2016

UKZNTOUCH

A UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL ALUMNI MAGAZINE

CULTIVATING KNOWLEDGE

FOR HOME-GROWN EXCELLENCE

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL
INYUVESI YAKWAZULU-NATALI

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This edition of ***UKZNTOUCH*** showcases knowledge production at UKZN through innovation and excellence.

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Creative Direction: Artworks

Photographs and graphic illustration: Artworks, UKZN's archives, UKZN Corporate Relations Division, UKZN Photographers

Printing: Paarl Media

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FOREWORD

I have great pleasure in presenting *UKZNTOUCH*, a publication that highlights developments at the Institution and helps keep us in touch with our alumni and other stakeholders.

In South Africa, the role of the university is constantly being redefined. For many people, a university education is a way out of the poverty trap, the path to a job and career. A matric certificate is no longer enough: a degree is now becoming the new matric. The skills requirements of the job market have changed, and this is why an education beyond matric is no longer the exception, it is becoming the norm in a skills driven society.

Research shows that people with a university degree only experience 5% unemployment. By the time we hold our Graduation ceremonies, some 84% of our graduates are already employed. It might not be in the same field that they studied, but at least they have a job.

Getting a university degree is an investment in yourself. It reflects on your ability, your tenacity, and your capacity to see things through. For employers, actual technical skills do not carry as much weight as the soft skills that a graduate can bring to the table: the ability to work with colleagues, emotional intelligence, and willingness to be part of a team. Employers hire for attitude and train for skills. If anything, this is where universities sometimes fall short.

This is why I am 100% committed to creating a university that becomes an employer of choice. This must be a place with which employees are proud to be associated. We must also be a university of choice for students. We

need to ensure that we offer subjects and courses that are of such high quality that people feel they are losing out if they do not come to UKZN. People who work and study here, will learn those soft skills – not only to be good in their field of study, but to be well rounded candidates for further employment.

There are several things that we are doing right. For instance, not many people know that UKZN has been the leading institution in terms of research output for the past three years across all subjects, and we are ranked number one as far as Physical Sciences and Engineering is concerned in the country. Our reputation in the area of HIV and TB research is well known, and our new Africa Health Research Institute has secured over R1.2 billion in funding from the Wellcome Trust. We would not have received this funding if we were not world-class.

Other areas we would like to strengthen are our Graduate School of Business and Leadership, Engineering, and our work in food security through our Pietermaritzburg campus, and improve further on the significant progress we have made in Astrophysics. We are becoming a major role-player in the Square Kilometre Array project in the Karoo.

I would like to characterise UKZN not as a great institution in Africa, but as a great African institution. Our deep service culture, our programme to create a welcoming environment, and our commitment to developing isiZulu as a scientific and academic language are all aimed at creating an empowering environment where our students feel that they can thrive. However, considering the funding squeeze that universities are going through at present and the fact that state funding is unlikely to grow, we need to look at increasing our income from alternative streams.

We are a young university, but we have a proud alumni tradition. Therefore we have created an endowment fund that can be used to support students in need, to offer bursaries to talented young people who come into the system and to expand and develop new areas of research.

We would like to invite our past students to assist us to build on our heritage, and create a lasting gift – a university that stands out as an African centre of research excellence that offers service and tuition that is world-class.

Dr Albert van Jaarsveld
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

"Research shows that people with a university degree only experience 5% unemployment."

EDITORIAL

Climate change, the effects of drought, poverty, and global health challenges, many of them on our own doorstep, have a profound and lasting impact on the way South Africa's academic fraternity gathers and disseminates newly attained knowledge.

This is especially true at UKZN, where meaningful and relevant research goes hand-in-hand with robust and independent thought. To fully comprehend the gravitas of the work in progress at the University, one needs to look at the broader brushstrokes that determine the academic landscape across its five campuses. Difficult and testing life swatches, some naturally occurring, others man-made, are shaping the way that knowledge, in all its forms, is correlated and broadcast to a wider community.

This issue of UKZNTOUCH takes a closer look at some of the issues that are currently influencing the direction of Higher Education at UKZN, with an emphasis on knowledge production that has the potential to improve the quality of life and promote 'thinking out-of-the-box' to find solutions to planetary and social ills.

It is said that nothing happens in isolation and in knowledge terms, the climate changes that many scientists agree are exacerbating the current drought, have a knock-on effect on the direction of other research imperatives, including family health, disease, food shortages, law, politics and protest. Connecting those sharp-edged beads is arguably one of UKZN's greatest strengths.

The student #FeesMustFall protests have, for example, created new avenues of study, which not only involve looking at the fault lines in Higher Education, but the part played by social media in rolling mass action.

On the health front, the principle that academic output should be responsive to the needs of the broader community is amply demonstrated by the work undertaken at two of the world's most prestigious research centres, based at the Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine. The overriding mantra in this square kilometre of research excellence, is "how can we do it better, how can we get the answers we so desperately need to save lives?"

It is this intense questioning that led to one of the most significant collaborations in HIV and TB research history, namely the amalgamation of UKZN's KwaZulu-Natal Research Institute for Tuberculosis and HIV (K-RITH) and the Africa Centre for Population Health so that these two funded research bodies can tackle this twin scourge under one umbrella.

The strategy going forward will be to link clinical and laboratory-based studies with the disciplines of social science, health systems research and population studies to discover more about these killer diseases, with a complementary mission to train the next generation of outstanding African scientists. In the same scientific stratosphere, the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) is a global leader in the realm of women's health.

This year alone major advances have been made by scientists to give greater protection to women at risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases, with the caveat that possibly for the first time, there are interventions that give vulnerable women more control over their health and their lives.

Healthcare leadership and expertise continue to be important benchmarks for the Discipline of Nursing at UKZN, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. Widely known for its pioneering community-based education projects, the discipline has earned a reputation both nationally and internationally for academic rigour and innovative leadership.

In a broader context global issues are very much part of UKZN's conversation, with the understanding that international events inevitably have a ripple effect on academic life.

In this regard the extraordinary changes taking place in social orders around the globe have prompted the World Economic Forum to predict that the next decade will be a time of turmoil – in markets, society, and technology. Aware as it is of what is described in this publication as the Fourth Revolution, UKZN is well positioned to monitor this 'bumpy ride'. Its long history

"The overriding mantra in this square kilometre of research excellence, is 'how can we do it better, how can we get the answers we so desperately need to save lives?'"

of transformation shows that it is able to adapt to whatever circumstances prevail and to provide strategies to address any tensions that arise during periods of turbulence and unrest.

The Centre for Conflict Transformation and Peace Studies in the Political Science and the International Relations Department at UKZN, focuses, for example, on more than just conflict resolution. Its trajectory – one that is currently a high priority – is to develop ways to transform the end of a conflict into on-going development and growth.

On the business front, the downgrading of South Africa's economic standing as well as the instability and uncertainty bedeviling the world's economies, are prompting a number of UKZN-based studies into the effect of the downturn on sectors like mining, food production, or exports and imports.

No university worth its place in the world's top institutions can exist without maintaining the fine balance between academic excellence and the promotion of sporting, cultural and creative expertise.

UKZN continues to demonstrate a range of creative and sporting excellence. The fact that ballroom dancing, for example, is the fastest growing sport in the province has prompted the University to take this discipline to heart. Six times Dusi winner and UKZN student Mr Andy Birkett has his sights set on a World Marathon Canoe Championship title.

UKZN has also traditionally played the part of creative game changer in South Africa. 2016 was no different. The creative festival spirit began in full cry with the 20th Durban Film Festival making the boundary-breaking statements that are so much part of this internationally recognised showcase event.

The nature of higher learning dictates that not everything is cast in stone; that legacies and ideologies once held dear might need revisiting; that robust inquisition, questioning and interrogation, are all part of an evolving academic landscape. It is this fluid, transforming process that defines UKZN, as a unique institution of learning that is well positioned to hand down groundbreaking research and independent solutions-driven thought to the next generation of thinkers.

The success of our endeavours depends on the support of all the University's stakeholders, including our alumni who play a vital role in ensuring that UKZN reaches its full potential. This can be achieved in a number of ways, including financial support, championing the Institution in the various sectors where many of our alumni hold prominent positions, and keeping informed and engaged with your *alma mater*. I am confident that this issue of *UKZNTOUCH* will inspire our alumni family to do all of this and more.

Lesiba Seshoka
Executive Director
Corporate Relations Division

HIGHLIGHTS 2015

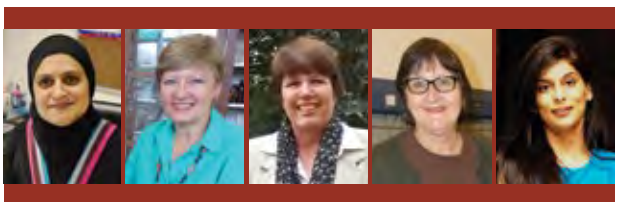
Scholarship Awards

A total of 120 of 5 000 UKZN prestigious scholarships and bursaries were awarded to top achieving students during the University's Annual Scholarships Awards Ceremony on the Westville campus on 26 August, in recognition of outstanding academic excellence and achievement in sport.

Professor Renuka Vithal, Ms Domonique De Klerk, Mr Musa Kika and Dr Albert van Jaarsveld.

UKZN SARChI Chairs

The Minister of Science and Technology Mrs Naledi Pandor announced that UKZN had been awarded five new SARChI Chairs when she awarded 42 new research chairs to various Higher Education Institutions and female academics. UKZN was one of the few institutions to be awarded all five of the positions it was allowed to apply for.



From left: Professor Sabiha Essack, Professor Theresa Coetzer, Professor Colleen Downs, Professor Fanie van Heerden and Professor Deevia Bhana.

UKZN Solar Car in Australia

UKZN's Solar Car team, Hulamin, at the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge finish line in Adelaide, Australia. Hulamin successfully completed the 3 022 km road journey between Darwin and Adelaide.

UKZN Solar Car Team.

Dr Adriana Marais.

Prestigious Medal Recipient

Dr Adriana Marais of UKZN's Centre for Quantum Technology received the prestigious Meiring Naudé Medal from the Royal Society of South Africa (RSSAf) for her extraordinary achievements as a young scientist.

UKZN Recognised its Researchers

Several UKZN academics were recognised for their significant contributions in 2014, at the University's Research Awards ceremony held in Durban. The 2014 Research and InQubate Reports were also distributed at the event.

UKZN Research Awards recipients.

Professor Sarojini Nadar.

VC's Research Award

Professor Sarojini Nadar of the School of Religion, Philosophy and Classics was awarded the prestigious 2015 Vice-Chancellor's Research Award which recognises researchers that produce work of exceptional quality and demonstrate sustained scholarship. The award is made to a scholar who is under the age of 40.

Ms Ndoni Mchunu.

200 Young South Africans

UKZN MSc graduate Ms Ndoni Mcunu was listed in the *Mail & Guardian's* 2016 200 Young South Africans showcasing the talent, drive and innovation of young people striving to improve the lives of others.

Academic gets Drone Flying Licence

Mechatronics' Associate Professor Riaan Stopforth has become the first Academic Engineer to obtain a Remote Pilot Licence from ProWings, which will allow him to fly drones up to 400 feet high. South Africa is the first country in the world to issue ICAO approved remote pilot licences through the South African Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Professor Riaan Stopforth.

HEARD Hosts International AIDS Economics Network Pre-conference

High level delegates at the 9th International AIDS Economics Network (IAEN) Pre-conference included Dr Michel Sidibé, Professor Shiela Tlou and the Ministers of Health and Finance. Titans of AIDS economics came together in Durban on 15 and 16 July. The Pre-conference was hosted by the network in collaboration with its organising partners the Health Economics HIV/AIDS Research Division (HEARD), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the World Bank, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Avenir Health, the Rush Foundation and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

High level delegates at the 9th International AIDS Economics Network (IAEN) Pre-conference include Dr Michel Sidib'e (left), Professor Shiela Tlou (top left) and Ministers of Health and Finance.

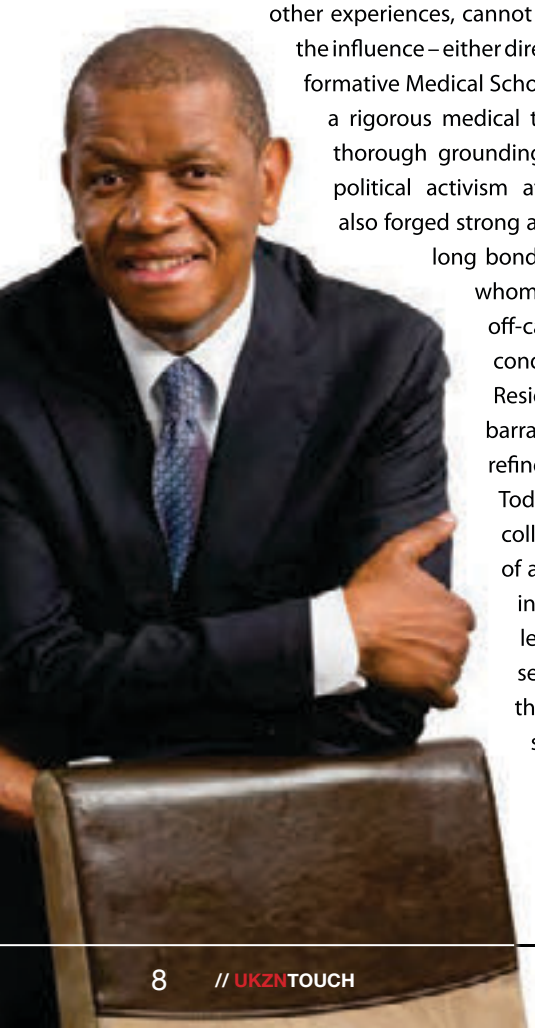
UKZN WELCOMES NEW LEADERSHIP

Leadership is fundamental in ensuring that the University succeeds in its mission and vision. In the past year, UKZN welcomed a new Chair of Council and two new Executive Members. *UKZNTOUCH* spoke to them.

CHAIR OF COUNCIL: DR AYANDA NTSALUBA

Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba was only 16 when he left his family in the Eastern Cape to enroll at the former University of Natal's Medical School. Forty years later, when he was invited to chair the Institution's highest governing body, he did not hesitate: here was an opportunity to contribute to an institution that had shaped his life and his outlook.

"I felt an instinctive desire to play some role in a university that had truly given so much to me," he said. "Everything that came afterwards, any value that was added to my life as a result of other experiences, cannot be disconnected from the influence – either direct or indirect – of those formative Medical School years." In addition to a rigorous medical training, he received a thorough grounding in social justice and political activism at Medical School. He also forged strong and, in many cases, life-long bonds with his peers, all of whom were required to stay off-campus in cramped conditions at Alan Taylor Residence, an old military barracks abutting an oil refinery near Austerville. Today, many of these colleagues are members of an impressive cohort of influential South African leaders, in the health sector and beyond. In the lecture theatre, the students benefited from the expertise and commitment of a team of lecturers including Professor Jagidesa "Jack" Moodley and Professor Ronald Green-Thompson – experts who gave the young Ntsaluba the intellectual foundation he needed to pursue postgraduate studies at the London School of Economics (LSE), and who inspired him to return after a period in exile to focus on his personal dream to specialise in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.



Against this backdrop, returning to UKZN in 2015, first in the role of ordinary Council member (for six months), and subsequently as Council Chair, holds tremendous significance. "Many of us [fellow Medical School graduates] are grateful and conscious of the fact that a lot of what we've achieved and the people we have turned out to be are the result of seeds planted during our term in the Medical School," he said.

"I am passionate about what the University means to our society. And I think we tend to underplay the impact of Medical School graduates in the current fortunes of our country."

After returning from exile, Ntsaluba had limited contact with his South African *alma mater*, ironically enjoying a closer relationship with the LSE where he completed an MSc in Health Policy, Planning and Financing in the early 1990s. Nonetheless, he knew enough about the Institution and how it had evolved over the years. He was convinced that serving on the UKZN Council was the right thing to do. After agreeing to consider the position, the next step was to carve out the time and space that would be required to give it as much energy as it deserved.

In March 2011, Ntsaluba resigned as Director-General of the then Department of Foreign Affairs and now Department of International Relations to take up a position in business, as Executive Director of Discovery Holdings (Pty) Ltd, the JSE-listed South-African based financial services group. Despite his move to the corporate sector, he has maintained his commitment to service. Thanks in part to Ntsaluba's good relationship with former Chair of Council Dr Phumla Mnganga,

who made herself available for advice, the handover process was smooth. However, his term as Chair has coincided with turbulent times across the Higher Education sector. He admitted that "stresses and strains" in the job cause him to lose a bit of sleep, some of which arise out of broader socio-political factors beyond one's control. "In the context of transformation, the job becomes more difficult."

Difficult, but not impossible. Ntsaluba brings high-level leadership experience to the post, as well as a clear understanding of the job of Council, its members, and its Chair. He emphasised that at all times, Council should remember its role to guide and support the Institution, rather than taking over the functions of the Executive. As Chair, his most important role is to ensure a healthy relationship between the Council and Executive.

"Over and above the statutory functions relating to governance, the Chair has to be a credible interlocutor between Council and the Executive. The two structures have to function well together. The Chair is the person who has to orchestrate the health of that relationship. Together with the Vice-Chancellor in particular, the Chair becomes a credible voice in the ongoing discourse that accurately reflects what best serves the University."

Support from Council members is also a prerequisite for success. Ntsaluba noted that Council is generally made up of independent and successful individuals with strong views and personalities, over whom the Chairperson has no real authority. "There are no tools you can use to extract their co-operation. They have to give it to you voluntarily."

Against that backdrop it is imperative that all members of Council remain confident that the Chair is guided by the best interests of the Institution. In a conflict situation, it is important to allow different voices to be heard, but at the same time, Council cannot be used to win battles that should be resolved elsewhere. Ntsaluba said that one of the lessons he learnt working in Foreign Affairs is the value of people from different backgrounds coming together. "In Council we have a range of expertise, for example, KwaZulu-Natal Judge President Achmat Jappie. On the issue of legal processes, there are few better councillors to have. One needs to recognise the strengths of the people on Council and use them appropriately."

Exposure to top-level meetings with heads of states and ministers has also given him insight into the value of maintaining a sense of objectivity and calm, and showing respect for different points of view. He added that during dialogue with students, it is important for university leaders to maintain objectivity and appreciate the legitimacy of the students' cause without allowing disapproval of the sometimes destructive methods they use during protest action to cloud the issues. "Protest is legitimate, but it must be in a manner that highlights the nature of the problem, rather than adding to the problem, which is the case when property is destroyed."

He observed that leadership of any kind requires the ability to manage complexity, particularly in a context where relationships are not harmonious. "You need an ability to listen to people and rise above factional interests and divisions." Compromises are sometimes necessary in the interests of securing the bigger prize which, in the case of UKZN is a stable environment in which both staff and students are able to excel. It is also necessary to build loyalty: "Students and staff are the biggest ambassadors of the Institution and they need to be passionate about the University. In this way, we identify and fix weaknesses together rather than seeing them as an opportunity to pull the Institution down."

Ntsaluba said that given that his term of office runs for two years, his priorities are likely to be the same as his predecessor's: to maintain a viable institution and help it to operate even more efficiently given current resource constraints, and to create more predictability in the system – all of which would help to facilitate and enhance the development of a diverse and academically rich university. "If we get the basics right, all else will follow."

Ntsaluba added that, given its position in a largely rural province like KwaZulu-Natal, as well as its enviable research record, UKZN has an opportunity to position itself as a centre of excellence for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. "If we maintain a balance between scholarship and diversity, we can achieve what the Medical School did in my era: build effective future leaders of which this country can be proud."

"I am passionate about what the University means to our society. And I think we tend to underplay the impact of Medical School graduates in the current fortunes of our country."

UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR: MR SIMON MOKOENA

Mr Simon Mokoena describes himself as an "administrator by nature" who is highly organised and is motivated by efficient rules and systems. One of his biggest concerns is that people don't fully understand the function of the Registrar.

"Because of the title, most people think that the role of my office begins and ends with student registration. But it goes far beyond that. We are like the nerve centre around which support for all the governance and academic administration of the Institution revolves."

It's a multi-faceted portfolio. Four significant directorates fall under the UKZN Registrar's Office: Student Academic Administration; Governance and Administration; Legal Services; and Risk Management. As part of its governance and administration function, the Registrar's Office is required to provide administrative, legal and secretarial services to University committees, including the Senate, Council, Convocation and Executive Management.

"Agendas and minutes appear without committee members wondering too much about the process behind their creation, but there's an incredible amount of backstage work being done to produce these documents," he said.

Mokoena's office is also responsible for the dissemination, implementation and maintenance of University-wide policies, procedures and systems and for protecting the Institution against legal risk. In addition, the Registrar, under the Directorate of Risk Management, is responsible for security. "If a student's mother complains about a car being stolen outside the campus gates, that letter comes to my office," he said. "If a student loses his or her degree certificate, that's also my office. Being an 'administrator by nature' helps, but so does experience."

Mokoena has a total of 22 years experience working in a Registrar's office, having occupied the position of Deputy Registrar at North West University, Registrar for Academic Administration at the University of Limpopo and Senior Deputy Registrar for Governance and Judicial Services at the Vaal University of Technology.

In 1992, Mokoena started working in a Registrar's office and studying at the same time, starting with a Bachelor of Social Science degree majoring in Sociology and Psychology. An Honours degree in Labour Relations followed as well as a Masters in Administration, a degree that enhanced the skills he had already learnt on the job. As a result of his studies and his performance, he rose through the ranks. On joining UKZN, Mokoena hit the ground running and hasn't really stopped.

"It's a high-pressure environment requiring a great deal of commitment," he said. "But having good systems in place helps enormously."

One of the ongoing challenges of his job is getting people within the University to comply with academic rules. "It's simply not the case that you can do whatever you like; there are rules to follow and part of our job is to raise awareness about that and try to encourage compliance."

There is also the danger that if someone in the University doesn't know what to do with an issue or where it belongs, it ends up in the Registrar's Office. "Anything can come to a registrar," said Mokoena, "which means that the workload is at all times in danger of increasing."

The workload at UKZN is already high by virtue of the size of the Institution. "If you think about it, we have over 40 000 students at UKZN. We are one of the bigger Institutions in South Africa, so the workload in our office is much higher than others." Mokoena noted that Registrars of all South African universities attend an annual Registrars' Forum where they share experiences and challenges. They are also exposed to best practices and have the opportunity to make contributions and recommendations to the Ministry on Higher Education-related issues.

"This is a valuable experience which gives some recognition to the importance of the Registrar and his or her office to the proper functioning of a university," he said.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR INSTITUTIONAL PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE: DR ENOCH DUMA MALAZA

Dr Enoch Duma Malaza heads up the new executive portfolio at UKZN that combines two critical functions, Institutional Planning and Governance. He said that this brings the University in line with international reporting trends and best organisational practice. Malaza, who has a PhD in Physics from Cambridge University and has extensive senior management experience in Higher Education, said that the post was an "appealing" and "interesting" prospect. The benefits of the new portfolio will be a more integrated approach to planning and allocation of resources, he said. Governance structures would also be streamlined, with an emphasis on accountability. "The new system will see all sectors moving in one direction with an emphasis on efficiency and financial sustainability."

According to Malaza, the increasing costs attached to Higher Education delivery in the context of inflation, declining levels of state funding and rising student debt have necessitated new approaches to the way in which universities are managed. "At a national level, Higher Education competes for limited resources with a number of other pressing social needs. Hence, the University is under increasing pressure to grow alternative income streams, particularly unrestricted streams," he said. "Cutting operating costs is another imperative."

According to Malaza, growing unrestricted income streams is made more difficult in a country in which a culture of philanthropy is not strong compared with other countries such as the United States. "I think there is less of a sense of ownership over our institutions here; perhaps people don't feel as patriotic." However, the new integrated system would allow the University to report to government in a manner that could demonstrate a lot more clearly how it creates value for society and for its stakeholders.

"Portfolios like mine are central to that challenge. In the past, there was reporting on performance, but it was not audited. Going forward all performance has to be audited so we need systems that are measurable." Malaza said that the new portfolio anticipated the more stringent reporting requirements expected to be contained in the fourth revision of the King Commission on Corporate Governance, currently in progress. He added that integration is key to reporting systems: "Units can't function as silos any more. The advantage of this portfolio is that it cuts across all sectors of the University." In this respect, Malaza's extensive experience in Higher Education gives him ample insight into the needs of the Institution across all its functions, including teaching and learning, and research.

Originally from Springs on the East Rand, Malaza's mother was a domestic worker and his father a factory worker. At the University of Fort Hare, he excelled in the sciences, going on to earn an MSc in Physics from the Ivy League Brown University in the United States, and a PhD from Cambridge University in the United Kingdom. His senior management positions in South Africa have included DVC Academic at the University of Transkei; Director of Institutional Planning at the University of Cape Town; Director of Quality Assurance at the University of Pretoria; and, most recently, Executive Director of Institutional Planning and Quality Assurance at Vaal University of Technology. Malaza is also a former Chief Executive Officer of Higher Education South Africa, the premier body of South African universities, now known as Universities South Africa.

He noted that his experiences have given him a thorough understanding of the context in which South African universities operate as well as access to networks of best practice and leading national and international trends around university management. For Malaza, one of the long-term benefits of improved institutional systems will be to create a greater sense of value for students and Higher Education more generally. "We need to better demonstrate the value of Higher Education to society. We need to explain why we charge the fees we do. We have failed to put across the case for education – even to government."

Malaza added that from his experience at UKZN he has a sense that people want to see the University excel and be great in the South African context: "This Institution has an impressive research output. It has the attributes to be great and the capabilities are there. We need to harness that capacity and focus it. If we move in one direction, we can make more impact."

TOWARDS A **NEW ERA** OF INTELLECTUAL EXCELLENCE

After his first year in office UKZN's Vice-Chancellor Dr Albert van Jaarsveld spoke to *UKZNTOUCH* about the key challenges facing the University.

Building on strengths and respecting UKZN's long and robust history are what van Jaarsveld calls the "foundational core" to move forward, right the wrongs, and create a proud citadel of cutting-edge and new age academia.

He refers to it as an ethos of learning that has a "deep service culture" at its heart.

"We are not re-inventing the wheel, but simply echoing what is happening in other parts of the world where decentralised training platforms and centres of excellence are being created with a knock-on community benefit."

Looking back on his first year at UKZN, van Jaarsveld admits it is never easy to take over the reins of an institution where so much has happened before.

"Legacies have been forged through very challenging and demanding times and we must always remember the sacrifices and gains that have been made along the way."

Recognising UKZN's strengths and building on them, he believes, it was the correct starting point for his term of office.

"One of those strengths and probably one of the most meaningful," he says "is the fact that more transformation has taken place at UKZN than anywhere else in the country. It comes closest to representing South Africa's demographic landscape by far."

Secondly, he says, something that is often overlooked in the broader university terrain is that over the past three years more research has been produced at UKZN than anywhere else in the country.

"We have some dynamic researchers at the helm, doing investigations of international importance, with 86% of staff being research active. It's the sort of academic platform that any institution in the world would be proud of."

He accepts that pragmatism is also part of the Higher Education dynamic, especially in a resource poor province like KwaZulu-Natal, where many families live on or below the breadline.

"It is a tough reality, we can't get away from that. More than two-thirds of our students require some degree of financial assistance and support. The long queues in front of the student funding office at any given time reflect the character and demands on this University. But I don't see that as a weakness – certainly not. I see it as a golden opportunity to ensure that Higher Education becomes the conduit to alleviating poverty and hardship."

He adds that a number of social responsibility or development programmes are being looked at to ease the funding burden. "These include a special UKZN alumni endowment fund, which has already taken root and has been widely supported. Recent student fee concessions by the government and a boosted National Student Financial Aid Scheme, have, he says, improved the funding climate for needy and deserving students.

"Support of this nature definitely makes sense. We have proved that students, including orphans, from impoverished backgrounds perform equally as well as students from affluent families, as long as they are given sufficient funds to see them through the year. When they don't have to worry about accommodation, food and textbooks, they can devote their time to study."

Conversely, he explains, students from poor backgrounds who don't get financial support often fail and drop out. Currently 10 000 UKZN students are being funded at any point in time, which is close to 20 percent of the student population.

"However, we are nowhere near perfect and plenty of things still need fixing," says this former Stellenbosch academic, Doctor of Zoology, and one-time Chief Executive Officer of the National Research Foundation who can more often than not be found with rolled-up shirt sleeves rather than the robes of office.

High on the agenda is cultivating a positive climate of engagement at all levels that allows staff members, students and partners to freely express their concerns and opinions.

"By collectively engaging with one another around a table with the aim of striving for workable and amicable solutions, we are hoping to manage and alleviate some of the tensions and differences that inevitably arise in institutions of this nature where great minds are at work and tough decisions have to be made."

Other crucial issues include identifying new ways to fund universities and freeing up channels that allow access to Tertiary Education based on merit and income.

"Any new structure of funding has to be innovative with special emphasis on students who are potential graduates, especially in the sciences, but unable to pay for their education." Van Jaarsveld believes that UKZN is on a journey to achieving a new era of intellectual excellence.

"The plan is to establish core groups of quality academia in specific areas," he explains. "One of those areas is Health Sciences, whose studies relating to TB and HIV and AIDS are topical and historically connected to this University and province."

Taking another step forward, the vision is that students, at home and internationally, would choose UKZN as their preferred institution of learning when it comes to these subjects.

On a lighter note van Jaarsveld is a keen sports follower with a particular interest in water polo in which he is still actively engaged.

"Sport is a unifying part of university life, so it is something that I am keen to see developed and encouraged at all levels and across as many sporting disciplines as possible."

He adds that UKZN is looking at increasing and improving participation and high end performance for all major sporting codes at the University.

"Legacies have been forged through very challenging and demanding times and we must always remember the sacrifices and gains that have been made along the way."

"We believe this is a contributor to building the UKZN brand, to encourage all students to pursue an active lifestyle as part of their personal development as well as an important force for social cohesion at the University."

Looking to the future he says that UKZN is going to try and maintain its undergraduate intake at the current level and put more emphasis on postgraduate programmes.

Aesthetically, many believe that UKZN is looking a little tired and in need of a facelift.

"I don't think there is any doubt about that, particularly after the recent fire that destroyed one of the buildings," says van Jaarsveld. "There is a multi-campus master plan in the pipeline involving long-term private sector partnerships.

"We are already far into the planning process. I think it is going to be an exciting time for this University."

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

In pursuit of excellence at UKZN, global funding to the tune of R1.2 billion over the next five years has been secured for the amalgamation of the KwaZulu-Natal Research Institute for Tuberculosis and HIV (K-RITH) and the Africa Centre for Population Health in Mtubatuba in the north of the province. This will align knowledge production between the two renowned research facilities.

In addition, the training of health science professionals will be increasingly decentralised, with modern training facilities in a number of key areas in the province established for students to complete their training blocks. This will ensure that remote communities benefit from improved health care and state-of-the-art technologies.

The University is also looking at strengthening its Graduate School of Business and Leadership, working closely with corporate partners to drive projects that will facilitate the creation of a smart city in eThekwini together with the municipal authorities, to, amongst others, efficiently manage power usage and provide innovative transport systems.

Food security research is also a priority at UKZN and the University is exploring avenues to develop vibrant platforms for the performing arts, and the display of its fine arts collections as well as bringing other key collections housed in and around the University such as the Alan Paton, Masizi Kunene and Killie Campbell collections to the fore for research purposes but also into appropriate public spaces.

COPING WITH DROUGHT

South Africa is emerging from a punishing two years of drought. UKZN scientists share their views on its effects.

Descriptions of the severity of the drought in South Africa range from "the worst drought in 30 years" to "the worst drought in a century". It is impossible to overstate its impact and it is likely that the effects will be felt for years to come.

Professor Emeritus of Hydrology in the Centre for Water Resources Research at UKZN, Professor Roland Schulze notes that the severity of the drought is difficult to quantify, because different parts of the country have experienced it differently.

"We can all agree that this is a bad drought, but just how bad it is, is not that easy to measure," he says. "In some areas, it is the least rainfall in that area for 20 years. And in other areas it is the least rainfall in a century. What has made this drought particularly severe is that we have had below-average rainfall for two consecutive years. Crops growing over several seasons have a 'memory', and the negatives are carried over."

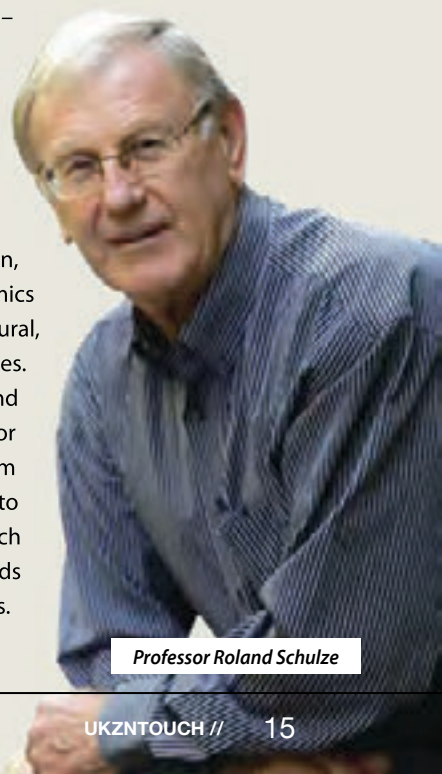
While droughts are nothing new in South Africa, the current crisis has broken many records for highest temperature, lowest rainfall, and most severe economic impact and levels of human suffering.

Even international credit ratings agency Moody's warned that the drought was likely to push South Africa into recession. Not only is this the worst drought in living memory for many; it is thought to be part of a gradual pattern of climate change around the world that is seeing harsher droughts, stronger floods, fiercer storms, more extreme weather events, and a general shift in seasonal rains and temperatures. The effects of climate change are already plain to see.

The two parts of South Africa that have been hardest hit by the drought are also the two areas that are the most vulnerable. According to a report by agricultural union Agriforum, the worst-hit area in terms of an agricultural drought (low rainfall affecting crops) is the Free State, which is also the country's breadbasket for maize, sunflowers, lucerne and soy – agricultural staples for livestock. The worst-hit area for stored water (i.e., for industrial, irrigation and human use) is KwaZulu-Natal, with not only the highest population in the country, but also the largest number of subsistence and small-scale farmers.

The food crisis was expected to reach its height in August; when stocks had run out and livestock farmers had sold off their animals. Municipalities – mostly in KwaZulu-Natal – have introduced water restrictions in cities and towns.

"The drought is going to hit the rural poor people the hardest," says Gerald Ortmann, Professor of Agricultural Economics in UKZN's School of Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences. "Food prices are already rising and this will be felt in our economy for a while. The biggest short-term impact of the drought is going to be on our maize harvest, which this year is only about two-thirds of our national requirements.



Professor Roland Schulze

We are going to have to import close to four million tons of maize this year, and this could cause prices to increase sharply with the relatively weak Rand. Maize, of course, is not only a staple food crop (white maize), but also a feed for our livestock industry (yellow maize).

"The rising price of wheat due to imports is going to impact on the bread price. Livestock farmers are selling off animals that they can no longer feed or support, so initially the price of meat will drop because of greater supply relative to demand, but then the price will climb sharply. The higher price could continue for a while because when the rains come the farmers are going to sell fewer animals in order to build up their herds. Our sugarcane crop has had relatively low yields for two consecutive years, but these have been somewhat offset by higher sugar prices for farmers."

The drought is also causing temperatures to rise across the country, leading to faster evaporation of soil water and stored water. Clean water is at risk as dams and rivers dry up, and this will lead to greater concentrations of pollution, with implications for health and the environment. In order to meet its social development needs, South Africa will require 20% more than what it currently draws from rivers, lakes, dams and aquifers. While the drought is severe and in some parts unprecedented, the damage and loss caused is also largely the result of government inaction and maladministration. Despite forecasts of water shortages as long as two years ago, the Departments of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Water Affairs and Sanitation, and many of the local authorities tasked with delivering water have been slow to react.

"This current drought was very well forecast by the South African Weather Service," said Schulze, "but the response has been slow and mostly reactive. Mismanagement of resources, water wastage, water theft, irresponsible irrigation – all of these are problems that could have been addressed more quickly to mitigate the shortages. So some of the problems of this drought are self-inflicted."

Ortmann agrees. "A big factor is the mismanagement of water. Government was late in accepting the drought, and has not done enough to maintain existing infrastructure or install new water infrastructure. There has been a lack of planning."

"This is not the first farming drought crisis we have had," continues Ortmann, "And it will not be the last. A major concern is that subsistence and emerging farmers are amongst those who are most devastated by drought. Not only does it affect their own food security, but it affects their ability to generate income from the sale of their crops and livestock."

The social impact of the drought is that failed subsistence and emerging farmers may abandon their holdings and migrate to the cities in search of jobs, which has huge consequences. Families are disrupted, there is added pressure on city managements to provide housing and services, there is the psychological effect of job losses and, of course, the loss to the economy of a new generation of emerging farmers.

"It is also unfortunate that many farmers are so heavily indebted, which accentuates the risk of farming. When farmers are financially stressed, particularly during a drought, they might sell their farms, which may then be bought by more resilient concerns in order to take advantage of economies of size," Ortmann concludes. "We can only hope that once the El Nino effect is over, we have above-average rainfall for a couple of years, which would help our agricultural economy to recover."

To meet some of the challenges of changing conditions, a year ago, the Centre for Water Resources Research at UKZN began to compile a handbook for the industry specifically dealing with mechanisms that the industry could adopt in order to adapt

"The current drought was very well forecast by the South African Weather Service, but the response has been slow and mostly reactive."
– Professor Roland Schulze

Community members collecting water in Qakwini, Zululand.

Photo courtesy of Samora Chapman

to climate change. The *Handbook on Adaptation to Climate Change for Farmers, Officials and Others in the South African Agricultural Sector* is primarily aimed at commercial farmers, government officials tasked with agricultural activities, and agricultural extension officers who would, hopefully, convey this information to small farmers and subsistence farmers.

The Handbook deals comprehensively with all the aspects of farming in a changing climate, with 10 sections, each reflecting on a different kind of land use. The first two sections provide an overview of climate change, who is vulnerable to it, and what kind of tools are needed to adapt. There are broadly two effects: the 'push' effect (long-term incremental changes such as gradually-rising temperatures) and the 'pulse' effect (short, sporadic changes such as heat-waves, droughts and floods). And there are two types of adaptation: incremental changes which require farmers to make small changes every year in order to adapt to changing circumstances; and transformational changes which require countries and industries to fundamentally change the way they do business.

"Climate change is not necessarily a bad thing everywhere," says Professor Schulze. "It might mean less rainfall in one area, but there might be an increase in another. It just really means that things are shifting around, and we need to take note of that."

The other sections of the book deal with specific areas of agriculture: one section is aimed at crop farmers who grow maize, wheat, sugarcane or indigenised crops such as *madumbis*. The following section deals with pasture crops, followed by one on horticultural crops such as vegetables, grapes and other fruit. Then there is a section aimed at the livestock farmer with dairy cattle, pigs, and wildlife ranching. Timber plantations get their own section. The final two sections go back to generalities: how climate change affects farming-related hazards such as pests, diseases, fire, floods and drought; and emerging challenges.

"We are learning as we go," says Schulze. "All the time we are getting better at projecting and anticipating changes in our climate. Not all of the news is negative, it is just a case of adaptation.

"It is good to see that the relevant departments in government are being pro-active and promoting this research. It is not just talk, there is a genuine desire for action."

Professor Gerald Ortmann

A TIME OF UNPRECEDENTED GLOBAL CHANGE

Not since World War II has the world seen as much change, as fundamental, and as fast, as we are now experiencing. UKZN Political Scientist Dr Lubna Nadvi sets the scene.

The two world wars resulted in an unprecedented political convulsion. These conflagrations caused an estimated 100 million deaths – almost 5% of the existing population, a level of human suffering unmatched in any previous time. After the Second World War, the political, social and economic map of the world would be changed forever. The war marked the end of the colonial powers and the rise of the United States and the Soviet Union.

These two super-powers had diametrically opposing ideological philosophies – capitalism vs communism – that split Europe in two. They never fought a direct war, but conducted a Cold War against each other and a number of proxy wars in Africa and the Far East.

This was the beginning of the Atomic Age and a re-alignment of political and economic loyalties – the creation of the United Nations; the International Monetary Fund (IMF); NATO; the World Bank; and the Council of Europe which would eventually lead to the European Union (EU). For decades, global politics was defined by the transatlantic partnership between Europe and the US. This alliance led to a seemingly unshakeable socio-economic dominance. Until now.

"That was the age of globalisation," says Dr Lubna Nadvi, of UKZN's School of Social Sciences.

"Former colonies were pushing for independence and self-determination, countries were creating trading and military blocs, there was a move towards large-scale build-ups of power. What we are seeing now is a dismantling of that, a fragmentation."

According to an analysis in *Time* Magazine, European/US alliances are now weaker than they have ever been. Distracted by challenges at home, Americans and Europeans are looking inward rather than outward. Developing countries are forming their own power blocs, and proposing economic autonomy that is no longer reliant on Bretton Woods institutions.

Examples are BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) and MINT (Mexico, Indonesia, Nigeria and Turkey) where countries have grouped together according to their similar socio-economic potential. These countries' push for self-reliance – such as the creation of their own bank and intra-bloc trading agreements – has meant these emerging economies are able to develop together without restrictions imposed by First World lending institutions.

The BRICS grouping has also brought political changes. These countries formed alliances that fundamentally shifted the global balance of power. China's phenomenal growth, fuelled by demand for raw materials, significantly raised the GDP of supplier countries in Africa and decreased their reliance on the West. The United Nations, which has had the same five permanent seats on the Security Council since 1945, is now under pressure to admit an African country and an Asian country to this exclusive club. The African Union, created in 2001 by Libyan leader Muammar Gadaffi, was meant as a counter-balance to the United Nations, and was intended to be the first step along the road to a United States of Africa.

The African Union has marched to its own drum, rejecting Western expectations of intervention in troubled African states, and criticising the apparently anti-African bias of the International Criminal Court.

Unfortunately, the recent slowdown in China's economy had a knock-on effect in Africa and South America, showing the limitations of resource-based economies. The challenges of an uncertain global economy have also had political implications. Without a shared enemy such as the Soviet Union, Europe and America have become increasingly irritated with each other. Americans have turned their back on globalisation and instead followed Donald Trump, a candidate who "wants to make America great again". Britain has voted to leave the EU, a move predicted to encourage exit referendums in other European countries. And – while we may never see another World War – the globe is fermenting with myriad tiny, deadly internal conflicts that are no longer fought between armies, but between insurgents and civilians.

"Now, we do not have wars on the same scale, we have more localised conflicts," continues Nadvi.

"The trend has moved – there are conflicts within states and they are more violent. Whereas the previous World Wars were about national domination, and the Cold War was about ideology, the current intra-state wars are about resources."

"We do not have wars on the same scale, we have more localised conflicts...the current intra-state wars are about resources." The Programme for Conflict Transformation and Peace Studies, a postgraduate degree programme within the International and Public Affairs Cluster in the School of Social Sciences at UKZN, focuses on teaching more than just conflict resolution.

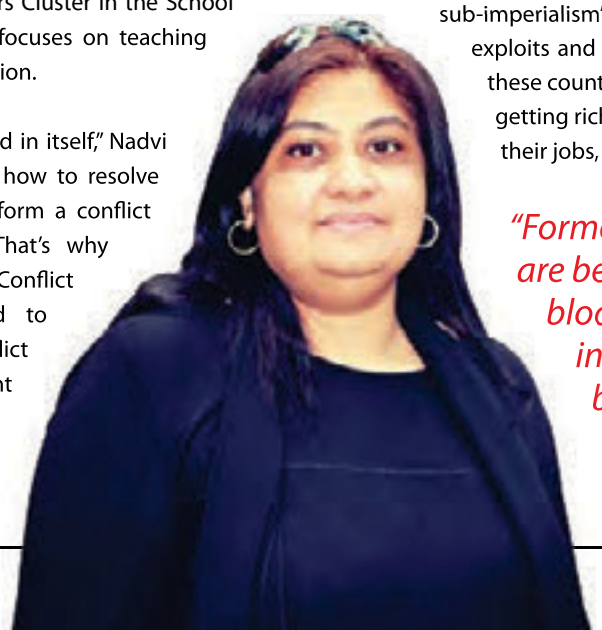
"Ending conflicts is not an end in itself," Nadvi explains. "We need to know how to resolve conflicts but then also transform a conflict into a sustainable peace. That's why we call the programme Conflict Transformation – we need to transform the end of a conflict into on-going development and growth." Unresolved conflicts, and the subsequent human misery that results, have also fuelled the rise of global terrorism. This terrorism, that claims to be based on religion or ideology, is actually about control of political power and resources. And the most powerful weapon in the hands of these terrorists is the ubiquitousness of social media.

"ISIS is the country of the Internet," says Nadvi. "This is the perfect example of an illegitimate and nationless group using propaganda to entice young people to join them. They tap into the normal restlessness and frustration of young people to create romantic notions of war and revolution. They are calling for recruits for what they call a Holy War, to sow chaos in the Western World, but it is only about self-interest and self-enrichment."

Terrorism has been defined as an immoral tactic that people use for their political goals. The type of terror that uses Islam as its platform creates the perception that there are no peaceful options to bring about change. It taps into human disillusionment with the status quo, and most of its horror is connected to its very unpredictability.

Global terrorism is no longer the preserve of organised gangs with elaborate and detailed planning. According to researcher Jason Burke, the new teachings of terrorism encourage 'lone wolves' that replace the single massive strike with a series of smaller ones that act locally. Part of what makes terrorism so attractive to disaffected youth is the challenge to the dominance of capitalism, but with no real change in the status quo.

"Even though there are debates around capitalism," says Nadvi, "the benefits of wealth and access are still going to the elite. Former developing countries are becoming economic power blocs of their own, but instead of the development being more people-centric, they are instead emulating capitalism. In these countries, there is the emergence of sub-imperialism" (where one country within a region exploits and overwhelms the others) "and while in these countries there is a narrative that people are getting richer, by contrast more people are losing their jobs, more people are hungry."



"Former developing countries are becoming economic power blocs of their own, but instead of the development being more people-centric, they are instead emulating capitalism."

Communication and information has also shifted focus – since its inception, mass media such as television and radio was dominated by a Western world view, with Britain and America setting the tone for news values and reporting. This changed fundamentally in 1996 with the creation of Al Jazeera, an Arabic news service that grew from the now-defunct BBC's Arabic television service. Within a very short while, Al Jazeera had established a global network and is now regarded as a credible alternative voice in world affairs. It was Al Jazeera that brought the 'Arab Spring' to the attention of the world, and presented its nuances and dynamics.

The Arab Spring (in which ordinary citizens in Arabic countries created such a mass of non-political popular protest that they brought down their governments) was also the first of the 'citizen's wars', as well as the first 'Internet war'. It was started by ordinary people who connected with each other through their cellular phones. Even though experts, writers and activists have told Al Jazeera that they are doubtful that the Arab Spring has reached its goal, the use of social media in mobilising popular protests has grown exponentially, with the result that non-political citizen protest, driven by social media, has become a new feature of our world.

The gap between rich and poor was highlighted by the One Percent Movement in the US, which was triggered by a documentary in 2006 that explored how 1% of the world's population owned half of its wealth. The Occupy Wall Street protests that resulted were the first large-scale citizen protests against social and economic inequality. They marked the beginning of a world-wide push-back from ordinary people against governments and economic systems that had led to this inequality.

Other spontaneous citizen protests, such as South Africa's #FeesMustFall, Zimbabwe's #ThisFlag, and the US's #BlackLivesMatter used social media for planning and mobilisation, and saw a level of citizen involvement that was completely new.

Since the 1980s there has also been a broadening acceptance of human rights. World War II was a huge boost for women's rights: women took over the jobs of men who had enlisted, and had no intention of relinquishing them once the war was over. What followed was decades of lobbying for equal pay. The AIDS epidemic – at least at first – focused attention on homosexuals. This led to greater awareness of gay rights, and from there to an awareness of other gender issues. Iceland led the way by legitimising gay marriage in 2010. "The whole culture of human rights has been changing," says Nadvi. "Lobby groups have become more vocal, government legislation has been under scrutiny and laws have been amended. But even while people have enjoyed more protection because of their gender preferences, this has also made people more vulnerable to hate crimes. They are more visible, and therefore a greater target."

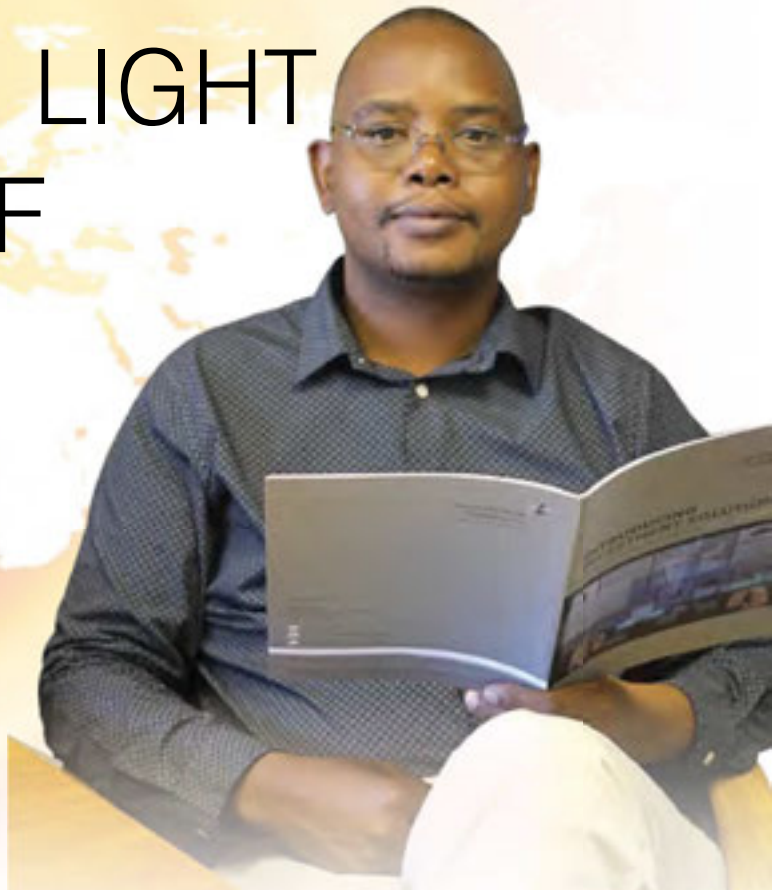
Greater human rights have thus led to greater violations of these human rights, often in the name of nationalism. Rising nationalism and bigotry have, at their core, the issue of resources. "This is a complex situation," continues Nadvi, "because of the distribution of resources. It is hugely ironical that there is so much wealth, and so many resources, but then there is still so much poverty. The problem is management and distribution. This worldwide rise in nationalism is obvious in things like the popularity of Donald Trump, the reaction to the immigrant crisis in Europe, and the Brexit vote."

"Leaders are playing on the fear of change, and they are encouraging expressions of intolerance. What is making this worse is the challenge to Western secularism. Islamic State, whatever their true agenda, pretend to represent a kind of Muslim rebellion against this secularism, and then in Africa you have Al Shabab and Boko Haram. These appeal to poor people with few resources."

Extremist groups like these use a thin religious base to extract loyalty, trading on the fact that the global economic model is skewed and that – through them – they instigate people to rebel against this. A similar kind of 'patriotic' fervour underpins the White nationalism of Trump, and was the spur for the Brexit vote.

"Apart from the shocks to the markets – the rapid drop in the value of the pound, the resignation of the Prime Minister – there will not be such an immediate impact. The exit from the EU will take two years. During this time, the implications will become clear in terms of trade, movement of citizens within the European region, employment and study opportunities as well as business and leisure travel," says Nadvi. According to the World Economic Forum, the next decade will be a time of turmoil – in markets, in society, in technology. We are currently experiencing the Fourth Revolution, and it is going to be a bumpy ride.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN ECONOMY: LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL?



It is no secret that South Africa is in the midst of a bleak economic phase with the prospect of further instability. UKZN Economist Dr Mabutho Sibanda shed some light on whether there is hope for the future.

The South African economy appears to be in dire straits. A red light warning shows that "junk" status, as prescribed by international rating agency Moody's, cannot be ruled out, despite efforts to contain any future downgrading.

Investors are increasingly jittery about investing in South Africa and portfolio investments like bonds and shares – the lifeblood of any economy – are moving away from the country and in so doing putting strain on the balance of payments. Given the challenges of the current social fabric, exacerbated by political volatility and the devastating impact of drought, it is understandable that ordinary South Africans are looking inwards at a plethora of homegrown issues, deducing that the fault lines are contained within our own domestic boundaries.

UKZN's Acting Dean of Accounting, Economics and Finance and Senior Lecturer in Finance, Dr Mabutho Sibanda, points out that South Africa's financial and economic meltdown cannot be seen in isolation. "The 'dovish', low interest rate stance of global economies like in the USA and Eurozone is hurting us, no doubt about that. We are a resource-based economy, so when demand for raw materials like gold, platinum, coal and iron ore drops off, the shock in the system and economy is widely felt." He explains that the European Central Bank is seemingly the lead player in the "low interest" trends, tending to downplay the inflation spin-offs in order to kick-start the world economy and limit the global debt crisis.

"While this process is on-going, South Africa's growth rate will remain abnormally sluggish," Sibanda suggests. "In my own view this is a negative cyclical phase but once we have gone through the trough, there should be signs of a global recovery, which in turn will positively impact on South Africa. But, yes, it will take time. It won't be an overnight miracle." The downside, he says, is that, despite reduced oil prices, importing food and consumer goods to South Africa is costing more as the Rand continues to weaken against global currencies.

"Within this current scenario, there is little hope of a reasonable growth rate beyond 0.9% per annum, compared to a desirable growth rate of 7-10%, which as a resource rich country we should expect. The exchange rate probably won't improve in the short-term and it may very well get worse. Government borrowing will also become more expensive,

further increasing budget deficits." Outside forces are not helping, with South Africa's BRICS partners, like Brazil, coming apart at the seams and Russia facing a serious slowdown in its economy. It's a gloomy outlook – "of course it is", he emphasises. "But maybe it is the perfect time for South Africa to take stock of its strengths and weaknesses, drawing lessons from others and developing a truly African solution." He adds that the priority should be alleviating the employment crisis by focusing on labour intensive industries, boosting the manufacturing sector, and creating markets within Africa.

"When 25% of the population is unemployed, instability is almost inevitable. Parallel to that we also have a large skills shortage so somehow these two factors have to be interwoven in order to find sustainable solutions. It's an ideal time, I would think, to come up with innovative ideas on how to improve the lives of ordinary South Africans. There has to be a valid reason why 79% of disposable income in South Africa is being used to service debt."

Sibanda believes that India's economic recovery could well serve as a workable template for South Africa. "India has developed a robust and economically viable service industry that stretches across many continents, boosting the country's GDP. I would say that we have just as much potential to improve productivity on our own doorstep." Among the pluses Sibanda identifies are South Africa's unique tourist destinations and the favourable Rand for overseas visitors.

"Going forward, there will be investors who will take advantage of the weak Rand and higher interest rates, because despite the gloomy predictions, South Africa is still globally respected for its stringent financial policies and monetary regulations."

But there is a proviso:
"We have to get rid of the extremes in economic and political noise currently drowning our country, whether in the political or the financial sector. That is what makes investors jittery – not the underlying facts!"

Africa's Leading Meetings Venue, a catalyst for change.

DURBAN ICC

Durban ICC, Africa's Leading Convention Centre and UKZN finding shared value as catalysts for change.

1. What relationship does the Durban ICC have with UKZN?
The Durban ICC is more than just a venue that hosts conferences and events but rather a platform where leaders come together to share knowledge, expertise and information to drive economic growth and skills development. We have found shared value with UKZN, whose mission as a truly South African university is academic excellence, innovative research and to provide a similar knowledge and expertise sharing platform. We have had the privilege of working with several University academics who have been instrumental in bidding, securing and hosting major international conferences and have not only shared knowledge with international professionals but demonstrated the commitment of our academics in driving economic growth and skills development.

2. What are the new developments taking place at the Durban ICC?
The Durban ICC was built as a catalyst for economic impact and job creation. The centre is a pioneer when it comes to hosting the most successful conferences and events, hence its comes as no surprise that the Durban ICC was voted Africa's Leading Convention Centre for the 15th time. We are constantly looking at creative ways to innovate and maintain our leading competitive edge. The ACE package was created based on the unique needs of universities and the shared value for the Durban ICC and these academic institutions.

3. Why is it important for our academics to consider bidding to host conferences with the Durban ICC?
We are fortunate to have an incredible host of experts in Durban in various academic fields. Their scientific knowledge, research and innovation are the key reasons why conferences are hosted. Developed countries around the world with stronger economies and a more educated workforce are also regions that meet regularly to share knowledge in their fields and work together to advance their countries. We believe that our academic specialists are able to do the same and as such we are committed to assisting them to put together compelling bids with the right regional support in order for us to successfully host key conferences that we know drive growth.

4. What exciting events can we expect for the rest of the year?
The Durban ICC is excited to be hosting many major International Conferences. We are looking forward to a national roadshow during which we will engage universities and associations around the country to explore further opportunities for future partnerships, and we hope the academics of UKZN will also participate in this.

For further information on the Durban ICC use the following contact information:
Tel: +27(0)31 360 1000,
Email: sales@icc.co.za or visit their website at www.icc.co.za

#FEESMUSTFALL: WHERE TO FROM HERE?

The intensity of the #FeesMustFall movement took South Africa by surprise. UKZN experts were asked what lessons can be learnt from the campaign.

In 2015 Higher Education in South Africa came under siege. In rolling mass protest action that lasted several weeks, thousands of university students voiced their anger at the high cost of tertiary education at state-funded institutions.

The call to action spread like wildfire with the #FeesMustFall mantra becoming a bellicose war cry for change. For ordinary citizens, the spectre of placard-waving students flooding the cities, images of flames leaping from university buildings, palls of black smoke and wild and loud rhetoric touched a universal nerve, causing a sense of panic.

Student uprisings are not new in South Africa. They are part and parcel of our convoluted and confrontational history. But nothing quite like this had happened before, certainly not at such an orchestrated level. The clamouring voices, with a parallel threat of unbridled violence, required answers, short-term answers, emergency interventions if necessary, to quell further outbursts of civil unrest.

While this was partially achieved through a process of government interaction, resolution and concessions, the underlying fire still smoulders and a new winter of discontent looms. Political academic and author Julian Brown presents a compelling argument in his new book, *South Africa's Insurgent Citizens*. He argues that the current wave of explosive citizen-based action in South Africa is not as frightening as it may seem and is, in fact, the necessary precursor to any evolving change of order. In the same vein, UKZN's Patrick Bond, Honorary Professor at the Centre for Civil Society, describes the mass action of Higher Education students in 2015 as "the most inspiring and surprising social movement to shake the South African state since the Treatment Action Campaign of the early 2000s."

However, he says that, since then, there has been a tragic degeneration of the movement. While he agrees that the primary demand – free tertiary education – was "audacious" albeit feasible, the students' secondary immediate demands that there should be a 0% fee increase in 2016 and that all university staff should be paid properly and 'insourced' had more likelihood of success.

"To the amazement of many," says Bond, "the students' secondary demands were largely won within months with President Jacob Zuma announcing a 0% fee rise for 2016." Looking ahead, he says the most important question is

"whether South Africa invests in the enhancement of the youth's future, or invests in the destruction of that future, with carbon-intensive infrastructure (including South Durban) due to take a large part of the budget".

Bond believes that a creative political strategy is what civil society requires to secure the several tens of billions of Rands required for investment in students' futures, so as to pay for free tertiary education for those who need it.

"These strategies must be seen in the context of hundreds of billions (as opposed to tens of billions) being allocated by state agencies to mega-projects that are largely fossil-intensive, especially coal and oil, that most scientists agree will contribute to climate change. Linking these issues and constituencies is what I believe could lead to radical change and a better future for the current generation of students."

The essence of politics in South Africa, says Bond is alliance building. "Students who mobilised for a 0% fees increase in 2016 plus insourcing of outsourced workers did a remarkable job in their initial efforts to move across class, to move across space and to move across scale. Much of the obvious political challenge to power in the 2015-16 protests related to race, decolonisation and restructuring of university power. A few nominal changes were made. But major demands are still outstanding in relation to curriculum reform, shifting the race and gender make-up of the professoriate, and ending the alienation of Black, female and LGBTI students."

"The most important question is whether South Africa invests in the enhancement of the youth's future, or invests in the destruction of that future."

– Professor Patrick Bond

Dr Nicola Jones, Leader in Academic Research in the School of Arts, believes that important lessons can be learnt from the student unrest during 2015 – not only in identifying the conditions that led to such a groundswell of discontent, but also in trying to find solutions that could prevent such a situation from arising again.

"It is something that requires deep and intense research," says Jones. "Just to ask what we should do with this band of fractious students and unhappy work force is simply not enough. We need to look hard and long at the underlying features of the dissatisfaction and unhappiness." She suggests that social media is one of the critical starting points.

"We have witnessed how social media impacts upon all our lives and more specifically in the area of mass engagement and the gathering of forces. Whether it's on Facebook, Twitter or any other messaging platform, connectivity and the free flow of information are almost instant. We have seen student unrest before, but this is possibly the first time that we have seen students mobilised in this manner."

A corollary to this new phenomenon, she says, is that academics "are not only witnessing and documenting history, we are also able to frame that history in the context of freedom of expression."

With this outcome in mind, a UKZN-based media-related study is underway, which analyses the minutiae of the social media communication that underpinned and fanned the 2015 wave of student unrest.

"Just before the main protests began, we had protests at UKZN, and the students were generally represented as uncivilised monsters by the local and national media. But online, students were able to document their side of the story, in all its variations. For the first time, they could present themselves as victims rather than violent instigators." ***– Dr Nicola Jones***

"With Twitter for example there are only 140 characters to describe your immediate feeling or response. From the thousands of Twitter messages generated during that period, one is able to get a very good idea of what people were experiencing and thinking at that particular time. It is this immediacy that leads to a greater understanding of the forces at play at any one time."

Jones notes that the preliminary investigation into the social media aspect of the 2015 student unrest reveals the level of assistance given to the students by ordinary members of the public sympathetic to their cause.

"There were offers of airtime, and emergency supplies of water and food, as well as legal assistance. When they put out appeals for assistance there was an immediate response. In other words their protest actions could be sustained for longer – and that is an important point to remember." She believes that this deeper understanding could lead to solutions. "As South Africans this is something we all want."

"IF YOU WANT TO WALK FAR, **WALK TOGETHER"**

UKZNTOUCH MEETS DAME NICOLA BREWER

From British High Commissioner to South Africa to Vice-Provost International at UCL (University College London), Dame Nicola Brewer has held many prominent leadership positions in her career.

UKZNTOUCH chatted to Dame Nicola about her collaborative leadership style and the secret to her success, during her recent visit to UKZN.

Dame Nicola is responsible for UCL's Global Engagement Strategy, which outlines how UCL, as London's Global University, "works with partners to achieve fair solutions to global challenges."

Her previous roles include positions as a Senior Diplomat at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and British High Commissioner to South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland from 2009 to 2013. Dame Nicola was the founding CEO, and a Commissioner of the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

Dame Nicola said her leadership style has changed over the years. There are two main attributes to her approach, which she has tried to model over time. The first is an inclusive type of leadership, which is all about bringing together teams of people with diverse talents and moulding them in order to have impact.

"No one individual on their own has everything it takes…so I really believe in creating teams," she said.

The second attribute is that a leader needs to have a clear vision and direction to what they want to achieve. Her leadership style is largely influenced by an African proverb that says: "If you want to walk fast, walk alone. If you want to walk far, walk together."

Whether working as a Diplomat or in academia, Dame Nicola's approach to leading others has, over the past 20 years, focused more on walking together and further than walking alone and fast.

During her time working in South Africa, Dame Nicola led the development of a strategic framework that involved working with 10 government departments to consolidate ideas into a one-page document. They ended up with a single document that was shared by all members of her team. She said the key was getting buy-in by co-designing the strategy.

Applying the same principles at UCL, she took a year to consult with staff on the development of a new Global Engagement Strategy, which involved having more than 70 consultation events. Even though she wrote the strategy, she did it on the basis of what she heard in those meetings.

"I listened to what people were telling me, what mattered to them and the global impact they want people to have. It is about taking the time to co-design your vision with the people you are working with."

"I don't believe in a leader as a hero," she added.

On her transition from government to Higher Education, Dame Nicola noted that leadership skills are transferable between sectors. To ensure more female representation and increase the number of female researchers, she stressed the importance of action to ensure that women can have confidence in the system (which is more of an issue than lack of self-confidence); and help to juggle their caring commitments. She spoke of relooking at systems that sometimes work against women, from the promotions policy to maternity and parental leave. Other important factors in developing leadership skills: "Be willing to fail sometimes and don't allow that setback to knock you back permanently," said Dame Nicola.

Her recent visit aimed to build on existing collaborations, as well as explore new opportunities, between UCL and UKZN. It included a visit to the new Africa Health Research Institute. Integrating the Africa Centre and K-RITH, and with key relationships with UKZN and the Wellcome Trust, the new institute represents a significant global partnership for UCL's School of Life and Medical Sciences in the battle to eliminate HIV infection and TB disease.

LAUNCH OF NEW **RESEARCH POWERHOUSE** TO FIGHT **HIV AND TB**

UKZN's KwaZulu-Natal Research Institute for Tuberculosis and HIV (K-RITH) and the Africa Centre for Population Health have been at the forefront of AIDS and TB research. The two research bodies have now united to tackle this twin scourge.

Professor Deenan Pillay.

The launch of the Africa Health Research Institute heralds a new chapter in South African research into these two deadly diseases.

Director of the Africa Centre for Population Health and incoming Director of the Africa Health Research Institute, Professor Deenan Pillay said, "KwaZulu-Natal is at the centre of the dual epidemics of HIV and TB. This is the one place in the world where the marrying of disciplines can have maximum impact on new HIV infections and TB transmission. We will link clinical and laboratory-based studies with the disciplines of social science, health systems research and population studies to make fundamental discoveries about these killer diseases, as well as demonstrating how best to reduce morbidity and mortality."

Another major mission is training the next generation of outstanding African scientists. The Institute is committed to providing research opportunities for the best scientific minds on the continent. The venture is made possible through a R1.2 billion Wellcome Trust grant, with University College London (UCL) and UKZN as significant academic partners. The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), which has been K-RITH's major funder, will continue to support the basic research component of the Africa Health Research Institute for the next eight years, adding another R465-million in that time. The Wellcome Trust and HHMI are two of the largest funders of biomedical research and the Africa Health Research Institute represents the first time these organisations have partnered in the global health arena. The complementary strengths of these partner institutions allow for a broader scope of interdisciplinary, translational research that is relevant both locally and internationally and is underpinned by strong policy engagement.

TB is the most common illness among HIV-positive people, including those undergoing anti-retroviral treatment, and is the biggest cause of HIV-related deaths. It thus makes sense for intensive research to take place into both illnesses. But while both centres were doing ground-breaking work in these fields, the Africa Centre was concentrating on field work, population studies, social issues and the like, while K-RITH was conducting research into biological mechanisms. With such recognisable synergy, it was only a matter of time before they would combine forces.

"When I became the Director of the Africa Centre in 2013," said Pillay. "I realised that we could very successfully combine our

forces as we were doing such complementary work. Between them, these centres were already exploring the possibilities of joint scientific posts, and assimilating the science. We aim to maintain both sites, introduce some operational efficiencies, grow our capacity and increase our effectiveness."

Both centres have achieved breakthroughs which have changed the trajectory of HIV and TB research. The Africa Centre published a study which showed that 'treatment as prevention' was effective in reducing new infections. Until then, treatment was only started after the patient had already begun showing significant damage.

"It seems counter-intuitive to only start treatment when a patient gets really sick, instead of straight away, but it must be remembered that until very recently ARVs were quite toxic and had severe side-effects. Treatment was also quite complicated – there was a cocktail of drugs that needed to be taken. So there was a history of delaying treatment until absolutely necessary. However, drugs have now become easier to take and much safer. And we are getting more evidence that the earlier the treatment begins, the more beneficial it is," said Pillay.

The World Health Organization has recently changed its guidelines on when treatment should start, and the research from the Africa Centre should provide the evidence required to prove that earlier treatment not only reduces the virus, but also diminishes the spread of infection. The Centre is now exploring pre-exposure trials to establish if treatment with ARVs could be used as prophylaxis.

Both centres have focused on motivating young scientists across Africa to expand and strengthen their research.

Dr Dennis McKearin, acting Director at K-RITH, envisages creating a Pan-African research institute, partnering with scientific and medical communities across the continent.

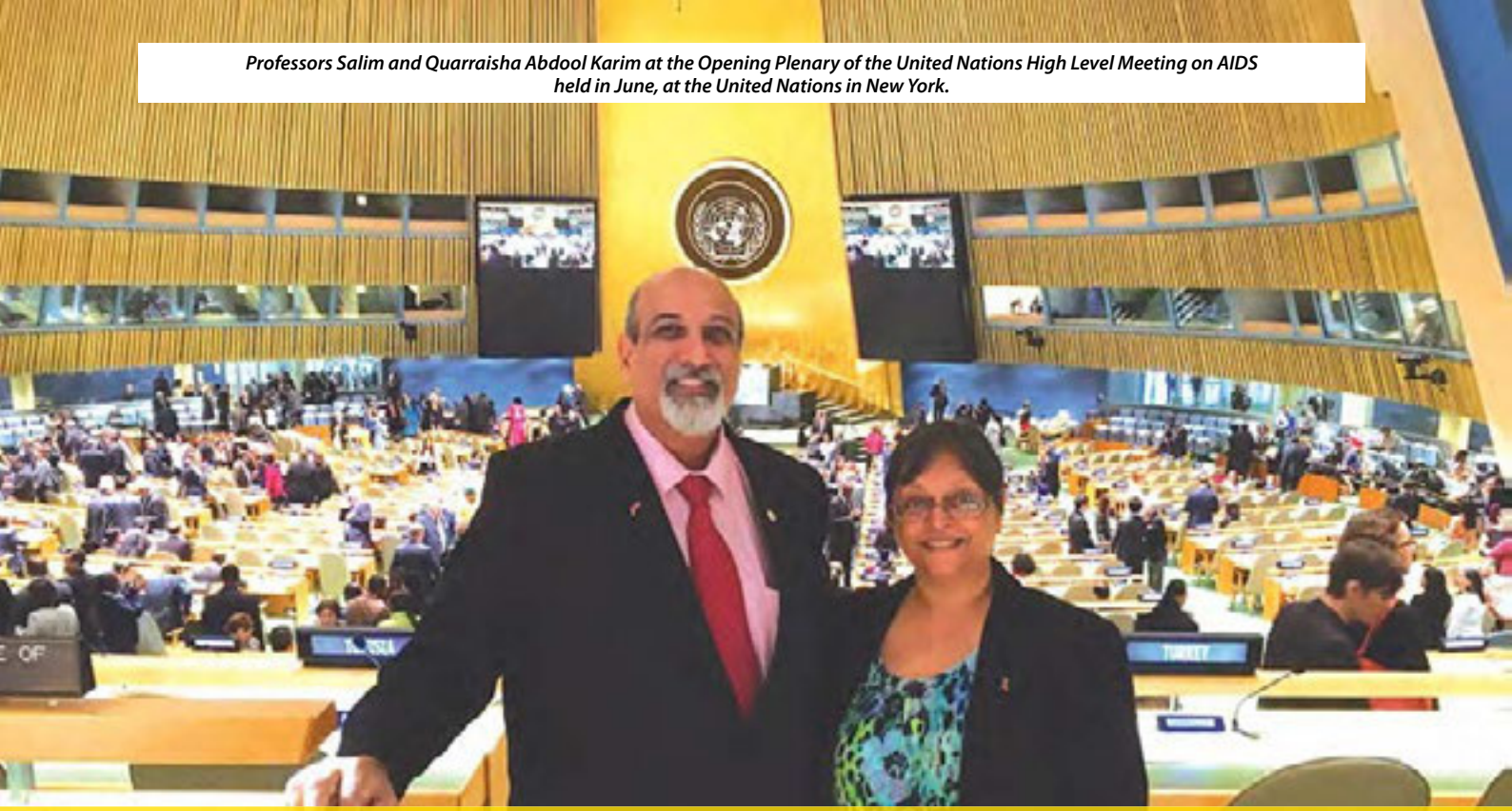
McKearin has been leading K-RITH in an acting capacity since 2013 after being on the senior faculty of several leading universities in the USA as a biochemist. He is proud of K-RITH's progress as a cutting-edge research institution.

"We have on-going collaborations with Durban-based clinical teams at King Dinuzulu Hospital Complex, Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital, UKZN and the Africa Centre in Zululand," said McKearin. "They provide us with TB and HIV infected tissues that are being used to address questions about selection pressure on HIV viruses in TB infected and uninfected hosts, and the nature of cellular immune responses to TB infection in human lungs and intestines."

"Our two biggest goals, as a joint research centre," said Pillay, "are to research ways to curb new HIV infections, and reduce TB transmissions. There is no one method to do this; there is no magic bullet. We need to call on all disciplines: social studies, health systems, lab research, diagnostics, cultural imperatives.... there are very few places in the world that can call on all these disciplines.

"But exactly that kind of service is what the unification of the Africa Centre and K-RITH can provide."

"There are very few places in the world that can call on all these disciplines but exactly that kind of service is what the unification of the Africa Centre and K-RITH can provide."
– Professor Deenan Pillay



Professors Salim and Quarraisha Abdool Karim at the Opening Plenary of the United Nations High Level Meeting on AIDS held in June, at the United Nations in New York.

HIV AND AIDS:
THE RACE FOR ANSWERS

A revolutionary vaginal ring that uses the same process as a commonly used contraceptive device has once again highlighted the scientific contribution made by UKZN's internationally recognised research institutes.

Results of two recent studies show that a vaginal ring containing the antiretroviral (ARV) gel substance dapivirine reduced the rate of infection in women by as much as 31%.

The ring is the first long-acting HIV prevention product shown to safely help prevent HIV, and was specifically designed for women. Furthermore, it is discreet, allowing women to use the tool on their own, without partner negotiation.

Commenting on the studies Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim, Professor and Associate Scientific Director at the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) said that they generated valuable new findings and insights.

"We know we are on the right path. That is what counts," she said. "It is important to note that the need for a microbicide is highest for young women aged 16-22. Both ring studies showed little to no effect in this age group."

Quarraisha emphasised that the focus of on-going scientific investigation, therefore, had to remain on young women. "This is the most vulnerable sector of society, where human rights and individual lifestyle choices, are often absent."

She added that the monthly ring is intended to address a key challenge in microbicide research, namely adherence. "The overall findings of 25-31% protection are surprisingly modest and still need to be understood better."

Vaginal rings are flexible silicone products that provide continuous and controlled release of a drug or multiple drugs to vaginal tissue over a period of weeks or months.

The ring delivers the drug directly to the site of potential infection, with low absorption elsewhere in the body.

These 'sister' studies – the Ring Study and the Aspire Study – involved more than 4 600 HIV-negative volunteers (women) across southern and eastern Africa, including KwaZulu-Natal, where women are at high risk of HIV. The parallel Phase III clinical trials evaluated whether a monthly vaginal ring containing the ARV drug dapivirine would be effective in preventing HIV in women.

Dapivirine is a potent ARV that belongs to a class known as non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors, or NNRTIs, which work against HIV-1, blocking its ability to make copies of itself once inside a healthy cell. The trials also looked at safe long-term use and sought to assess whether women found the ring practical and easy to use.

Quarraisha, whose investigative teams at CAPRISA are closely involved in on-going prevention studies, believes that the urgency to find answers to reduce the high number of new HIV infections, particularly in young women in Africa has never been more intense.

"The high HIV incidence rates reported in these two important high profile trials, which teams from CAPRISA have been involved in, highlight the urgent need for appropriate HIV prevention technologies."

Director of CAPRISA, Professor Salim Abdool Karim noted that it is reassuring that the results were consistent across the two studies.

"However, to fully understand and overcome the remaining challenges for sustained adherence in this high-risk population, more research is needed."

He added that the next set of approaches to HIV prevention in women that are currently being studied, are of great interest. "These include multi-purpose vaginal rings (for contraception and HIV prevention), injectable long-acting antiretrovirals, and injectable broadly neutralising antibodies for protection through passive immunity."

Women account for nearly 60% of adults with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa, where unprotected heterosexual sex is the primary driver of the epidemic.

The Ring and ASPIRE studies were led by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and funded by the Microbicide Trials Network (MTN). At least two Phase III efficacy trials are needed for a product to be considered for regulatory approval. ASPIRE and the Ring Study were conducted in parallel to accelerate the timeline to the ring's potential approval for licensing.

The Ring Study (IPM 027) was led by the International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM), a non-profit organisation that developed the dapivirine ring, and enrolled 1 959 HIV-negative women aged 18-45 in South Africa and Uganda. ASPIRE (MTN-020) was led by the International Partnership on Microbicides' clinical trial partner, the Microbicide Trials Network (MTN) and enrolled 2 629 HIV-negative women aged 18-45 in Malawi, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

"The urgency to find answers to reduce the high number of new HIV infections, particularly in young women in Africa has never been more intense."

KEY FINDINGS

In both studies it was found that the risk of HIV was reduced significantly among older participants who used the ring most consistently. Women in the dapivirine group who were 25 years and older, were 61% less likely to acquire HIV than women of the same age in the placebo group. Additional analyses showed that lack of protection was confined to women between the age of 18 and 21, while women older than 21 saw their risk of HIV cut by more than half (56%).

NURSING CELEBRATES 60 YEARS OF TRUE LEADERSHIP

Professor Fikile Mtshali.

Leadership was a strong focus of the 60th anniversary celebrations of the Discipline of Nursing … And for good reason.
Former College Dean of Teaching and Learning and Acting Head of the Discipline of Nursing Professor Fikile Mtshali spoke to *UKZNTOUCH.*

Professor Mtshali said the Discipline was to be congratulated for producing nursing and midwifery leaders and a workforce for South Africa and the continent. A key feature was its commitment to nurturing new generations of leaders.

"The lesson I have learned from our seniors is that true leaders create more leaders and that is their lasting legacy. Most of us who are in leadership positions, for example Professor Busi Ncama, the Dean and Head of Nursing and Public Health and Professor Petra Brysiewicz, the Editor-in-Chief of *International Emergency Nursing*, came in as students and junior lecturers. Nursing Discipline leaders, specifically Professor Leana Uys, supported by Professor Thandi Gwele, decided to retain and groom us as the next generation of leaders," she said.

"This was not a wasted effort because we ourselves have also managed to mentor and produce the next generation of leaders, such as Dr Sindisiwe Mthembu, who is a Director of Nursing Education in our province, Dr Mohlomi Jafta Ntsaba who is the Head of School at Walter Sisulu University, and Professor Zethu Nkosi, who is with the University of South Africa."

Widely-known for its pioneering community-based education projects, the Discipline of Nursing at UKZN has earned a reputation both nationally and internationally for academic rigor and innovative leadership.

"With its elevated international profile, nursing academics have become involved in a series of eminent local, national and international projects. The Discipline has produced a

range of notable individual leaders, within the Discipline and beyond, who have gone on to make their mark at provincial, national and international levels," said Mtshali.

"Nursing academics have become involved in a series of eminent local, national and international projects. The Discipline has produced a range of notable individual leaders."

The Nursing Discipline has been at the forefront of scholarship and curriculum development, producing quality nurses and midwives who are deeply committed to their profession and who actively contribute to improved health outcomes in South Africa and other African countries. It attracts postgraduate students from a number of African countries, preparing them for leadership.

These and other achievements were celebrated at a day-long conference and gala dinner. Under the conference theme, "Innovative strategies: promoting and advancing meaningful and responsive nursing leadership," the presentations explored the four core areas of nursing leadership: practice, education, research and health care systems management.

In addition, new members of the UKZN chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, a global nursing honor society, were inaugurated.

According to Mtshali, with the nursing profession undergoing major transformation in South Africa, the Discipline continues to play a critical role in developing relevant and responsive graduates and scholarship that will promote excellence into the future.

"Nursing academics are currently providing technical support to national structures which are working towards transforming nursing education in the country. They are working with selected public nursing colleges in developing three prototype competency-based curricula that will be adapted by all colleges as part of revitalising nursing in the country," she said.

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE DISCIPLINE OF NURSING

An Advanced Diploma in Nursing Education was introduced in 1956. Six years later in 1962, 10 students enrolled in the Bachelor of Social Science Degree in Nursing. Since then, the Discipline has not looked back.

The 1990s saw growth not only in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, but through the founding of the Institute of Nursing which introduced Nursing Diplomas and advanced diplomas in various nursing specialties.

The first Professional Chair in Nursing was appointed in 1971 and the first African academic was appointed in 1988. In 1999 the Discipline was selected as a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Nursing and Midwifery Development in Africa – a status it continues to hold today. In 2002 it was designated the South Africa Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) Affiliated Centre for evidence-based nursing. Today the Discipline serves approximately 2 000 undergraduate and 198 post-graduate students.

First Graduates 1966: Heather Findlay, Norma Gardiner, Tish Wessels, Irene Titlestad and Veronica Hudson.

We look forward to the next 60 years!

DURBAN SETS NEW SCIENCE RECORD

With help from UKZN's College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science, 2 104 Durban school children successfully broke the official Guinness World Record for the world's largest practical science lesson on 5 February 2016.

Ten low quintile schools in Clermont, KwaDabeka and Molweni as well as a selection of learners from higher quintile UKZN feeder schools participated, while 60 teachers, 50 stewards and 50 volunteers also did their bit to ensure success.

Hosted at the Durban Exhibition Centre, the record attempt was lodged with Guinness by MAHLE Behr South Africa together with NGO, the Centre for the Advancement of Science and Mathematics Education (CASME). The College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science put its staff, students and facilities at the organisers' disposal to ensure success.

The major sponsor was eThekwini Municipality with other sponsors including Speccom, Wave Paper, Hulamin, and the Zenex Foundation.

Apart from laying claim to a genuine world record, and having a lot of fun at the same time, the innovative project aimed to develop a love for Mathematics and Science amongst school children. All the learners that participated were in Grade 9, which is when they choose their matric subjects. This was thus a good opportunity to educate them on the importance of core Mathematics for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) careers.

The learners smashed the previous record held by Vijnana Bharati, India (Delhi), for 2 000 students.

During the lesson, they completed two different experiments. In order to save costs, the two experiments were constructed using by-product materials donated by MAHLE Behr. Each participating school received a set of equipment. To meet the very stringent Guinness World Record criteria and standards, the lesson had to take place in a given timescale, and at a pre-determined place.

"We had to meet a number of prerequisites in order to get the official stamp of approval from Guinness," explained chief organiser, Mrs Jolene van Heerden. "The pack had to include a cover letter explaining the context of the record attempt.

"Then we had to get two independent specialist witness statements confirming that the rules had been adhered

to and explicitly stating the exact and final figure of the total participants taking into account any participants whom the stewards deducted from the total. The judges' statements had to describe the counting process and overall attempt in detail. So it was all very technical."

Video evidence of the entire process was prepared and forwarded to Guinness. Photographic evidence, capturing the details provided by the independent witnesses was also a condition.

"Such strict rules are imperative because it gives credibility and weight to what is a ground-breaking effort," said officially-appointed Guinness World Record adjudicator and verifier, Professor Deo Jaganyi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of UKZN's College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science. "Being part of the Largest Practical Science Lesson is the perfect vehicle to generate enthusiasm with 2 104 high school learners, and makes Science fun and exciting."

Jaganyi's two co-adjudicators were lawyer and Chief Judge, Ms Suzanne de Villiers; and Durban Metro Police Senior Superintendent, Theuns van Heerden. While the record attempt took place over an hour, during the adjudication process learners enjoyed a fun science show by Dr Tanja Reinhardt of the UKZN Science Centre, and visited career stalls to find out more about STEM careers and study opportunities.

After a year of planning, the end result could only have been successful. When Chief Judge de Villiers announced that Durban now officially held the new world record for the largest practical science lesson, with 2 104 recorded participants, the hall erupted in a frenzy of excitement.

Well done, Durban!

DEAN OF ENGINEERING PRESENTS ROYAL SOCIETY LECTURE ON THE **POSSIBILITIES OF WASTE AS A RESOURCE**

On 5 April 2016 UKZN hosted a Royal Society Public Lecture on the possibilities of waste as a resource. The lecture was presented by Dean and Head of the School of Engineering, Professor Cristina Trois.

Professor Trois explained that local authorities in Africa, and in emerging economies in general, are faced with a widespread lack of capacity and often poor institutional support in selecting and implementing the most appropriate and sustainable waste management strategies. This is exacerbated by the lack of suitable data on waste composition throughout the continent.

Trois noted that South Africa currently generates 108 million tons of total waste per annum. Of this 98 million tons is landfilled, with only 10% recycled. "Waste-to-energy technologies are becoming the 'low hanging' fruit in Africa and an interesting vehicle to realise a Green Economy," said Trois, "but very few are indeed implemented owing to a lack of investment or poor institutional support at governmental level.

"Our duty as environmental engineers is to build capacity in local authorities," she said. The lecture presented over 15 years of research, development and innovation in Environmental Sanitary Engineering at UKZN. Projects noted included research and design for the first leachate treatment plant in South Africa; the first pilot project on waste pre-treatment; work on a national team for the development of an integrated waste treatment strategy for South Africa; and work at the Mariannhill landfill site, where "a dump converted into a fully engineered landfill site, is now a conservation area."

Trois also noted that a R10 million Lotto grant has been received to research the anaerobic digestion of organic waste at Mkuze game reserve in northern KwaZulu-Natal.

Professor Cristina Trois (left) with Ms Cristina van der Westhuyzen and Professor Rainer Stegmann of the International Waste Working Group (IWWG).

Professor Trois graduated in Environmental Engineering in 1996 *(summa cum laude)* and obtained her PhD in Geo and Environmental Engineering in 1999 from the University of Cagliari, Italy (Department of GeoEngineering and Environmental Technology, Faculty of Engineering).

She has been the Dean and Head of the School of Engineering at UKZN since 2012 and is currently a full Professor in Environmental Engineering. She leads a vibrant research group in Environmental Engineering and Waste Management, is the author of more than 80 peer-reviewed publications and has been a C2-NRF Rated researcher since 2012. She sits on the editorial panel for several international ISI and SAPSE journals.

The Royal Society of South Africa is one of the premier multi-disciplinary scientific organisations in the country and the public face of South African science, whose role is to foster a national culture of science excellence through funding, education and public outreach. Public lectures are organised as one of the vehicles to meet these objectives.

HUMAN HAIR – THE NEXT FERTILISER?

Ms Ntwanano Moirah Malepfane's study on the elemental composition and fertiliser value of different human hair types in South Africa earned her a Master's degree in Soil Science *cum laude*.

Motivated by the need for alternatives to expensive commercial fertilisers, the study explored human hair as an alternative source of nutrients and its use as an effective waste management strategy.

Samples of hair from African, Indian and White people were analysed for the presence of micronutrients, heavy metals, and various macronutrients, including nitrogen, sulphur, phosphorus and potassium.

An incubation experiment determined the release patterns of various elements.

A pilot project revealed that, with a minimum pre-incubation time of 28 days, human hair could swiftly release sufficient nitrogen to grow spinach. The effects of hair type were more evident at shorter pre-incubation times – hair from Africans resulted in more dry-matter and nitrogen and sulphur uptake than hair from Whites.

Moreover, hair from Indians and Whites exhibited higher nitrogen levels than hair from Africans, with hair from Indians releasing more nitrogen in the incubation study.

Despite the study's potential, Malepfane was confronted by a number of challenges, including a lack of funding and superstitions about her subject matter, with some people believing that donating their hair could result in it being used for black magic. Her future plans look bright and include pursuing a PhD.

Ms Moirah Malepfane.

MEETING GREAT MINDS

Imagine being given the opportunity to spend five days 'in dialogue' with 31 Nobel Laureates who represent the world's finest minds in Physics. What questions would you ask? *UKZNTOUCH* spoke to two young UKZN physicists for whom this became a reality.

Doctoral candidate Mr Sphumelele Ndlovu and postdoctoral researcher, Dr Adriana Marais were among eight South Africans and 400 young scientists from 80 countries who were selected – as the world's next generation of leading scientists – to attend the annual Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting in Germany at the end of June. This year's meeting was dedicated to the field of physics.

Marais said she was fascinated by the personal stories behind the success of the Nobel prize-winners and their "curiosity-driven perseverance" in spite of some initial failures, while Ndlovu said he was inspired by the conversations around growing science in Africa and boosting involvement of African scientists in meetings such as Lindau.

Marais, a 31-year-old Theoretical Physicist currently pursuing research in quantum biology, has become well-known for being selected by the Mars One project as one of 100 potential astronauts who could travel to the planet to establish a human settlement, starting in 2026. The expedition is one-way. If selected, Marais will spend her life on Mars. There, she intends to focus on her research into the possibility that quantum effects played a role in the emergence of life and its molecular precursors. These precursors may have emerged in space and found their way to Earth through meteorites or comets. Because she does not yet know what her future holds, she is aligning her research to both Earth-based and Mars-based contexts.

"Until the final selection, I'm living in a state of real uncertainty. I make the most of every day." ***– Adriana Marais***

For Marais, the Lindau Nobel Meeting was a wonderful opportunity to do just that – by interacting with the best minds of our time. She also had the opportunity to participate in the Mars Inc. sponsored science breakfast "Why soft matter matters", alongside Laureate Professor Steven Chu and Dr Antonio Redondo, Senior Scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

"I was initially quite nervous to give my opinions alongside such accomplished scientists, but in the end we had a great discussion on genetic modification, artificial intelligence and

extraterrestrial life. I realised the next generation of young scientists is asking questions differently to the previous generation, which may enable us to find new answers," she said.

"For me the overwhelming take-home message of the meeting is that we are living in a unique era in which we need to acknowledge the role of interdisciplinary collaboration," she said.

Ndlovu said he never imagined that he would meet a Nobel Laureate in his lifetime, so meeting 31 at one time was incredible. "I had so many burning questions," he said over Skype from Haartebeeshoek Radio Astronomy Observatory (HartRAO) in Gauteng where he is currently completing his doctorate. For Ndlovu a highlight of the meeting was the chance given to the South African delegation to have lunch with American Nobel prize-winning physicist William D Phillips and his wife Jane during which they discussed science in Africa and how to improve the involvement of African students in the meeting.

"Countries like America had 30 young scientists who attended the meeting but Africa, as a continent, only had 25," said Ndlovu. "It was really a great opportunity for me … I believe that any graduate deserves a chance to attend the meeting."

Ndlovu is on track to complete his doctorate in Geomatics Engineering this year at the National Research Foundation's Space Geodesy Programme at HartRAO.

Geodesy is the study of Earth using objects in space and Ndlovu has developed a mathematical tool to estimate the signal path parameter of a lunar laser ranger system and accurately measure the distance between the Earth and the Moon. Shifts in the distance between the two bodies over time are then correlated to events such as continental drifts and ocean tides – events which might help explain long-term global changes such as climate change.

"The research gives us a more complete understanding of the way our planet works," he said. "In the past, observatories were located in the Northern Hemisphere, so there has been a gap in the data. In reality, Earth is not round, so doing calculations from HartRAO in the southern hemisphere provides a missing piece of the puzzle."

Raised in Elandskop by a single mother, Ndlovu had resigned himself to being an artisan before being introduced to the Science Foundation Programme at UKZN. He is now contributing to global scientific knowledge. Although optimistic about the future of science in South Africa, more funding is needed, he said.

"At university there were lots of people who were good at science or even better than me, but who couldn't finish their degrees because of funding. That's our biggest challenge," he said.

Dr Adriana Marais.

The father of the internet Vinton Cerf with Mr Sphumelele Ndlovu.

UKZN ACADEMIC

ELECTED TO THE AMERICAN DERMATOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The Head of UKZN's Department of Dermatology, Professor Ncoza Dlova, has been elected as an international honorary member of the American Dermatological Association (ADA) after being nominated by distinguished colleagues based in the United States and the Philippines.

According to ADA Executive Manager, Miss Julie Odessky: "Those elected for honorary international membership are dermatologists of distinction residing outside the United States, its possessions, and Canada, who are individuals of exceptional stature in their own country and in international dermatology." Dlova has always been fascinated by skin and hair disorders. After treating many African and Indian patients with irreversibly damaged skin caused by illegal skin-lightening creams, she started researching the ingredients in these products and has published widely in this area.

In partnership with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health and the private sector, Dlova is currently leading an Anti-Skin Lightening campaign in the province to highlight the dangers of this common practice among African and Indian communities. The year 2015 was a year of achievements for Dlova. She graduated with a PhD degree in Dermatology from UKZN, was identified as one of the Woman Achievers and Leaders in Dermatology by the American Women's Dermatology Society, was appointed as Head of UKZN's Department of Dermatology, and became the inaugural President of the newly formed South African Women's Dermatological Society. Her Department also received special recognition for service excellence through outstanding innovation and best practices in the public sector from KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo.

Dlova is currently driving an initiative to teach basic dermatology to primary healthcare practitioners at UKZN in an effort to address the shortage of Dermatologists in the country. About 230 qualified Dermatologists in South Africa serve its population of more than 50 million. Empowering primary health care givers to recognise and treat common and basic skin conditions would prevent unnecessary referrals and travel for rural patients. R1 million has been secured from Direct Relief (a US-based NGO) in partnership with Unilever USA for a week's outreach programme in the Durban Metro, ILembe and Pietermaritzburg districts.

Dlova has 18 years of experience as a Dermatologist and plans to advance scholarship in her Department and the Medical School at large. When she qualified, there were only two African Dermatologists in the country and none in KwaZulu-Natal. Currently, 20 Dermatologists that graduated from UKZN are working in the public and academic sectors. Dlova was born in Mtyolo in the Mount Coke area next to King Williams Town in the Eastern Cape. She enjoys reading, cycling, travelling and especially experiencing different cultures.

"I'm humbled by this international recognition and eternally grateful to all my colleagues and nursing staff in the Department for their support, commitment and for embracing change. This would not have been possible without the amazing team spirit and interest to embark on new ventures for the sake of the Department and patients," said Dlova.

Dr Ncoza Dlova received her PhD degree at UKZN's 2015 Graduation ceremony.

Pupils from Bonela Secondary were on hand to witness the official launch of 'Science4U', UKZN's new Mobile Science Lab which was sponsored by the Japanese Embassy.

JAPANESE EMBASSY FUNDS **MOBILE SCIENCE LAB**

Science4U, UKZN's snazzy new Mobile Science Laboratory which operates under the auspices of the Science and Technology Education Centre (STEC), was officially launched on 26 January 2016.

Generous sponsorship from the Japanese Embassy, who were represented at the launch by Counsellor Isamu Yamaguchi and Project Consultant, Ms Nomtandazo Hoboyi, enabled the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science to purchase and convert a Mercedes Vito van. The sponsorship of the van was facilitated by the UKZN Foundation, who put the Science Centre in touch with the Japanese Embassy's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Project.

Science Centre Co-ordinator, Dr Tanja Reinhardt, said: "We decided to name our van Science4U as the name reflects our goal to provide Science education to everybody."

The interior of the van has been specially designed and is equipped to carry out experiments in the field of physics and chemistry. The lab has already started to travel to schools to provide hands-on activities and lab experiences to learners who do not have access to such facilities. The Science4U van is equipped with experiments to service groups of up to 50 learners. The experiments consist of 15 high-tech SPARK Science Learning System units. These learning systems are all-in-one mobile devices that integrate a data logging tool with inquiry-based content and assessment. They provide a compact and portable solution to data collection.

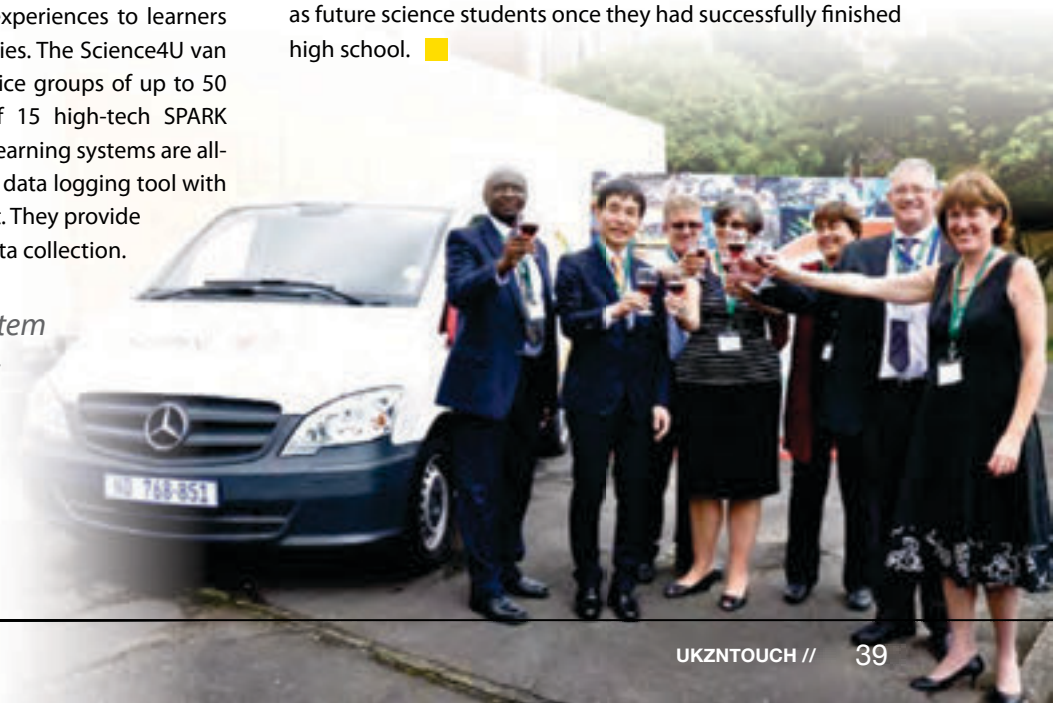
"A SPARK Science Learning System unit runs on batteries, which is important as it allows us to conduct practical sessions in schools with no electricity and during load shedding."

Reinhardt said that research had shown that hands-on experience personally impacted learners in a positive way, as it increased engagement in learning, taught new skills and increased awareness of scientific careers.

"We hope that learners will benefit from this programme with an increased content knowledge and improved attitude toward science, which in turn will develop a scientifically oriented mind," she said.

Reinhardt added that the medium to long term impact of the Science4U mobile lab would be to raise the levels of educational attainment in science and mathematics of learners from historically deprived communities. "This in turn will increase the success rate and number of learners gaining access to university."

Pupils from Bonela Secondary were on hand with their teacher, Mrs Maharaj, to mark the official launch of the lab. In his address UKZN Vice-Chancellor, Dr Albert van Jaarsveld, encouraged them to embrace science with open arms and assured them that the University would love to welcome them as future science students once they had successfully finished high school.



THE GRIOT
– WHO'S FALLING WHO?

Keyan G. Tomaselli

Once "Rhodes Must Fall" reached Oxford, that august place where Inspector Morse applies his trade, the matter really did need attention. In the aftermath of the Rhodes statue being dismounted, packed and removed from UCT, UKZN's forlorn King George V remained paint splattered, looking like a postmodern pajama man in front of the Howard College building, surveying the Durban harbour. His stripes reminded us that student debate (or painting) is alive and well. In contrast, the President Steyn statue at the University of Free State (UFS) remained pristine but, like rhinos, was assigned guards, though President Swart was cut up for supper.

Why was Prez Steyn initially spared the Fall? Quite simply, because he had been rearticulated as a site/sight of reconciliation, where anyone with a gripe could informally meet and talk with the UFS Vice-Chancellor (VC) Professor Jansen in the early morning. I had suggested that King George be similarly mobilised at UKZN. After the defacement, some students had wanted to clean up the King – can't leave him looking like a carnival prop, they observed. Leave him be, I suggested, we need to be reminded both of the King and of those who defaced him and of his potential for a place for discussion.

The "Rhodes Must Fall" campaign did not quite reach Cairo. But it was stalled at the end of 2015 by the absolutes that impede all students: end of the teaching term, exams and of course, drunken celebrations and the holidays. Politics really does need to stop for the festive season. I wrote a *Griot* column in *UKZNdabaOnline* on the matter, and submitted a document to the hastily convened Heritage and Naming Committee. My Centre for Communication, Media and Society, I reminded, had played a key role along with UDF Vice-President and sometime UKZN student, Mewa Ramgobin, in developing cultural policy for the Convention for a Democratic South Africa in the mid-1990s, which was adopted by the new government.

The proposal was that all monuments should be retained and used for reconciliation, as put into practice by Jansen.

I got a tart response from one UKZN correspondent about colonialism. But the period was not mentioned: Shaka's bloody domination of previously fragmented Zulu clans, or Mzilikazi's breakaway swathe of destruction through the interior, or the dispossession of the First People across southern Africa, or the Trekkers, the Boers, the British and now the Chinese whose alms, language and imperialism is welcomed with open arms by African governments wanting a rich uncle to bail their debt. And, of late, the Gupterization of our economy sold, alleges Julius Malema, "for a plate of curry". But, where are they now that the banks have shut down this form of colonialism?

The issue of course is that history is very complicated and cannot be reduced to binary opposites - Us vs. Them. What we wanted in the cultural policy was to generate debate over meanings, issues and solutions. Here (in the photograph below), a Boer War memorial (foreground) is framed to comment on the British Town Hall as a dialogical comment on Anglo-Boer war tensions. As FW de Klerk argued, drawing forth opportunistic allegations of racism, no-one hated Rhodes more than did Afrikaners whose Boer Republics were destroyed by British imperialism. Rhodes was allowed to remain unmolested during apartheid as a sobering reminder of this.

Simply imposing one historical monologue over others kills the social dialectic, felling history to the point of farce. And how they fell even before fallism: King Shaka was removed from Durban Airport because he was not depicted warrior-like, and the city's elephants sculpture was initially terminated because it reminded someone of Inkatha.

Gandhi was despoiled also as were horses memorialised from the fallen during the First World War. Mandela is now in the sights of some and the *bittereinder* memorial at the Women's Monument in Bloemfontein where 50 000 plus Boer women and children and Black internees are memorialised, is now protected by razor wire from copper thieves.

Add tromping Trump to the mix and one has a continuous late night comedy show – really scary. But this was not enough, so a student burned the UKZN administration block, and did not invoke the Fall of Rhodes but that the University's fees must fall. To be serious for a moment, when students lose the distinction between farce and force, then they are living in a video game that has real world consequences. A visiting professor from Canada told me that his prime source of information on South Africa was Trevor Noah, the new professor of *The Daily Show* in the US: When South Africans are angry they sing and dance (and burn their own civic facilities). Why?

What is it in our cultural memes that promote self-destruction? When I think back to my own student days at Wits, we students politely suggested the de-colonisation of theory, some conducted peaceful sit ins regarding some aspects of campus decoration, and we rarely retaliated to police brutality when they were chasing us across campuses with sjamboks, tear gas, buckshot and fists. And our VCs and deans were in the trenches with us.

They got *donnered* too. Now, students hardly know who their lecturers are, let alone who is running the show. But the show must go on. We are all in it together and that's what UKZN is doing.

Photo by Professor Ruth Teer-Tomaselli.

Tomaselli is a UKZN Professor Emeritus and Fellow, and currently a Distinguished Professor at the University of Johannesburg. He is also a member of the Academy of Science for South Africa. The *Griot* is published in the last issue of the month of *UKZNdabaOnline.*

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this column are the author's own.

Mr Peter Machen and Mr Kishore Gobardan.

A CREATIVE GAME CHANGER

UKZN has traditionally played the part of creative game changer in South Africa, underpinning the vital role that imagination and inspiration play in Higher Education. *UKZNTOUCH* reports on the University's annual festivals that attract participants from around the world.

Film, live performance, music, writing, and poetry have taken centre stage in UKZN's long history, often providing the platform for talent to burgeon and succeed on a national and international level.

This year is no different. The creative festival spirit began in full cry with the 20th Durban Film Festival making the boundary-breaking statements that are so much a part of this internationally recognised showcase event.

Moulding and shaping these festival presentations is almost an art form in itself, say two of the key role players at UKZN's Centre for Creative Arts (CCA), Acting Festival Director for the Durban International Film Festival (DIFF), Mr Peter Machen and Director: Professional Services, Mr Kishore Gobardan.

"It's a bit like going on a new voyage of discovery every year," says Machen. "One has to almost sense the trends that are impacting upon society at any given time. I think this year it was definitely about identity, who we really are, how do we fit into the modern landscape, how do we make sense of the things that are going on around us?"

Gobardan gives a knowing smile when he explains that he is the one who has to ensure that the stakeholder, operational and financial side is looked after.

"We work closely as a team. That's how we are able to get the best possible outcome."

Developing this area of artistic endeavour has become a pivotal goal for the University with an appointment that has seen the College enter what both Machen and Gobardan believes is a "very exciting phase".

Celebrated academic and creative writer, David Wa Maahlamela, internationally-acclaimed award winning author of four books, whose works have appeared in more than 50 journals has joined the staff as Head of CCA.

Selected as one of the *Mail & Guardian's* Top 200 Young South Africans, Wa Maahlamela is the 2016 Young African Leadership Initiative Fellow.

"To see the arts sector being given such a high priority, is very encouraging," says Gobardan. "I think this will see us increasing our footprint as an arts gateway for the continent."

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

The 37th Durban International Film Festival. Africa's premier film event and arguably the continent's biggest film event, it attracts both film-lovers and industry representatives from across Africa and beyond. DIFF is a 10-day celebration of world-class cinema, which screens new features, documentaries and short films from around the globe with a special focus on African and South African film.

Poetry Africa. The week-long 20th Poetry Africa 2016 International Poetry Festival welcomes participants from South Africa and around the world. It features an extensive community programme in various community centres and campuses throughout Durban and the surrounding areas as well as showcasing the Schools' Poetry Competition Awards.

Earlier this year, **Time of the Writer** saw 10 South African writers meeting for a week of stimulating literary dialogue and exchange of ideas. Included in the conversations was The Madness of History, which saw Ashwin Desai and Mishka Hoosen discussing the importance of retrospective meditations on self, historical figures and the family.

Why Must a Black Writer Write About Blackness? That was the question posed by Dany Laferrière in a frank panel discussion, while radio writing came under the spotlight with Christa Biyela and Mandla Ndlovu, two audio drama maestros, who opened their lyrical vaults to talk about the history and depth of Zulu audio drama.

JOMBA! This popular contemporary Dance Experience took place at the Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre in August. It is fiercely proud of its reputation of being one of the few remaining dedicated spaces in South Africa where dance and choreography remain nurtured and supported. The Festival continues to offer world-class dance theatre that challenges audiences out of passive viewership; asking that we come to the myriad festival offerings (performances, workshops and classes) with the intention to be shocked, surprised, entertained and above all, to celebrate a critical art form .

UKZN HOSTS **FIRST INTERNATIONAL**

BOW MUSIC CONFERENCE

The Music Discipline within UKZN's School of Arts hosted the 1st International Bow Music Conference from 24 to 27 February 2016.

Professor David Dargie playing the Uhadi bow.

Convened by a team led by UKZN Lecturer and well-known township jazz exponent, Dr Sazi Dlamini, the event attracted local and international bow music practitioners, ethnomusicologists, and music researchers from as far afield as the United States, Brazil, Europe, and neighbouring SADC countries Lesotho, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. An initiative of the Sources of Creativity Catalytic Project, it was funded through a research grant from the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Conference acknowledged the widespread indigenous occurrence of musical bows in both Africa and far-flung areas of the globe as well as expanding research and public interest in bow music. Open to the public, it featured presentations of papers, workshops and discussions focusing on global bow musical practices.

The keynote address was presented by Professor David Dargie, a retired monk, who brought to the world's attention the sounds of Xhosa women's *umrhubhe* mouth-bow and the mesmerising overtone singing by the women of Ngqoko village in the Lady Frere area of the Eastern Cape. He spoke of the "wonderful world of southern African musical bows", emphasising the importance of preserving the heritage linked to them. "The recordings I have made of musicians over the years have contributed to preserving this heritage."

The Conference acknowledged the widespread indigenous occurrence of musical bows in both Africa and far-flung areas of the globe as well as expanding research and public interest in bow music.

His interactive presentation included him playing the *uhadi* gourd bow. Members of the audience were coaxed to join in the songs.

The programme of musical performances showcased southern African musical bows such as *uhadi* and *ikatari* (Xhosa); the Sotho *lesiba, sekhankuri* and *thomo*; the *chizambi* and *chipendani* mouthbows of Mozambique and eastern Zimbabwe and the *sitolotolo, makhoyana, umqangala* and *makhweyana* of the Zulu and Swati Nguni. Some of these bows were on display at the KwaZulu-Natal Society of Arts (KZNSA) Gallery during the conference week.

A special focus at the Conference was the *berimbau,* the Afro-Brazilian calabash-resonated musical bow that is used in capoeira, the worldwide popular physical game-dance-martial art that resulted from the presence of African slaves in Brazil. Several scholarly presentations were made on the *berimbau's* African origins as well as the instrument's relationship with widespread bow cultures in sub-Saharan Africa.

The programme also included screenings of director Richard Pakleppa's documentary film *Jogo de Corpo* [Body Games] which traces the origins of capoeira and the *berimbau* to Angola, and Salil Sachdev's documentary *Traditional Music of Mali, West Africa.*

Acting Dean of the School of Arts, Professor Donal McCracken, said the Conference was important as it played into the milieu of reviving the Music Discipline at UKZN. "It allows for partnerships between UKZN and music scholars from Africa and abroad," he added.

BOW JAM

A Bow Music Jam led by Arcomusical was part of the opening of the conference. Arcomusical is a multi-faceted resource for the Afro-Brazilian *berimbau* dedicated to performance, publication, research, and community building. It is a central locus for a global community interested in research and creative uses for the *berimbau* in capoeira and beyond.

Dlamini, said: "The BowJam gave the public an opportunity to meet the international delegates and experience the diversity of musical bows and music that formed the basis of discussions in the conference proceedings."

Arcomusical perform at the Centre for Jazz and Popular Music.

REASSERTING THE RELEVANCE OF CUSTOMARY LAW

The School of Law recently hosted the first inaugural seminar on the judicial application of customary law.

The seminar entitled: "Constitutional Legitimacy of Customary Law and Common Law in Judicial Reasoning" was prompted by the fact that judicial reasoning uses common law principles to authenticate or reject those of customary law.

The seminar's objective was to examine how the system of customary law can be used to influence the prescripts of the new dispensation. In turn, this will provide a framework for institutions of Higher Learning to develop measures to spark student interest in this neglected yet important law.

During a robust discussion many challenges were identified in relation to the relegation of customary law to the sphere of no relevance, especially in judicial reasoning.

The judicial evolution of the principles of customary or Black South African law was the key issue of the day and inconsistences in reasoning, outcomes and the remedies that the courts provide were 'thorny issues' which endorsed the contention that common law principles are used by the courts to supersede those of customary law on issues that emanate from the latter. Some of the challenges were traced to institutions of Higher Learning where the curricula are still not transformative in response to the ideals of the new democracy.

Decisive steps have not been taken to ensure the infusion of customary law into curricula. The bone of contention is not the survival of customary law but an affirmation of its legitimacy as a primary source of law which will amass a wealth of experience and resources in judicial reasoning.

It was therefore felt that Higher Education Institutions should integrate customary law principles in various modules and develop a content-based module that rethinks the infusion of customary or Black African law into the general law and affirms its value in order to eliminate individualistic approaches that compromise the context within which customary law evolves; ensure the development of scholarship in customary law; focus on customary law as a 'receptor approach' to human rights; and develop training programmes that target various stakeholders.

From left: Dr Nokuzola Mndende, Dr Dayana Ndima, Ms Willene Holness and Professor Nomthandazo Ntlama at the Seminar.

Dr Hangwelani Hope Magidimisha.

UKZN BOASTS FIRST BLACK WOMAN WITH PHD IN TOWN PLANNING

The College of Humanities celebrated the Graduation of Dr Hangwelani Hope Magidimisha, the first Black woman to be awarded a doctorate in the Discipline of Town Planning at the University.

"I have mixed feelings about all this. I am excited in the sense that it is an achievement for me. However, there is a need for a lot more Black women in Town Planning," Magidimisha said. She added that she hoped to nurture young women to become academics.

Her PhD interrogates the persistence of spatial inequities in service delivery in contemporary South Africa despite concerted efforts by the government to eliminate them. It focuses on Vhembe District Municipality in Limpopo Province, which rates among the most deprived areas in the country. The findings indicate that the structural defects that underline prevailing spatial inequalities are a function of a myriad of factors. The thesis recommends a Sphere of Spatial Equality Model that sets in motion dynamic responses in households and bureaucrats in a bid to eliminate spatial inequality.

Like every married woman, Magidimisha faced challenges during her years of study but persevered.

"It is important to manage your time when you are enrolled for a PhD. I became pregnant during my three years of study, but I told myself that I had to drive and push myself. Pregnancy is not a disability," she said.

"My husband was very supportive, taking care of our children and I did not feel the pressure. There is need to personalise and fall in love with your studies and be passionate. I chose to research on my home area and this helped me a lot because I am attached to it," she added.

Dean and Head of the School of Built Environment and Development Studies Professor Betty Mubangizi said that, "Women are most affected by poor town planning decisions. Dr Magidimisha brings a much needed female view to the town and regional planning profession.

"It is also significant that Dr Magidimisha has been with UKZN since her undergraduate years. That she has graduated with a PhD and that she is, in addition, a member of our staff just serves to show UKZN's commitment to transformation and to growing our own timber," said Mubangizi.

"It is important to manage your time when you are enrolled for a PhD."

BUA LENNA PROGRAMME PROMOTES INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

The Bua Lenna Programme, initiated as part of the broader vision of the University Language Board to promote and strengthen the use of South African indigenous languages within UKZN, has been launched at two University residences. A large number of students attended the launch from all internal residences.

Dean of the School of Arts, Professor Donald McCracken; Senior Lecturer in the School of African Languages, Professor Nogwaja Zulu; Cluster Leader in the School of African Languages, Professor Sihawu Ngubane; Director of the University Language Planning and Development Office (ULPDO), Dr Langa Khumalo; and Mr Kgotlaetsela Marumola of Student Governance shared the podium and congratulated the ULPDO on this ground-breaking initiative.

Khumalo noted that, "One of the foremost aims of the UKZN language policy (revised in 2014) is to 'preserve and promote respect for, and proficiency in, the languages referred to in the Constitution and other languages, including the heritage languages that facilitate potentially valuable cultural, scientific and economic ties'.

"Multilingualism is thus the hallmark of the UKZN language policy. This is vitally important for the University since its remit is to embrace and foster social cohesion within the University community," he said.

"It is in this light that in 2014, ULPDO initiated as one of its running projects, the Bua Lenna (Let's Talk) Programme.

"The programme is implemented in conjunction with the office of the Executive Director of Student Services through language champions and the ULPDO staff. The programme is aimed at teaching conversational Sesotho to non-Sesotho speaking students at UKZN student residences. The programme is currently being piloted at Ansel May and John Bews residences."

McCracken said: "I am so delighted to learn about this initiative as it came at an opportune time when African languages are at threat of extinction.

"It is vitally important that we keep these African languages alive, develop them, speak them and embrace them at all times."
– Professor Donald McCracken

Zulu shared the historical background of both SeSotho and isiZulu with a fascinated audience. He explained how these languages could be protected for posterity and heritage.

Marumola said he was thrilled and surprised that there was such a great initiative at UKZN. He shared his experience, saying that when he was a student he felt isolated linguistically and culturally. He never thought that such an initiative would ever be instituted at university level. He added that his office supported the initiative 100% and he wished it could be rolled out in all University residences.

Dr Langa Khumalo, Director, University Language Planning and Development Office (far left) and some of the participants in the Bua Lenna Programme.

Students inspect the Enactus sack farming.

UKZN SET TO RELAUNCH ENACTUS

A non-profit organisation based on University campuses, Enactus works with leaders in business and Higher Education to mobilise students to make a difference in their communities while developing skills to become socially responsible business leaders.

Enactus is being relaunched at UKZN this year under the guidance of two motivated staff members who will ensure that a variety of projects are undertaken by students to improve the quality of life and standard of living of those in need.

The two new Faculty Advisors are Dr Mvuselelo Ngcoya and Mr Muzomuhle Mhlongo.

Ngcoya is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Built Environment and Development Studies and Academic Leader for the Development and Population Studies Discipline. He previously served as Assistant Professor at the American University in Washington DC and Research Analyst, Service Employees, at International Union, also in Washington.

Mhlongo, who currently serves as a Development Officer in the Student Governance and Leadership Development (SGLD) Department at UKZN, has held various student leadership positions and is one of the founding members of a youth organisation, Busy Bees, which is based in Ulundi and focuses on youth development and academic excellence.

Ngcoya said he was excited to be at the helm of Enactus and was confident the UKZN branch of the organisation would soon be counted among the leading teams within Enactus South Africa. A wide-ranging recruitment drive would soon be held followed by interviews of potential candidates.

"The aim is to establish strong Enactus teams on the Howard College, Westville, Pietermaritzburg and Edgewood campuses, We hope to have about 100 students involved before the end of the year.

"Previous Enactus teams at UKZN accomplished a lot and represented South Africa at Enactus World Cup competitions. We will reassess previous Enactus projects and where possible continue with them and take them further," said Ngcoya.

"UKZN has an abundance of students who are courageous, passionate, imaginative and really keen to make a difference in the world. My colleague Muzomuhle Mhlongo and I will work hard to select the best of those and offer them a chance to prove themselves through Enactus," he said.

The organisation's UKZN Chapter, previously known as Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE), was established at the University in 2004 with the title changing to Enactus world-wide in 2010. More than 65 000 students are currently involved in Enactus organisations on 1 600 campuses in 36 countries.

The word Enactus is a combination of (1) En – from entrepreneurial; (2) Act – for action, and (3) Us – for a group of people connected as part of a greater whole.

CANOEIST TAKES ON WORLD'S BEST

Six times Dusi winner 26-year-old UKZN student Mr Andy Birkett has his sights set on a World Marathon Canoe Championship title and next year presents an excellent opportunity to achieve this goal as the event is being held in his home city of Pietermaritzburg.

Birkett finished sixth at last year's world champs but was unhappy with his overall performance. This year's event in Germany offers him another chance to tackle and beat the world's best although he says he will be over the moon to finish anywhere in the top three.

The Maritzburg College old boy, who graduated from UKZN with a BCom and is now studying for a Postgraduate Diploma in Marketing and Supply Chain, is no stranger to the podium in marathon canoe racing. He won the Dusi singles event in 2011 and 2015 and the doubles in 2010, 2012, 2014 and this year. He also won the U23 World Marathon Championships in 2013, the Berg River Canoe Marathon in 2014 and the Hansa Fish River Canoe Marathon last year.

Birkett started canoeing at the age of nine after realising that ball games were not his forte.

"I was the worst batsman in my cricket team at Merchiston so I spent many Saturdays sitting around waiting to bat, only to go in and get out after a few balls.

"My dad suggested I take up canoeing. I found a good training partner in my older brother, Chris, and we both represented Maritzburg College."

However, it was only after Birkett won his first Dusi in 2010 that he concentrated solely on the sport and started chalking up numerous impressive victories.

Now sponsored by Euro Steel, Birkett says canoeing takes up a lot of his time and it is a challenge to study. "However, I am determined to finish my postgrad diploma this year.

"UKZN has been fantastic in terms of the support they have given me. Lecturers are understanding about my work load and I have benefitted from a bursary through the University for most of my study years."

Before paddling in the World Championships in Germany, he needed to finish in the top two competing against the country's best at this year's SA Champs in Cape Town… and he did just that recently.

"Apart from the singles section I entered the doubles event with another UKZN student, Louis Hattingh, and we qualified for the K2 section at the world champs."

And what about life after canoeing? "I have thought a lot about that and plan to start my own business, possibly with the help and advice of contacts I have made."

One thing Birkett can rely on when he hopefully competes in the World Marathon Canoe Championships in Pietermaritzburg next year is loads of local support – especially from the UKZN fraternity.

Picture: gameplanmedia

UKZN student Andrew Birkett winning the 2015 Dusi Marathon in fine style.

UKZN'S ATHLETICS CLUB RUNNERS DO WELL AT 2016 COMRADES MARATHON

UKZN's Athletics club was well represented in this year's Comrades Marathon with nine runners finishing well within the cut-off time of 12 hours.

The agony and the ecstasy of this year's great race played out in the experiences of some UKZN runners.

Agony: Director of Communications at the Corporate Relations Division, Ms Thembekile Simelane, was in excellent shape and ready to compete in her first Comrades. Due to a minor illness on the eve of the race, she was forced to withdraw.

Ecstasy: UKZN Athletics Club runner Mr Nhlanhla Nzama finished his first Comrades in 7hr 32min. There was a tinge of agony, however, as he missed out on a silver medal by just two minutes!

Agony: Fifty-two-year-old Mr Tony Singarum of Corporate Governance on the Westville campus competed in his 22nd Comrades. He had a best time of 7hr 59min and despite battling injuries over the past few years, was hoping to at least finish. However, he experienced problems en route and had to withdraw.

Ecstasy: Athletics coach on the Pietermaritzburg campus, Mr Rendani Mudau, planned to finish in around eight hours and did just that, coming in looking fresh and strong in 8hr 05min!

He was closely followed by Pharmacology Masters graduate Gcinokwakhe Ngcobo who came in at 8hr 06mins.

Generally, however, it was a happy result for most of the 10 UKZN Athletics Club runners who started the race, with nine finishing in under 11 hours. Many other staff and students ran in the colours of their various clubs.

Road running at UKZN falls under the portfolio of Senior Sports Officer on the Howard College campus, Mr Ayanda Ndlovu, who says he aims to sign up more students and staff as members of the University's Athletics Club.

"On most days you will see recreational runners training on fields on all campuses. I want to get those people to join the club and get access to a scientific training programme and advice from seasoned runners and coaches." He said the club currently had about 70 members of whom about 35 specialised in road running with the rest doing track and field and cross country.

Ndlovu experienced his own Comrades agony this year. He qualified for the race and was training hard when he was diagnosed with a minor heart ailment which forced him out of the event. "My cardiologist says I can start training again soon so hopefully I will be at the start in Durban next year."

Here is the full list of UKZN Athletics Club runners – with their times – who completed the race:

Nhlanhla Nzama 7:32:38	**Gcinokwakhe Ngcobo** 8:06:03	**Craig Rees** 9:26:29	**Mlungisi Ndlovu** 10:26:31	**Innocent Razano** 10:45:47
Rendani Mudau 8:05:01	**Gcino-Fuze Ngcobo** 8:06:33	**Velenkosini Nyawo** 9:40:23	**Kenneth Methula** 10:44:05	

UKZN ACADEMIC WINS SEVEN LIFESAVING MEDALS

School of Management, Information Technology and Governance academic, Dr Thea van der Westhuizen, won four gold, two silver and a bronze medal as a member of the Suncoast Pirates Surf Lifesaving Club at the 2016 LSA Surf National Championships in Port Elizabeth.

Qualified lifesavers compete at the championships in various ocean-based sports including surfsking, surf swimming and beach sprints, among others.

Participants need to have successfully completed a Surf Lifesaving Proficiency Course through Lifesaving South Africa.

Van der Westhuizen, who completed the three-month National Certificate course last year, said its theory, accumulation and first aid skills as well as proficiency to swim in the ocean and in flatwater contributed immensely to her success at the Championships.

"I competed in the surfski, board, surf swim, beach flags, beach sprints, long beach run and iron lady events which require all round ocean skills and fitness. As I was new to Durban after spending almost 10 years living in the Middle East, I thought it would be an exciting challenge to learn more about the ocean and improve my ocean safety skills. Completing the SPA course as well as training sessions in the ocean enabled me to read the ocean better and become better in the surf," she said.

To prepare for the event, van der Westhuizen and her team – which included UKZN alumni, Mr Philip Marree, Mr Gary Wakeling, Mr Shane Misdorp and Mr Charles Khumalo - trained three times a week from 5:45am and on weekends.

"Our team won a total of 27 individual medals," said van der Westhuizen. "As academics our minds and thoughts are usually intensely occupied. I believe we need similar physical intensity in order to maintain a healthy life balance."

UKZN's Thea van der Westhuizen and her team after their big win at the national lifesaving championships.

UKZN STUDENTS MUSCLE IN!

Pumping iron in the gym is a way of life for 21-year-old UKZN students, Mr Swelihle Zondi and Mr Zwelishe Ximba.

Both weighing in at under 70kg when in training, they cut neat figures in their slim fit jeans and T-shirts. More of their body tone is revealed when they peel off their shirts and strike dramatic poses in sports vests. But it is only when these students are bare chested that their spectacular physiques are revealed.

Rippling six packs, bulging biceps, broad shoulders and slim waists get heads turning. They are living proof of how good the male human body can look!

Zondi and Ximba are two of UKZN's top body builders who have done well in competitions and have set their sights on becoming better than the rest. Both took part in the Arnold Classic Africa sports event in Johannesburg earlier this year. About 11 000 athletes competed in 48 sports and other events. The students finished in the Top 10 in their under 75kg weight division which they were happy with but are determined to improve on in future Arnold Classic events in South Africa. The competition is organised annually by actor, bodybuilder and politician, Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Zondi is studying on the Westville campus for a BSc in Marine Biology while Ximba is in the third year of his Bachelor of Education degree at Edgewood campus. They are among hundreds of students who are into body building as a sport on the Howard College, Westville, Edgewood and Pietermaritzburg campuses.

This year they competed in the U75kg junior division in the International Federation of Body Building's King Shaka competition in Durban where Ximba was the winner with Zondi in second place. That result earned them entry into the Arnold Classic Africa event.

Ximba said that although body building was popular at UKZN not many participants were keen to enter competitions. "This is mainly because standing on stage wearing only posing trunks is daunting at first. I was quite shy about it when I first started but now it's no problem.

"What is a problem is that we have no female body builders at UKZN so there's a gap there for interested young women! They would certainly be warmly welcomed."

Sport Administrator on the Westville campus, Mr Madoda Mahlangu, said more than 1 000 students were involved in body building on the Edgewood campus, with about another 160 doing the sport at Westville, plus others on the Durban and Pietermaritzburg campuses.

"Part of my role as a Sports Officer is to encourage body builders to take part in the University Sport South Africa (USSA) games. This year the event takes place at the Mangosthu University of Technology in Durban on December 5 and 6 and I am pushing for a strong entry from UKZN.

"About 260 competitors from 13 South African universities will take part in the competition," said Mahlangu.

UKZN bodybuilders Mr Zwelishe Ximba (left) and Mr Swelihle Zondi show off their finely-tuned physiques.

BALLROOM DANCING
THRIVING AT UKZN

As many as 300 students and staff are involved in ballroom dancing, with some regularly flying the University's flag high at national competitions.

For many it is a healthy and fun recreation, but for others it is a highly competitive sport which they enjoy while participating in contests throughout South Africa.

UKZN is among the very best at ballroom dancing at tertiary institutions around the country, finishing in third place at last year's University Sport South Africa (USSA) championships.

UKZN Champion dancers Mr Russell Mnguni and Ms Mbalenhle Maseko in action.

Its clubs on the Durban, Westville, Pietermaritzburg and Edgewood campuses boast several champions.

Sports Officer on the Westville campus, Ms Roshnee Naicker, said the University encouraged the sport, providing facilities and helping participants cover costs such as transport, food and accommodation when they took part in competitions away from home. UKZN also provided guidance to student bodies about which events to enter and assisted with planning and logistics.

"I especially oversee the USSA tournament which involves universities throughout South Africa competing twice a year in a variety of sport, including dance," said Naicker.

"We did really well in all competitions last year, winning medals regularly in the various ballroom dance sections - level 1, 2 and 3; novice and pre-championships."

Naicker said dance was one of the fastest growing sports at UKZN.

The morning after a competition, UKZN ballroom dancers display their trophies.

A standout UKZN dance couple is Mr Russell Mnguni and Ms Mbalenhle Maseko, who finished in 7th place out of more than 20 couples in the ballroom pre-champs dance section at the Arnold Classic Sports Event at Sandton Centre in Johannesburg in May this year.

The event, organised by legendary United States actor, body-builder and politician, Arnold Schwarzenegger, attracted 11 000 sportsmen and women in 48 sports and events.

Mnguni has been dancing for the past four years with his partner Maseko, winning a variety of national competitions last year.

He completed his undergraduate and Honours degree in Industrial Psychology at UKZN and is now busy with his master's. He currently works as a Human Resources Development Practitioner on the Westville campus.

Maseko works at the Medical School and is studying for a Masters in Medical Science.

Mnguni (27) said his interest in ballroom dancing started soon after he began his studies at UKZN in 2011. By the following year he was taking part in competitions with Maseko. He hopes his success will encourage others to join the various dance clubs at UKZN.

"I would like to be a professional dancer one day. Performing well in competitions and training will bring me closer to that goal."

"We did really well in all competitions last year, winning medals regularly in the various ballroom dance sections - level 1, 2 and 3; novice and pre-championships."

SPORTS ROUND UP

UKZN IMPI LOSES OUT ON PROMOTION TO VARSITY CUP

UKZN Impi returned to the playing field on Monday 14 March after a three week absence imposed on the Competition by the Varsity Cup Board. UKZN Impi played four games in Johannesburg at the Rand Stadium and FNB Stadium, respectively.

The results were as follows:

- ***14 March***: played against Wits University and won 26-21
- ***19 March:*** played against the University of the Western Cape (UWC) and lost 44-16
- ***21 March:*** played against the University of Fort Hare and won 97-0
- ***26 March:*** played against Tshwane University of Technology and won 72-8.

Our Impi had an impressive season and despite having lost only one match in the entire tournament, they unfortunately finished in 3rd place, primarily because they were docked 12 points for having been found to have fielded a UKZN registered student who did not meet all the Varsity Cup eligibility requirements. This was, sadly, despite the fact that all our players had been vetted and approved by KPMG as part of the Varsity Cup processes.

VARSITY SHIELD PLAYERS ROCK NOMINATIONS

Two UKZN Impi players have been nominated for the 2016 Varsity Shield "Player that Rocks" award as well as the "Back that Rocks" award. These awards are for players who showed outstanding performance throughout the Varsity Shield season.

UKZN winger, Mr Thobekani Buthelezi and fly half Mr Curwin Bosch are two of the three nominees in both categories.

UKZN ATHLETES PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Ten members of the UKZN Athletics Club were selected for the KwaZulu-Natal Youth teams which participated at the National Sub-youth, Youth and u23 Championships in Germiston, Gauteng, on 2 and 3 April 2016.

Our athletes competed against the best in the county and the following members did exceptionally well:

- Ms Cassidy Williamson won a silver medal in the u20 100m and a bronze medal in the 200m race; and
- Ms Shannice Marnce won bronze medals in both the u23 100m and 200m races.

Ms Williamson is now one step closer to qualifying for the World Junior Championships later this year in Russia.

Other notable achievements on the day were:

- Mr Thabo Mkwanazi who finished a credible 5th in the u23 800m race; and
- Mr Tumi Lesuthu and Mr Joash Beru, both of whom qualified for the Finals u20 Long Jump.

UKZN WINS MISS VARSITY SHIELD TITLE

Winner of the UKZN Miss Varsity Shield, third year Law student, Ms Angel Phindile Ndimande, was crowned as the National Miss Varsity Shield after competing against other Varsity Shield universities.

UKZN STUDENT AT HOCKEY AFRICAN QUALIFIERS

Third year Architectural studies student, Mr Siyavuya Nolutshungu was selected for the SA u21 Men's Hockey team which participated in the 2016 African Qualifiers in Namibia in March.

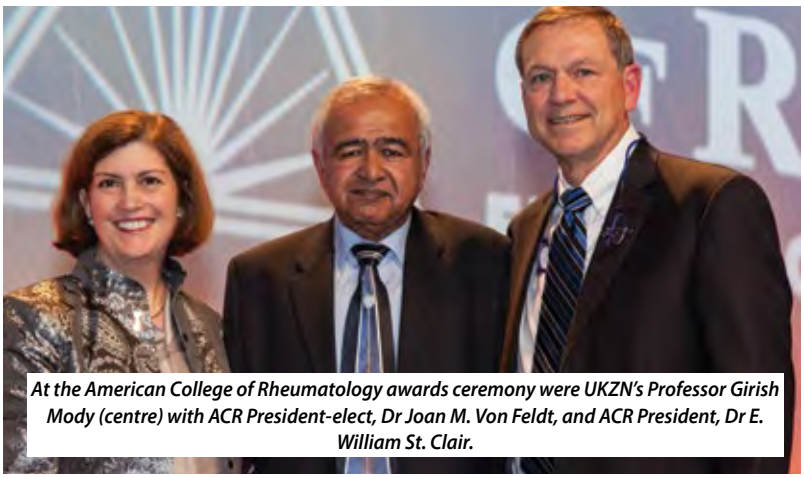
The South African team had a great tournament, but unfortunately lost 3-2 in the finals to Egypt and received a silver medal.

The team achieved automatic qualification for the Junior Hockey World Cup competition which will be held in India in December 2016.

UKZN NEWS

First African to be Inducted as Master by the American College of Rheumatology

UKZN's Head of Rheumatology, Professor Girish Mody, joined an esteemed group of Rheumatologists when the designation of Master was bestowed on him by the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) at their annual congress in San Francisco in the United States. Mody is the first African Rheumatologist to receive this honour.



At the American College of Rheumatology awards ceremony were UKZN's Professor Girish Mody (centre) with ACR President-elect, Dr Joan M. Von Feldt, and ACR President, Dr E. William St. Clair.

Dr Albert van Jaarsveld signs a Memorandum of Understanding with Mrs Mathabo Kunene.

Mazisi Kunene's Collection to be housed at UKZN

UKZN has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Mazisi Kunene Foundation to create a repository for Mazisi Kunene's collection. The Mazisi Kunene Centre for IsiZulu Language and Culture, which will physically archive the collection, will create teaching and research activities and programmes. Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Albert van Jaarsveld, said the University was delighted with the partnership which ensures the preservation of Kunene's work. Van Jaarsveld said the University was committed to KwaZulu-Natal and growing isiZulu as a language and hoped the work became part of the curriculum.

MoU with State University of New York to Improve Optometry Services

UKZN has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the State University of New York (SUNY) to improve the provision and accessibility of optometry services to all South Africans. The signing took place at the Westville campus. South African Optometric Association (SAOA) President, Mr Patrick Mawila, said that 2016 was the year for academics, government and SAOA to make the availability of quality optometric services to all citizens a priority.

UKZN and SUNY delegates after signing the MoU.

UKZN Alumnus Brings Pharmacy Services Closer to the Community

Residents of Ugu District's Izingolweni and Margate communities are receiving improved health care thanks to UKZN Pharmacy and MBA alumnus, Mr Mthokozisi Nyawose (31). Now a budding entrepreneur, Nyawose took over Margate's existing Medical Centre Pharmacy and opened Izingolweni's first multidisciplinary medical centre: Thokoza Medical Centre. "The community now enjoys services from multiple health professionals," Nyawose said. "It now has a comprehensive and fully functional pharmacy with a vet section to help local subsistence farmers," he added.

Mr Mthokozisi Nyawose behind his dispensary counter.

UKZN Scoops Top Research Spot for the Third Year in a Row

1708.61

UKZN was recognised for its research capabilities in 2014.

UKZN was recognised by the Department of Higher Education and Training for the most published output units in South Africa in 2014 (1708.61). This is the third consecutive year the University has been in the top spot. The University also contributed the highest proportion of total output units awarded by volume (i.e. un-weighted number of publications units), with 11.2%, closely followed by the University of Pretoria at 11%.

UKZN Student Wins Canoe Marathon Qualifier for World Champs

College of Humanities student and former K2 World Junior Champion, Mr Louis Hattingh won the test event at Camps Drift in Pietermaritzburg for the 2017 International Canoe Federation (ICF) Marathon World Championships. Hattingh dominated the SA Sprint Canoe Championships at Shongweni Dam in April this year where he won the 500m and 1 000m events.

Spotlight on Alumni

UKZN Bachelor of Business Science in Finance graduate, Ms Erin Bargate, has a penchant for travelling, raised funds for rhinos while running the London Marathon and plans to do the Durban Half Ironman event this year. Bargate, who completed her master's degree at Oxford University in England, is a trustee of the UKZN UK Trust.

Ms Erin Bargate (right) and her mother, UKZN's Dr Karen Bargate, at the World Triathlon Championships in London in 2013.

DIFF Opening Night a Great Success

There was praise all round for the opening night of the 37th Durban International Film Festival (DIFF) which featured the world premiere screening of the highly anticipated South African documentary, *The Journeymen* – the latest instalment in the Twenty Journey project. DIFF is hosted by the Centre for Creative Arts (CCA) within UKZN's College of Humanities.

At the Film Festival opening night were from left: Sipho Mpongo, Sean Metelerkamp and Wikus de Wet.

UKZN Academic Wins Sunday Times Literary Award

School of Arts lecturer Dr Nkosinathi Sithole won the 2016 Barry Ronge Sunday Times Fiction Award for his debut novel *Hunger Eats a Man*. Sithole received the accolade and a R100 000 cash prize at the 2016 Sunday Times Literary Awards function in Johannesburg.

From left: Alan Paton award winner Professor Pumla Dineo Gqola; **Sunday Times** *Editor, Mr Bongani Siqoko; Dr Nkosinathi Sithole and Advocate Thuli Madonsela.*

UKZN Welcomes Potential Academics

UKZN's Human Resources Division (HR) recently welcomed a group of high achieving, potential future academics during a congratulatory lunch held at the Durban Country Club. This was the second cohort of top candidates earmarked for academic careers at UKZN. Ten of the students are on UKZN SETA Bursary Awards while 12 are on a Talent Excellence and Equity Acceleration (TEAEA) Scholarship.

UKZN welcomed the second cohort of top candidates earmarked for academic careers at the University.

HONORARY DOCTORATES
FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS

The University awarded Honorary Doctorates to a number of outstanding individuals at its Graduation ceremonies in April 2016.

DR ROBERT GALLO

Internationally-renowned scientist Dr Robert Gallo proved that HIV causes AIDS in 1984, and has spent much of his career trying to find cures for HIV and other viral, chronic illnesses. He received an Honorary Doctorate of Sciences.

Gallo, who is Director of the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in the United States; was inspired to pursue a career as a research physician after the death from leukaemia of his six-year-old sister.

"I was 13 and saw her in her final days when she was at a Medical School's Children's Hospital which is where I caught my first glimpse of doctors seeking to do better, not satisfied with the present."

Early on in his career in 1976, his laboratory discovered a way to grow human T cells for the first time due to finding a growth factor, a protein called the T cell growth factor, which became known as Interleukin-2, or IL-2, among the first cytokines. They also discovered the first and second known human retroviruses HTLV 1 & 2 which target CD4 T cells and are transmitted by blood, sexual intercourse and mother's milk. This was the start of his journey to discover that HIV leads to AIDS. Human trials of more than 100 different AIDS vaccines have taken place since then. Gallo and his team also pioneered the HIV blood test which verified the linkage between HIV and AIDS. "This was a necessity for scientific progress because whereas virus isolation was then quite difficult and few wished to try it, antibody testing was safe, simple and accurate." The breakthrough led to more rapid diagnosis whilst protecting patients receiving blood transfusions.

In 1996, Gallo discovered that a natural compound known as chemokines could block HIV and halt the progression of AIDS. The discovery of the involvement of chemokine receptors in HIV-1 binding and entry opened the door for new approaches to control HIV-1 infection. Gallo's study was hailed by the *Science* journal as one of that year's most important scientific breakthroughs and eventually led to the development of Anti-Retroviral Therapy. Since then, new HIV infections have fallen by 35% and AIDS-related deaths have fallen by 42% since the peak in 2004.

Gallo's research has brought him international recognition as well as election into the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine. He has been honoured for his contribution to science by countries around the world and holds 34 honorary doctorates. He was the most referenced scientist in the world in the 1980s and 1990s, during which time he had the unique distinction of twice winning America's most prestigious scientific award, the Albert Lasker Award in Medicine. Dr Gallo is currently Director of the Institute of Human Virology (IHV) at the University of Maryland: School of Medicine, the Homer and Martha Gudelsky Distinguished Professor in Medicine and co-founder and Scientific Director of the Global Virus Network. His work continues at the IHV, a first-of-its-kind virology centre that combines the disciplines of research, patient care and prevention programmes in a concerted effort to speed up the pace of medical breakthroughs. He is the author of more than 1 300 scientific publications.

DR MICHEL SIDIBÉ

Executive Director of UNAIDS (the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS), Michel Sidibé received an Honorary Doctorate of Administration for his contribution to the fight against AIDS. Sidibé's vision of 3 zeros, a world with zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths has been echoed around the world. His passionate advocacy has contributed significantly to unprecedented global political commitment and funding for HIV and AIDS.

The Malian-born campaigner has also been at the forefront of the global campaign to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and to eliminate HIV infections among children. Under his leadership, UNAIDS works to ensure that no one is left behind in the response to HIV and that everyone in need has access to lifesaving HIV treatment and prevention services, especially the marginalised and neglected. In his acceptance address, Sidibé told graduates they were beginning their "careers at a historic moment when the world has committed to the most ambitious development agenda of all time - the Sustainable Development Goals.

"Africa will be at the centre of this transformation, and you will lead it, you will be the 'entrepreneurs' of a new era of sustainable human development and your energy, innovation, and optimism are the keys to unlock global and national transformation," he said. He also encouraged the private sector to step up and join the fight for universal health care. "We are counting on you, the next generation of business leaders to help us scale up our work to help people, capturing innovation at every level."

Sidibé's global advocacy ensured that the fight against HIV and AIDS was placed at the top of political agendas, including in South Africa. He has played a key role in supporting South Africa's HIV and AIDS plans and programmes and has used the country as an example of success in several areas, not least in preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

Dr Sidibé has been named as one of the 50 most influential Africans by the Africa Report and one of the 50 personalities of the year by *Le Monde*. His other significant career achievements include pioneering the first movement for girls' education in Africa, managing an immunisation programme for 30 million people in the Democratic Republic of Congo, securing a humanitarian corridor for the provision of life-saving medication during the aid embargo in Burundi, negotiating the successful release and rehabilitation of child soldiers from Eastern Congo, and convening one of the first agreements on price reductions for antiretroviral (ARV) drugs in Africa.

DR VASUDEVAN GOUNDEN

From left: DVC for the College of Humanities Professor Cheryl Potgieter, Dr Vasudevan Gounden, Professor Paulus Zulu and UKZN Vice-Chancellor Dr Albert van Jaarsveld.

Respected leader in the field of conflict resolution, Vasudevan Gounden is home-grown talent in the truest sense, and is an alumnus of the University. He received an Honorary Doctorate of Social Sciences for his significant contribution to global peace and security and his nobility in standing up for peace and justice for the most vulnerable of citizens.

As Founder and Executive Director of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), Gounden has brokered peace in conflict-ridden countries like Burundi, Madagascar, the DRC, Somalia and South Sudan. ACCORD is the largest conflict resolution organisation in Africa.

Over the years it has trained more than 20 000 ambassadors, government ministers, grassroots activists and rebel groups in war-torn areas in Africa, Palestine, Sri Lanka and Nicaragua.

At the invitation of the South African government, Gounden frequently contributes to policy discussions on the country's role in peace and security. ACCORD contributes to policy and conflict management capacity in the United Nations, the African Union, Africa's regional economic communities and national governments. He was the first member of an African NGO to address the United Nations Security Council, and has also addressed the General Assembly and the African Union's Peace and Security Council.

For the fifth consecutive year, in 2014 ACCORD was recognised by the University of Pennsylvania's Global Go To Think Tank Index as one of the top 100 Think Tanks in the world. It was also ranked as one of the top 10 Think Tanks in sub-Saharan Africa. ACCORD publishes the first accredited conflict resolution journal in Africa.

In his address to graduates, Gounden reflected on his 25 years in conflict resolution in various African countries: "I have seen hell. I have stared in the eyes of killers and in the eyes of those they have killed. I have seen too many countries whose people were blinded into an exceptionalism carved out of pride for their uniqueness only to have that destroyed."

He also touched on apartheid injustices and paid homage to struggle stalwarts Steve Biko, Ruth First, Nelson Mandela, Robert Sobukwe and Dulcie September, reminding young graduates that they have the responsibility to build a new South Africa from the ashes of apartheid. Gounden also called on all South Africans to stand against injustices such as bribery, crime and lack of quality service. "We fail our nation when we look the other way."

Gounden's many achievements include his recent appointment to serve on the South African Council on International Relations (SACOIR), and his nomination, in 1996, by the South African Government to serve on the Commonwealth Secretary General's Good Offices Forum to mediate in international conflicts. In the same year he was appointed to the government established Study Group on Future Challenges to South Africa's Science and Technology, and in 1995 was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Foundation for Global Dialogue (now the Institute for Global Dialogue). He was named by the World Economic Forum as one of its Global Leaders for Tomorrow (GLT). Gounden has served the University in various capacities over the years, including as President of the SRC during the State of Emergency in South Africa during 1985 and 1986. He served three terms as a member of Council of the University of Durban-Westville (UDW) and as a member of the Senate and Convocation of the University.

DR PATRICIA HORN

"When you are that civil servant working in a local or national government department, don't be the arrogant one who looks down on informal workers because you think they are uneducated – be the one who sees in front of you human beings with dignity, family and community responsibilities. Put yourself in the shoes of those you are employed to serve, in order to understand better and serve people more effectively." These were the words of Patricia Horn, who received an Honorary Doctorate of Social Sciences in recognition of her distinguished service and significant contribution to improving the fabric of South African society. A pioneer of the bottom-up approach to social change, she has dedicated the past three decades to organising women in the informal economy and helping them to build a collective voice to demand their rights.

Horn said she felt honoured to have been considered for an honorary degree, after failing to complete her Bachelor of Science degree at Wits University in the 1970s because of her involvement in student politics. She went on to obtain a BA degree in Economics and History. Reflecting on how times had changed since the days when she was a student involved in the anti-apartheid struggle, Horn said that many Black South Africans were unable or not allowed to study on university premises due to being imprisoned, under house arrest or banned under the Suppression of Communism Act. Instead they studied through Unisa correspondence courses.

She added that she did not stop learning when she obtained her degree as she learned a lot in the trade union movement. "Those of us who had the privilege of working – under strict worker control – in those emerging independent trade unions, were part of a unique experience of

organisation-building. From this we learned key lessons, and I later found these lessons to be an inspiration in organising marginalised workers in the informal economy."

Horn urged graduates to be aware of the important role played by the millions of formal and informal workers in the construction of a democratic South Africa. She noted that despite the informal sector's enormous contribution to the economy, government policies ignored their needs and basic human and labour rights. Laws were used against them, not for committing crimes, but simply for failing to meet impossible regulatory requirements. She urged graduates to be the ones who initiate consultations and negotiations in good faith with affected groups and communities in search of mutually satisfactory solutions.

Horn said: "You may be very surprised to hear the creative solutions that informal traders can come up with when people are ready to listen to them. Don't be the one who hides behind bureaucratic procedures. Be the one who looks for a way to make the regulations work in the best interests of everybody, including the most marginalised."

She concluded by encouraging graduates to take calculated risks from time to time in order to achieve their objectives in life and to always do what their conscience tells them is right. "Sometimes this can be painful, especially in the short term – but in the long term, getting to your old age with a clear conscience and having earned many people's trust is still more valuable than having made a lot of money during your life."

Horn was instrumental in the establishment of the Self-Employed Women's Union (SEWU) in 1993, the first of its kind in South Africa, which represents the interests of self-employed women in the informal economy. The union negotiated with municipal authorities in major urban areas, including Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town to provide better facilities for street vendors such as toilets, water, shelters, safety and child day-care centres. These negotiations greatly influenced the development of the Informal Trading Policy which was adopted in 2002 by eThekwini Municipality. She has also organised informal workers at international level through the establishment of StreetNet International which has 52 affiliates in 46 countries. Her work has influenced policy debates across the world.

"When you are that civil servant working in a local or national government department, don't be the arrogant one who looks down on informal workers because you think they are uneducated – be the one who sees in front of you human beings with dignity, family and community responsibilities."

Professor Salim Abdool Karim, Dr Robert Gallo and Dr Albert van Jaarsveld.

Professor Pholoho Morojele, Professor Cheryl Potgieter, Dr Patricia Horn and Dr Federico Settler.

Graduation Highlights

UKZN conferred an impressive 10 015 degrees at its 22 Graduation ceremonies held on the Westville campus and Pietermaritzburg's Royal Showgrounds from 11-19 April 2016.

The University conferred four honorary degrees on distinguished individuals in the fields of Social Sciences and Health Sciences, for their unique and outstanding contribution to society both locally and at the global level. The ceremonies kicked off with the College of Humanities that honoured Founder and Executive Director of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), Dr Vasudevan Gounden with a Doctorate of Social Sciences. Dr Patricia Horn also received an Honorary Doctorate of Social Sciences. Other honorary graduates included internationally renowned Scientist, Dr Robert Gallo who received a Doctorate of Sciences during the College of Health Science's Graduation ceremony. The Executive Director of UNAIDS (the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS), Dr Michel Sidibé, received an honorary Doctor of Administration degree from the College of Law and Management Studies for his contribution to the fight against AIDS. The University also welcomed a number of guest speakers who encouraged and advised students on their future careers. They included the Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa, Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng; the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Blade Nzimande; the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA), Mr Sipho Madonsela and Chief Director: Modelling & Forecasting in the Economic Policy Division at National Treasury, Mr Konstantin Makrelov. Four prominent academics received the University's Fellowship Award for research excellence and distinguished academic achievement. They included Professor Salim Abdool Karim, Director: CAPRISA (Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa) and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research); Professor Francesco Petruccione, Director of the Centre for Quantum Technology at UKZN and the NRF/DST SARChI Chair: Quantum Information Processing and Technology; Professor Colleen Thelma Downs, South African Research Chair in Ecosystem Health and Bio-diversity in KZN and EC and a Professor in the School of Life Sciences; and Professor Steven Dene Johnson who holds the South African Research Chair in Evolutionary Biology and is a Professor in the School of Life Sciences. Distinguished Teachers' Awards were awarded to outstanding teachers who demonstrated innovation and excellence in the areas of curriculum development, teaching methodology and assessment methods. The Awards were received by Dr Suzanne Francis, Senior Lecturer in Political Science; Professor Thabo Msibi, Acting Dean in the School of Education; Mrs Rosemary Quilling, Senior Lecturer: Information Systems and Technology; and Professor Albert Modi, Dean and Head of School: Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences.

Graduation 2016

Talented pianist Ms Rashalia Pather who graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree is one of the top students in the 40-year history of the School of Arts.

Major-General Dr Karel Husselmann (left), the National Head of the South African Police Service: Vehicle Fleet, graduated with a PhD in Criminology and Forensic Studies. He is pictured with Dr Zweli Mkhize and Professor Cheryl Potgieter (right).

Quantum Information Processing and Communications expert from UKZN's Centre for Quantum Technology, Professor Francesco Petruccione, was awarded a University Fellowship.

UKZN Lecturer Dr Mayshree Bejaichand is the first woman to be awarded a PhD in Land Surveying and Mapping by the University.

Mr Sipho Madonsela, CEO of the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) was the guest speaker at the School of Engineering's Graduation ceremony.

Director of the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) and Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research, Professor Salim Abdool Karim received a Fellowship Award for research excellence and distinguished academic achievement.

Graduation 2016 *continued*

*UKZN's Medical Science class of 2015 was topped by **cum laude** graduates Mr Zola Mpofana and Ms Keira Tucker.*

The School of Laboratory Medicine and Medical Sciences' Acting Dean, Dr Musa Mabandla, supervised and published young women scientists, Dr Thabsile Mpofana (right) and Dr Lihle Qulu (left), who both graduated with PhDs.

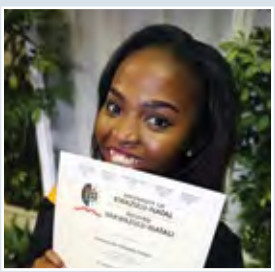
Guest speaker and Head of the Economic Modelling and Forecasting Unit at the National Treasury, Mr Konstantin Makrelov, delivered an inspirational keynote address to graduates of the College of Law and Management Studies.

Dr Ndumiso Mhlongo of Eshowe graduated with a PhD in Pharmaceutical Chemistry.

Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng urged Law graduates to play a role in transforming society.

Mr Sanele Mhlungu proposed to his girlfriend Ms Nosipho Nguse during her Graduation ceremony. A surprised Nguse accepted, shedding tears of joy.

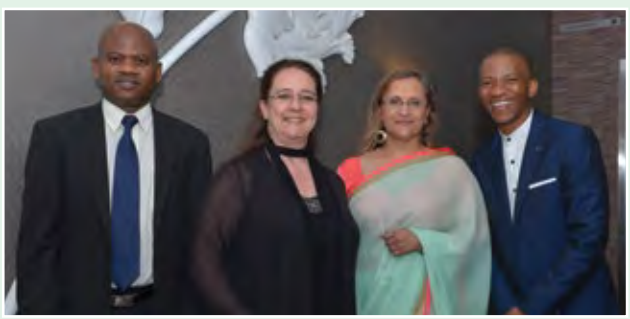
Academics from the College of Law and Management Studies that earned PhDs: from left, Dr Ntabeni Jere, Dr Evelyn Derera and Dr Sanjay Soni. For the first time in the history of the College, a remarkable 43 doctoral degrees were conferred upon staff and students during the 2016 Graduation period. This compares with the 19 and 23 doctoral degrees awarded in 2014 and 2015, respectively.



At the age of 19 most people are at the beginning of their academic journey, but not for Ms Noluthando Cibane who graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree.

The Honourable Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Blade Nzimande, congratulated graduates during the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science ceremony.

Leading scientists Professor Steven Johnson (right) and Professor Colleen Downs were both made Fellows of UKZN at the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science Graduation ceremony.



Recipients of the Distinguished Teachers' Awards, from left: Professor Albert Modi, Ms Rosemary Quilling, and Dr Thabo Msibi (right), with Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Teaching and Learning, Professor Renuka Vithal.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UKZN CONVOCATION

Members of the Convocation Executive Committee of the University of KwaZulu-Natal recently completed their four-year term of office. This has been a most productive period in which we have met numerous graduates throughout the world, actively participated in various University committees and witnessed a number of developments at our *alma mater*.

Transformation was an integral part of UKZN's creation in 2004, based on the noble ideas of the Constitution and the White Paper 3 (1997) in which transformation, diversity and equality are enshrined. The crafting and finalisation of the UKZN Transformation Charter was a true reflection of our commitment to the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

The following are just a few examples of UKZN's important achievements since the merger:

- High Research productivity for three consecutive years, as measured by SAPSE;
- The proportion of academic staff with PhDs improved from 35% to 56%;
- Transformation in academic staff qualifications;
- The age profile of staff has been transformed;
- Gender representation has improved;
- Transformation in student and staff profiles;
- UKZN is ranked the best 'young university' in South Africa by the QS ranking system;
- UKZN was recently ranked in the top 200 in terms of student employability by the QS world university ranking system.

While much has been achieved, a long journey lies ahead judging by the #FeesMustFall campaign, which tells us we still have much to do. The decision not to increase tuition fees is good for the country and the commission established to investigate this matter must now move speedily to help stop the protest which has turned ugly along racial lines and caused unwarranted destruction to University property.

As Convocation, we congratulate and applaud Council for the brave decision to absorb workers who were contracted to individual service providers. While this was a sound decision, it now requires correct transition and planning considering the financial implications. There is a need for young intellectuals to occupy senior positions in all strategic sectors, not only in Government but at universities. UKZN must strive to move towards a situation where it employs young people at Executive Management level. The fact that we cannot attract a deserving Black woman to our Executive Committee remains a huge challenge. Such transformation is urgent and necessary for the betterment of our country.

We have – to the very best of our ability and without fear or favour – supported the Council, Executive Management, SRC, Unions, and former and current Vice-Chancellors; and we have been very objective in our interventions. We have participated in a number of Sub-Committees of Council and in Council and

I extend my appreciation to members of the Convocation Executive Management who have excelled in their highly valuable work. We pride ourselves on being self-proclaimed agents of transformation! As members of this Convocation Executive Committee, we have participated in all the UKZN Graduation ceremonies since 2013 with a total of more than 39 000 graduates. We are proud of this and sincerely thank our academic and support staff for a job well done.

In conclusion, I extend my sincere appreciation and thanks to the many alumni and donors throughout the world for their continued support for UKZN over the years. It has indeed been a great pleasure interacting with the alumni I have met during my term of office and I look forward to maintaining these relationships well into the future. I urge you to continue to support your *alma mater* through attending University co-ordinated events, as ambassadors for the University and through donations.

Finally, we thank Dr Zweli Mkhize (Chancellor of UKZN) for his continued support of the University, especially during Graduations.

With thanks and very best wishes,

Fanle Sibisi
President and Chair of Convocation

MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI TEAM

Finn Christensen, Alumni Relations Manager; Desiree Govender, Assistant Database Officer; and Nomcebo Msweli, Alumni Relations Co-ordinator.

Dear Alumnus,

The Alumni Relations Team has so far had an exciting and busy 2016, having interacted with many graduates via personal visits, emails, and written and telephonic communication as well as through the various social media sites. The Durban Alumni Association AGM held on the Howard College campus, the Cape Town Alumnus Dinner at the Cellars Hohenort Hotel in Constantia, the Durban Alumnus Dinner at the Hilton Hotel, the Richards Bay Alumnus Lunch at the Protea Waterfront Hotel, the Film Screening/Movie Evening at Musgrave Centre in Durban and the Swaziland Alumnus Lunch in Manzini took place.

We also hosted events in Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu-Natal, White River in Mpumalanga, Harare in Zimbabwe and the annual London: United Kingdom event.

We are particularly happy about the successful launch of two new Facebook pages specifically for alumni based in the United Kingdom and the USA. We plan to launch similar Facebook pages for alumni living in Canada, Australia and New Zealand in the near future.

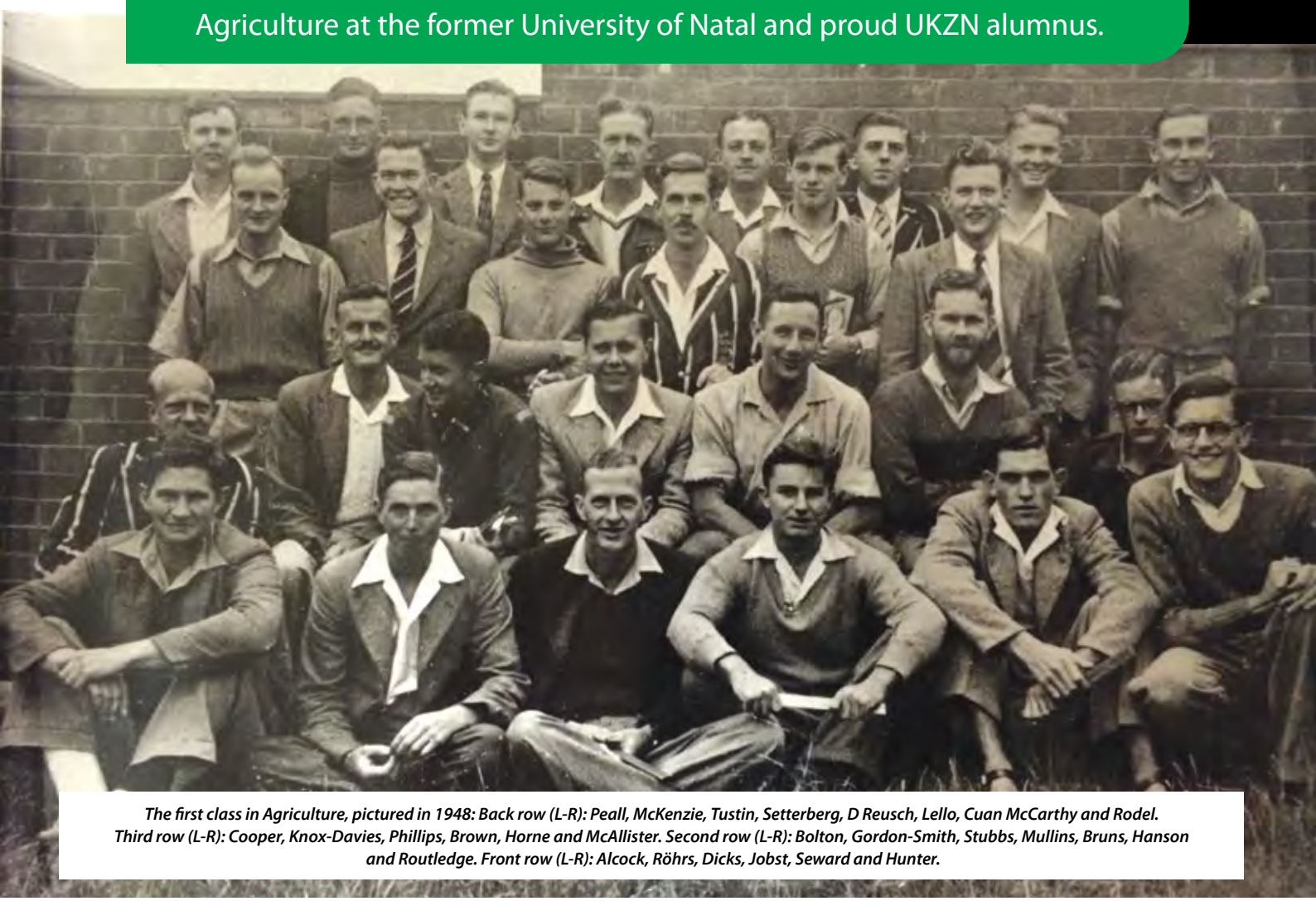
Communication via the website, Facebook, Twitter and SMS has increased and is an effective way of informing graduates of UKZN events and issues. In order to invite alumni to events and to keep everyone updated, we are eager to secure the current contact details of alumni, especially email addresses and mobile phone numbers.

Please also encourage any friends or relatives who are graduates and have not received any correspondence from the University in recent months to provide us with their updated contact details. This can be done via the website.

With our very best wishes,
The Alumni Relations Team

ONE OF A KIND

UKZNTOUCH met up with Dr Carl Bruns, a member of the first class of Agriculture at the former University of Natal and proud UKZN alumnus.



The first class in Agriculture, pictured in 1948: Back row (L-R): Peall, McKenzie, Tustin, Setterberg, D Reusch, Lello, Cuan McCarthy and Rodel. Third row (L-R): Cooper, Knox-Davies, Phillips, Brown, Horne and McAllister. Second row (L-R): Bolton, Gordon-Smith, Stubbs, Mullins, Bruns, Hanson and Routledge. Front row (L-R): Alcock, Röhrs, Dicks, Jobst, Seward and Hunter.

The son of a Welkom farmer, Bruns majored in Pasture Management under the instruction of Professor JD Scott after matriculating at Grey College in Bloemfontein. He described his upbringing as a humble one; his mother made all of his clothes and his father his shoes, and their farm provided food for their table. His 90 year-old sister, Charlotte, still lives in Welkom and his brother, Leo, was a mining engineer.

Having always dreamed of doing Medicine, Bruns decided to rather pursue agriculture in order to help on his parents' farm.

Having previously enrolled in the University of the Witwatersrand to study Soil Conservation, he came to the University of Natal's Agricultural Faculty in his second year in 1948, where he spent what he described as 'the best' three years. The students lived and attended lectures at the converted Military Hospital in Oribi, Pietermaritzburg. He regularly ran from Oribi to Woodburn Stadium for rugby practice. Bruns fleetingly played for Natal in 1949 and in his final year was vice-captain of the 1st XV rugby team, with Peter Booysen as captain, when he also presented with a rugby blue.

Dr Carl Bruns in June 2016, with UKZN Networking Facilitator Christine Cuénod.

Professor John Cooke, Dr Carl Bruns, Professor Emeritus George Quicke and Dr Pete Zacharias at a reunion in 2011.

In his final year, Bruns was appointed a member of the Residence House Committee, giving him a seat at the 'head table' in the dining hall with sherry in the common room.

He recalled that, "For me, having grown up on a farm, there was nothing strange about seeing a cow, a sheep or a pig, but a lot of these lads came from cities, and they'd never been on a farm in their life before."

Bruns also remembers being reprimanded by a pipe-smoking Professor Ewer of Zoology for making too much noise outside the Professor's house and how one of his classmates, given to drinking binges, went down to the docks and boarded a ship, waking up in Stockholm.

Carl was married to his wife Joan for 55 years, nursing her in her final year following her first stroke. She passed away in her husband's arms in 2012.

The couple met on the Union Castle Line travelling from Cape Town to Southampton in 1952, en route to the Summer Olympics in Helsinki. At the time, the two-week trip cost £50, for what he called absolute luxury. They married in 1956, and that year Carl informed his father that he still felt urged to pursue his dream of medicine.

While waiting for the academic year to start at Trinity College, Dublin, he worked in the Pay Office of the Public Works Department, suffering seasickness on boats going to Robben Island each week to pay plasterers and bricklayers. He described going to the docks with over £2 000 in a suitcase without fear of being attacked.

In 1957, Bruns began his studies in medicine at Trinity College. While sitting in a class of 320 first year students, Organic Chemistry lecturer Mr McKenzie informed the class that second year had place for only 60. "I said to myself, 'Carl, what have you done? What made you come here?'"

Fifty-five students proceeded to second year and of those 22 qualified as doctors. Having started studying medicine at a more mature age, he said that he had a different attitude to his studies, with little time for extracurricular activities. After qualifying, Bruns worked as a district surgeon in Vanderbijl Park until 1988, when he and his wife moved to Umhlanga. Not content with retirement, he offered his services at Addington Hospital, where he worked until 2013. Despite describing his work as sometimes including that which no one else wanted to do, he has many happy memories of his time there.

His two children, Glenda (now Mendes) and Brent, were born while he was at Trinity College. Both have now immigrated to Australia and he has four grandchildren. He credits his late wife for their success. His daughter works with autistic children, and his son is a human resources manager at a foundry. Bruns visits them regularly.

Bruns still lives in Umhlanga. He misses his late wife immensely but draws strength from his strong faith, driving himself to church every Sunday.

He says that, amongst his life experiences, his time at the then-University of Natal is one of the most valued.

"I treasure and display my BSc (Agric) certificate with pride and recall my days at Oribi as being the best and most carefree in my life."

OUT & ABOUT

UKZN's Alumni Office organised a number of well-attended events in different parts of the world in the past year.

Australia and New Zealand

Three events for alumni took place during the period 10 – 14 August 2015 in Australia and New Zealand. The first was at the Mantra on Murray Hotel in Perth, while the second was held at The Oaks Hotel in Sydney and the third at The Spencer on Byron Hotel in Auckland. More than 100 alumni attended these events and were very pleased to have the opportunity to meet the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Albert van Jaarsveld and to receive an update on their *alma mater*. Executive Director of Corporate Relations, Mr Lesiba Seshoka was also present. Information packages as well as corporate gifts were handed out and snacks and drinks were served. Special thanks to Ms Ruth Thornton and Ms Tracy Gers who assisted in co-ordinating the events in Australia and New Zealand, respectively. For a copy of Dr van Jaarsveld's presentation made during these events please visit: http://alumniaffairs.ukzn.ac.za/Files/vcspeech.pdf

Scottburgh, KwaZulu-Natal

Alumni from the KwaZulu-Natal South Coast were hosted at a networking and information-sharing lunch at The Blue Marlin Hotel in Scottburgh on 29 August 2015. Dr van Jaarsveld, Mr Andre Young (Convocation Executive member) and representatives from Alumni Relations and the UKZN Foundation were on hand to interact with guests. Mr Young welcomed all present and noted the importance of alumni connecting with their *alma mater*. He highlighted achievements at UKZN over the past decade and encouraged everyone to make a meaningful contribution to the University in whichever way they could. Dr van Jaarsveld provided a comprehensive overview of the University since the merger and highlighted current developments and future/planned initiatives as well as the importance of giving back to the University. His presentation was very well received by the 50 graduates who attended the lunch and many expressed great pleasure in meeting him. Operations Manager at the UKZN Foundation, Dr Rudi Kimmie gave the Vote of Thanks and reiterated the call made by Dr van Jaarsveld and Mr Young for graduates to seriously consider making a donation to the University. Amidst much networking and reminiscing, a Lucky Draw was held with prizes donated by the UKZN Foundation. Information packages were also distributed.

Pietermaritzburg

UKZN alumni based in Pietermaritzburg and surrounding areas enjoyed meeting Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr van Jaarsveld at a lunch on 3 October 2015. Held at the Protea Hilton Hotel, the function enabled alumni and friends of the University to network and share information. Dr van Jaarsveld provided a comprehensive overview of the University since the merger and highlighted current developments, future/planned initiatives and the importance of giving back to the University. His presentation was very well received by the 90 graduates who attended the lunch and many expressed great pleasure in meeting him. President of Convocation, Mr Fanle Sibisi highlighted the University's achievements and the role all alumni can play in promoting and supporting its work. He encouraged alumni to donate to the University and stressed that the amount donated by each person is not the issue as collectively all donations will add up to a sizeable amount. Mrs Fiona Bulman, Ms Thembeka Dlungwane and Mr Andre Young – all Convocation Executive Committee members – also attended the lunch and interacted with fellow alumni. Operations Manager at the UKZN Foundation, Dr Rudi Kimmie was the very competent Master of Ceremonies. The three-course buffet lunch, a Lucky Draw with prizes donated by the UKZN Foundation and the distribution of UKZN marketing material were well received by all.

Student Chapters 2015

These meetings were co-ordinated by the Alumni Relations office and were attended by more than 150 students. The goal of the Chapter meetings is to give students an opportunity to engage with industry experts on skills development, career prospects and other opportunities available to them when they obtain their qualifications and join the work force. A Chapter meeting for Health Sciences: Nursing students was held on the Howard College campus on 26 October 2015. Ms Bavelile Hlongwa addressed the group on behalf of Convex. The meeting for Health Sciences: Anatomy students on the Westville campus on 28 October was addressed by Mr Calvin Thomas, also on behalf of Convex, while Mr Andre Young represented Convex at the Chapter meeting for Health Sciences students on the Westville campus on 4 November.

Durban Alumni Association

The Durban Alumni Association organises talks and outings to various places of interest for its members. A tour of the Emmanuel Cathedral and the Denis Hurley Centre took place on 22 August 2015 and a talk on Thomas Baines that was attended by 55 people was presented by Professor Lindy Stiebel on 19 October. The Association's End-of-Year Lunch was held on 4 December 2015 at the Durban Country Club. The 50 guests (including alumni and friends) were impressed by the variety of dishes on offer and the musical talent of fellow alumnus and pianist, Barry Edwards. Chairman of the Association, Robin Ralfe welcomed guests. A Lucky Draw provided a number of attendees with UKZN memorabilia. The Lunch is an annual event on the Association's calendar and provides friends with an opportunity to get together to catch-up on news and remember the good times had at the University. The Guest Speaker at the Association's AGM on 22 February 2016 was fellow alumnus, Mr Robin Opperman, Creative Director of Umcebo Designs. The meeting that was held on the Howard College campus was chaired by Mr Hugh Thompson (Durban Alumni Association Committee member) in the absence of the Chair, Mr Robin Ralfe. Refreshments were served after the talk.

London

The annual function of UKZN's Alumnus Association in Europe was held at South Africa House in central London on 9 September 2015. The more than 100 alumni that attended were very pleased to return to South Africa House for this event after a break of almost four years and this was made all the more special by the fact that Dr van Jaarsveld was the Guest Speaker. Chair of the Alumnus Association in Europe, Mr Bruno van Dyk welcomed guests and thanked the previous Chair, Ms Caroline Harben for her dedication to the Association for more than a decade. He also introduced the speakers. President and Chair of Convocation, Mr Fanle Sibisi highlighted UKZN's achievements over the past decade and stressed the need for graduates to "give-back" to their *alma mater*. Dr van Jaarsveld's address titled: "UKZN's past, the present and the prospects for the Institution into the future" comprehensively dealt with achievements and developments since 2004, current developments and statistics and his plans for the Institution over the next five years. He reiterated Mr Sibisi's request that graduates consider donating to the University. Executive Director of Corporate Relations at UKZN, Mr Lesiba Seshoka thanked everyone for attending and the speakers and Mr van Dyk. South African canapés and drinks were served and guests were able to network and catch up with fellow graduates. A Lucky Draw was held and gifts from the UKZN Foundation were presented to eight lucky winners. Folders with the latest UKZN information and UKZN mementos were distributed, allowing attendees to read about their *alma mater* at their leisure. The event proved a wonderful opportunity all round for Dr van Jaarsveld to connect with our graduates in England.

Graduation 2016

Graduation packages were personally distributed by Alumni Relations and UKZN Foundation staff members to each graduate at all Graduation ceremonies. The packages included a joint congratulatory letter from President of Convocation, Mr Fanle Sibisi and Alumni Relations Manager, Mr Finn Christensen; a form for graduates to update their particulars, information from the UKZN Foundation and the ABSA Affinity Card and a UKZN Graduate sticker.

Film Preview Screening

The 120 alumni who attended the preview screening of *The Keeping Room* on 22 June 2016 at Musgrave Centre, Durban thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They were officially welcomed by Ms Normah Zondo (Director: University Relations) and there were nine lucky draw winners. Each attendee received a UKZN information package as well as refreshments while watching the film. Feedback has been extremely positive and requests have been received to hold regular "movie evenings".

Durban Alumnus Dinner

This event took the form of a dinner with talks at the Hilton Hotel in Durban on 9 April 2016. It was an enjoyable opportunity for more than 100 alumni, donors and friends of UKZN to renew old acquaintances, meet fellow alumni and be updated on developments at their *alma mater*. Guests were extremely pleased to meet the Vice-Chancellor, Dr van Jaarsveld who spoke on the highlights of the Institution since the merger, current developments (including the April 2016 graduations) and his vision for the future. President of Convocation, Mr Fanle Sibisi highlighted recent developments at the University, encouraged attendees to support the University financially and created awareness of upcoming events such as the Convocation AGM. All attendees went home with information packs containing a selection of University publications and a corporate gift. Winners of the Lucky Draw received gifts donated by the UKZN Foundation.

Cape Town Alumnus Dinner

The Alumni Relations office co-ordinated an alumnus and donor get-together in Cape Town on 12 March 2016. The annual event at the Cellars Hohenort hotel in Constantia took the form of an excellent three-course dinner and an entertaining and an informative talk by fellow alumnus and Convocation awardee, Professor Jay Pather. It provided an enjoyable opportunity for alumni, donors and friends of UKZN to renew old acquaintances, meet fellow alumni and be updated on developments at their *alma mater*. Professor Pather's presentation titled: "Reflections, the Arts in a transforming society, four decades on" conveyed a strong message about the role and adaptation of art in the country and will soon be available on the Alumni website. President of Convocation, Mr Fanle Sibisi highlighted recent developments at the University, and encouraged attendees to support the University financially, as well as creating awareness of upcoming events such as the Convocation AGM. Then Executive Director of the UKZN Foundation, Mrs Jane Meyerowitz reiterated Mr Sibisi's request to alumni to make donations, citing the example of how support from attendees at the 2015 Cape Town alumnus dinner assisted a Medical student to successfully complete a year of study. All attendees went home with information packs containing a selection of University publications and a corporate gift. The three winners of the Lucky Draw received gifts donated by the UKZN Foundation.

Swaziland

A group of 51 alumni from all over Swaziland came together on 23 July 2016 for lunch and information sharing at The George Hotel in Manzini. They thoroughly enjoyed swopping stories of their University experiences and exchanging contact details. A range of professions were represented, including agriculturalists, teachers/lecturers, lawyers and medical practitioners. The graduates were welcomed by Ms Normah Zondo (Director of University Relations) who also introduced the Guest Speakers, Mr Fanle Sibisi (President of Convocation) and Professor Anesh Singh (Executive Director of the UKZN Foundation). Both encouraged the attendees to "give back" to their *alma mater* and a number did just that through completing the "pledge forms" in the information packages given out at the event. Professor Singh gave a comprehensive overview of current developments at the University as well as information on student numbers, current ranking and research. Questions to the speakers included a number on registration and funding procedures for international students as many of the attendees are interested in undertaking postgraduate studies at UKZN. Those present requested that the Alumni Relations Office co-ordinate a similar event in the not too distant future.

Richards Bay

UKZN alumni on the KwaZulu-Natal North Coast re-connected with their *alma mater* and fellow past students at a lunch at the Protea Hotel Waterfront in Richards Bay on 11 June 2016. The lunch was a reunion, networking and information sharing event for alumni and friends of the University. Promoting UKZN's ongoing interventions, developments and achievements, Vice-Chancellor and Principal Dr Albert van Jaarsveld updated guests on the latest developments taking place at the University. He spoke about the many activities and projects being undertaken to promote relationships and highlighted numerous achievements, including the current international ranking the University enjoys. Alumni enjoyed the opportunity to meet and engage with the Vice-Chancellor. Executive Director of the UKZN Foundation Professor Anesh Singh addressed the gathering on the various options available for alumni to give back to the University and encouraged all graduates to consider contributing financially. Dr Rosemary Sibanda of the College of Law and Management Studies presented a comprehensive overview of the programmes available at the Graduate School of Business and Leadership. There was considerable interest in the literature available on the courses. The 75 alumni enjoyed the buffet lunch and Lucky Draw.

Would you like the advantages and convenience of an Absa Gold Credit Card and show allegiance to the University of KwaZulu-Natal at the same time?

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UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL
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Visit **http://alumniaffairs.ukzn.ac.za/UKZNalumnicard/absacreditcard.aspx** for terms and conditions.

THE ALUMNI BENEFIT CARD

FOR USE AT ANY UKZN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

The alumni of the University of KwaZulu-Natal pay only half the subscription fees at the library when they produce an Alumni Benefit Card. This card can be obtained directly from the Alumni Relations office on the Howard College Campus or through any one of the five campus libraries. We require two identity photos.

Physical Address:
Alumni Relations Department, University of KwaZulu-Natal, 232 Mazisi-Kunene Avenue (King George V Avenue), Howard College campus, Durban 4041.

Contact: Desiree Govender
email: govenderd@ukzn.ac.za
Phone: +27 (0)31 260 2958

CONTACTS & SOCIAL MEDIA

UKZN US & UK Alumni Facebook Groups

UKZN's Alumni Relations office has created two country specific Facebook groups exclusively for graduates based in the US and UK.

The sites will allow graduates to interact with one another, access information on and from their *alma mater* and to receive invitations to events, suggest get-togethers and create a vibrant UKZN graduate network in these countries.

Each group will be administered/monitored by Ms Desiree Govender, UKZN Alumni Relations. We encourage you to interact with one another and our office and to spread the word to other UKZN alumni about these sites. Should you require any further information, please contact the Alumni Relations office on email: *alumni@ukzn.ac.za* or *govenderd@ukzn.ac.za*. Ideas/suggestions on how to improve the site are most welcome.

Please go to: ***https://www.facebook.com/desiree.govender.9*** and send Desiree a friend request. She will accept your invitation and add you to the US or UK Group.

LinkedIn

https://www.linkedin.com/in/ukzn-alumni-a3007826

Alumni Relations Office

Address: 232 Mazisi-Kunene Avenue (King George V Avenue), Howard College campus, Durban 4041.
Phone: +27 (0)31 260 2958/2016/2823
Fax: +27 (0)31 260 2236
Email: *alumni@ukzn.ac.za*
Web Address: *http://alumniaffairs.ukzn.ac.za*

Find-A-Friend

Get in touch with old University classmates and friends! If you wish to contact a former university friend, try searching the Find-a-Friend alumni directory: ***http://un.kidzafrica.co.za/FindAFriend***. If you experience any problems, please contact the Alumni office – Email: ***alumni@ukzn.ac.za***

Alumni Career Portal

The Alumni Relations Office is delighted to provide a career "Super-Highway" for our alumni, between yourselves and the top companies in South Africa. This portal will provide current high profile jobs and career opportunities for you to consider, and apply directly to: ***http://alumniaffairs.ukzn.ac.za/Careers.aspx***

SAVE THE DATE

15 October 2016
Pietermaritzburg Alumnus Lunch

2 December 2016
Durban Alumni Association End-of-Year Lunch

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL
INYUVESI YAKWAZULU-NATALI

ALUMNI BENEFITS

THE ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICE BUILDS AND MAINTAINS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY AND ALUMNI AND OFFERS THE FOLLOWING:

1. ***An active Durban Alumni Association*** – talks and outings are arranged on a regular basis for graduates in KwaZulu-Natal. The form may be downloaded at: *http://alumniaffairs.ukzn.ac.za/Libraries/DAA_2016/DURBAN_ALUMNI_ASSOCIATION_SUBCRIPTION_FORM_2016.sflb.ashx*

2. ***An Alumnus Benefit card*** – allowing all UKZN graduates access to any UKZN library at 50% the normal annual fee. This card can be obtained directly from the Alumni Relations office (Howard College campus) or through any one of the five campus libraries. We require two identity photos. Contact: Desiree Govender on Email: *govenderd@ukzn.ac.za* or Telephone: +27(0)31 260 2958.

3. ***Regular updates and information on UKZN developments and activities*** – via our monthly online/electronic newsletter, email, the alumni website as well as Facebook and Twitter. An annual alumnus publication (*UKZNTOUCH*) is also posted to alumni. Alumni are most welcome to make contact via the Alumni Relations' dedicated email address *(alumni@ukzn.ac.za)* should they require University-related information.

4. ***Invitations to exclusive events held both on and off campus.*** A number of annual off-campus events are co-ordinated across South Africa and internationally (the UK, Australia, New Zealand and the USA). These events offer excellent networking opportunities for graduates and the chance to receive updates on their *alma mater.*

5. ***The Alumni Relations office has UKZN contacts in four countries which have high concentrations of UKZN alumni.*** Please see list below of the names and contact details.
   UK: Bruno van Dyk, Chairperson: Alumnus Association, Europe. Email: *bruno.v.dyk@gmail.com*
   New Zealand: Tracy Gers. Email: *tracy.gers@familtyriva.net.nz* and Cecilia Davison. Email: *dcdavison@xtra.co.nz*
   Australia: Ruth Thornton. Email: *ruth.thornton20@gmail.com*
   USA: Richard Paverd. Email: *Richard@paverd.com*

6. ***A daily updated career portal is available for our graduates.*** The Alumni Relations Office provides a career 'Super-Highway' for our alumni, between yourselves and the top companies in South Africa – including consulting and auditing firms, banks, and blue chip corporations. This portal will provide current high profile jobs and career opportunities for you to consider, and apply directly to. The alumni career portal serves to:
   - Give you visibility to a multitude of job opportunities in the market in a single place so that you don't need to consult different sources;
   - Name the different companies that are employing so that you know exactly who you are applying to;
   - Allow you to apply directly to the employer by linking you directly into their career site.

   To access the alumni career portal visit: *http://alumniaffairs.ukzn.ac.za/Careers.aspx*

7. ***Online update facility is available for easy access.*** All graduates are encouraged to stay in touch with the Alumni Relations office by updating their contact details, especially mobile numbers and email addresses. Any information is strictly confidential, and will only be used by UKZN. If you experience any technical problems or are unable to find your name, please contact the Alumni Relations office at *alumni@ukzn.ac.za* . Update your details online at *http://devman.ukzn.ac.za/alumni/web/findme/*

8. ***Find-a-Friend facility*** – this alumni directory, accessed via our website, enables graduates to make contact with fellow graduates with whom they have lost contact. If you experience any problems, please contact the Alumni office – Email: *alumni@ukzn.ac.za*

9. ***Absa Affinity gold credit card for graduates.*** This UKZN credit card gives you the advantages of an Absa Gold Credit Card while still showing your allegiance to the University of KwaZulu-Natal. With your Gold Affinity credit card you receive Absa Rewards, you'll earn Cash Rewards, and it also offers you access to Bidvest Airport Lounges at preferential rates. To support your University, Absa will pay a percentage of the total turnover on your UKZN Credit Card back to the University, at no extra cost to you. The UKZN Credit Card could be the right choice if you:
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UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL
INYUVESI YAKWAZULU-NATALI

DURBAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SUBSCRIPTION FORM – 2016

DETAILS OF PRINCIPAL MEMBER

Surname:_____ First Name:_____
Identity Number: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Please cross (X) the relevant box below:

Membership Type:	University of KwaZulu-Natal **GRADUATE** Membership	
	AFFILIATED Membership	

Address: _____
_____ Postal Code: _____
Telephone: Home: _____ Work: _____
Fax: _____ Cell: _____
Email: _____

DETAILS OF ADDITIONAL MEMBER

Surname:_____ First Names:_____
Identity Number:_____ Date of Birth: _____
Please cross (X) the relevant box below:

Membership Type:	University of KwaZulu-Natal **GRADUATE** Membership	
	AFFILIATED Membership	

Address: _____
_____ Postal Code: _____
Telephone: Home: _____ Work: _____
Fax: _____ Cell: _____
Email: _____

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	COST PER PERSON	TOTAL COST
Principal Member	**R50. 00**	
Additional Member	**R50. 00**	
TOTAL		**R**

Please complete the above form and return with payment: (CHEQUES to be made payable to: **University of KwaZulu-Natal** , Durban Alumni Association) **DIRECT DEPOSITS:** Standard Bank, Account No.: 053080998 , Branch Code: 045426, Reference: Your Name & **8101 30063**

Please Return to: Nomcebo Msweli, Alumni Relations Office,
University of KwaZulu-Natal, Howard College Campus, Durban, 4041
Telephone: 031 260 2016, Email: mswelin@ukzn.ac.za

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL
INYUVESI YAKWAZULU-NATALI

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Identity Number: _____ Student Number: _____

Surname: _____ Maiden Name: _____

First Names: _____

Postal Address: _____

Post Code: _____ Province: _____

Home Telephone Number: _____ Cell: _____

Email address: _____

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

Campus attended (please tick): Howard College☐ Pietermaritzburg☐ Edgewood☐
Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine☐ Westville☐

Residence at University: _____

Employer: _____ Position Held: _____

Work Telephone Number: _____ Email address: _____

Fax Number: _____ Direct Line: _____

Name of Spouse (***if a graduate of this University***): _____

Cell: _____ Email address: _____

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

Campus attended (please tick): Howard College☐ Pietermaritzburg☐ Edgewood☐
Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine☐ Westville☐

Please return to: Desiree Govender

Alumni Relations
University of KwaZulu-Natal, Howard College Campus, 232 Mazisi-Kunene Avenue, Durban 4041
Tel: (031) 260 2958, Fax (031) 260 2236 or Email: govenderd@ukzn.ac.za or alumni@ukzn.ac.za

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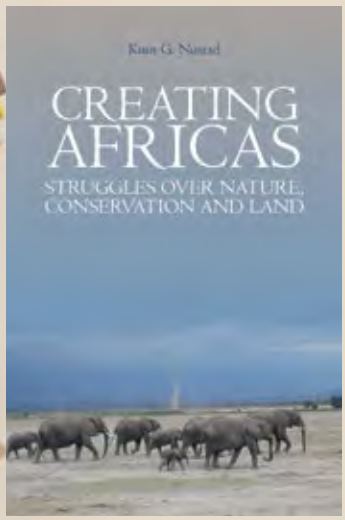
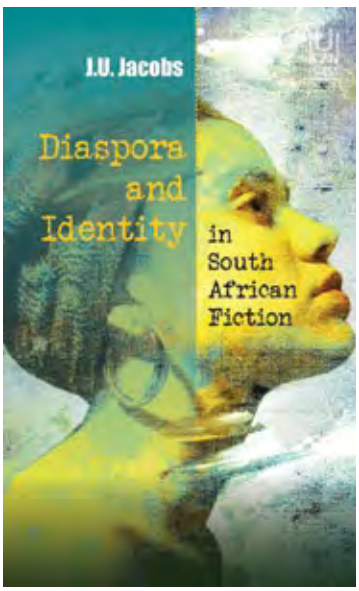


Creating Africas

Struggles over Nature, Conservation and Land

Knut G. Nustad

In Africa, conflicts between protected areas for fauna and flora and their surrounding human populations continue despite years spent trying to find an accommodation between the needs of both. *Creating Africas* investigates the roots of the current conservation boom, demonstrates that it is part of the struggle over definitions of realities, and examines the global effects of this struggle. The author focuses on the first UNESCO World Heritage Site in South Africa, the iSimangaliso (St. Lucia) Wetland Park, where conservation interests are pitted against those of industrial forestry, commercial farming and local communities that are struggling to have their land returned to them. They all seek to create and define their own realities with very different resources at their disposal. These multiple, often competing realities involve a range of different human and non-human actors. The author argues that in order to avoid being accused of neo-colonial land grabbing, the conservation lobby will have to find a way of imagining nature and protection that includes people.

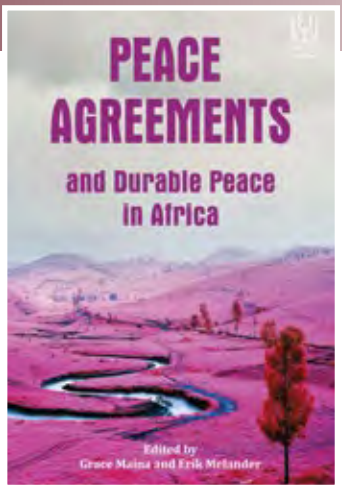


Diaspora and Identity in South African Fiction

J.U. Jacobs

South African identities, as they are represented in the contemporary South African novel, are not homogeneous but fractured and often conflicted: African, Afrikaner, 'Coloured', English, and Indian – none can be regarded as rooted or pure, whatever essentialist claims members of these various ethnic and cultural communities might want to make for them. All of them, this book argues, are deeply divided and have arisen, directly or indirectly, out of the experience of diasporic displacement, migration and relocation, from the colonial, African and Indian diasporas to present-day migrations into and out of South Africa and diasporic dislocations within Africa.

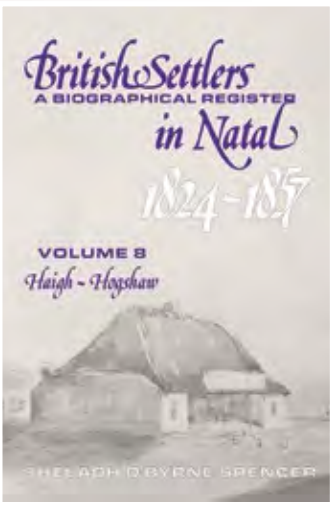
This study of 20 works by 12 contemporary South African novelists – Breyten Breytenbach, J.M. Coetzee, Nadine Gordimer, Aziz Hassim, Michiel Heyns, Elsa Joubert, Zakes Mda, Njabulo S. Ndebele, Karel Schoeman, Patricia Schonstein Pinnock, Ivan Vladislaviç and Zoë Wicomb – shows how diaspora is a dominant theme in contemporary South African fiction, and the diasporic subject its most recognisable figure.



Peace Agreements and Durable Peace in Africa

Edited by Grace Maina and Erik Melander

Peace agreements have become necessary and legitimate tools for resolving conflicts and bringing about durable peace. This book adds to already existing knowledge on peace agreements by carefully analysing African experiences of peace processes to identify how these can be enhanced in order to ensure positive and sustainable peace in strife-ridden areas. Case studies in eight African countries provide readers with a unique opportunity to study conflicts on the continent and to understand the factors that promote or undermine the success of peace agreements. The agreements under study include those of Angola, Burundi, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda. The selection is based on the fact that they were finalised prior to 2005 and therefore allow for a richer analysis of their successes and shortfalls. The eight case studies by both academics and practitioners offer in-depth insight on peacemaking in order to identify lessons and inform better practice in articulating and implementing peace agreements in Africa.



British Settlers in Natal 1824-1857:

A Biographical Register
Volume 8
Haigh–Hogshaw

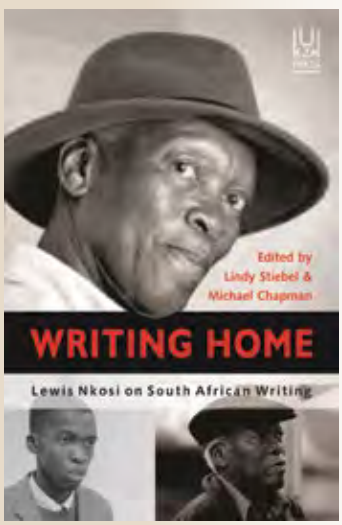
Shelagh O'Byrne Spencer

Since 1963 Shelagh O'Byrne Spencer has been engaged in a massive research project to identify the emigrants who came to Natal from Britain before 1858, and to collect biographical material on them and their children. Although the work focuses on emigrants who came to settle in Natal, its interest and usefulness are not confined to this province as some of the new Natalians, and many of the next generation, moved on to the inland republics, to the Cape Colony or to Australia. Each of the entries contains biographical information, a list of the settlers' children and a list of sources. The biographies range in length from a few lines to several pages; the list of children includes the dates of their births and deaths and details of their marriages.

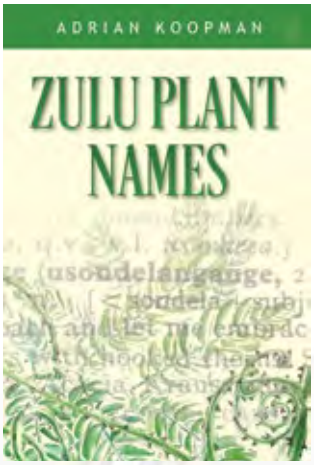
Writing Home

Lewis Nkosi on South African Writing

Edited by Lindy Stiebel and Michael Chapman



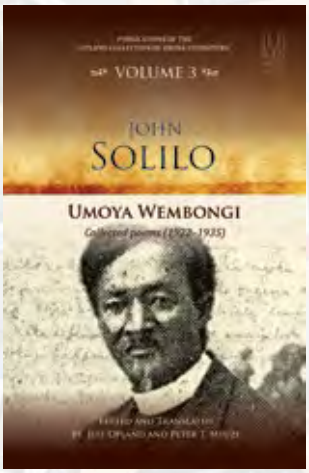
Lewis Nkosi's insights into South African literature, culture and society first appeared in the 1950s, when the 'new' urban African in Sophiatown and in *Drum* magazine mockingly opposed then Prime Minister H.F. Verwoerd's Bantu retribalisation policies. Before his death in 2010, Nkosi focused on the literary-cultural challenges of post-Mandela times. Having lived for 40 years in exile, he returned to South Africa, intermittently, after the unbannings of 1990. His critical eye, however, never for long left the home scene. Hence, the title of this selection of his articles, essays and reviews, *Writing Home*. Nkosi assesses a range of leading writers, including Herman Charles Bosman, Breyten Breytenbach, J.M. Coetzee, Athol Fugard, Nadine Gordimer, Bessie Head, Alex La Guma, Bloke Modisane, Es'kia Mphahlele, Nat Nakasa, Njabulo S. Ndebele, Alan Paton and Can Themba. Combining the journalist's penchant for the human-interest story with astute analysis, his ideas, observations and insights are as fresh today as when he began his 60-year career as a writer and critic.



Zulu Plant Names

Adrian Koopman

In this book Adrian Koopman details the complex relationship between plants, the Zulu language and Zulu culture. Zulu plant names do not just identify plants, they tell us a lot more about the plant, or how it is perceived or used in the Zulu culture. For example, the plant name *umhlulambazo* ('what defeats the axe') tells us that this is a tree with hard, dense wood, and that *usondelangange* ('come closer so I can embrace you') is a tree with large thorns that snag the passer-by. In a similar vein, both *umakuphole* ('let it cool down') and *icishamlilo* ('put out the fire') refer to plants that are used medicinally to treat fevers and inflammations. Plants used as the base of love-charms have names that are particularly colourful, such as *unginakile* ('she has noticed me'), *uvelabahleke* ('appear and they smile') and the wonderfully named *ungcingci-wafika-umntakwethu* ('how happy I am that you have arrived, my sweetheart!'). And then there are those plant names that are just plain intriguing, if not mystifying: *umakhandakansele* ('the heads of Mr Ratel'), *isandlasonwabu* ('hand of a chameleon'), *intombikayibhinci* ('the girl does not wear clothes') and *ukhuningomile* ('piece of firewood, I am thirsty').



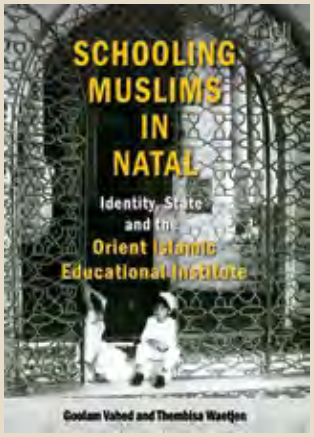
John Solilo Umoya Wembongi

Collected poems (1922-1935)

Edited and translated by Jeff Opland and Peter T. Mtuze

Publications of the Opland Collection of Xhosa Literature, Volume 3

For 40 years, between 1900 and 1939, John Solilo (1864–1940) was a prolific contributor to Xhosa-language newspapers under his own name and under the pseudonyms *Mde-ngelimi* (Master Wordsmith) and *Kwanguye* (It's Still Him). He submitted letters and articles on a variety of issues, local news reports from Cradock and Uitenhage, and a considerable body of poetry. Solilo's major literary contribution was his collection of poems entitled *Izala*, published in 1925, the earliest volume of poetry by a single author in the history of Xhosa literature. His poetry was inspired by *umoya wembongi*, the spirit of the *imbongi*, the praise poet whose stirring declamations roused his audiences to action or contemplation. *Izala* has long been out of print and the editors hope to revive John Solilo's reputation as a poet, and to establish his status as a pre-eminent Xhosa author.

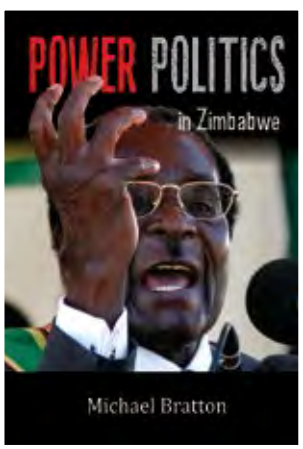


Schooling Muslims in Natal

Identity, State and the Orient Islamic Educational Institute

Edited by Goolam Vahed and Thembisa Waetjen

The history of Muslim education in the east coast region of South Africa is the story of ongoing struggles by an immigrant religious minority under successive, exclusionary forms of state. This book traces the labours and fortunes of a set of progressive idealists who, mobilising merchant capital, transoceanic networks and informal political influence, established the Orient Islamic Educational Institute in 1943 to found schools and promote a secular curriculum that could be integrated with Islamic teaching. Through the story of their Durban flagship project – the Orient Islamic School – it provides a fascinating account of the changing politics of religious identity, education and citizenship in South Africa. From the late nineteenth century, Gujarati Muslim merchants settling in Natal built mosques and madressas; their progeny carried on the strong traditions of community patronage and civic leadership. Aligned to Gandhi's Congress initiatives for Indian civic recognition, they worked across differences to champion modern education for a continually ghettoised diaspora. This is a story of confrontation, co-operation and compromise by an officially marginalised but still powerful set of 'founding fathers', and their centrality in histories of education, urban space and Muslim identity in this region of Africa.



Power Politics in Zimbabwe

Michael Bratton

Zimbabwe's July 2013 election brought the country's 'inclusive' power-sharing interlude to an end and installed Robert Mugabe and ZANU-PF for yet another – its seventh – term. Why? What explains the resilience of authoritarian rule in Zimbabwe? Tracing the country's elusive search for a legitimate political settlement across the decades, the author offers a careful analysis of the failed power-sharing experiment, an account of its institutional origins and an explanation of its demise. In the process, he explores key challenges of political transition: constitution making, elections, security sector reform and transitional justice.

In 2016 the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) recognised UKZN's achievement of Most Published Output Units in South Africa (1708.61) for 2014, the third consecutive year the University had attained this distinction.

So if you're looking for more than just a university, a place where inspiration thrives, and where academics and students reach new heights every day, then join us at UKZN.

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