

## Exposure Dialogue Programme

**A**cademics and activists from Durban, India and the USA, as well as local facilitators lived and worked with informal economy workers in Durban for several days during March. The hosts included a block maker, a barber, bead, *nuthi* and craft makers and sellers, a seamstress and vegetable cooperative members.

Mr Imraan Valodia of the School of Development Studies was the organiser of this unique experiential learning process, the Exposure Dialogue Programme (EDP). Others from the School of Development Studies who participated were Ms Caroline Skinner, Professor Francie Lund, and Ms Nompuzo Nzimande. Students from the School assisted with organising and facilitating the EDP. The exposure was followed by reflection and dialogue about the chal-

lenges faced by workers in the informal economy (by the entire group, including the hosts), in order to try and bring about policy changes to assist informal economy workers in South Africa.

Participants included Dr Namrata Bali from the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), Dr Jeemol Unni from the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector, India; Dr Marty Chen of Harvard University and WIEGO, Dr Carol Richards of WIEGO, Professor Ravi Kanbur, Dr Gary Fields and Professor Nancy Chau of Cornell University, Dr Françoise Carre of University of Boston, and Dr Donna Doane of HomeNet Asia.

The specific methodology used is a first for South Africa but has been explored and tested many times in India. Linking the micro experience of the host's world with the conditions of the macro is one of the purposes of the exposure/



Informal economy workers, academics and activists who attended the Exposure Dialogue Programme.

Picture: Supplied

dialogue. The intense 'immersion' allows for people in policy-making positions or advocacy groups, or academics to understand micro issues as experienced by those on the ground. The key outcome was an action oriented one, the design

of pro-poor policy strategies, which were taken forward by the group to a policy dialogue with senior government officials from the Department of Trade and Industry, the Presidency, and other departments in Pretoria.

work. The view that if you do not get a weekly pay packet you are not working, tends to predominate.

Local facilitators accompanied the visitors to the homes of hosts in parts of Durban as diverse as Warwick Junction and St Wendolins; KwaMakutha, Ngonyameni and Emzinyathi, and the programme included a comprehensive tour of Warwick Junction. The foreigners in the group were not the only ones to learn from the experience. One of the facilitators observed that "in life you must not tell yourself that you know things", pointing to the fact that all of the participants learned from each other in the intensive experience.

At the policy dialogue in Pretoria, jointly hosted with the Human Sciences Research Council and the Department of Trade and Industry international and South African researchers engaged in policy discussions with about 35 senior government officials involved in policymaking related to employment and the informal economy. The discussions stressed the importance of understanding the linkages between the formal and the informal economies, and the need to see informal work as an important dimension of economic activity in South Africa.

## UKUSA turns 20

FOR 20 years every Saturday the sound of music, dance and drama has rung out around the Howard College campus from students attending UKUSA, a developmental community performing arts NGO. Professor Elizabeth Oehrle is the founder and co-ordinator.

The name UKUSA, or the 'sun is rising', was chosen by participants

when the project was established in 1987 during the apartheid era to provide instruction and support for historically disadvantaged people with an interest in music, dance and drama. Twenty years later, UKUSA continues to herald a new dawn for aspirant performers, 16 years and older, from eThekweni, as well as places further afield such as Port Shepstone, Stanger and Pieter-

maritzburg. Students, carrying their own instruments such as keyboards and guitars, attend *maskanda*, traditional dance, keyboard, trumpet, saxophone, guitar, drumming, contemporary dance, drama and choral singing.

On 6 October UKUSA will celebrate its twentieth anniversary. Two hundred and fifty students and 26 staff will be involved in student concerts and a Gala concert, the latter organised by Melvin Peters (Chair of our Board) and Jeff Robinson (Board member). We hope that many of UKUSA's former teachers, now well-known musicians, will return to make music with us. Note a few names from our list of more than 100: Mageshen Naidoo, Sazi Dlamini, Lex Futshane, Nishlyn Ramanna, Natalie Rungan, Feyza Faku, George Mari, Johnny Mekoa, and Mike Mazzoni. A significant achievement deserves to be celebrated.

- Betsy Oehrle

While participating actively in the daily life of their hosts the visitors heard and noted that there had been improvements to communities since 1994. Among these were the provision of water, electricity and sanitation. One host observed "We've got electricity, lights and water. But what are we supposed to do? Sit and look at each other? Where are we to get food?" This pointed to one of the major problems experienced by the poor and by informal workers – how to create an income in an environment of high unemployment and globalisation.

The difficulty associated with acquiring credit or opening a bank account, and the importance of organisation of informal workers and the difficulties which refugees experience, were some of the many issues that emerged in the process of the dialogue.

One of the outcomes was recognition of the value of the hosts' work in the informal economy as 'real work'. Informal economy workers are often undermined by members of their community who do not recognise their activities as

- Judith Shier



UKUSA 2007 beginner guitar class.

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# The Equity

## Dialogue

# 2007 Climate Audit



THE transformation process for the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) has been complex and challenging for management and stakeholders alike. From the outset, University management undertook to systematically monitor the lived experience of the transformation process with particular focus on policy outcomes. The aim of monitoring the organisational climate is to empower both decision-makers and stakeholders in the change management process.

In October 2004 the Equity Support Office conducted the first climate survey in order to guide the development of effective University strategies, policies and plans to enable a conducive work environment. The survey addressed the issues of fairness; rewards and recognition; collegiality; participation; communication; organisational climate; workforce diversity and inclusion. Staff also had the opportunity to express their opinions and relate any personal experiences on (sexual and racial) harassment, discrimination and marginalisation.

Overall, the organisational climate was viewed positively, indicated by staff being hopeful of the future; being proud of working at UKZN;

not seeking work elsewhere; the environment afforded respect and dignity; and ability to balance work and personal lives. Responding to their experience of discrimination, staff indicated that it was experienced in terms of age, race and social class, sexual orientation, religious affiliation and disability.

The 2007 Climate Audit will form part of the documentation on transformation at UKZN. The audit will help the University identify and address problems encountered through change processes, as well as issues that may have a direct influence on UKZN's diverse staff and student population. It hopes to deepen the University's insight into staff perceptions and experiences of the working environment. In the final analysis, the audit will contribute to the constructive engagement of the University towards making the transformation and the lived experience a positive reality for all staff and students. The ultimate aim is to shape an organisation towards achieving the mission and vision of UKZN.

The 2007 Climate Audit has the following specific objectives:

- Investigate and document how diverse members of staff per-

ceive and experience the institutional climate at UKZN;

- Refer to institutional context, policy documents and physical facilities that relate to the work environment;
- Focus on the experiences of staff, in particular the experiences of Black staff, women, disabled, and foreign staff;
- Consider inter-staff relationships and staff relationships with students; and
- Explore staff perceptions about management.

The form of the audit will include both a web-based and paper questionnaire survey of all staff. Additionally, in order to capture the opinions of generally neglected

voices, such as staff of the conservancy and farms under the domain of the University, the researchers will accommodate focus groups conducted in the medium of *isiZulu*. The findings of the audit will then be presented to the University community for information and encouraging discourse on institutional climate.

Climate studies were also conducted at UKZN's sister institutions, Wits and UCT in 2002 and 2003 respectively. The findings of these studies revealed situation-specific trends on a number of themes, including values, collegiality, rewards, and commitment to systems and so on. However there was widespread agreement that

change in attitudes and embracing new systems was a necessary function of transformation towards inclusiveness and new organisational cultural foundations towards an optimal national Higher Education system.

The Equity Support Unit calls on all staff to engage with transformation by participating in the 2007 Climate Audit. Staff can assist by spreading the interest to others in their departments and divisions. Further information will be made available once the audit systems are in place.

*Make sure we hear your voice. Send all comments or queries to the Equity Support Unit.*

## Major boost for College resources

AN injection of R40 million into facilities and equipment has moved the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science into a new realm of excellence. Schools within the College now enjoy state-of-the-art laboratories, improved offices and LANs, new teaching materials and modern equipment. Refurbishment of specialised workshops that support College academic endeavours translates into better service delivery and increased health and safety measures.

Widely recognised for producing world-class research, the College's acquisition of R40 million was a direct result of the merger and the relocation and consolidation of Faculties.

A large proportion of the capital was allocated to the School of Chemistry, which houses important regional facilities and equipment for teaching and research. Extensive improvements were implemented on the Westville campus, resulting in the largest and best resourced research centre of its kind in sub-Saharan Africa. Modifications to equipment on the Pietermaritzburg campus were also effected as a result of creative negotiations with suppliers. This included Chemistry supplier, Brucker, donating funds to upgrade the school's Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Instrument. The University now possesses the most comprehensive and modern NMR facility on the continent.

- Vicky Crookes

Editorial

Send your news to [news@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:news@ukzn.ac.za)

## The lifeblood of UKZN

ONE of the privileges of being a member of the *ukzdaba* team is the glimpse we get into the remarkable research, teaching initiatives, partnerships and community involvement undertaken throughout UKZN. In the hurly burly of our daily work, we sometimes forget that this is the very lifeblood of our Institution.

Our cover story in this issue introduces 'exposure/dialogue', a fascinating methodology that exposes researchers to the lived experience of the subjects of their research. The Exposure Dialogue Programme organised by the School of Development Studies in partnership with colleagues from the US and India will hopefully yield concrete gains for informal economy workers.

The community performing arts NGO UKUSA turns 20 this year. Founded by UKZN's Professor Betsy Oehrle, it has nurtured some of South Africa's most talented musicians and performers. UKUSA is another example of the creative work that abounds at the University.

In each issue of *ukzdaba*, we pay tribute to staff and students who have gone the extra mile, winning awards, and receiving scholarships and other accolades. It is a measure of their success that we sometimes cannot cover all our 'achievers' in a particular issue.

*ukzdaba* relies for its success on the involvement of the University community. We encourage you to send in news and photographs.

**Deanne Collins, Publications Manager,  
Public Affairs and Corporate Communications**

### The ukzdaba team



Dasarath Chetty    Deanne Collins    Bhékani Dlamini    Thembeke Dlungwane    Fikisile Mabaso    Vidhya Singh

Westville SRC President, Fanle Sibisi, speaks to ukzndaba

**In January you led a student protest march on the Westville campus. What were the issues involved?**

Yes we led the protest and we had to negotiate a number of issues with the Vice-Chancellor, amongst which

were the provision of a campus ambulance, two graduation ceremonies, reinstatement of the Human Resource Management (HRM) degree, issuing of credit certificates and additional residences.

**Have these issues been resolved?**

The campus ambulance is still under discussion but there is progress.

We are still engaging the Senate on the issue of graduation as the SRC. We will be submitting a document very soon that will further motivate the need for two graduation ceremonies. If the Senate does not agree, we might have another protest in the coming semester.

The HRM degree is being delayed by the Acting Dean. The meeting we had with the Vice-Chancellor

mandated the Acting Dean of Management Studies to co-ordinate these meetings. We have not been called to be part of this process. In fact, the Acting Dean is nowhere to be found these days, unlike when he was appointed.

Credit certificates are supposed to be given to students as we speak, but one particular individual who is responsible for implementation has been consistently refusing to give the go-ahead to people from Records.

Additional residence facilities were made available to students as per their demand but we must also appreciate the fact that a new residence is being built.

The high failure rate in Accounting is still a cause for concern. The

negative marking in Economics will lead to another demonstration. There is no academic who can or has convinced us of the role of negative marking.

**It seems that there are differences between the way the Westville SRC and SRCs on the other campuses operate and how they resolve issues. Is this true and, if so, what would you see as the main differences?**

It might be true because we are from different backgrounds. Also most of the policies implemented are from Natal. There are some demonic policies that we will continue to reject until we have the correct policies for UKZN.

**What processes need to be put in place to facilitate communication**

**between the SRCs and University Management?**

We need an open door policy. We need to work as co-governors. We want to encourage Management to engage student leaders in good faith. There is a high level of dishonesty from the side of staff members at UKZN.

**How can the SRC play a part in enhancing the image of UKZN?**

The first issue is the fact that we are not responsible for the tarnished image of UKZN. In fact, we discourage all members of the University community to disclose matters that have yet to be internally resolved to the media. As the SRC we will continue to fight, not through the media, but to engage our University as we have been doing.



Picture: Supplied

Fanle Sibisi.

## MNet-Edit Award

DRAMA and Performance Studies on the Pietermaritzburg campus has received the prestigious MNet-EDiT (Emerging Dynamics in Television) Award for Best Acting in the film SMILE. Academic Co-ordinator of Drama, Ms Veronica Baxter said on hearing the news, "Tell the world! We don't even teach specialised screen acting!"

On hand to receive the award in Sandton were part-time lecturer in Scriptwriting in the Drama and Performance Studies, Ms Janet van

Eeden, and assistant student director, Mr James Engelbrecht.

The EDiT Awards are held every year and are open to tertiary institutions around the country. Ms van Eeden submitted five proposals from the scriptwriting students last year. Third year Drama student, Mr Johan Hyman's proposal for the film SMILE was chosen from hundreds of submissions and he was given R40 000 to make his short film. He was one of five student film makers to receive this bursary from around the country.

The film was cast from Drama students from Pietermaritzburg, with leads played by Mr Mlonzi Zondi and Mr Buddy Gaylard. Former Academic Co-ordinator, Professor Hazel Barnes, also featured.

The Award consists of a 'very heavy' solid glass and engraved award, a large framed certificate from M-Net, and R7 500 to go towards Drama and Performance Studies, Pietermaritzburg. 29 220 votes were cast to choose the winners from 168 entries.



Picture: Joanna Sterkowitz

Ms Janet van Eeden, Lecturer in Scriptwriting in Drama and Performance Studies; Mr Sibusiso Ndelbele, Commissioning Editor for MNet EDiT; and Mr James Engelbrecht, UKZN student and Assistant Director of SMILE.

## Global Studies Programme

THE Academy of Science in Germany has recognised the Global Studies Programme as one of the top 10 best Masters programmes within the Humanities and Social Sciences Discipline. Spearheading the Programme in South Africa is Professor Ari Sitas, Head of School in the Department of Sociology and Social Studies.

In 2004 the Global Studies Programme won the BMW award in Germany for the best programme that increases intercultural understanding and intercultural competence.

The overall objective of the programme is to produce students who are global players and who understand what globalisation means by exposing them to different cultures of teaching and different societies.

The programme was launched in 2002, with UKZN, the Albert-

Ludwigs University in Freiburg, and the Jawaharlal Nehru University in India.

The success of the initial programme has led to the programme's extension in Africa with Makerere University, Dar-es Salaam and Botswana.

"The Global Studies Programme has been a learning process, I thought I was smart and dangerous and international enough but I have learnt so much from the students. It made me more aware of our research priorities and what it means to be global and local at the same time. Most of the students who have come through the programme hold very serious jobs in international organisations," said Professor Sitas.

- Thembeke Dlungwane



Professor Ari Sitas.

Picture: Bhekani Dlamini

# Students network with companies

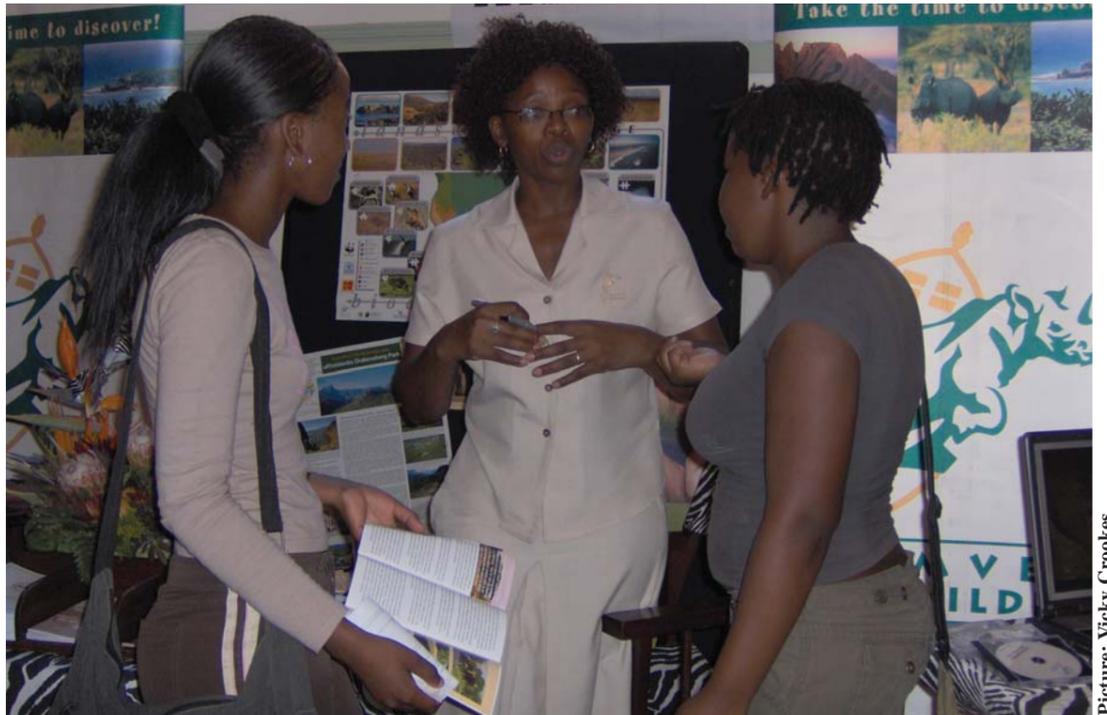
The first ever career exhibition on the Pietermaritzburg campus, organised by the Student Counselling and Careers Centre, was an overwhelming success. The Colin Webb hall was a hive of activity as approximately 1 500 students and staff interacted with 24 of the region's top companies. Enthusiastic representatives from a cross section of fields and industries set up eye-catching stands that attracted students from all levels of studies and disciplines.

Ms Kerry Davies, Mondi Human Resource Development Manager, was "very impressed with the calibre of students", a sentiment echoed by other company representatives. Ms Mbali Ngcobo, a skills development facilitator at Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, commented on the "relevant questions" posed by students. The opportunity to interact with students directly in an informal environment was a big plus for many companies. They praised the excellent response from students and were pleasantly sur-

prised by the scope and variety of courses offered on the Pietermaritzburg campus.

The career exhibition was equally beneficial to the students who came to network with companies and explore opportunities. Ms Nozipho Mhlongo, a final year BSc student majoring in Genetics and Microbiology, found the exhibition very useful. She said it was encouraging to discover lots of companies offering employment in her field of study. BCom student, Mr Zac Badat, commented on the exposure students gained from this event. "We are generally lazy and don't go out and look for things like this. It is nice that it comes here and we have access to it". Nedbank, which was promoting its graduate development programme, said that an event of this nature is highly valuable to students. "It shows them that there is support out there and that people are willing to give them opportunities".

The Careers and Counselling Centre believes it is vital that



Ms Mbali Ngcobo from Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife interacts with students at the career exhibition.

students become active agents of their futures. It is important that they interact with the 'outside' world and prepare themselves adequately for the world of work. The career exhibition provided the perfect platform for this kind of

preparation, and staff from the Centre were encouraged by the students' response. Careers counsellor, Ms Mariam Jassat, said she was very proud of the students and the professional manner in which they presented themselves.

Feedback from company representatives indicate that the exhibition was a real winner, making it a firm favourite on next year's calendar of events.

- Vicky Crookes

## Teaching and learning Educating for excellence

The Law Faculty is no stranger to academic development. Both the Pietermaritzburg and Howard College campuses offer carefully planned introductory courses to first years, to effectively induct them into the subject. Numeracy and computer literacy issues are also addressed in first year. In Durban, small group interactives and extensive use of mentors ensure that the transition from secondary to tertiary level is successfully negotiated. Other interventions have included policy decisions to ensure smaller classes, initiating module moderator panels to constantly assess and adapt teaching methodologies, and staff development opportunities, such as QPU-run workshops.

It was decided, however, that a need existed for more direct academic support, particularly beyond the first year. In September last year, the Faculty of Law began to develop a new and innovative Academic Support Programme for its LLB students. Funding by SUKAR enabled the appointment of an Aca-

ademic Development Co-ordinator, Ms Jean Moore, who conducted a needs analysis and developed – in consultation with staff and students – a range of interventions to address the issues raised. This programme is being piloted with the second year LLB students this year, with the intention of extending the programme to third and fourth years in subsequent years.

The 2007 programme has several aspects. One of these is the development of a counselling and referral process for 'at-risk' students. At registration, these students were referred to the Academic Support Co-ordinator for academic counselling. Students were then either referred to other support services at the University or signed up for the support programme most relevant to their needs. Follow-up sessions and monitoring of students' involvement in the programme also forms part of this process.

The two main new support programmes offered are a set

of Academic Skills Tutorials and a Language Development Programme. The former are a set of six tutorials, covering a range of skills identified by students in the needs analysis, such as reading strategies for law, case analysis and effective summarising skills. The Language Development Programme is designed for students who struggle to communicate their knowledge effectively in written form. In a series of 12 tutorials, students work on reading skills, topic analysis skills, structuring of assignments and essays and finally, legal problem analysis. These programmes are open to any second year LLB student, although the focus for the first term has been on at-risk students.

To ensure that the majority of second years benefit from improved student support, a number of integrated support initiatives have also been introduced. These form part of the second year modules, and are facilitated by the lecturers themselves. In consultation with the Academic Devel-

opment Co-ordinator, lecturers identified core concepts and skills which need to be acquired in second year, and several decided to incorporate more explicit skills development into their tutorials or lectures.

Many modules have also introduced peer tutoring. Peer tutors are generally third or fourth year students, who have done well in the course that they are tutoring. They are used differently in each module, but their role ranges from co-facilitating tutorials with lecturers to helping students with assignments and running extra 'question and answer' sessions for interested students. They also assist the lecturers with some administration. Second years are encouraged to use these approachable 'student faces', who have recent experience of effectively completing the module.

Another integrated support initiative has been the piloting of a web-test system for some modules. These self-marking, monthly MCQ tests are

intended to encourage students to manage the volume of work by keeping up to date with required reading, and also to provide immediate feedback. Test users have to find the correct answer before moving on, ensuring that the process forms part of the learning experience, rather than just being a one-off form of summative assessment. Both staff and students have been enthusiastic about the benefits of these web-tests, and it is hoped that several other modules will introduce web-tests next semester.

Although these support initiatives are in their infancy, initial evaluations have been very positive, with students indicating that they have both enjoyed and benefited from their involvement in the programme. It is hoped that the support programme will be an effective part of helping the Faculty to realise its vision of educating for excellence in law and social justice.

- Jean Moore

# Law Faculty honours Griffiths and Victoria Mxenge

On 24 April 2007 the Faculty of Law commemorated the important roles played by Griffiths and Victoria Mxenge in the struggle to liberate the country from the shackles of apartheid.

The fifth Griffiths and Victoria Mxenge Memorial Lecture was delivered by Justice Louis Skweyiya, a close family friend of the Mxenges.

Mr Griffiths Mxenge was born in 1935 in King Williams Town. He was a member of the African National Congress (ANC) from the mid 1950s when he was a BA student at the University of Fort Hare. He was later a student studying for the LLB degree at the University of Natal. His LLB studies were interrupted when he was convicted of being a member of the ANC (after it was banned in 1960) and sentenced to two years

imprisonment on Robben Island. He returned to complete his degree and went on to become a well known civil rights lawyer who fearlessly defended the victims of the apartheid regime despite being harassed, detained and banned on frequent occasions. He was brutally murdered by Dirk Coetzee and the Security Police on 19 November 1981.

Mrs Victoria Mxenge was born in 1942 in King Williams Town. She

trained as a nurse and midwife at the clinic in Umlazi before changing to law. She served articles at Mr Mxenge's law firm and after she was admitted as an attorney also engaged in civil rights work. Despite her husband's bannings, detentions and subsequent assassination she courageously continued the work for the law firm in the community and in high profile political trials including the UDF and NIC treason trials in Pietermaritzburg. In 1985 she too was brutally killed by the Security Police.

important events on the Faculty calendar. Prominent speakers who have been committed to the liberation struggle such as Mr Nelson Mandela and Mr Jody Kollapen (Chairperson of the South African Human Rights Commission) have been part of the lecture series. The address has also been given by other prominent Constitutional Court Judges namely the Present Chief Justice, Judge Pius Langa and Judge Johan Krigler.

Justice Skweyiya's theme focused on pursuing human rights through the law. He pointed out that many struggle heroes such as Mr Nelson Mandela and the late Mr Oliver Tambo were lawyers.

Justice Skweyiya highlighted that prior to 27 April 1994 days such as Human Rights Day and Freedom Day were not celebrated. But because of the sacrifices and the death of many unsung heroes and heroines we are able to celebrate them freely today and Griffiths and Victoria Mxenge belonged to that group of people.

Dean of Law Professor Michael Cowling commented that the Mxenge Lecture is one of the very

The lecture coincided with the Awards Ceremony to congratulate graduates who have done well. Professor Cowling urged students to remember that they are the future of what Griffiths and Victoria Mxenge fought for. Some of the prize winners included Ms Janine Will who completed her LLB Degree *summa cum laude* and walked away with the Abel Torf Prize for being the best overall student. Ms Emmylou Wewege also completed her LLB Degree *summa cum laude* and she received the KZN Law Society Prize for the best final year student.

- Hazel Dlamini



(l-r) Professor John Mubangizi, Deputy Dean: Law; Professor Michael Cowling, Dean: Law; Justice Louis Skweyiya, Constitutional Court Judge and Guest Speaker; and Professor Karthy Govender, Professor of Constitutional Law.

Picture: Supplied

# SAB sponsors microbrewery

AS part of a broader national initiative South African Breweries has sponsored the establishment of a Microbrewery in the Discipline of Microbiology at Westville Campus with an amount of R40 000.

The microbrewery will serve as a teaching aid for Microbiology students at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. It will also be used as a platform to promote interdisciplinary research activities at the University. A Microbrewery affords students the opportunity to investigate microbiological, chemical, biochemical and engineering research topics that are associated with the production of beer. It is also envisaged that this project will inculcate a culture of entrepreneurship among our students.

Welcoming SAB delegates Head of the School of Biochemistry, Genetics, Microbiology and Plant Pathology, Professor Emil Kormith said that the microbrewery is an excellent example of how academia can work with the corporate sector. Professor Jane Meyerowitz, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture said this presentation comes an appropriate



Mr Andrew Ferret, General Manager of Prospecton Brewery, hands over a cheque of R40 000 to Professor Jane Meyerowitz, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture.

Picture: Shaun Veeran

time when there is massive injection into building infrastructure in Science. "I am sure that students will enjoy projects relating to microbrewery and in turn this will also attract more students to do

Science," commented Professor Meyerowitz.

Professor Bala Pillay, Head of Microbiology Discipline, thanked SAB for facilitating the partnership

with UKZN. He said that Microbrewery is an appropriate process to bring to Microbiology because going back to the ancient times brewers understood that microorganisms played a role in brewing.

There are now three breweries at UKZN, on the Howard College, Pietermaritzburg and Westville campuses. SAB has seven microbreweries in South Africa with some at Wits and the University of Johannesburg. "I am sure that the University of KwaZulu-Natal will find this a valuable tool for research and training," said Mr Andrew Ferret, General Manager of the Prospecton Brewery. He added that this is SAB's corporate social investment and support for communities which also helps them identify and recruit potential personnel.

Mr Ben Lameletie, Senior Trade Brewer said that a competition for students would run between universities to determine who makes the best beer. He suggested that UKZN campuses which have microbreweries need to consider working together as others have been involved with it for some time.

The SAB delegation also consisted of Mr Sagren Govender, Quality Assurance Manager and Ms Andile Mkhize, Social Corporate Investment Co-ordinator.

- Bhekani Dlamini

# Scifest success

A team of 11 UKZN staff members and students participated in the annual Scifest in Grahamstown where they made a significant contribution to the festival theme of “Make Science Count”. In an effort to inculcate a passion and excitement for science and technology, the UKZN team created an attractive and interactive display that focused on several topical issues such as climate change, soil erosion and alternate energy sources. To complement the exhibit, UKZN members also ran educational and entertaining workshops for children of all ages. UKZN’s Scifest team comprised: Mr Mark Horan, Professor Heinz Beckedahl, Professor Jeff Bindon, Mr Tony Bruton, Dr Greg Watson, Dr Tanja Reinhardt, Ms Vicky Crookes, Mr Mpilenhle Zungu,

Mr Simon Cowling, Mr Clement Adjorlolo and Mr Adushan Pillay.

A central attraction of UKZN’s exhibit was a climatically controlled geological time walk that exposed visitors to three periods of geological time depicting the environment from 350 million years ago. The importance and utilization of alternate energy sources was highlighted, including steam, solar and wind powered models. A scanning electron microscope displayed different types of sand and a model illustrated the causes and effects of soil erosion. Visitors were treated to informative presentations on the human genome as well as demonstrations on the extraction of DNA. Physics toys and gadgets also provided entertainment for all ages.

The Steam Car and ‘Looks like a Dinosaur’ workshops, facilitated by Professor Jeff Bindon from Mechanical Engineering and Dr Tanja Reinhardt from Geology, were a huge success. They presented a fun and practical aspect to the study of science and technology and provided participants with a real sense of achievement.

Scifest was officially opened by Deputy Minister of Science and Technology, Dr Derek Hanekom. He was suitably impressed with UKZN’s contribution and commented on the enthusiasm and energy exhibited by the University’s Master’s students.

As has become customary at Scifest, the UKZN exhibit received widespread attention and praise and received one of six excellence awards. This year, in order to reward diversity and be more inclusive, the Scifest management awarded six excellence awards as opposed to first, second and third prizes. More than 50 exhibits from educational institutions and commercial organisations were judged on their relevance to current scientific issues, interactivity, aesthetic appeal, accessibility and creativity. Other excellence awardees included the SA Weather Service, Rhodes University, MTE Studios and the University of Stellenbosch.

- Vicky Crookes



A group of high school learners flock to Mechanical Engineering’s steam car display.

# Nelson Mandela Scholar

MISS Bianca Theeruth, a doctoral student in the Discipline of Animal and Poultry Science on the Pietermaritzburg campus, has been

awarded a Nelson Mandela Scholarship to study at the University of Edinburgh through the Scottish Agricultural College.

“I am extremely honoured and excited to achieve such an award and the fact that Madiba’s name is linked to the scholarship makes me proud to be a South African”, says Miss Theeruth. She is the second student from the Discipline of Animal and Poultry Science to receive the scholarship. She was thrilled to meet Mr Mandela. “(It was) such a humbling experience to be in the presence of such greatness. He was witty, charming, down to earth and a true gentleman!”

Miss Theeruth’s research involves an evaluation of an optimisation routine for the profitable feeding of growing pigs and involves the use

of simulation models. She will conduct part of this research in Scotland.

The Nelson Mandela Scholarship is sponsored by Unilever and Deloitte and is already in its tenth year.

Miss Theeruth was awarded a National Research Foundation/ Department of Labour Scarce Skills Scholarship in 2006 and subsequently resigned from her job as a nutritionist for a vitamin and trace mineral premix supplier to further her academic career at UKZN. On completion of her doctorate she intends doing a post-doctoral fellowship and is keen to take up a position in academia.

- Bhekani Dlamini



Bianca Theeruth.

# Fulbright scholars

THREE students from the College of Humanities have been awarded Fulbright Scholarships.

Mr Rogier Courau is a doctoral student in English Studies, specialising in African diaspora studies and is being supervised by Dr Catherine Woeber. His research is interdisciplinary, cutting across historical, gender, anthropology and performance studies. The project focuses on travel writing by Black South African and African-American intellectuals between South Africa and the US in the period 1913-1936.

As part of his study he has undertaken archival research on the writings of such individuals as Davidson Don Tengo Jabavu, a South African who visited Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute in the United States as a young man in 1913 and Eslanda Goode Robeson, whose African Journey (1946) is an account of her travels across Africa. A research fellow at the Centre for African Literary Studies (CALs) on the Pietermaritzburg campus, Mr Courau is also interested in the work of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in South Africa in the period, and especially the writings of several bishops’ wives. His research is also funded by the National Research Foundation.

Mr Zunaid Mansoor is keen to study at New York University, Columbia University and the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA) in the United States of America. He says that this is not a conventional postgraduate research field, adding that an MFA degree builds on a student’s existing body of knowledge and skills and advances their creative expertise. “I want to be able to compose filmic and television story concepts which adhere to rules of format, structure and style. These are constructed on the Classic Hollywood 3-Act Structure,” explains Mr Mansoor.

As a student of film directing, he wishes to acquire practical vocational skills in all facets of the profession. He is the recipient of numerous awards including a National Research Fund Free-Standing Scholarship in 2004, a UKZN Special Honours Award, and the Brightest Young Mind status, which he earned at a Brightest Young Mind Conference and Workshop in 2004.

He received a Bachelor of Social Science Degree and a Bachelor of Law Degree (LLB) *cum laude* from UKZN’s Howard College campus.



Mr Rogier Courau.



Mr Zunaid Mansoor.



Mr Thabo Msibi.

Mr Thabo Msibi hails from the rural hills of Ntabamhlophe in Estcourt. He received his Honours Degree in Education *summa cum laude*. His dissertation focused on the perceived relationship between social and dress identities among young African males. He has been accepted at the University of Columbia in the USA.

“I am overjoyed and thrilled at this opportunity, especially because when I went for my interview, the chairperson told me after the interview that I’m still too young and should not feel inadequate if I don’t get it,” he says.

Mr Msibi received a National Research Foundation scholarship to do his Honours degree and was one of five Honours students who represented UKZN and South Africa in the Replenishing Democracy Project at Amherst College in the United States last year. He was also awarded the ABE Bailey Travel bursary, which allowed him to visit Britain for a month.

- Bhekani Dlamini

## Budget Speech stars

Two UKZN students were prizewinners in the Old Mutual and Nedbank annual Budget Speech competition. Ms Talia Meer (joint second runner

up) and Ms Ailie Charteris (runner-up) received certificates from the Minister of Finance, Mr Trevor Manuel, at a glittering function in Cape Town.

The Budget Speech competition, now in its 34<sup>th</sup> year, is about finding and rewarding bright young South Africans with exceptional intellectual ability. It is supported by the National Treasury and all South African institutions of Higher Education. At UKZN, Dr Richard Simson, Lecturer in Economics and Finance on the Pietermaritzburg campus and a team of other academics facilitated the participation of students, who were required to write an essay on how South Africa can achieve a 6% growth rate by 2010.

Ms Charteris is enrolled for an Honours degree in Finance on the Westville campus, while Ms Meer is doing Honours in Political Science.

“I had lots of reading to get through,” says Ms Meer. Though she is not sure if her essay directly contributed to the formulation of the Budget, she is pleased that the Minister read it and believes that he took some of her concerns and recommendations into consideration. She praised the Budget, saying that she was especially pleased about the planned extension of social security benefits.

- Bhekani Dlamini



Ms Ailie Charteris with Minister of Finance, Mr Trevor Manuel.



Ms Talia Meer with Minister of Finance, Mr Trevor Manuel.

Pictures: Supplied

## Top Chemistry achievers

THE School of Chemistry celebrated the achievements of its top students from 2006, holding two awards ceremonies on the Pietermaritzburg and Westville campuses. These ceremonies were the culmination of a week of celebration for the School that saw 88 Chemistry students graduating at the University's recent graduation ceremonies.

At both awards ceremonies the best students in first, second, third and honours years received generous prizes and medals sponsored by companies that enjoy close working relationships with the School. Other bursaries and awards were presented to students for outstanding achievements. Companies sponsoring prizes included: Chemserve, Merck, Sasol, Umgeni Water, Huntsman Toxide, Perkin Elmer and Heartland Leasing.

The Westville awards ceremony was unique in that it represented a series of firsts for the School: it was the first combined ceremony of the Westville and Howard College campuses and it was the first celebration in the new Chemistry building. Head of School, Professor Andrew Kindness, congratulated the award winners and said that he was very upbeat about the future of Chemistry. The School is flourishing with more undergraduates in 2007 than in the two previous years, and the new Chemistry facilities are unmatched at any other institution on the African continent.

Professor Deo Jaganyi, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture, welcomed the sponsors, students and parents to the Pietermaritzburg awards ceremony. He expressed the hope that the prizes would represent an incentive to

students, encouraging them “to always aim higher and to continue to climb the educational ladder from BSc to PhD”. He emphasised that student success is built on many things, including dedicated staff, supportive parents, active sponsors and a government that has injected considerable financial resources into science and technology.

In addition to recognising the prize-winners, the School presented retiring Merck representative, Mr Gopaul Pillay, with a special award for the service he has given Chemistry over the past 20 years. In closing, Professor Jaganyi thanked the sponsors for their continued support, which he said “gives us assurance that you have confidence in what the Faculty is doing”.

- Vicky Crookes

## Peer educators graduate

UKZN's HIV/AIDS Support Unit held a special graduation ceremony on 4 April to welcome its latest cohort of peer educators.

The Peer Education Programme trains students in life-skills and knowledge about HIV and AIDS. This enables them to act as mentors both to their peers and their communities.

Mr Melusi Mkhize a senior peer educator and final year BCom Management and Marketing student said that he joined the programme because he felt the need to educate fellow students and

his community about the negative impact the HIV/AIDS pandemic has on society. “Today's students are tomorrow's leaders. If students get infected and possibly die of AIDS, this hinders our country's economic growth”, he said.

Guest speaker at the event, Mr Alex Mthiyane, DJ at Gagasi FM, commended students for their commitment to society: “The greatest challenge for you as peer educators is to go the extra mile in changing people's perception about the disease”.

- Thembeke Dlungwane

## Best Classical Award

POST-GRADUATE student in the Opera School and Choral Academy, Miss Nozuko Teto

scooped the award for best female performer at the Classical Music competition held at the Zulu Jazz Lounge in Durban.



Nozuko Teto.

Miss Teto has participated in a string of concerts with the KZN Philharmonic Orchestra, including the Last Night at the Proms and the National Youth Concerto. She is currently completing her Master's degree in Music.

“I feel so good because this means I have developed vocally”, said a delighted Miss Teto.

- Thembeke Dlungwane



The last six months has been an exciting period for the Department of Therapeutics and Medicines Management, at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine, as the excellent work of five of its staff members has been recognised. They are shown in the photo (from left to right). In the back row: Strinivasen Naidoo, who received his PhD; Andy Gray who was recently appointed President of the Hospital Pharmacy Section, FIP (International Pharmaceutical Federation) and a member of the World Health Organisation Expert Panel on Drug Policies and Management; and Lehlohonolo Mathibe who received his MSc (Evidence Based Health Care). Rev Mathibe's masters degree was awarded by Oxford University following three years of study on a Mamphela Ramphele Scholarship. In the front row are Catherine Harries and Elizabeth Nicolosi who received their MED and MBA degrees respectively.

Article and picture: Supplied

## Medals for UKZN athletes

Two UKZN athletes won gold and silver medals during the South African Students Sport Union (SASSU) Athletics Championships in which 29 institutions of higher learning participated at Kings Park from 30-31 March.

Mr Jason Sewanyana, an attorney, is studying towards his Masters in International Law, while Mr Peter Koekemoer is doing a Bachelor of Education degree. Mr Sewanyana took first position in the triple jump category and won a gold medal. He also qualified for the world

students games in Thailand in August this year. A member of the University Athletics Club, Mr Sewanyana trained six days a week in preparation for the championships.

Mr Koekemoer came second in the 400 metre hurdles and won a silver medal. He qualified for the games in Thailand and the World championships in Japan. Apart from competing under the banner of the University, he is also a member of the Fast Feet Athletics Club in Durban.

UKZN's Ms Portia Ndlovu was also a finalist in the 100 and 200 metres and the 100 metre hurdles. A lecturer in Law, she is studying towards her PhD.

- Bhekani Dlamini



Jason Sewanyana and Pieter Koekemoer.

Picture: Madoda Mahlangu

## Book exhibition

FIVE thousand books were put on display at a book exhibition held at the University Library on the Westville campus from 3-5 April.

Seven exhibitors put up books ranging from school books, to management sciences, physical and environmental sciences, medical sciences, social and development sciences, engineering, sport and research methodology techniques.

Exhibitors included Adams and Griggs, Best Books, Hargreaves Library Service, New Age Library Service, Sherwood Books and The Complete Bookshop.



Mr Tony Chetty, Adams Bookshop; Mr Jay Rangiah, Hargreaves; Mr Juggie Authar, Acting Campus Librarian; Mr Krish Ramsamy, Complete Bookshop; Mr Mukesh Chunder, Premier Bookshop; Ms Grace Mlotshwa, New Age Library Services; Mr Richard Hargreaves, Hargreaves; Mr Raj Rabbikisson, Best Books; Mr Siva Moonsamy, Co-ordinator of the Book Exhibition; and Mr Imraan Gangat, Sherwood Bookshop.

Picture: Bhekani Dlamini

## Epic journey

UKZN alumnus Ms Bridget Ringdahl's book, *Blonde on a Bike* highlights her adventurous cycling journey through India, China, Tibet and Laos in 2000 and South America in 2004. The book was launched at the Howard College Theatre on 24 March.

After graduating with a BSc in Environmental Biology, Environmental and Geographical Sciences Ms Ringdahl was employed as the National Co-ordinator for the South African Eco-Schools Programme. This Programme is implemented by the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa and WWF. She also holds an Honours degree in Environmental and Geographical Sciences from the University of Cape Town, and a Masters degree in Environmental Sciences from Lund University in Sweden.

"I have always loved things that are physically challenging. While at the University I used to swim and run a lot and got around on my bike. After my studies, I realised that there is more to life than an entire lifetime bound to working. Apart from my lust for adventure, traveling by bicycle gives one complete independence and freedom from reliance on anyone," she says.

Travelling by bike, she adds, "means that you are not restricted to tourist routes. You are no longer in fast forward mode. Then there are the physical and mental challenges...while many people are focused on making money, collecting cool cars or are hungry for huge houses, I choose to experience as much as I can about the rich potential of life through pedal power."

Though she does not consider cycling as a future career, it has opened up career pathways that she would have not have thought possible without formal training. Since doing these two major cycling trips (Asia - 6 000km and South America 13 100km) Ms Ringdahl has written articles for a number of newspapers and magazines. In Tibet she was attacked with a knife on a highway and children also threw stones at her. On the other hand, wherever she cycled, people admired and cared for her.

Her advice to others is that "You can do anything you want to as long as you put your mind to it... adventure is not such a scary and difficult thing to undertake alone and as a female".

- Bhekani Dlamini



Bridget Ringdahl.

Picture: Bhekani Dlamini

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