UKZN recognises its top students
R62 million in scholarships and merit bursaries distributed

UKZN hydrology honours students produce significant research

UKZN student wins Presidential Award

Dr Mamphela Ramphele was the keynote speaker at the 13th International Education Management Association of South Africa (EMASA) conference on the Edgewood campus.
Chaka Chaka calls for more opportunities for women

Sitheebele Shambangu

Renowned singer, businesswoman, ambassador and award winner Yvonne Chaka Chaka spoke out strongly in support of the further empowerment of women - especially in rural areas. During a presentation celebrating National Women’s Day at UKZN

Known to the world as the Princess of Africa, Chaka Chaka, a mother of four boys, told women to believe in themselves and to stop always trying to please other people.

Calling for the creation of more opportunities for women, Chaka Chaka said 92 percent of South Africa’s population were women and, of these, 41 percent belonged to the working class. 19.8 percent were executive managers, 10.7 were company directors and 6.2 percent board members.

She encouraged women to lead with authority. After 27 years in the music industry, she said she is where she is today because she worked hard and she did it her way. "We tend to live in this box but I refuse to be put in a box." She said women should uplift each other and unleash each other’s potential, rather than pull each other down. "Get to where you want to be because you want to be there. Never be at anyone’s mercy."

Executive Director: Corporate Relations, Ms Nomonde Mbadi, said UKZN was honoured by Chaka Chaka’s presence and thanked her for being a role model for all South African women.

Chaka Chaka received an honorary doctorate during UKZN’s 2012 Humanities Graduation ceremony and used the platform to champion the empowerment of women. She is also well known for her humanitarian work in Africa and other parts of the world.

She was recently presented with the World Economic Forum’s Crystal Award for artists who use their talents to improve the state of the world. She is the first African woman to receive this prestigious prize.

Of humble origins, Chaka Chaka grew up in Soweto at the height of apartheid. She and her three sisters were raised by her mother, a domestic worker, who became the sole provider when her father died when she was only 11. As a teenager in 1981, she was the first black child to feature on South African television.

Ukzn student wins presidential award

Vicky Crookes

Miss Nolwazi Pinkie Madlala, a disabled clinical psychology Master’s student on UKZN’s Pietermaritzburg campus, won the special Presidential Award at the inaugural South African Youth Awards held recently at Gallagher Estate in Johannesburg.

In addition to winning the most sought-after award at the ceremony, Madlala also claimed the top prize in the Extraordinary Champions category.

Hosted by the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), the Youth Awards are the first ever national awards to recognise the outstanding achievements of young South Africans.

With a central theme “Against All Odds,” NYDA CEO Dr Steven Ngubeni said: “With the SA Youth Awards we seek to provide a platform to showcase the exceptional work and contribution that young people are making in their communities and to the world and tell inspiring stories of young people who make extra ordinary achievements despite odds and the challenges.”

A total of 1018 nominations were received for the awards which were divided into eight different categories including: academic excellence; arts and entertainment; entrepreneurship; extra-ordinary champions; health and wellbeing; science and technology; social cohesion; and the environment.

Madlala, who stood out from the rest of the competition across all eight categories, was described by the NYDA as an inspiration to others ‘to soar beyond the sky’. Nominated for the awards by a fellow psychology student, Madlala said she was totally overwhelmed and excited when she heard she had won the top award. “My first reaction was ‘Wow!’ and one of disbelief… I was not prepared for it,” she said.

Madlala grew up in Mpophomeni near Howick in the KZN Midlands. In 1998 she was involved in a car accident which left her disabled and confined to a wheelchair.

Despite the many challenges, Madlala registered for a Social Science degree at UKZN in 2006 and attained a bachelors and honours degree. She is currently completing her Masters internship as a clinical psychologist at 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria. She plans to finish her thesis by the end of the year and will start her year’s community service in 2013.

Madlala walked away with R100 000 for winning the Extraordinary Champions category and R100 000 for the Presidential award, including an Educor-sponsored bursary valued at R100 000 for 3 years’ of study at Damelin. She also received a BlackBerry smart phone which was given to each category winner.

Madlala plans to spend her winnings on a new, lighter and more advanced wheelchair which will make her more productive and enable her to better access the workplace.
UKZN recognises its top students

R62 million in scholarships and merit bursaries distributed

SITHEMBILE SHABANGU

A n impressive R62 million has been distributed to more than 3 000 students by the University of KwaZulu-Natal this year through scholarships and merit bursaries, the most prestigious of which were awarded at a ceremony held at the University’s Westville campus on 22 August.

A total of 70 prestigious scholarships were presented to the University’s top academic student talent in three categories: undergraduate new entrant, undergraduate and postgraduate.

The two recipients of the new award — BSc Honours Financial Mathematics student Ms Qhellele Nyathi and Bachelor of Arts student Ms Sophia Basckin — were nominated by the University’s staff and students. Third runner-up was Mr Nkanyiso Madlala, who received an iPad.

Guest speaker and UKZN alumnus, Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training Mr Mduduzi Manana, commended the University for its progress in providing access to post-school learning, especially for previously marginalised sections of society.

He also praised the University for naming four of its scholarships after “four great South Africans”: UKZN’s first Chancellor and former Speaker of Parliament Dr Frere Ginwala, Constitutional Court Judge Zak Yacoob, businessman and former UKZN Council Chairman Dr Vincent Maphai and former Chief Justice and University of Natal Chancellor Pius Langa.

“These successful South Africans have all been pioneers in their various fields and they remain our shining beacons of what can be achieved through hard work and dedication,” said Manana.

Master of Science student, Mr John Flanagan, was the recipient of the Mandela Rhodes Scholarship, which provides Opportunity for top-performing undergraduate student in the University.

Second place in the undergraduate category went to Ms Nicole Purdon who received the Brenda M Gourley Scholarship.

First place went to Bachelor of Science in Electronic Engineering, Mr Ridwaan Amroh, who received the Lawrence and Constance Robinson Scholarship for the best single undergraduate in the entire University.

Ms Zaakira Fakroodeen, Mr Richard Nyathi and Bachelor of Arts student Mr Dipal Singh each received a UKZN Merit award, given to new undergraduate entrants and who were admitted to the University with the highest aggregates with a “full house” of six As (level 7 or higher) in the matriculation examination.

For the first time, the five top-ranked undergraduates proceeding from first-year to second-year study in each of the four Colleges also received the Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarship.

Among the recipients of the postgraduate scholarships were Ms Frances Morrow, recipient of the Maryam Babangida Scholarship, Mr Kameel Premhod, who received the Abe Bailey Travel Bursary, and the SAAS Medal went to Ms Jolene Mortimer for the best Master’s research dissertation in the sciences.

The Cecil Renaud Overseas Scholarship which gives top-end graduating students a chance to pursue their studies abroad went to Mr Duncan Frost and Ms Frances Currie.

Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Malegapuru Mokoena thanked the Scholarship Committee and all staff members who were involved in choosing the recipients.

Executive Director: Corporate Relations, Ms Nomonde Msho, thanked the guests for attending the ceremony. She told the recipients that as the “best and the brightest”, they should continue to inspire greatness.
Medical students see the world through different lenses

LUNGA MEMELA

A DIVERSE group of Medical undergraduate students from UKZN had a unique cultural awareness experience when they conducted a scoping campaign in Gabon, Africa.

The students, who are all medical students in the MBChB programme, were able to experience Gabon's health services and interact with patients in the country.

The students were divided into four groups and were led by volunteer students from the University of Gabon. They were accompanied by a local guide who was able to communicate in both English and French.

The students were also able to experience Gabon's culture and interact with the local community. They were able to observe traditional healers and learn about the variety of ailments that are treated in the country.

The experience was described as an enriching one by the students, who said that they gained a new perspective on the world and on medical practice.

The students were also able to observe the differences between traditional medicine and modern medicine. They were able to see how traditional medicine is still practiced in certain ways.

The students also had the opportunity to speak with doctors in the near future. They were able to consult for specific ailments and learn about the potential benefits of traditional medicine.

The experience was described as a huge success and it is hoped that it will make the students better doctors in the future.

The students said that they understood that patients come in to the consultation room with different histories. They learned that the importance of "listening" is crucial to the patient's trust and the doctor's ability to devise a successful treatment plan.

The students also said that they learned the importance of working in a team. They were able to interact and engage as much as possible with each other's cultures, and which ailments it is used to treat.

The students agreed that the experience was an enriching one that will make them better doctors. They are looking forward to making it an annual event.

New masters degree to improve nursing and midwifery in Africa

LUNGA MEMELA

The Gabonese Republic and UKZN's School of Nursing and Public Health - guided by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) - have recently approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the implementation of a Masters degree in nursing and midwifery to be offered in three African countries.

The three countries, all within the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), are Chad, Gabon and Congo Brazzaville.

Gabon and UKZN recognised there is a shortage of an adequately trained healthcare workforce to deal with the health needs of all Africans burdened with preventable diseases and high mortality rates.

According to the United Nations, 500 000 women died of risks associated with pregnancy and childbirth in 2000, with 95 percent of the deaths occurring in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. The partners said in most countries.

Gabon and UKZN recognised there is a shortage of an adequately trained healthcare workforce to deal with the health needs of all Africans burdened with preventable diseases and high mortality rates.

The collaborative project thus aims to deliver approved and tested university level educational programmes in the host countries.

A Masters degree will be implemented in eight universities situated in those countries. The project among the consortium of universities.

UKZN will visit the universities to provide a situational analysis including the health services available as well as the educational facilities and infrastructure of each.

Fifteen students from each of the three countries will enrol for the Masters degree. It is hoped the project will improve the level of clinical competence in specific areas of nursing and healthcare; equip specialist nurses to conduct clinical and health systems research in their field; improve regional health service management skills of specialist nurses and prepare nurses for nursing education positions.

Professor Busi Ncama, Dean and Head of the School of Nursing and Public Health at UKZN, said the programme would be taught in block lectures and via e-learning.

"We look forward to developing and implementing this career path for specialist nurses in the continent’s health services. We should enrol the first group of students in 2013."
UKZN’S new loo scoops sixth place at World Fair

SALLY FROST

UKZN’s toilet design placed sixth in the international Reinvent the Toilet Project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Bill Gates deemed it was time for a new toilet. UKZN complied and their revolutionary system placed sixth at the recent Reinvent the Toilet Fair in the United States. Professor Chris Buckley and his team from the School of Engineering’s Pollution Research Group who designed the new toilet were at the fair in Seattle hosted by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

On display was state-of-the-art toilet technology from around the world. The challenge presented to the teams was to design competing engineers had been to develop a super toilet which operates on a shoestring budget and does not need electricity, running water or a storage tank where it would be decontaminated, purified and repurposed for flushing and hand-washing.

Third prize went to chemical waste and recover clean water. For their toilet which uses energy or recycled waste into water required to flush them and hand-washing.

In contrast to prototype high-tech commodes, traditional toilets have not changed much since the 18th century. The amount of water required to flush them and their reliance on being linked to an expensive sewage system are luxuries many communities in the developing world cannot afford. Buckley said about 2.5 billion people worldwide lacked clean, safe toilets - a problem which resulted in the death of nearly 1.5 million children annually.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has invested US$150 million (R1.2 billion) into the Toilet Fair in the United States. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation invested US$180 million (R1.2 billion) into improving global sanitation over the past two years.

The next step will be to take the top-performing technologies at the Reinvent the Toilet Fair and start making larger scale pilots. ‘It is time for sanitation innovation,’ said Buckley.

A team from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) won the top prize of US$100 000 (R800 000) for a solar-powered toilet which produces hydrogen and electricity. Loughborough University in the United Kingdom was second for their toilet which uses energy from faeces to decompose the solids while re-routing urine to a storage tank where it would be decontaminated, purified and repurposed for flushing and hand-washing.

‘Their combined insights substantially augment current scholarship on Thomas Baines as a colonial explorer, naturalist, diarist, cartographer and artist,’ said Stiebel.

The cover image is taken from an oil painting Baines made from the expedition titled, ‘The Baines River and its side channel just above Curiosity Peak, Victoria River, North Australia, 1868.’

* English translation available on page 11.
Six UKZN women scientists scoop national DST awards

Six UKZN women scientists received several national awards in various categories at the prestigious annual Department of Science and Technology’s Women in Science Awards (WISA). The announcement was made by Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor for outstanding scientific contributions to advance science and build the knowledge base in their respective disciplines. The awards are made annually to recognize and reward the achievements of South African women scientists. “WISA winners are profiled as role models for young scientists and researchers,” said Minister Pandor.

Professor Relebohile Moltestane
Winner of the Distinguished Young Women Scientists: Social Science and Humanities.

Professor Sarojini Nadar
Winner of the Distinguished Young Women Scientists: Social Science and Humanities.

Dr Joyce Chitja
Second runner-up in the category Award for the Development of Rural Women: Emerging Researchers.

Ms Prudy Mashika Manoko Seepe
DST Fellowships for Doctoral Studies category.

Ms Bongwe Goodness Ndlovu
DST Fellowships for Doctoral Studies category.

Professor Nadar has researched and published widely in the field of biographical hermeneutics, with a special focus on HIV and AIDS. Her gender-based violence, masculinity and sexuality research is special interest in studying and developing the lives of feminist in Africa.

She received the University Research Award for Top Published Woman Scientist in 2010. In 2008, she was named one of the top 10 African women in the field in the Arab Guinness Book of South African Women. The book African Women: Harnessing and Redefining Power is a Honour of Amele Okojie (New York, NY, Orbis Books, 2000), co-edited with Ibrah Ram. Apart from winning 14 awards, Professor Nadar has also published more than 60 articles in peer-reviewed journals, 30 books chapters and one technical report. Her research focuses on the development of novel strategies for HIV vaccine design, and her research interest is in development of functional barriers to HIV infection, especially the role of systems such as cream in the female genital tract and the cervix, and the development of novel strategies for HIV vaccine design.

Dr Chitja holds a PhD in Food Security an Mile in Community Resource Management at UF and Agri in Horticultural Science. She is currently a reader in the School for Agriculture, Earth and Environmental Sciences at UKZN, a council member of the Agricultural Research Council and board member of the Agriculture Development Agency in KwaZulu Natal.

Dr Seepe has published a paper in her area of work at the 3rd South Africa Tuberculosis Conference, and has received an award for her presentation at the Medical Research Council South African Tuberculosis Conference. She has participated in the fourth Indigenous Knowledge Systems Expo, where she was involved in teaching learners on the importance of science in indigenous knowledge research.

Dr Seepe has been a visiting scholar at Cornell University in the United States of America, and has presented her research findings and conducted student trainings in Australia, India, South Africa, and Brazil. She has supervised 17 post-graduate students at Master’s and Honours level and has supervised over 13 students in research grants. Her publication record is over 30 peer reviewed journal articles, three book chapters and one technical report. Her research focuses on the development of novel strategies for HIV vaccine design, and her research interest is in development of functional barriers to HIV infection, especially the role of systems such as cream in the female genital tract and the cervix, and the development of novel strategies for HIV vaccine design.

Ms Ndlovu received her Master’s degree in Biomedical science (MBiolSc) in paediatrics at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in 2003 at the age of 27. She was subsequently appointed a lecturer at UKZN College of Medicine in the School of Health Sciences, and she is an Associate Professor in the School of Health Sciences. She has extensive international experience in teaching and research in the areas of human immunology and cell biology, and has published several articles and book chapters on using digital technology and digital storytelling in rural schools in the age of AIDS.

She is a co-founder of the South African Science Awards (WISA). The announcement was made by Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor for outstanding scientific contributions to advance science and build the knowledge base in their respective disciplines. The awards are made annually to recognize and reward the achievements of South African women scientists. “WISA winners are profiled as role models for young scientists and researchers,” said Minister Pandor.

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13th International EMASA Conference 2012 hosted by UKZN

MELISSA MUNGROO

Dr Mamphela Ramphele was the keynote speaker at the 13th International Education Management Association of South Africa (EMASA) conference on the Edgewood campus.

The conference saw this humanitarian, activist and academic, with both UKZN staff and selected students also presenting their research.

This year’s conference theme centred on the Benefits of Education Leadership and Student Success beyond the learning institutions. UKZN’s Education Lecturer Mr Niel Avery discussed The Principals Management Development Programme (PMDP) and evaluated if it really works.

‘It’s fine to expect accountability from principals, but it is imperative to train them properly. The key message in my paper is that there is significant evidence that the PMDP is contributing successfully to meeting this need,’ said Avery.

Other UKZN Education lecturers who presented at the conference were Mr Siphiwe Mthiyane, Mr Sibusiso Bayeni and Dr Thamsanqa Bhengu. Their study explored school decline in selected Black South African secondary schools that were formerly known for high academic and sporting performance.

‘Insight into the relationship between leadership and school decline and the causes may assist policy makers to prevent schools from ever developing into chronically low-performing schools, rather than attempting costly and unreliable school turnaround techniques and thus better sustain school improvements when they fully understand how decline affects schools,’ said Bhengu.

Other UKZN staff members included: Dr Inthanathan Naicker; Professor Vitallis Chikoko; Mr Bongani Dlungwane; Mr Sekitla Mkhahasane with UKZN postgraduate students Mr Themba Mthembu; Mr Sibonelo Blose and Ms Sarasvathy Moodley.

Durban communities receive free primary healthcare services

LUNGA MELEA

FROM senior citizens to the very young, members of Durban’s Mayville community and its neighbouring regions turned out in their masses for this year’s primary health intervention of Operation Hope, a growing success which is co-ordinated and also held in Phoenix by UKZN’s Department of Family Medicine and the Durban Christian Centre (DCC).

‘For communities that cannot afford regular medical examination this intervention pays necessary regard for the health and livelihood of all citizens. It is also essential for early diagnosis and preventing common illnesses,’ said Project Manager, Dr Rochelle Adams. Adams reported that 2,200 members attending.

Other UKZN staff members included: Dr Inthanathan Naicker; Professor Vitallis Chikoko; Mr Bongani Dlungwane, Mr Sekitla Mkhahasane with UKZN postgraduate students Mr Themba Mthembu; Mr Sibonelo Blose and Ms Sarasvathy Moodley.

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Free screening and testing was provided by health professionals as well as staff and medical students from UKZN for TB, Diabetes, Pregnancy and Hypertension whilst patients with minor ailments also received treatment.

A total of 350 eye tests were performed and 100 reading glasses issued. We tested 145 people for HIV and 11 pap smears were done.’

‘It feels incredible to be able to give back to the community’ said Mr Qiniso Mlita, former President of UKZN’s Medical Student Representative Council (MSRC), and Ms Nomvuso Shabu, current member of the MSRC.

‘We’re also encouraging especially the youth to lead healthy lifestyles and have regular check-ups,’ said Mlita who checked the blood pressure of community members attending.

Professor Soornarain Subramoney (Cyril) Naidoo, Chief Specialist and Service Head of the Department of Family Medicine said he was overwhelmed by the community hospitality and attendance.

‘Through NGO participation we can only get stronger and stronger’

Music and live entertainment ensured the day was a spirited and enjoyable one.

The Mayville community benefited from Operation Hope’s primary health intervention.

Mrs Sheereen Ballinsen (left) and Executive Director: Human Resources, Dr Mojadi Mosia braved a python around their necks as part of a dare during the Human Resources Division’s team building activities at Phezu Safari Park.

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JOMBA! celebrates contemporary dance

MELISSA MUNCROO

UKZN’s Centre for Creative Arts (CCA) – with sponsorship from the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund – presented the 14th edition of its celebrated annual contemporary dance platform, the JOMBA! Contemporary Dance Experience between 28 August and 9 September. According to CCA publicist, Ms Sharlene Versfeld, this year’s festival invited dance lovers and the public to explore the packed 12-day experience which included exceptional performances, workshops presented by leading choreographers, and opportunities to interact with some of the world’s top dance makers as they “Talk Dance” after various performances. As part of the France-South Africa 2012-2013 seasons exchange, JOMBA! plays host to a large contingent of French and Reunion dance companies and artists such as the renowned Michel Kelemenis and even Theatre Talipot, who two years ago brought Durban to their feet in their bold dance work, Ma Roux.”

Ms Loretta Lipere (right) and Ms Julia Wilson of the Flatfoot Dance Company performed at the 14th JOMBA! Contemporary Dance Experience.

The show formed part of her “Reflect. Celebrate. Live.” University Tour. This highly anticipated concert showcased the spectacular way in which the gifted singer takes her audience on a journey that explains her past, present and future. South Africa’s first lady of song celebrates life’s greatest highs and lows – from heartache and heartbreak to the joy of parenting. In a career spanning 20 years in the music industry, and as part of Women’s Month, Khumalo was joined on stage by the present and be significant in one’s success, it is important to live the present and be significant in one’s endeavors.”

Hermannssberg High excels at Enviro Quiz

SALLY FROST

HERMANNSSBERG High School edged out St Charles College to take gold at the annual Mondi WESSA Environment Quiz held on UKZN’s Pietermaritzburg campus recently. Fourteen teams from all over South Africa competed in the fun-filled, yet challenging evening of questions which eventually ended with Hermannssberg scooping the National Enviro-Quiz Floating Trophy for the 16th time, with St Charles College a mere two points behind! Third place went to Hermannssberg School’s “B” team.

The Hermannssberg High School team which won gold at the Mondi-WESSA Enviro-Quiz hosted on UKZN’s Pietermaritzburg campus.

This excellent performance by the Hermannssberg teams was the culmination of a great deal of hard work by both team and staff members,” said WESSA’s Master of Ceremonies, Dr Jim Taylor. Quizmaster Dr Jason Londt fired off questions on subjects such as insects, larger animals, birds, the marine environment and indigenous matters. General knowledge questions ensured that teams needed answers.

It really was a wonderful evening,” said WESSA’s Ms Clare Peddle. A special thank you to our Mondi sponsors represented by Mr Chris Burchmore, and to UKZN represented by Professor Kevin Kirkman and Ms Swastika Maney. Both Mondi and UKZN have, for many years, supported this national event and we are very grateful to both of them.”

Living legend celebrates 20 years of music

UNATHI MAkalma

THE University of KwaZulu-Natal’s Centre for Jazz and Popular Music recently hosted South Africa’s beloved musical daughter, Sibongile Khumalo, in celebration of her 20 years in the music industry, and as part of Women’s Month. Khumalo was joined on stage by Charles College a mere two points behind! Third place went to Hermannssberg High School’s “B” team. This highly anticipated concert showcased the spectacular way in which the gifted singer takes her audience on a journey that explains her past, present and future. South Africa’s first lady of song celebrates life’s greatest highs and lows – from heartache and heartbreak to the joy of parenting. In a career spanning 20 years in the music industry, and as part of Women’s Month, Khumalo was joined on stage by the present and be significant in one’s success, it is important to live the present and be significant in one’s endeavors.”

Both Mondi and UKZN have, for many years, supported this national event and we are very grateful to both of them.”

The Hermannssberg High School team which won gold at the Mondi-WESSA Enviro-Quiz hosted on UKZN’s Pietermaritzburg campus.
Taiwan’s visit to UKZN encourages inter-cultural and academic exchange

UKZN’s International Relations team hosted postgraduate students on a Project of Youth Ambassadors from the National Defence University of Taiwan during the week of 30 July – 3 August. The purpose of the visit was to share and encourage inter-cultural exchange between Taiwan and UKZN. This now opens opportunities for potential collaborations and academic partnerships, research, staff and student exchanges and imminent visits to Taiwan and UKZN.

The Taiwanese team was led by Professor Terry Hsieh YiH Shih, accompanied by Altas Du, Chang Ching; Lawrence Lin, Chih Lung; Edison An, Yung Tang; David Lee, Hao Wei; Geofil Cheng; Ting-Mou and Lynn Yeh, Li Hzuan.

They visited all UKZN campuses throughout the week teaching staff and students about different aspects of their culture.

A selection of themes included “Taking a stroll in Taiwan”, “Chinese Calligraphy”, “Happy Autumn Festival” and “Kung Fu”. Professor Terry Hsieh YiH Shih thanked the UKZN staff and students for their participation during their visit, particularly the UKZN staff for their hospitality in arranging events on all campuses.

According to Dr Prem Ramachan, Head of International Relations on the Westville campus, the intercultural exchange between Taiwan and UKZN has exposed the intercultural exchange between the Eastern world, more particularly in this case Taiwan.

THE University is deeply saddened by the death of world-renowned ceramicist and Associate Professor in UKZN’s Centre for Visual Art on the Pietermaritzburg campus, Professor Juliet Yvonne Armstrong, who died peacefully on August 22 following a serious illness. Juliet is well known for her work in bone china, which she started in 1977. For many years she was the only artist in South Africa working in this medium. Examples of her work, for which she won numerous national awards, are on permanent exhibition in many of the prominent galleries around the country. Juliet was also instrumental in one of UKZN’s recent research breakthroughs, “Making stronger, whiter bone china without bone”.

Juliet Yvonne Armstrong was born in Durban on February 8 1950 and matriculated at St John’s DSG. She obtained her Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees from the former University of Natal in 1972 and 1981, respectively. From 1973-1974, Juliet studied industrial ceramics and glass blowing at the Leicester Polytechnic in England and attained a postgraduate diploma.

After working as a governance in Germany and travelling across America, Juliet returned to South Africa and took up a lecturing post at the former University of Natal on the Pietermaritzburg campus. In 1986 she became a Senior Lecturer, a position she held until 1989 when she was promoted to Associate Professor. On several occasions during the 1990s, Juliet held the position of Acting Head of the Department of Fine Art and History of Art.

Her passion for empowering the women of South Africa, Juliet, along with fellow academic, Professor Ian Calder, was instrumental in setting up a community engagement programme that has benefited women who create ceramic pots in the KwaMagwaza village, near Kranskop in KZN. Juliet established contact with galleries around South Africa and abroad for this Zulu pottery to be displayed and traded.

Juliet was a long-standing member of the Black Sash organisation and volunteered at its Pietermaritzburg office since 1975. According to her husband, Mike Hart, “Juliet would require you at the earliest opportunity to cook your favourite food, get out your best wine, listen to some music and celebrate a life lived fully and lived well.”

Nomonde Mbadi, Executive Director of Corporate Relations extended heartfelt condolences to her husband, children and friends on behalf of the University.

Developing Young Minds

CEBOLENKOSI DUKE MYEZA

UKZN’s Community Development Association (CDA) has embarked on a pro-active programme of developing partnerships with disadvantaged schools for the past 11 years. Cebolenkosi Duke Myeza, Chief Executive Officer of the CDA explained, “We are working together in creating a society that is literate and uplifted.” This year the 11th Masakhane Youth Leadership Course saw 200 learners from KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng visit Edgewood campus for a week. The aim is to foster growth and development in schools to provide equitable distribution of resources and expertise to learners, teachers and schools in KwaZulu-Natal.

Professor Kamwendo, Dean and Head: School of Education and Professor Sabiha Essack, Acting Head of the Department of Arts and Master of Fine Arts were amongst the guests who shared their expertise in the field of leadership with the learners.

Gauteng and KZN on the Masakhane Youth Leadership Course held at Edgewood campus.
UKZN involved in special programme for young maths boffs

SALLY FROST

UKZN lecturers assist in Siyanqoba, a programme for high school students who excel in mathematics.

The programme is organised nationally by the South African Mathematics Foundation and funded by Harmony Gold and the Department of Science and Technology (DST). UKZN’s Professor Poobhalan Pillay serves as the KwaZulu Natal Co-ordinator while lecturers from the School of Mathematical Sciences tutor groups on a weekly basis with students – who usually include the top achievers in the South African Maths Olympiad - from all over KwaZulu-Natal attending.

Dr Sudan Hansraj, Academic Leader for Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, volunteered to participate in the programme of lectures.

A Star College pupil and member of the programme has been selected to represent South Africa in the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) in Argentina this year.

Interestingly when South Africa was admitted to the IMO in 1992, KwaZulu-Natal's first representative was Kavilan Moodley, who is now Associate Professor of Applied Mathematics in the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science.

Law students build awareness around disability

THANDWE JUMO

THE School of Law reinforced its commitment to responding to its students’ needs by supporting the law students’ inaugural Disability Awareness Day held at Howard College recently.

The event, which was aimed at creating awareness of the plight of students with visual impairments and physical challenges, was organised by Visually Impaired Positivism, a subcommittee of Students for Law and Social Justice (SLSJ), an organisation dedicated to protecting human rights, preventing discrimination and promoting social justice.

The campaign saw able-bodied and without disabilities made the collaboration of students with disabilities. This is not confined to physical facilitation, but also social facilitation in accordance with an inclusive model.

‘We would like to thank the School of Law and the Disability Unit, sponsors, as well as all other parties and organisations involved,’ said Suleman.

First-year Social Sciences student Busi Tshabalala, who is blind, said events such as these can find out that they are not so different from disabled people.

‘I was involved in a car accident five years ago and lost my sight. After learning to accept my disability I discovered that I can do most of the stuff that abled-bodied people can do. I can type, read and write Braille, said events such as these can make my way around places. Initiatives such as this are important to show people that we are all the same,’ she said.

Professor Managay Reddi, Dean and Head of the School of Law, said that the School of Law and the entire University, recognises the importance of effective two-way communication with students and encourages any endeavour that ensures that all students enjoy an enriched campus experience.

‘Therefore, initiatives that address challenges within the University and unlock students’ academic potential are applauded and supported by the School of Law,’ she said.

College hosts information days for future scientists and engineers

SALLY FROST

THE College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science recently hosted Information Days for prospective students in Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

The events were held on consecutive Saturdays with the first at the UNITE - School of Engineering Building on the Howard College campus and the second in the Colin Webb Hall in Pietermaritzburg.

Prospective students and parents who attended received useful information and took full advantage of the opportunity to find out more about degree options in the College.

Both events featured a formal programme where guests were addressed by the Deans of each School and students were informed about funding and scholarships, student support services and application procedures.

In addition to the Deans’ presentations, each School set up interactive displays, managed by academics from the various disciplines. This allowed visitors to learn more about their chosen degrees from their future lecturers.
Of Gestures and Difference

S MALL gestures make a difference. The new HC security and cleaning service providers have re-introduced the idea that users matter. Spanking new branded paper, towel and soap dispensers, and sanitary bins magically appeared in May. The broken seats in the most trafficked men’s room in MTB have been replaced, and the door now closes but still needs a door stop (which I have provided). But an urgent paint job is outstanding. Toilets in Shepstone have been renovated, a consequence of representations made by the organisers of an international conference held there in July. Air fresheners perfume the air. Front gate security is alert, smart and interactive. And, librarians are now teaching students how to reference.

The parts are counting.

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When lecturers enable students’ self-learning, rather than creating dependency.

When students respect lecturer’s privacy, space and time.

When all the MTB toilets are properly tilled and maintained so that they become places academics want to be so that they can contemplate the mysteries of the universe, temporarily beyond the reach of screaming student hordes.

When top management is seen to be consortiag collegially with the plebs, experiencing life at the edifice, the student face and the coalface.

When all staff treat each other with respect, forging a common project.

When we really do apply ubuntu. Ubuntu does not use individuals for other people’s ends.

When classrooms are made into welcoming, enabling, interactive noise-free pedagogical spaces where students want to be.

When the HC entrance is cleaned up, managed properly and made into a branding opportunity, an inviting and safe entrance to a world-class university.

When we remember that we are a learning organisation, not a factory that manufactures graduates on a production line.

When managerial mechanisms like the leave categories, KP As, workload measures etc. are applied to enable rather than to impede creativity, research and learning.

When we get further suggestions from readers of this column that I will list in forthcoming columns.

If we can implement the “Whens”, we can stop being “When we’s” and join in the larger future-oriented project. Let’s get beyond Jones’s Law that states: “The man who can smile when things go wrong has thought of someone he can blame them on”.

* Keyan G Tomaselli is Director of The Centre of Communication, Media and Society. He is pleased that some students in the School of Applied Human Sciences actually do study what is known as ‘work engagement’ and ‘happiness levels’. Sometimes, academia can be fun, and student research is directly useful and relevant to the institution in which they are registered. We should call more on our research students to help shape happiness and work engagement at UKZN.

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

K-RITH under construction

“A woman is like a tea bag – you can’t tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water.” – Eleanor Roosevelt

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“UKZN together with the US-based Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) are in the process of completing one of the world’s most advanced research facilities for Tuberculosis and HIV research at the Sisonke Institute for MDCT within the school of Medicine. This distinctive building opened on October 19, 2012. K-RITH aims to conduct outstanding scientific research translate these finding into new tools to control the deadly diseases of Tuberculosis and HIV, and expand the science educational opportunities in the region.”

PHOTOS: ANAND GOVENDER