri* plants may be the result of the plant adopting or taking on animal chemical scents during its process of evolution. Also, since the compound is indicative of certain foods, it may be effective in attracting small mammals. Johnson also noted that although 3-hexanone is not a component of most floral scents, it is found in some Central and South American plants that are pollinated by bats.

Interestingly, 3-hexanone has a pleasant aroma to humans which is borne out by the fact that it is used to flavour food, giving it a sweet grape or wine-like flavour.



The staggering array of marine and coral life at Anton's Reef, Sodwana Bay – In the foreground a lone Bluebanded snapper (*Lutjanus kasmira*) investigates as a shoal of Blue-and-gold fusiliers (*Caesio caerulaurea*) swim past an outcrop of Thistle soft coral. – Photograph: Rod MacLeod

A vibrant underwater photograph featuring a yellow-striped fish in the foreground, swimming over a diverse coral reef. The background is a deep blue, with other smaller fish visible in the distance. The overall scene is rich in color and detail, showcasing the beauty of marine life.

Geologists use Coral to track climate change

Climate change is widely acknowledged as one of the greatest environmental issues of our time. It is fundamentally altering our world. Scientists around the globe are challenged with understanding climate and predicting how the environment will change. They use evidence obtained from a wide range of sources such as ice cores, pollen, vegetation and insects to reconstruct past climate and make predictions about the future. Corals are one such source. They are ultra-sensitive to changes in climate and are like a history book, representing an unbroken record of weather patterns and changes in the ocean environment.

Dr Ron Uken, based in UKZN's School of Geological Sciences, has recently initiated a new research project which is investigating the palaeoclimate (the climate of the geologic past) record preserved in corals from Sodwana Bay on the eastern seaboard of KwaZulu-Natal.

This area is home to the most southerly-located corals on the east-African coast and represents a dynamic environment as it is washed by the Mozambique and Agulhas currents.

The study is part of the African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme (ACEP) and is being conducted in collaboration with the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research. It forms one part of a very suc-



successful multi-disciplinary project on the Western Indian Ocean involving environmental geochemists, climate scientists, environment modelers and ecologists to improve the sustainable management of the coastal environment.

Uken explained that corals grow at an average rate of 1cm per year, leaving behind calcium-carbonate growth bands or rings, just like trees. These rings store a wealth of information about the environment and are highly valued by scientists, especially those searching for information that predates instrumental records. For example, the thickness of the bands can change depending on ocean temperature, rainfall, water clarity and nutrient availability. However, the most valuable clues to climate are obtained by analysing the chemistry of these bands.

In order to effectively analyse coral, coral cores are extracted by SCUBA divers using specially designed hydraulic drills. Scientists are then able to analyse the core, millimetre by millimetre, using a combination of spectral luminescence, X-ray analysis, stable isotope chemistry and Sr/Ca chemistry to come up with a detailed environmental history. Sea surface temperature change, river runoff and flood events are some of the effects that can be determined through these analyses.

Uken and his team have already begun the process of collecting the coral cores from a large coral dome (rock-like mounds that make up a coral reef) on 2-Mile Reef at Sodwana Bay. The cores will be sliced into flat slabs in a laboratory and will be taken to a local hospital where they will be X-rayed, much like a bone density scan. This will

map out the annual growth and density of the rings – dark bands represent high-density growth that typically occurs in summer and light bands show low-density growth which takes place in winter. It is also possible to isolate stress bands which indicate periods of environmental stress. The next step in the process involves taking a chemical sample which will be sent off to researchers at the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research in Holland who will conduct an elaborate analysis in their laboratories.

Armed with all this data, Uken and his researchers will then be able ‘read’ weather history, enabling them to put forward possible answers to a range of questions about climate change. ‘We hope to be able to look back and see what the trends are and make projections... establish the threats and what governs survival and where we will be in 100 years’ time,’ said Uken. In addition, UKZN’s School of Geological Sciences is in possession of coral cores which it collected 15 years ago from the same area. The researchers will, therefore, be able to compare analyses of these with the results from the most recently-collected samples and see how things have changed over the last 15 years.

Interestingly, new research released by climate scientists in Australia indicates that the recent extreme weather experienced in northern Australia may become a more frequent occurrence. This prediction was arrived at by analysing coral cores extracted from the Great Barrier Reef. These cores date from 1639 to 1981, representing a 300-year climate record.



A Tasseled scorpion fish (*Scorpaenopsis oxycephala*) awaits its prey. Covered from head to tail in branched tentacles and skin filaments and with the ability to alter his colour to match his surroundings, the fish lies dead still, completely camouflaged by its coral habitat at Sodwana Bay. Photograph: Rod MacLeod

Cons

Car Loan Application

Please print clearly. All applications must be completed. Incomplete applications may cause delay. Establishment and credit fees will charge applicable on all loans.

Important Note:
An establishment fee is applicable for all loans.
We guarantee the car finance rate.
2000 Credit Finance for 20,000 credit.
4000 Credit Finance for 40,000 credit.

1 What type of car are you looking to purchase? (Please give full details including whether it is a new or used car.)

Amount required: £ _____ Term: _____ or Preferred Repayment: £ _____ per _____ or _____ or _____

Do you require this a business, commercial or investment purpose? Yes ☐ No ☐

2 **Personal Details** Membership No. _____

Applicant Name
Title _____
Surname _____
Given Name _____
Date of Birth _____
Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Miss ☐ Mrs ☐ Ms ☐ Other _____

Marital Status
☐ Married ☐ De Facto ☐ Single ☐ Widowed ☐ Divorced ☐ Separated
Number of dependent children: _____
Age: _____

Spouse Name (if applicable)
Surname _____
Given Name _____
Date of Birth _____
Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Contact Details
Phone: _____ Mobile: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____
How long have you lived here? _____

Current Residential Address
Address: _____ Town: _____ Postcode: _____
Suburb: _____
Type: ☐ Fully owned ☐ Buying ☐ Rented ☐ Shared ☐ Other _____
If renting or buying, landlord/landlady name and details: _____
Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Previous Address (if current address less than 2 years)
Address: _____ Town: _____ Postcode: _____
Suburb: _____
If renting or buying, landlord/landlady name and details: _____
Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Personal References (Please supply the names of two referees and one referee who is living with you.)

Name	Address	Telephone
_____	_____	_____
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Prote

umer

The new Consumer Protection Act

The Consumer Protection Act, 2008 finally came into operation on April 1, 2011. Professor Tanya Woker outlines its provisions.

The Consumer Protection Act has been described as “ground breaking and dynamic legislation that will set a benchmark internationally” and “legislation that is set to change the legal landscape and will leave South African consumers amongst the best protected in the world”.

Although the Act certainly introduces a new way of doing business, many of the consumer rights in the legislation are not entirely new. These rights have always existed in the common law or in many different pieces of legislation which contain aspects of consumer protection. These rights are often unknown to consumers or they are unable to enforce

them because it is too expensive to engage in litigation. Many consumer complaints involve amounts which do not justify the expense of consulting a lawyer. This means that business has in the past simply ignored these rights or they have contracted out of them.

A classic example is that in terms of the common law a consumer has three years in which to return faulty goods provided the goods were faulty when they were purchased. Suppliers contract out of the common law by stating that goods can only be returned if they are returned with the packaging intact within seven days. A consumer who returns a faulty computer after three months is told that they should have returned the goods

ction

THE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

within the stipulated seven-day period. The argument that 'it did not break down within seven days but no-one expects a R7 000 computer to pack up after three months' falls on deaf ears. Then of course the supplier wants the consumer to contact the manufacturer and arrange for the computer to be repaired because as she is told 'it was not the supplier's fault that the computer broke'. The consumer does not feel that it is her fault either but she has to go to the trouble of arranging for repairs whilst the supplier who sold her the faulty computer in the first place is able to wash his hands of the whole problem.

The Act gives the consumer six months in which to return faulty goods and they have the choice of claiming a refund or allowing the goods to be repaired. The supplier will then obviously have its right to take this up with the manufacturer who produced the defective computer. Suppliers may no longer contract out of rights which are given to consumers in the Act. This may not be as good as the common law, but it is certainly a vast improvement on what has been happening in the marketplace.

The Act aims to promote fair business practices, stop unreasonable and unfair conduct, improve consumer awareness and provide an effective means of solving problems. It aims to even the playing fields between consumers and their suppliers. Even though it unashamedly focuses on consumer protection, it contains many important sections which businesses can rely upon if they feel that unreasonable consumers are taking advantage of their new-found rights. For example, a consumer may only return goods if those goods were faulty when they were purchased and not because the consumer has changed her mind. There is no universal "cooling off" period. Consumers can only claim damages for injuries suffered if the injuries were caused by defective



Professor of Law at UKZN,
Tanya Woker.

goods and not because the goods were used improperly. Consumers cannot cancel long-term contracts such as cell phone contracts and then expect to keep the goods which they received as part of that contract. There may well be consequences such as the payment of cancellation fees when consumers enter into contracts for services and then change their minds. But these fees must be reasonable.

Suppliers may still include certain terms in their contracts which are designed to protect their interests, but they need to be far more open and honest about the terms and what they mean. Their contracts must be written in simple language which the ordinary consumer can understand. Certain terms are however blacklisted such as a term which excludes liability for recklessness, and the term which reads "lovely to look at, lovely to hold but if you break it consider it sold". Other terms are on what is called a "grey list" and suppliers will have to justify why those terms are included in their contracts.

An important point to note is that the Act only applies to goods and services which are provided in the ordinary course of business. So consumers who purchase second hand goods or even homes from private individuals will not be able to rely on the Act if something goes wrong. Most importantly these goods can be sold "voetstoots" or "as is".

One of the most important features of the Act is the establishment of the Consumer Commission. This Commission will be able to assist consumers and if it finds that suppliers are contravening the Act it can refer matters to the Consumer Tribunal which has the power to levy hefty fines for prohibited conduct. Prohibited conduct is conduct which suppliers may not do or conduct which they are required to do. There are 99 instances of prohibited conduct in the Act from selling defective products, to incorrect labeling, and the failure to supply receipts for payment.

The Act is not a difficult Act to understand or follow. Those businesses which take their customers seriously, are prepared to accept back faulty goods and compensate consumers for their losses (in most instances consumers just want their money back), are upfront with consumers and make proper disclosure about their goods and services, do not mislead consumers about what can or cannot be done and make sure consumers truly understand what they are getting into, should in my view, have nothing to fear from this Act. Of course there will always be those businesses which are not prepared to play by the new rules and this Act will make it much easier for consumers to protect their rights and simply get what they paid for – quality goods and proper service.



Left: The beautiful and rare, mountain loving, *Pachycarpus rigidus*.

Biologists Unearth New Species

Meet what may be the newest species to the endemic African-Arabian genus Gomphocarpus.

This new species was collected on a fieldtrip undertaken by Professor Ashley Nicholas and two of his PhD students, Ms Melissa and Ms Rene Glen, from the School of Biological and Conservation Sciences on the Westville campus.

Travelling in an anticlockwise circuit around the base of the Drakensberg mountains, these scientists collected in many almost inaccessible areas of the mountain massif. Besides the discovery of a possible new endemic species of South African *Gomphocarpus*, this scientific trip also produced several new distribution records for *Aponogeton junceus* (one of the ‘waterblommetjies’) including the first record of this species for the Free State.

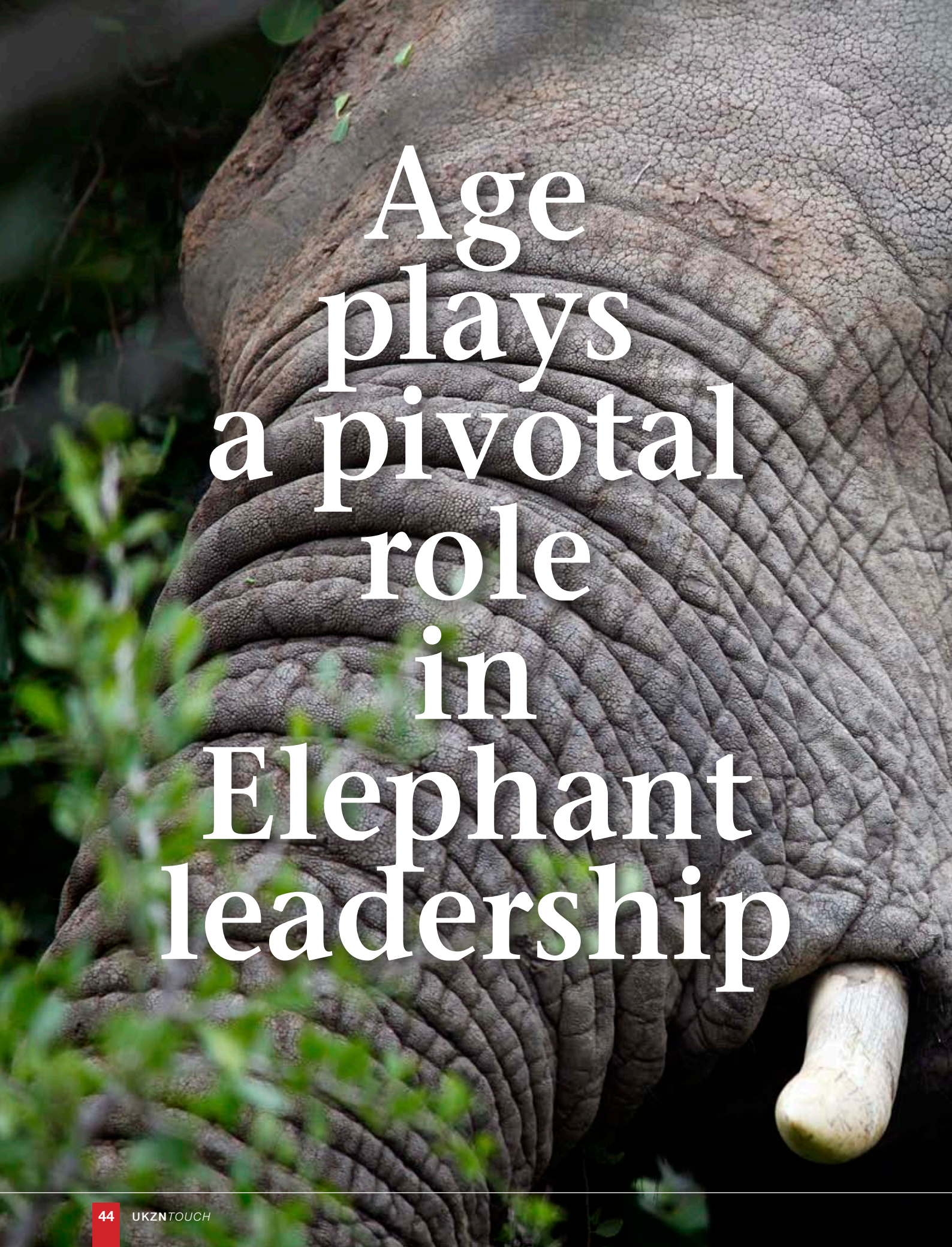
New records were also made of *Lagarosiphon major* (Oxygen plant), *Potamogeton trichoides* and *P. thunbergia-complex*. These three aquatic genera belong to an ancient order of plants, the *Alismatales*, which had its origins some 130 million years ago; at a time when dinosaurs still roamed the Earth. It is this archaic and taxonomically complex

order of flowering plants that is the focal point of the work being undertaken by Rene Glen. Her group of plants also contains the only known marine angiosperms; a bizarre and little understood evolutionary line.

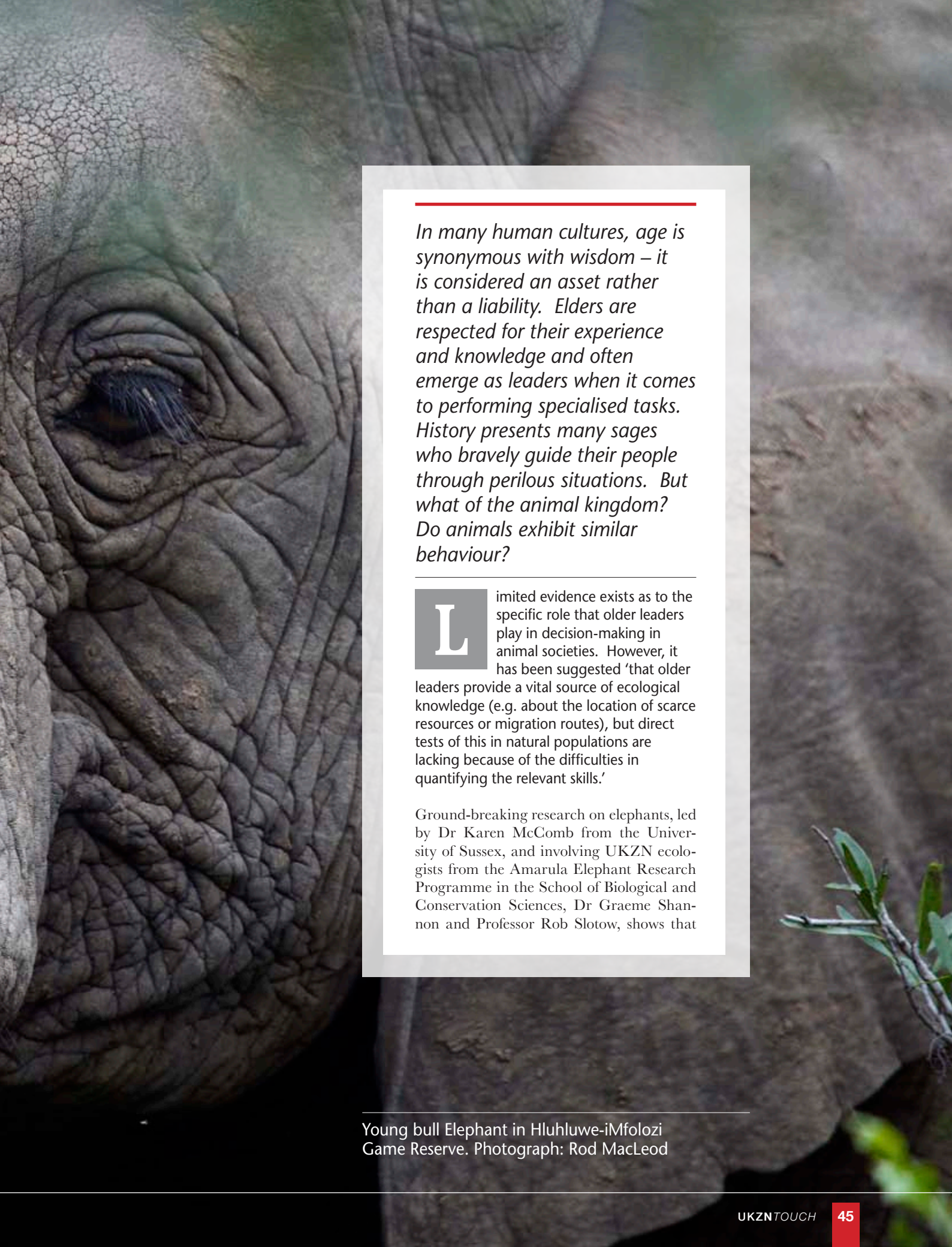
Other scientifically important records included *Pachycarpus rigidus* a member of the more recently evolved and florally intricate family *Apocynaceae*. This beautiful species was found near Rhodes in the Eastern Cape and it is only the second time the species has been collected in the past 40 years! Members of the *Apocynaceae* (the milkweeds) are the topic of Melissa Glen’s research. She collected both herbarium specimens and DNA samples; these will be used to produce an evolutionary tree based on several genes found within the family. The sequencing of these genes is being supervised by and performed in the laboratory of Professor Jenny Lamb on the Westville campus.

This successful scientific expedition was not without its drama and challenges, as the almost incessant rain had caused extensive flooding throughout the region; which lead to some hair-raising moments. Scientific expeditions such as these are also part of the University’s commitment to community engagement. They serve to strengthen connections and relationships between UKZN and the inhabitants of remote areas. Local mountain residents, farmers and game guards were always willing to help and sometimes quite amused by the antics and excitement of the UKZN botanists as they oohed and aahed over strange little plants growing in shallow water and on muddy hillsides.

Due to the extremely high extinction rate experienced globally at both the population and species level, these explorations, and associated genetic work, come at an essential time in South Africa’s history. They will contribute to our understanding of these two major plant groups. The University’s involvement in the taxonomy of these rare and wonderful South African plants will eventually play a major role in their conservation.

A close-up photograph of an elephant's head and trunk. The elephant's skin is dark grey and heavily wrinkled, with a prominent pattern of deep, concentric ridges on its trunk. A small, white, tusk-like structure is visible at the bottom right. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some green foliage on the left. The text "Age plays a pivotal role in Elephant leadership" is overlaid in a large, white, serif font, centered on the image.

Age plays a pivotal role in Elephant leadership



In many human cultures, age is synonymous with wisdom – it is considered an asset rather than a liability. Elders are respected for their experience and knowledge and often emerge as leaders when it comes to performing specialised tasks. History presents many sages who bravely guide their people through perilous situations. But what of the animal kingdom? Do animals exhibit similar behaviour?

Limited evidence exists as to the specific role that older leaders play in decision-making in animal societies. However, it has been suggested 'that older leaders provide a vital source of ecological knowledge (e.g. about the location of scarce resources or migration routes), but direct tests of this in natural populations are lacking because of the difficulties in quantifying the relevant skills.'

Ground-breaking research on elephants, led by Dr Karen McComb from the University of Sussex, and involving UKZN ecologists from the Amarula Elephant Research Programme in the School of Biological and Conservation Sciences, Dr Graeme Shannon and Professor Rob Slotow, shows that

Young bull Elephant in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Game Reserve. Photograph: Rod MacLeod

ELEPHANT LEADERSHIP

AGE PLAYS A PIVOTAL ROLE

age does affect the ability of female leaders to make important ecological decisions that are critical to survival.

‘Our study provides the first empirical evidence that individuals in a social group may derive significant benefits from the influence of an older leader because of their enhanced ability to make crucial decisions about predatory threat,’ said Slotow

Elephant society comprises distinct family units which are dominated by the oldest female or matriarch who adopts a central role in co-ordinating group movements and responses to threats. Although elephants are invulnerable to most predators, lions pose a significant threat. A single male lion is quite capable of killing an elephant calf while female lions are usually only successful when hunting as a group.

Dr Shannon, a postdoctoral fellow, took the lead role in the field work at Amboseli National Park in Kenya, studying approximately 1 500 African elephants, comprising 58 family groups between 2007 and 2009. A series of novel experiments were used to establish just how adept elephants were at making critical decisions about predators. Pre-recorded lion roars, consisting of one lion *versus* three lions roaring for both male and females, were played back to groups of elephants, and their responses monitored. All playbacks took place between 16h00 and 19h00, the time when lions become most active.

The researchers looked at five of the elephants’ key behavioural responses, with a specific focus on the matriarch, such as length of prolonged listening, defensive bunching (when adult elephants bunch together to protect calves), and intensity of bunching. These responses were observed through binoculars and captured on video with accompanying commentary.

Results revealed that the number of lions roaring had a significant effect on the elephant family groups: they reacted more strongly to three lions roaring than to a single lion, and matriarch response was the same irrespective of their age. However, older matriarchs showed much greater sensitivity to male lion roars as opposed to female lion roars. They engaged in prolonged periods of listening and defensive bunching with their groups and in some cases even approached the source of the playback, representing an aggressive advance. It was also found that matriarchs in the oldest age class (those 60 years and older) exhibited greater attentiveness and defensive bunching in response to the threat of male lions than matriarchs of 59 years and younger.

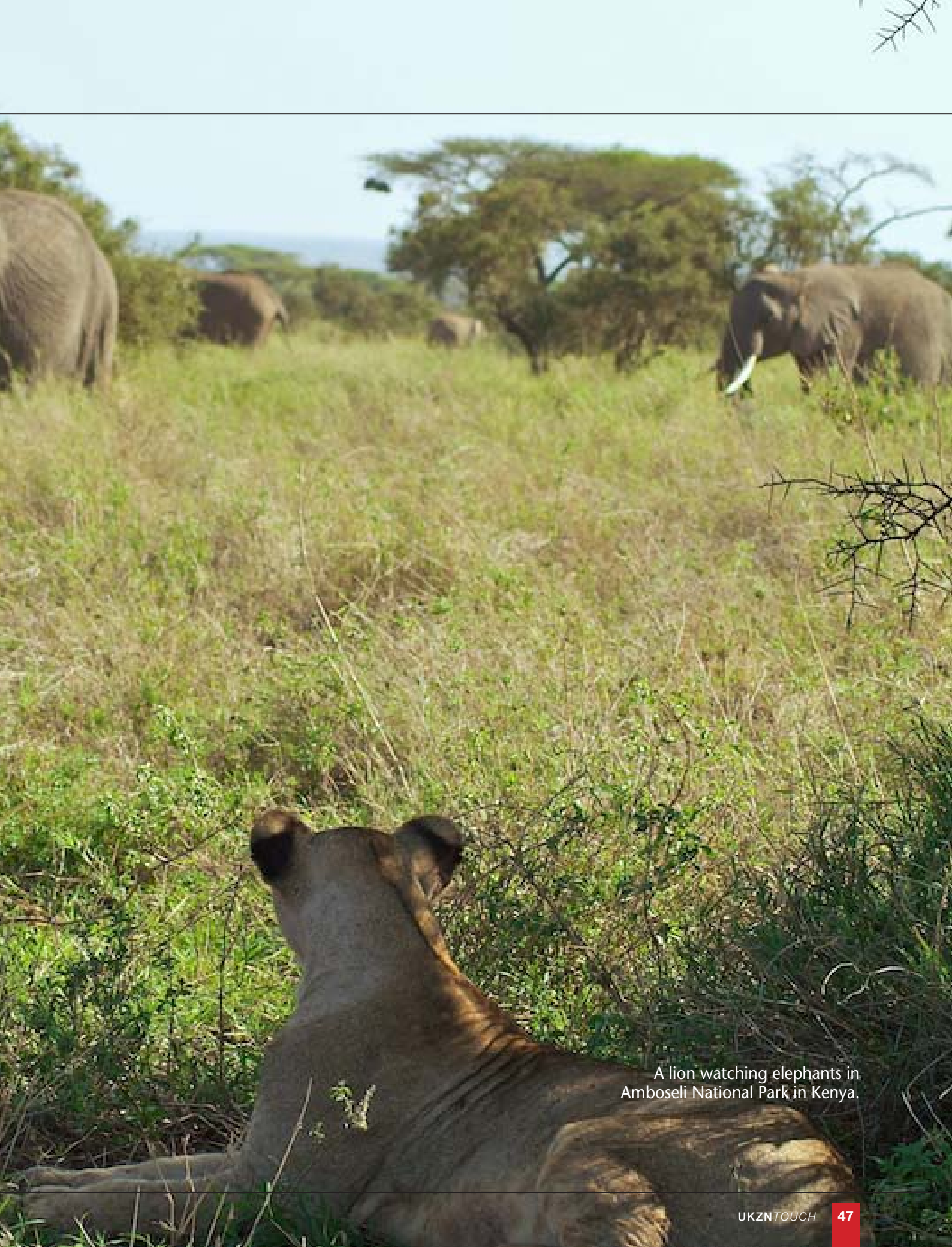
These results clearly indicate that the oldest matriarchs in family groups are an asset to elephant society; they bring significant leadership and decision-making benefits to the group. And, despite their age and the fact that they are no longer reproducing, they reveal no signs of increased vulnerability to predators.

According to the researchers, ‘these results demonstrate how the accumulated knowledge of the oldest individuals may have an over-riding influence on the effectiveness of anti-predator decisions made by the social group as a whole, and they highlight the vital role of such individuals in natural populations.’

The findings of this study are published in *Proceedings of the Royal Society: Biological Sciences* and provide valuable insights into selection for longevity in advanced mammals and also reveal the evolution of a complex social structure.

The articles in this section recently appeared in The Mercury and Sunday Tribune newspapers.





A lion watching elephants in
Amboseli National Park in Kenya.

Graduation 2011



UKZN honoured four leading South Africans, amongst them, a Nobel Laureate, for their outstanding contributions in the scientific, arts, human rights, political, and academic sectors and who, through their innovation, expertise and intellect in their respective fields, have changed the lives of people both in South Africa and globally. The degrees were awarded at the University's graduation ceremonies from April 11-19. Two honorary degrees were awarded posthumously.

Approximately **7 471** graduates at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels,

of which **4 572 (61.2 percent)** are women, received their degrees at the 19 ceremonies.

A total of 155 doctoral degrees were conferred and an impressive total of 321 graduands graduated *cum laude* and *summa cum laude* respectively.

Three academics received the University's Distinguished Teachers' Award for teaching excellence: Dr Helen Watson of the School of Environmental Studies, Mr Mark Tufts in the Faculty of Health Sciences and Professor Fatima Suleman, Head of the School of Pharmacy and Pharmacology. The University's prestigious Fellowship for

distinguished academic achievement was presented to the Dean of the Medical School Professor Umesh Laloo.

Prominent guest speakers included: leading sociologist and educationalist Professor Crain Soudien; public health expert Professor Welile Shasha; Mr Trevor Ntokozo Maphumulo, Chairperson of the Engineering Council of South Africa's Investigation Committee; Professor Aslam Fataar, Head of Education Policy Studies at Stellenbosch University; Head of the Consumer Education Department at the Financial Services Board Ms Olivia Davids; and speaker of the UMsunduzi Municipality Mr Babu Bajjoo.



Professor Sydney Brenner

HONORARY DEGREES WERE CONFERRED ON:

Professor Sydney Brenner DSc (*honoris causa*): A pioneer in molecular biology, author, and Nobel laureate Professor Sydney Brenner is a remarkable human being. 'Known for his penetrating scientific insight and acerbic wit', Professor Brenner has had a long and impressive scientific career which spans six decades. At Cambridge he collaborated to decipher the nature of the genetic code and other elements of gene function. Professor Brenner, together with scientists Robert Horvitz and John Sulston, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology for their groundbreaking studies in understanding the complexities of



Professor Lewis Nkosi

molecular organisms. He played a critical role in Britain's involvement in the Human Genome project. Today in his '80s, Brenner remains an energetic provocateur of new ideas and avenues in biological research throughout the world.

Ms Busi Mhlongo DMus (*honoris causa*) posthumous: Her music earned international acclaim. Known as "The queen of modern Zulu music", the late Ms Busi Mhlongo turned the Maskanda guitar music of migrant Zulu mine workers into a worldwide phenomenon. The international singer, composer and dancer's infectious music and singing style had a universal appeal mesmerising audiences around the globe. Described as 'one of



Judge Zakeria Mohamed Yacoob

the most phenomenal and exciting musicians to have ever emerged from South Africa', her lyrics carried powerful and poignant messages.

Professor Lewis Nkosi DLitt (*honoris causa*) posthumous: A son of KwaZulu-Natal, and Durban in particular, the late Professor Lewis Nkosi, was one of South Africa's foremost intellectuals, whose influence as both a writer and critic has been profound. He is the embodiment of African Scholarship. A renowned writer and essayist Lewis Nkosi was described by the *Sunday Times* as a 'sharp and gifted writer with an irreverent take on life'. He was fearless and through his work criticised the harsh and senseless apartheid regime.



Judge Zakeria Mohamed Yacoob LLD (*honoris causa*): is recognised as one of South Africa's sharpest and highly respected legal minds. A widely respected Constitutional law expert Yacoob's personal journey is one of courage, fortitude and resilience. In 1998 he was appointed to the bench by President Nelson Mandela. Zac Yacoob as he is fondly known lost his sight at the tender age of 16 months after contracting meningitis. But the disability, together with political and social impediments, did not deter him from reaching the pinnacle of success in his career.

"The queen of modern Zulu music", the late Ms Busi Mhlongo

African Ombudsman Research Centre

Launched at UKZN

The President of the Republic of South Africa, President Jacob Zuma extended his congratulations to UKZN on the establishment and launch of the African Ombudsman Research Centre (AORC) on March 15.

The Research Centre was established to serve as a focal point for African ombudsman institutions and a resource of the African Ombudsman and Mediators' Association (AOMA), a body that works to entrench good governance, upholding of the rule of law and respect for human rights by supporting, developing and protecting

the independence of ombudsman institutions across the continent. The AORC will also provide training, research support and advocacy services to the AOMA.

President Zuma said that the Centre will be a source of important information and hope and that it will allow ombudspersons to be trained at UKZN rather than going abroad for training. He added that South Africa is proud to have Chapter 9 institutions like the Office of the Public Protector which are independent and impartial and subject only to the Constitution and the law. The President said that ombudspersons

have an important role to play in entrenching a culture of accountable governance and in strengthening democratic institutions in Africa.

UKZN Vice-Chancellor, Professor Malegapuru Makgoba said that the University was honoured by the AORC's faith and confidence, especially in its Faculty of Law.

Vice-Chancellor of UKZN, Professor Malegapuru Makgoba and President Jacob Zuma unveil the plaque at the launch of the African Ombudsman Research Centre (AORC) at UKZN on March 15.



UKZN hosts Senior US Delegation on AIDS research and treatment



Viewing the architect's impressions of the new K-RITH building at the CAPRISA Offices are, from left; Dr Roger Glass, Director of the Fogarty International Centre and Associate Director for International Research; Dr Francis Collins, Director of the NIH; Professor Malegapuru Makgoba, Vice-Chancellor (UKZN); Professor Salim Karim, Director of CAPRISA, Ms Stacy Wallick, Public Health Analyst (NIH); Professor Nelson Ijumba, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research (UKZN) and Dr Samuel Adeniyi-Jones, Director of the African Region-US Department of Health and Human Services.

On March 9, the Director of the United States National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Head of the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) led a US delegation on a visit of HIV/AIDS research project sites of UKZN.

Professor Salim Abdool Karim, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) and Director of the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA), guided the delegation on a detailed tour of CAPRISA sites. The group included Dr Francis Collins, National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director who previously led the Human Genome Project, Ambassador Eric Goosby, the United States Global AIDS Co-ordinator in charge of PEPFAR, Ms Deborah van Zinkernagel, Deputy Global AIDS Coordinator, Dr Roger Glass, Director of the Fogarty International Centre, Dr Samuel Adeniyi-Jones, Director of the African Region-US Department of Health and Human Services and Ms Stacy Wallick, Public Health Analyst (NIH).

The NIH delegates started their visit with a tour of the Doris Duke Medical Research Institute, a visit to CAPRISA and an opportunity to see the building site and the plans for the new K-RITH building, currently under construction at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine. Guided by Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim and Dr Kogie Naidoo, the PEPFAR delegates made an early start with a tour of the CAPRISA eThekweni clinic and the adjoining Prince Cyril Zulu Communicable Diseases Centre (PCZCDC), which is Durban's busiest Tuberculosis (TB) clinic where approximately 5 000 TB patients are treated each month.

Visiting the groundbreaking Microbicide Gel Trial research site in rural Vulindlela (near Howick), delegates were impressed with the warm welcome received by the community. Inkosi Zondi, traditional leader of the Vulindlela District gave an emotional account of how CAPRISA has benefited the community by reducing the number of

deaths caused by HIV/AIDS. He thanked PEPFAR and the US government for providing the funding for research of this kind to take place and pledged the ongoing support of the Vulindlela community to the project.

Ambassador Goosby and the PEPFAR representatives then went on to visit Professor Nceba Gqaleni's traditional medicine laboratories and were met by senior leadership of the Traditional Healers Association in the Province. Professor Gqaleni informed the delegates of the patient referral system where patients of the healers are requested to complete a consent form to allow the traditional healer to maintain a patient record. After the consultation, the healer will refer the patient to a nearby public health clinic for HIV counseling and testing. Aftercare, including treatment support, behavioral change counseling, and palliative care are among the services provided by the traditional healer.

Dean of Education

receives Ubuntu Award

Dean of Education, Professor Michael Samuel, received the Ubuntu Award for his contribution to the field of Education from the Turquoise Harmony Institute at the Ubuntu Lecture and Awards Ceremony in Cape Town.

The Institute, which organises the annual ceremony, is part of an international movement promoting mutual respect of all religions, cultures and peoples.

Professor Samuel said he felt his award was an affirmation of the

commitment of the four generations of his family who had contributed to the development of quality education and schooling in South Africa. He was inspired by the new influence of a group of Turkish students and teachers who had left their home countries to dedicate their lives to the service of education in South Africa.

In accepting the Annual Ubuntu Peace Award at the function, former UKZN Chancellor, Dr Frene Ginwala, stressed that like Ubuntu, peace was not the absence of action; but instead a war against injustice and against poverty.

Delivering the keynote address, the Minister of Science and Technology, Mrs Naledi Pandor, said Ubuntu was not just an abstract concept which valued respect, dialogue and tolerance of all human beings, aiming to grow with, in and through others. 'Rather, Ubuntu is a call to action to realise a better quality of life for all those whom we meet, through our deeds, words and actions.'

The late world renowned sociologist and UKZN academic Professor Fatima Meer was posthumously awarded the Fidelity Award.



UKZN Professor Empowers rural women

For the past ten years, Professor Juliet Armstrong, an Associate Professor at UKZN's Centre for Visual Art, has led a community engagement programme which is benefiting women in the kwaMagwaza village about 50km from Kranskop in KwaZulu-Natal.

The women, who are breadwinners and widows, make a living from creating ceramic vessels used for the ceremonial drinking of *utshwala* (sorghum beer).

Armstrong has established contact with galleries in South Africa and abroad for the Zulu pottery to be displayed and traded. One of the project's highlights has been the recent opportunity, secured by Armstrong, to display some of their craft at the Singapore Botanic Gardens in Singapore which has been connecting people and plants for more than 150 years.

A grateful Mrs Magwaza of the village reported that as a result of the project, she has managed to send one of her children to study at the Durban University of Technology.

Magwaza women with their ceramic vessels.

Dusi victory for UKZN student

Twenty year-old UKZN Bachelor of Commerce student, Mr Andrew Birkett, clinched the 2011 Unlimited Dusi Canoe Marathon at the Blue Lagoon in Durban on February 19. He pipped fellow contestant, Mr Ant Stott to the finish line by a mere 0.23 seconds – the closest finish in the 60-year history of the race.

Birkett is no stranger to Dusi victory – he and his partner, Mr Jason Graham, claimed the K2 Dusi title last year. However, Birkett admits that this year's win was sweeter, probably because



racing the grueling 125 km race in a K1 is far more demanding. The entire three-day race was dominated by a close tussle between Birkett and Stott. It saw them pitting their strengths – Birkett's running and Stott's paddling – against each other right up until the finish line. In the end it came down to a sprint finish on the home stretch.

Birkett's studies took a back seat as he focused on his Dusi quest. With another

Dusi win under his belt, he can now focus his mind on catching up the work he has missed. Majoring in marketing and supply chain management, Birkett hopes to complete his BCom degree at the end of the year. His plans for the future involve studying further – maybe branching out into the environmental sciences on a part-time basis – and competing in some canoeing and multi-sport races overseas.

Calling all former UKZN Rugby Players

The University of KwaZulu-Natal is celebrating 100 years of University rugby at a gala banquet on August 12 in Pietermaritzburg, where it all began in 1911. In fact, that inaugural NUC team produced two Springboks – Bill Payn of Comrades Marathon fame (he completed the entire up run in his rugby boots) and Bertram Vanderplank. Many other UKZN students and alumni followed their footsteps into national teams, including flying winger Michel Antelme, the athletic Andrew Aitken and three world champions, Joel Stransky, Mark Andrews and John Smit.

Varsity rugby has also produced Springbok captains, including Howard College alumnus Tom Bedford, and

many Currie Cup heroes such as Craig Jamieson, Shaun Platford and Tony Watson, who earned their stripes on the Pietermaritzburg campus. In addition many pillars of society, such as Alan Paton, Anglican Bishop Michael Nuttall and political activist Steve Biko had a background playing rugby on campus.

More importantly perhaps, Varsity rugby has given thousands of young men the opportunity to thrive and mature in a competitive, yet friendly and fun-filled environment of comradeship.

The most successful Varsity team was without doubt the league and cup double-winning Pietermaritzburg team of 1930, featuring none other than Izak

van Heerden, the father of the running game. The Pietermaritzburg team also won the Moor Cup in 1962, while the Durban campus took the honours in 1957 and 1988. The attendance of UKZN's Springboks and the 1957, 1962 and 1988 championship-winning teams promises to add glitz to an already prestigious affair.

The Centenary Committee invites everyone who was associated with UKZN Rugby, and indeed all rugby lovers, to the Centenary Banquet at the Peter Booyesen Sports Park off Golf Road, Pietermaritzburg. Costs: R3 950 per table of 10. Pensioner and student discounts available.

Enquiries and bookings:
Andrew@ImpiConceptEvents.com

Women in Research Academy Empowers Women Scholars in Rwanda



As part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UKZN and the National University of Rwanda (NUR), a team led by the University Dean of Research, Professor Cheryl Potgieter, was invited to deliver a week-long series of training workshops on writing for publication and managing an academic career.

The workshop, targeted at emerging women scholars, mirrors the capacity development initiatives of the UKZN Women in Research Academy.

Following the success of these workshops, the women scholars in NUR have formed the NUR Women Research Group (NURWAS), in the spirit of the UKZN Women in Research Academy. Correspondence from NUR confirmed that, of the 28 women who participated in the workshop and who are part of NURWAS, 'at least 45 percent of them will have submitted an article for publication in a ranked journal within nine months'.

Back left : Professor Ronelle Carolissen, Professor Cheryl Potgieter, Mr Imraan Buccus, Professor Urmilla Bob and Professor Fannie Botha and Mr Thando Mqgolozana (front, second left) with NUR participants.

Potgieter said the formation of this group is a testament to NUR's commitment to the advancement of women, and it gives meaning to UKZN's vision of engaging with partners in the continent.

Meetings were also held with the Rwandan Environmental Management Authority (REMA) to discuss research collaboration opportunities, and prospective PhD candidates from REMA and staff from the NUR.

UKZN Press authors win Multilingualism Award



William Ndabayakhe Zulu and Gcina Mhlophe

William Ndabayakhe Zulu won the award for his autobiography, *Liyoze Line Nangakithi*, an isiZulu adaptation of his English autobiography, *Spring Will Come*, which was runner-up in the Sunday Times Alan Paton Award in 2006.

PanSALB (the Pan South African Language Board) was established to promote the equal use of the 11 official South African languages and to help develop the country's indigenous languages. It actively promotes multilingualism as a national resource and vehicle for national development.

The UKZN Press publishes high-quality, scholarly works in a range of subjects including sociology, politics and political science, economics, history, gender studies, current affairs, the natural sciences, literature and selected novels and biographical works.

Two authors published by the UKZN Press were joint winners in this year's "Language and Literature" category in the PanSALB Multilingualism Awards.

The "Language and Literature" category is open to writers who help to promote

and preserve South Africa's official languages. World-renowned story-teller and performer, Gcina Mhlophe, was awarded the prize for her translation of her CD, *Songs and Stories of Africa*, into isiZulu (*Umcelo Nezindaba Zase-Afrika*) and isiXhosa (*Umcelo Neentsomi Zase-Afrika*).

Former UKZN scientist heads up national space agency

During the first week of February, the newly launched South African National Space Agency (SANSA) officially appointed Dr Sandile Malinga as Chief Executive Officer. A space physicist, Malinga spent some of his formative years at UKZN. In 2002 he joined the former University of Natal as a Senior Lecturer in the School of Physics. He later went on to become a Dean's Assistant in the Faculty of Science and Agriculture, based at UKZN's Westville campus. In 2007 he left the University to take up a position as Manager of the Hermanus Magnetic Observatory which culminated in him becoming its Managing Director.

In January 2010 Malinga was appointed as caretaker CEO of SANSA, a position in which, according to Minister of Science



Dr Sandile Malinga in 2007 at UKZN explaining to a group of high school teachers how the LIDAR facility in Physics operates.

and Technology, Mrs Naledi Pandor 'he demonstrated his efficiency and capability.'

Malinga will have his work cut out for him in his new position as, in the words of Pandor, 'the space industry is now big business. It is not simply a matter of space travel. It's also about an industry that has enormous potential for future growth.' The three main priorities of SANSA include: environment and resources management; health, safety and security; and innovation and economic development.

Leading Pulmonologist Appointed Dean of the Medical School

A leading pulmonologist, medical scientist and expert in HIV medicine has been appointed as Dean of the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine. Professor Umesh Laloo who is Professor and Chief Specialist at the Medical School succeeded Professor Willem Sturm as head of the prestigious Faculty. His illustrious career spans over three decades.

An expert in respiratory diseases and the former President of the South African Thoracic Society, Professor Laloo is Head of the Respiratory and Critical Care Unit at the Medical School.



As the Executive Director of the KwaZulu-Natal Enhancing Care Initiative (ECI) and the Principal Investigator of the International Clinical Trials Unit of the US Division of AIDS he is passionate in his research to stem the suffering of those affected by HIV/AIDS. His passion transcends medical research to train and empower health professionals, especially in the rural areas, in the clinical knowledge and understanding of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

Through the Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI) of which he is the programme Director Professor Laloo is at the helm of spearheading initiatives that would benefit communities. The MEPI is designed to support the United States President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)'s goals to train and retain 140 000 new health care workers and improve the capacity of partner countries to deliver primary health care.



Rhodes Scholarship for Top UKZN Scholar

Dr Vivek Naranbhai, UKZN's top scholar from the Medical School class of 2009, was elected as the 2011 KwaZulu-Natal Rhodes Scholar, one of 10 Rhodes scholars-elect from Southern Africa.

At the young age of 24, Naranbhai is about to submit his PhD in Immunology at UKZN after having concurrently gained a medical degree (MBChB) and an Honours Degree in Medical Microbiology. Undeterred by University rules, he is the first UKZN medical graduate allowed to undertake and complete a concurrent second degree, and serves on a newly-formed University committee to formalise and encourage dual-degrees in medical training.

Under the Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI), Naranbhai also co-leads the HIV Vaccine and Pathogenesis research programme at the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) and recently presented some of his PhD results at the 18th conference on retrovirus and opportunistic infections (CROI) held in Boston. Currently in his medical internship year, he will head to Oxford University for a second PhD/ DPhil exploring computational biology and molecular genetic epidemiology in October 2011. He intends to pursue a lifetime in clinical medicine and translational research.

Alumni Profiles



Kone Gugushe

Nedbank Executive

GREG DARDAGAN

Distance learning through the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) provided the “cherry on the top” of the academic career of Mrs Kone Gugushe, an executive at the Corporate Social Responsibility Division of Nedbank in Johannesburg.

Gugushe (35) secured her BCom degree at Rhodes University in Grahamstown but had struggled with her Post Graduate Diploma in Accounting which she needed to complete her articles at an auditing firm in Cape Town. She failed the diploma course but her despondency was lifted when she heard about the distance learning set-up at UKZN.

‘My experience with the then University of Natal was excellent. They came

in and offered something perfect for me at the time - the flexibility of the programme they designed was ideal for my situation,’ said Gugushe.

She passed the diploma in a year and went on to complete her Certificate of Theory and Practice of Auditing. At the same time she finished her articles in Cape Town and was able to follow her long-held dream of becoming an Equity Analyst. However, the reality of the job resulted in it falling short of her expectations and she had to search for an alternative which didn’t take long to materialise!

Gugushe’s journey to her executive position at Nedbank has not been a simple one. Born at Zwelitsha, King Williams Town during the violent political upheavals of the 1970s, both her parents were political activists, heavily involved in the Struggle. Her father was a close friend of slain Black Consciousness Movement roleplayer Steve Biko.

Her mother, a teacher, was banned by the apartheid government while her father died in security police detention in the Eastern Cape in 1976 when she was just seven months old. ‘I grew up in a very politically conscientised family – my dad had been Secretary General of the South African Students Organisation (SASO) before his death,’ said Gugushe.

She and her sister, Motheba, were brought up by their mother ‘in a strict but loving home’. She went to a boarding school at Fort Beaufort during her junior years, completing her matric at All Saints College, an independent school near Bisho.

‘All Saints was a non-racial school managed by a trust which organised scholarships for all the students. I did science subjects so I grew up with a bias towards science and had hoped to study for a BSc - but I didn’t like my Physical Science teacher mainly because I wasn’t much good at his subject,’ said Gugushe. She wasn’t

keen on physical training at school so initially faked asthma to escape doing sport but later played squash and softball as well as getting involved in a variety of activities including Brownies, Girl Guides, and ballroom dancing and was President of the Young Women’s Christian Association.

Gugushe matriculated at the tender age of 15 and then went to Fort Hare University for two years of ‘party, party, party! It goes without saying that I failed but I had at least got a lot of the rebelliousness out of my system. I begged the Dean of Commerce at Rhodes to admit me - he allowed me in with the non-negotiable that I had to pass at mid-year otherwise I was out!

‘I was ready to apply myself and was feeling bad because I had disappointed my mother. The pressure was on but I worked hard and passed the BCom course in three years.’

She also did the Post Graduate Diploma in Accounting only to discover the following year she had failed. This resulted in her losing the position she had secured at the auditing firm in Cape Town.

Gugushe got an alternative position at another firm and began her distance learning studies with UKZN which proved highly successful and satisfying. She completed her articles, passed all her Board examinations and went to New York on secondment from her employer in 2001.

Four months later she was back in South Africa determined to follow her dream and become an equity analyst. ‘I wanted to write reports on shares and movement of share prices, but the market was going through a difficult period and no opportunities arose so I joined the credit division of Standard Bank.

‘I absolutely loved the job and got to work on exciting things including aircraft financing and other big projects

Alumni Profiles

and deals for more than two years. Then at last I realised my dream being appointed an associate equity analyst at JP Morgan, moving from Cape Town to Johannesburg with the feeling that it was an opportunity of a lifetime.'

Her husband-to-be, Nkosi-yawo – a BCom UKZN alumnus – accompanied her. He now has his own investment holding company, Destiny Corporation.

'To be honest the JP Morgan experience was dismal. The company itself was great but the job just didn't work out for me. It was a very frustrating 18 months but very character building... by the time I was ready to leave the company I knew what I was looking for and why I no longer wanted to be an equity analyst,' said Gugushe.

She moved into the field of private equity joining Safika Investments. While there she had her first daughter, Naledi, followed by a second, Mizuki, two years later.

Gugushe joined Nedbank in 2007 going into the credit division before being appointed to her present position towards the end of last year.

'I was in credit for three years and then after the birth of my second child I started to have serious conversations with myself about wanting to make a difference in society through my job. 'So when an opportunity arose at the Nedbank Foundation – the corporate social responsibility arm of the bank – I knew it was for me. I have been in the position for six months and am feeling very fulfilled.'

Gugushe heads up the Foundation, making decisions about where Nedbank's support is channelled as well as devising strategies. 'Every day is a new challenge and I'm still learning a lot about the position.

'When I was deciding what to do I read US President Barack Obama's book *Dreams from my Father*. I identified with what he wrote about his transition

from law into politics and realised the position at Nedbank was an opportunity I needed to grasp – one of those life changing decisions.'

She says Nedbank spends about 60 per cent of its corporate social responsibility budget on education, with the rest going towards community development, skills development and health.

To relax she enjoys doing puzzles and is a lover of good wine, good food and good conversation. Rap and hip-hop are her kind of music and she's always game for karaoke. 'On Mondays I usually have a song on my lips – depending on what I'm singing my staff can always gauge my mood.'

Her aim for the future is to start a language school – where special emphasis is given to the preservation of African languages.

Robin Opperman

Durban Artist

GREG DARDAGAN

Creative artistic talent oozes through the veins of Mr Robin Opperman whose life is devoted to assisting and encouraging African craftsmen to realize their full potential.

It has been a difficult road for the 47-year-old University of KwaZulu-Natal alumnus but the positive results of his dedication are evident in a variety of ways in Durban's ethnic arts world. Perhaps most obvious for the general public is a shop in Durban's Windermere Centre which displays an impressive selection of work by local African artists. Exciting news is that



the shop, managed by Opperman, is about to undergo a metamorphosis and will soon relaunch as an emporium called ARTifacts where lovers of ethnic art creations can discover a wide

range of unusual items. ARTifacts is a collaboration between Opperman's Umcebo Design and the Hillcrest Aids Centre's outlet, Woza Moyo.

Alumni Profiles

The impact of the resourceful artist's community outreach is also displayed in the number of African crafters now plying their trade successfully in and around Durban. Works by Opperman and his team have caught the eye of several international celebrities – Oprah Winfrey bought a wall hanging for her school in South Africa, reggae music legend Bob Marley's widow Rita got a hanging for her New York apartment while Richard Branson ordered beaded aloes in Virgin Atlantic colours!

There was turmoil in Opperman's early life and no obvious indication of the direction his career would take. He grew up in a politically conservative home – nothing unusual for white boys in apartheid South Africa – but his life changed drastically when he started studying at the then University of Natal in 1982 for a degree in social science.

'University was like this epiphany. It was a major learning curve for me as I came into contact with people and ideas I had never imagined or heard of before. In my very first lecture we were told we were going to study Karl Marx. I remember turning to the person next to me and asking who the hell Marx was,' said Opperman. 'We were encouraged to think laterally and to sort of process things.'

After four years of study Opperman was a radically changed person with political and social principles which clashed with the *status quo* in the country at the time. He then took a momentous decision to apply for political asylum in the newly-democratic Zimbabwe. He was granted refugee status and left South Africa in 1985 with the full support and blessing of his parents.

'At the time I didn't realize the enormity of my decision but it soon hit home after I got to Harare and had to make my own way in life, although I did receive fantastic support from numerous people there.' Opperman wasn't permitted to work while in exile so he started studying for a management and training

qualification. 'I became very active as an artist in Harare and arranged regular exhibitions in the city.

'Things were made a bit difficult for me when some South Africans who had also been granted political asylum in Zimbabwe turned out to be spies. It was a very interesting time in my life and I certainly grew up and matured all round during my five years there. I got very homesick though.'

Then in 1990 the news came through that the African National Congress (ANC) had been unbanned and the situation in South Africa improved dramatically. Opperman returned to Durban fearful that there could be repercussions but all went well and he soon integrated himself back into the community.

'My first job was teaching Maths at a study centre. When the principal of the Ningizumu School in Lamontville saw my private art work she asked me to start an art department at her school which caters for mentally handicapped children.'

The art section grew with the children working under Opperman's supervision using recycled material. 'We started doing these very gaudy wall hangings and soon found that companies wanted to commission work from us.' The project expanded and Opperman won a national teaching award which he went to collect at the then President Thabo Mbeki's home.

A decision was later taken to encourage a variety of young children outside of the school to get involved in Opperman's arts and craft work. So the Umcebo Trust was registered and premises provided at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) which saw the project take off.

'In 2003 I left my teaching job and, with a core of black crafters, set up a type of studio in Umgeni Road, telling my bemused teacher colleagues that we

were going to build beaded chandeliers! In hindsight it was one of the best decisions I ever made.

'We were there for about a year and then in 2004 we moved to Ushaka Marine World where we operated a store until 2008 when the lease expired. We learned a lot and in the process had numerous crafters who joined us and then left to do their own thing.

'Old Mutual supported us with an annual grant while we were at Ushaka and also sent business consultants to work with us,' said Opperman. 'We also attend four Design Indabas in Cape Town and earlier this year I displayed some of our craft at a trade fair in Germany.'

Opperman said their crafters were now working from home so business was channelled through them which they micro-managed.

'I have now formed a partnership with the Hillcrest Aids Centre and I am operating from their shop in Windermere Centre. We work with fine arts and PR students from DUT with the aim being to maintain Durban's arts skills base. We plan to run a programme in which students will come into the store and involve themselves in product development.

'I want to see them making marketable items such as chandeliers, wind chimes, chairs – work that has a fine art feel to it. We will put the items in our catalogue, market them and hopefully create opportunities for the students.

'The idea is to expose them to our networks so when they graduate and try to open a business they don't go cold turkey!'

Opperman said the aim was to make ARTifacts a gallery that always had something new and interesting on offer. Judging by what's on the Windermere Centre shop floor he has already achieved that goal.

Convocation

Contributing to the development of our University

During our second year in office, the Executive and I have been actively involved in shaping and contributing to the development of our University.

The Convocation Executive has been actively involved in a number of activities; including but not limited to acting as robing officers during graduation ceremonies. We congratulate our graduates and the University for its ongoing endeavour to produce the skills South Africa needs.

Talking of skills, the Convocation Executive has launched its new UKZN Alumni Bursary Fund to support students and postgraduates in need. We have recently observed student protests at the University. We believe that the challenges thrown up by these protests are not restricted to students or University Management; it is a challenge to us as a nation. We hope you will all support the Alumni Bursary Fund, as well as the John Adari Bursary Fund. For more information on these bursary funds, please contact the Alumni Relations Office or the UKZN Foundation.

The Convocation Executive has set up task teams to look at skills and funding/bursaries. These teams are hard at work and have produced reports which have been shared with the University Management. If you have suggestions or have published papers on the subject, we would highly appreciate your views on these issues.

A task team has also been set up to look at how we can improve on our communication with you. The team has suggested progressive strategies, some of which have already been implemented. We are now able to communicate with you on Facebook and Twitter. I encourage you to sign on to keep in touch with your former mates and friends from the University.

These activities exclude our annual, planned programmes which are run by the Alumni Relations Office. We encourage you to take part in these programmes, which add value to our comradeship and *alma mater*.

In terms of planning, we again hosted our Convocation Executive Workshop to plan our activities and strategise as the Executive together with Corporate Relations' management. This Workshop came up with a number of progressive initiatives; such as College-based reunions and events. We have tasked ourselves, together with the Corporate Relations Division, to revive our networking with you according to our Faculties and Colleges. We believe that this model will work well for us and for you to get in touch with your mates within your respective disciplines.

Until then: Friends for Life!

SANDILE NGCOBO
PRESIDENT AND CHAIR
UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL CONVOCATION




Out & About

Message from the Alumni Relations Team



Finn Christensen: Alumni Relations Manager

The Alumni Relations Team has continued to build and maintain relationships with alumni – both within South Africa and overseas – in 2011. The year has so far been busy and exciting – having interacted with over 100 000 alumni through social events, email and posted correspondence and telephone conversations.

Highlights of the first six months of 2011 include a very successful alumnus dinner in Cape Town in March, the Convocation AGM, also in March, a film screening at Gateway, Umhlanga outside Durban in April, the 19 Graduation Ceremonies from April 11-19, and the Gauteng alumnus lunch in May. In addition, the ever popular Project Management and Leadership Workshops took place in May and June.

Activities planned for the second half of the year include the Golden Alumnus Reunion in July, the Richards Bay alumnus lunch, also in July and the launch of a number of Faculty-specific Student Chapters in August and September. On the international front, the annual UK alumnus event will take place in London on September 14.

In order to maintain these relationships, please provide us with your updated contact details. Also, please encourage any friends or relatives who are graduates and have not received any correspondence from the University in the past 12 months to provide our Office with their updated contact details. This can be done via email or the website <http://alumni affairs.ukzn.ac.za/updateservices/online registration.aspx>

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

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

FACEBOOK AND TWITTER

Please join us on these popular Social Networking sites. If you are not already a member, sign up now and connect with the University of KwaZulu-Natal Alumni Relations Office where you can make contact with fellow alumni and keep up to date with all the latest news, forthcoming events and information on your *alma mater*.



Our web addresses:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Durban-South-Africa/UKZN-Alumni/100665579978579>

<http://twitter.com/UKZNAlumni>

Gauteng

More than 80 alumni as well as donors/friends of the University attended the annual Gauteng alumnus/donor event which took the form of a three-course lunch at Browns of Rivonia on 15 May. The event brought together alumni of all age groups and professions and enabled those living in both the Johannesburg and Pretoria areas to attend. An alumnus visiting South Africa from Australia also attended. In addition to alumni, the UKZN Foundation invited a number of friends/donors of the University to the lunch.

The lunch, organised by the Alumni Relations Office of Corporate Relations, provided an opportunity for alumni to meet old friends, network, and reminisce about their university days and to receive information about their *alma mater*.



The guest speakers at the event were President and Chair of Convocation, Mr Sandile Ngcobo, Executive Director: Corporate Relations Division, Ms Nomonde Mbadi, and Mr Len Mzimela, Director of University Relations and Marketing Support: Corporate Relations Division.

Mbadi and Mzimela provided a comprehensive overview on the latest

developments and achievements at the University while Mr Ngcobo's address emphasised the importance of Convocation's participation in the running of the University and the importance of alumni supporting the University in as many ways as possible.

Alumni received information packs which contained a range of University publications and information sheets.

Film Preview



(l-r) Alumni Relations Manager, Mr Finn Christensen; Mrs Liz Ralfe; Mr Robin Ralfe; Mr Len Mzimela; and Alumni Relations Database Officer Mrs Esme Estrice.

Durban-based UKZN alumni enjoyed a preview of *Somewhere*, a comedy/drama film at Gateway's Ster-Kinekor, Cinema Nouveau, on April 7.

A hundred and twenty five alumni took up the invitation to attend the screening and thanked the Alumni Relations Office for co-ordinating the initiative, requesting a repeat in the near future.

In his welcome address, Director of University Relations and Marketing Support: Corporate Relations Division, Mr Len Mzimela said such events are an opportunity for alumni to interact. He thanked all alumni who continue to fly the UKZN flag high in various parts of the world and said that there will be alumni networking opportunities in London, New York, Cape Town and Johannesburg this year.

Convocation President, Mr Sandile Ngcobo encouraged alumni to keep in touch and participate in the University's fundraising initiatives.

Convocation AGM 2011

The 2011 UKZN Convocation Annual General Meeting (AGM) was hosted by the Alumni Relations Office, Corporate Relations Division, on the Westville campus on March 31. The AGM was attended by 90 alumni and other invited guests.

Guest speaker, the Chair of the UKZN Council, Mr Mac Mia, encouraged alumni to contribute to the growth of UKZN as an institution. He noted that Convocation can help support students financially by introducing various bursary and sponsorship opportunities.

In his annual report, Mr Sandile Ngcobo, President and Chair of Convocation, noted that two bursary funds (the UKZN Alumni Bursary Fund, and the John Adari Bursary Fund) have been launched by the Convocation Executive for students requiring financial support. In addition, Mr Ngcobo highlighted the activities and initiatives undertaken by the Convocation Executive Committee during 2010.

The AGM was followed by a cocktail reception at which guests could network and enjoy the musical entertainment provided by Chris Jensen.



Mr Mac Mia and Mr Sandile Ngcobo at the AGM.

Durban Alumni Association AGM



Vice-President of Convocation and Convocation Representative on Council, André Young interacts with a DAA member.

Forty alumni and guests attended the UKZN Durban Alumni Association (DAA) Annual General Meeting at the Howard College Theatre on February 14.

Keynote speaker, Professor Donal McCracken who served as Dean of Humanities for 15 years, reflected on his non-administrative interest during these years – writing books! His 11 books reflect two main themes: environmental history and Irish history. He focused on his two latest books, *Saving the Zululand Wilderness: An early conservation history* and *Inspector Mallon: Buying Irish patriotism for a five pound note*.

DAA Chairperson, Eric von der Meden's report reflected the various activities and talks which took place during 2010. These included a tour of

the Harbour Mouth Widening arranged by Ian Wilks (an alumnus of UKZN) and conducted by Construction Manager: Roy d'Oliveira; a visit to Msunduzi (Pietermaritzburg) and the Faculty of Agriculture with its Botanic Gardens and Ukulinga research farm; a tour conducted by Ken Gillings of the Valley of the Emakhosini and the battlefields in the area; and a talk by Professor Mike Watkeys "You can try and stop Climate Change, but you can't stop the Earth's Magnetic Field Changing". The year ended with a well-attended lunch at the Durban Club.

The 2010 Committee Members were re-elected. They are: Eric van der Meden (Chair), Finn Christensen, Joan Law, Denis O'Leary (Treasurer) and Robin Ralfe. Denzil Cope did not stand for re-election.

Cape Town

The Alumni Relations Office co-ordinated an alumnus and donor get-together in Cape Town on March 12.

The annual event took the form of a dinner at Reuben's at the One and Only Hotel: Waterfront. The event provided an enjoyable opportunity for 100 alumni, donors and friends of UKZN to renew old acquaintances, meet fellow alumni and be updated on developments at their *alma mater* through talks given by Guest Speakers: Ms Nomonde Mbadi, Executive Director: Corporate Relations Division



Cape Town alumni enjoy the dinner.

and Mr Len Mzimela, Director of University Relations/Marketing Support at Corporate Relations. President and Chair of Convocation, Mr Sandile Ngcobo also addressed the gathering and graciously thanked everyone for

supporting the University. A powerpoint presentation and information packs containing a selection of UKZN publications ensured that alumni were brought up-to-date on developments at the University.



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ClassNotes

Keeping in touch!

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

1950s

FRANCIS HOWARD – BCom'56

spent 25 years of his career with the Anglo American Group, as a financial executive, before leaving to become a consultant in 1987. This was soon overtaken by involvement in East Africa and the UK, where he lives, in AMREF (African Medical and Research Foundation) and the flying doctors which it operates. Francis served on the board and various committees of AMREF in Kenya from 1991 to 2003. In 2004 he became treasurer of another NGO called ACE Africa, specifically focused on the orphan problem in East Africa. In his spare time he paints.

Email: fhoward@ace-africa.org

IAN VIMPANY – BSc (Agric)'56

was a staff member at the University of Natal Pietermaritzburg campus until 1960. From 1960-1987 he worked at the Department of Agriculture in Sydney, Australia. He relocated to the Tropical Fruit Research Station, Alstonville, where he did research into macadamia, bananas, custard apples and other tropical fruit crops. In 1994 he retired and set up a private consultancy servicing the macadamia and blueberry industries. He has recently rewritten soil test interpretation manuals for the largest fertiliser company on the East Coast.

Email: vimpany1@internode.on.net

1960s

CHARLES HUMPHREY MULLER – BA'65

was Professor and Head of English at the University of the North in South Africa for 10 years, and Senior Lecturer in English at the University of South Africa before that. In 1988 he moved to Scotland where he owned a small hotel to devote more time to creative writing, and writing fiction and non-fiction books. In 1997 he founded his own publishing firm, Diadem Books, of which he is still CEO. He has lived in New Zealand and Canada and has a home in the Highlands of Scotland.

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JAMES EDWARD PETER GREEN – BSc Eng(Agric)'68, MSc'80, PG Dip(HR Mgt)'96

lectured from 1972-97 and has been a City Councillor in the Msunduzi Local Council since 1996. He obtained his Masters Degree and PhD from Oklahoma State University. He is an SA Scout Association Regional Commissioner in uMgungundlovu District.

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RICHARD DE GOEDE – BSc'69, UED'70

retired in 2005, having taught Chemistry and Physical Science at Glenwood High School and Westville Boys' High. He lectured in the Department of Chemistry at the former Natal Technikon for 26 years. Since retiring he and his wife, Jinny, have travelled to Florida, the Caribbean, the UK, China and Alaska. He is doing a little part-time lecturing at Durban University of Technology.

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1970s

STEVE BENNETT – BSc (Agric)'74

spent 16 years as an academic, in beef production and in the commercial field in Zimbabwe and Zambia. He moved to Australia with his young family and after nearly 20 years in agriculture with the same company in Brisbane, then Sydney, returned to the livestock sector. He is presently in Armidale at the Agricultural Business Research Institute at the University of New England, Armidale. Steve welcomes contact from old friends or from alumni seeking information.

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ANTHONY (TONY) MORRIS – BSocSc'76

is currently living in Cape Town, where he does HR consulting work and owns two picture framing shops. He would like to have contact with old class mates.

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LINDY THOMPSON (NEE BEACHAM, NOW FRENCH) – BA'76, Higher Diploma (Library and Info. Studies)'77, Library & Info Sc'84

works at the KwaZulu-Natal Public Library and Information Service in Pietermaritzburg as a librarian.

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1980s

JACINTA BASSUDAY – B Proc'83

practised as an Attorney, Notary Public and Conveyancer in a private law practice from 1986-2010 in Durban until she moved to Standard Bank Head Office in Johannesburg as a Manager in the Legal Department – Trusts and Estates.

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RAEESA MAHOMED – BA'89, BA(Hon)'91

was chosen as the anchor person for the East Net television programme; presented and produced television shows in London and India; and presented on Good Morning South Africa and Lotus FM. She produces and directs one of South Africa's most popular radio soaps, *Lollipop Lane*. In 2010 her first feature film was released. She wrote the script and played the lead in *For Better For Worse*, and is featured in the recently launched book: *Women South Africans of Indian origin*.

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2000s

EVELYN ARCHERY – BSc'00, BSc Hon(Chem)'01

started working for Anglo Platinum in 2001 and did a Masters degree at the University of Stellenbosch. She worked in processing in platinum mining before moving into a commercial role as a market analyst. Evelyn is currently responsible for growing platinum jewellery demand with local retailers and supporting tertiary institutions with regard to platinum jewellery training.

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SHARMILLA GAJAN – BA'00, MTRP'02

commenced her career as a Special Investigator with the Scorpions: Directorate of Special Operations: National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) in 2002. From 2005-2007 she was Regional Manager of the Johannesburg Liquor Licensing Office and the National Liquor Authority. Since 2007, she has been engaged in intelligence analysis and strategic research within the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) of South Africa, dedicated to anti-money

laundering and anti-terrorism financing activities.

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SAMSON XULU – BCom'00, BCom(Hon)'05

is a principal investment banker at Nedbank Capital responsible for business financing via capital markets. Prior to joining Nedbank Capital, Samson worked for the Royal Bank of Canada and Absa Capital in a similar capacity.

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DAVENDERAN GOVENDER – BSc Eng(Chem)'01

started work as a Process Control Engineer in Mintek. He then joined two companies specialising in optical sorting. Davenderan joined Sasol in 2006 where he is a Lead Process Engineer for a few of the Sasol Wax Plants.

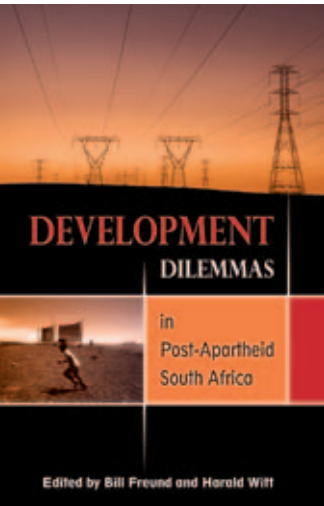
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RUWEIDA MUHAMMAD – BA'07

lives in Durban. She recently completed her BA Honours Degree in Psychology through Unisa and is currently working for an NGO as a counsellor.

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On the Bookshelf



DEVELOPMENT DILEMMAS IN POST-APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA

edited by **Bill Freund** and **Harald Witt**

What is really meant by 'development' in twenty-first-century post-apartheid South Africa? What are the challenges and complexities of real transformation in this context?

The contributions in this book address the ways in which people in all sectors of South African society are confronting its development dilemmas: from the energy crisis, environmental sustainability and environmental justice to grassroots social movements, problems of policy implementation, land and agricultural reform and gender inequality. Written by leading academics and activists, this is an essential and illuminating in-depth study of the dilemmas facing post-apartheid South Africa, and the historical, political, economic and social context out of which a new democracy is being built. Collectively, the authors suggest that there is no easy way to attain development; it is a process, not an event, and is fraught with failures and loss, as well as gains.

Bill Freund is Professor Emeritus and **Harald Witt** is a lecturer in Economic History and Development Studies, both at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Available from the UKZN Press



LOVE IN THE TIME OF AIDS INEQUALITY, GENDER AND RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

by **Mark Hunter**

In some parts of South Africa, more than one in three people are HIV positive. *Love in the Time of AIDS* explores transformations in notions of gender and intimacy to try to understand the roots of this virulent epidemic.

By living in an informal settlement and collecting love letters, cell phone text messages, oral histories, and archival materials, Mark Hunter details the everyday social inequalities that have resulted in untimely deaths.

Hunter shows how first apartheid and then chronic unemployment have become entangled with ideas about femininity, masculinity, love, and sex and have created an economy of exchange that perpetuates the transmission of HIV/AIDS. This sobering ethnography challenges conventional understandings of HIV/AIDS in South Africa.

"Beautifully, powerfully, and movingly written. The best analysis I have seen not only of the reasons for the HIV/AIDS pandemic in southern Africa, but of its wider socioeconomic, cultural, and political dynamics."

Shula Marks, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

"One of the most exceptional studies of the response to HIV and AIDS."

Richard Parker, Columbia University

Mark Hunter is Assistant Professor in Social Sciences/Geography at the University of Toronto Scarborough and Research Associate in the School of Development Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Available from the UKZN Press

LIYOZE LINE NANGAKITHI

by **Ndabayakhe W Zulu**

JOINT WINNER OF THE PANSALB MULTILINGUALISM AWARD 2011

Liyoze Line Nangakithi is a powerful and moving story about the life of writer and artist William Zulu. Zulu was born during the time of the oppression of Black people in South Africa, a time that caused much hardship among communities and families. He invites us to journey with him as he shows us the joy and the hardship of growing up in Emondlo, and the challenges that he faced and overcame there.

He shares with us his experiences as an art student at the famous Rorke's Drift Art and Crafts Centre, where he learnt the skills that led to him becoming a world-renowned linocut artist, eventually invited to exhibit his work overseas.

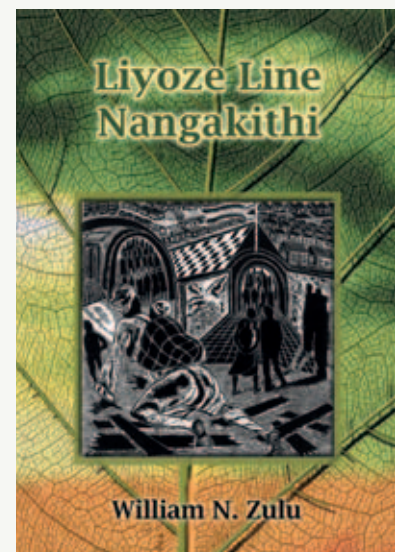
Zulu has lived for a long time with disability, ever since a problem that he experienced with his legs when he was a young man. This led to him being operated on in Baragwanath Hospital – an operation which went wrong, resulting in complete paralysis of the lower part of his body.

But this book about his life is not a book of mourning and hopelessness. Instead it is an invitation for us to see the power of God and the spirit of *ubuntu* in those that he met on his life's journey.

"Through the mind's eye we are privileged to see and learn about the place William grew up in and experience the journey he has travelled. We are awed by the bravery! The love and hope he plants in us with this well-told story is the gift I believe every reader will take away with them."

Gcina Mhlophe

Available from the UKZN Press



THE TIME OF OUR LIVES

100 YEARS OF RUGBY AT NATAL UNIVERSITY AND UKZN

This comprehensive and nostalgic publication commemorates the centenary of Varsity Rugby in KwaZulu-Natal.

Featuring contributions by alumni Tom Bedford, Doc Louw, Wynard Claassen, Craig Jamieson and Gary Teichmann, and researched and compiled by Mark Schulze, with the help of newspapermen John Bishop and Jos Robson, this is a souvenir for all those student players who have strutted their stuff on the Pietermaritzburg and Durban campuses since 1911.

Writing in the Foreword, Jamieson, Natal's first Currie Cup-winning Captain in 1990, observes: 'I can honestly say that the six years I spent at the University of Natal in the early '80s playing rugby ... were arguably the most memorable, the most exciting and the most enjoyable of my life ...'

The revival of Varsity rugby recently received a boost with the acceptance of the combined UKZN Team into the Shield division of the new Varsity Cup competition.

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ALWAR, Hazel Viloshni (Miss)
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BOTA, Bulelwa (Miss)
LIB'99

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CHIGUMBU, Wimbayi Munyanyi (Mr)
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DAYA, Paresh (Mr)
BSc'02, BSc(Hon) Comp Sc' 03

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BAdmin'95

DLAMINI, Nana Fezeka (Ms)
LIB'00

DLAMINI, Sandile Thula (Mr)
BPharm'03

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MBChB'83

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BA'89, BA(Hon)'90

FRANCIS, Arthur Richard (Mr)
BScEng(Electrical)'74

GADIAGELLAN, Dhireshan (Mr)
BScEng(Electro)'05

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MBChB'84

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*BScEng(Civil)'94,
PG DIP(Bus Mgmt)'02, MBA'03*

GCABASHE, Sabelo Goodwish (Mr)
BOptom'03

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BA'88

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BSc Build Mgmt'84

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