

**03 April 2014**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **62.3% WOMEN TO GRADUATE AT UKZN**

***“FIVE LEADING INDIVIDUALS TO RECEIVE HONORARY DOCTORATES”***

The University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) will confer an impressive 10 081 degrees at its 21 graduation ceremonies to be held on its Westville and Pietermaritzburg campuses, commencing **Monday, 7 April** and ending on **Tuesday, 15 April**.

A notable 6 282 (62.3 percent) of the graduands are women while 284 will graduate *cum laude* and 117, *summa cum laude*. About 4785 degrees will be conferred in the College of Humanities, 1938 degrees in the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science, 942 in the College of Health Sciences and 2416 in the College of Law and Management Studies.

Furthermore, a total of 211 doctoral degrees will be conferred and some 80 graduands with disabilities will be capped.

UKZN will honour five leading South Africans, among them, Pieter-Dirk Uys, for their outstanding contributions in science, literature, arts, culture and social sciences. Through their innovation, expertise and intellect in their respective fields the honorary graduands have changed the lives of people both in South Africa and globally.

Two academics will receive the University’s Distinguished Teachers’ Award for teaching excellence. They are Professor Sarojini Nadar in the School of Religion, Philosophy and Classics and Professor Simon Mukwembi in the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science.

Two prominent academics; Professor Christine Stilwell, Emeritus Professor in the School of Social Sciences and Professor Jonathan Draper, senior Professor in the School of Theology, will be made Fellows of UKZN. University Fellowships are conferred annually on outstanding academics for research excellence and distinguished academic achievement.

Eminent guest speakers are: The Vice-Chancellor of the Greater University of Zimbabwe, Professor Rungano Jonas Zvobgo; Nedbank Chair in Accountancy at the University of Limpopo, Professor Cosmas Ambe; and Deputy President of the Supreme Court of Appeal in Bloemfontein, Justice Khayelihle Kenneth Mthiyane.

Justice Mthiyane will speak on *'Access to Justice: Reflections on the contribution made by Victoria and Griffiths Mxenge to the promotion of Access to Justice'* and Professor Ambe will speak on, *'Ethical leadership and corporate citizenship in the context of King III code of corporate governance'*.

Honorary Doctorates will be conferred on:

- **Dr Bernard Lewis Fanaroff**, for his notable contribution to South Africa's successful bid to host the multi-billion euro telescope initiative and in securing South Africa's place in global "megascience" projects.
- Master Printmaker, **Malcolm Christian** for his dedication in nurturing South African artists from disadvantaged communities.
- Industrial Chemist, **Basil Kransdorff** for the role he has played in redressing micro-nutrient deficiencies among the poor by co-inventing an innovative and low-cost nutritional product – e'Pap Technologies .
- International conservationist **Andrew Kirkwood Muir**; for his ingenuity in using nature as a tool for social change.
- And Satiric playwright performer and activist **Pieter-Dirk Uys**, for his success in encouraging a more tolerant and more aware society.

\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\*

**Issued by:**

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## FACT FILE:

### The Honorary doctorate awards will be made in two categories:

- **Category 1** – Distinguished services in the advancement of one or more of the branches of learning recognised by the University, and
  - **Category 2** – A personal record of distinguished service and/or achievement in some other field of endeavour (e.g. the advancement of democracy and social justice, social service, community leadership, economic enterprise, public affairs, philanthropy, the performing and creative arts).
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## RECIPIENTS

### Andrew Kirkwood Muir (Doctor of Social Science) in category 2

**(Monday, 7 April – 14H30 - Westville)**

Executive director of the Wilderness Foundation, Andrew Muir is one of South Africa's most influential conservationists and social entrepreneurs. He has been nationally and internationally recognised for his success in integrating conservation programmes with social and development interventions – in other words, using nature as a tool for social change.

Muir has conceived and implemented a range of programmes aimed at social and environmental sustainability, which have given over 120,000 South Africans, mainly from disadvantaged communities, the opportunity to experience the wilderness, to identify with their natural heritage, and to understand the role of nature in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Many of these youngsters have gone on to pursue careers in conservation.

For his life-long commitment to both social justice and conservation, the University of KwaZulu-Natal is pleased to award Andrew Kirkwood Muir the Degree of Doctor of Social Science *honoris causa*.

**Pieter-Dirk Uys (Doctor of Literature) in category 2**

**(Tuesday, 8 April – 10h00 - Westville)**

Pieter-Dirk Uys has been nationally and internationally recognised for his work in theatre as a satiric playwright-performer and for his Aids activism. A key cultural activist and campaigner for a more tolerant and more aware society, Uys already has a strong connection to UKZN: the Pieter-Dirk Uys Archival collection has been housed by the university since 1994 and serves as a constant source of material for local and international researchers.

As an author, actor and activist, Uys has been a fearless critic of injustice in South Africa and an ardent campaigner for an open, tolerant and democratic society for over four decades.

Using humour as a weapon, Uys consistently exposed the absurdities and iniquities of apartheid, moving on, post-1994, to work at the frontline of HIV/AIDS activism, building awareness of the disease and challenging the stigma associated with it.

For his exceptional ability to combine creativity with social activism; for his lived commitment to tolerance and democracy; and for his enduring optimism and hope for his country and its people, the University of KwaZulu-Natal is pleased to award Pieter-Dirk Uys its highest honour, the Degree of Doctor of Literature *honoris causa*.

**Dr Bernard Lewis Fanaroff (Doctor of Science) in category 1**

**(Wednesday, 9 April – 14h30 – Westville)**

Dr Bernard Fanaroff is an internationally respected figure known for his sustained contributions to developing a strong base in various branches of science and its applications in South Africa. In his current capacity as project director of the South African Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Telescope Project, Dr Bernard Fanaroff made a notable contribution to South Africa's successful bid to host the multi-billion euro telescope initiative and secure South Africa's place in global "megascience" projects.

The preparation of the SKA proposal required a large amount of work, necessitating the integration of information across a wide range of disciplines – a process which Fanaroff

orchestrated with considerable efficacy. In addition to the SKA site bid process, Fanaroff initiated an ambitious programme to build a precursor to the SKA, now called the MeerKAT, which will be one of the most powerful radio telescopes in the world prior to the construction of the SKA itself.

For his contributions to the advancement of science, and his commitment to the advancement of South Africa and its people, UKZN is pleased to award Bernard Lewis Fanaroff the Degree of Doctor of Science *honoris causa*.

### **Basil Kransdorff (Doctor of Science) in category 2**

**(Thursday, 10 April – 10h00 - Westville)**

Industrial chemist, social entrepreneur and CEO of Econocom Foods, Basil Kransdorff is the co-inventor (with his wife Rose Grealy Kransdorff) of an innovative and low-cost nutritional product – e’Pap Technologies – aimed at redressing micro-nutrient deficiencies in marginalised and poorer populations.

Kransdorff’s ultimate intention to end poverty saw him establish a social rather than a commercial enterprise through which to reach vulnerable groups with his product. As CEO of Econocom Foods he lobbies for affordable, effective bio-available nutrition, thereby shifting the traditional emphasis away from quantity of food to *quality* of food; in other words, food with high and appropriate nutrient value. Kransdorff’s ultimate aim is a food system in which all decisions are geared towards achieving affordable nutrient repleteness – a holistic approach that includes changing the way food is grown, processed and prepared. For his commitment to ending the “hidden hunger” that threatens the health and wellbeing of millions of individuals, and the social and economic development of communities, UKZN awards Basil Kransdorff the Degree of Doctor of Science *honoris causa*.

### **Malcolm Christian (Doctor of Literature) in category 2**

**(Monday, 14 April – 19h00 – PMB)**

Lecturer and master printmaker Malcolm Christian has for nearly three decades played a significant role in nurturing South African artists from disadvantaged communities. Mr

Christian created opportunities – particularly for those artists in rural areas – where none had previously existed, thereby developing a cohort of African artists who might otherwise have remained unknown. After graduating in 1984 with a Masters Degree in Fine Art from the former University of Natal, Christian established the Caversham Press in 1985 as an open access comprehensive professional printmaking facility for established and emerging artists in South Africa and abroad. Christian went on to found the Caversham Educational Trust in 1993 which formalised the print-based educational programme and aimed at nurturing emergent artists from disadvantaged backgrounds.

For his commitment to the value of human creativity, the common bonds of humanity and the educative power of collaboration, UKZN is pleased to award Malcolm Christian the Degree of Doctor of Literature *honoris causa*.

## **DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS' AWARDS**

### **Professor Sarojini Nadar**

**(Monday, 14 April – 19h00 – PMB)**

Leading academic in the School of Religion, Philosophy and Classics, Professor Sarojini Nadar has researched and published widely in the field of feminist biblical hermeneutics with a special focus on HIV and AIDS, gender-based violence, masculinity and sexuality. She also has a special interest in theories of feminism in Africa, and more recently an interest in gender in Higher Education. Nadar was appointed Dean of Research for the College of Humanities in 2012. In this year, she received the Distinguished Young Women in Science Award (Human and Social Sciences) from the Department of Science and Technology (DST). She is considered one of UKZN's top-published researchers and has a C2 rating from the National Research Foundation (NRF).

### **Professor Simon Mukwembi**

**(Wednesday, 09 April – 14H30 – Westville)**

Professor Simon Mukwembi has a degree in Mathematics and a Masters of Philosophy (Mathematics) from the University of Zimbabwe. He graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy (Mathematics) from the University of KwaZulu-Natal in 2006. With over 14 years of teaching experience in the field of Mathematics, Mukwembi has instructed as a teaching assistant, tutor, demonstrator, lecturer and as a senior lecturer at different universities on the African continent. Mukwembi has published several research articles and is Managing Editor of a leading international, DoE accredited journal, 'Utilitas Mathematica'. He has also participated in several projects aimed at consolidating High School Teachers' content knowledge in Mathematics.

## **FELLOWS OF THE UNIVERSITY**

### **Professor Christine Stilwell**

**(Monday, 14 April – 14h30 – PMB)**

Emeritus Professor in the School of Social Sciences at UKZN, Professor Christine Stilwell has mentored and taught generations of students. She first joined the University of Natal as a Lecturer in 1986. She is a National Research Foundation rated researcher and has published numerous journal articles, a co-edited book, a directory of South African resource centres and chapters in books. Stilwell was Acting Director of the Centre for African Literary Studies (CALS) and was one of the staff members instrumental in the establishment of the isiZulu Literary Museum at CALS in 2012. She was top researcher in the College of Humanities and the School of Social Sciences in 2012 and is among the top 30 Researchers at UKZN. Her current interests focus on public libraries and their role in addressing poverty and social exclusion, and information behavior.

## **Professor Jonathan Alfred Draper**

**(Monday, 14 April – 19h00 – PMB)**

Professor Jonathan Draper is a senior professor in the School of Theology at UKZN. He served as head of the School of Theology at the former University of Natal from 1994 to 1996 and then as Head of the Biblical Studies programme at UKZN from 2000 to 2011. Draper is a leading scholar nationally and internationally in the area of New Testament Studies. He has had a life-long interest in research into Jewish Christianity, the earliest form of Christian communities before the move towards the West and integration with Graeco-Roman culture. The bridge between oral tradition and written text, and the impact of imperialism on subjugated peoples and cultures and their resistance, has been one strong component of this research. It has led Draper into a study of the impact of imperialism, colonialism and the early Christian missions in Southern Africa. In his long academic career, Draper has published 130 book chapters and journal articles and has edited / co-authored 10 books.

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