



UKZN DABA

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UKZN TO HONOUR RENOWNED INDIVIDUALS

The University of KwaZulu-Natal will confer honorary degrees on six distinguished individuals for their outstanding contributions in the social sciences, sciences, arts, literature, politics and academic sectors.

SMITA MAHARAJ

Through their innovation, resilience, altruism and intellect in their respective fields, these individuals have profoundly influenced communities both in South Africa and globally. The degrees will be awarded at the University's graduation ceremonies to be held over seven days starting on Monday 16 April, and ending on Tuesday 24 April. The recipients are:

Mr Hugh Nicolson Chittenden – DSc (honoris causa)

Mr Hugh Nicolson Chittenden has made a major and distinguished contribution in KwaZulu-Natal and southern Africa to the public understanding of science in the field of ornithology.

He has spent a major part of his life observing, recording, photographing and writing about birds in relation to the geography, fauna and flora of many southern African regions. Chittenden has analysed bird behaviour throughout the sub-continent and in doing so has observed and recorded environmental and climatic threats to all of life which have come about through a detailed knowledge of birds.

His knowledge of the taxonomy of many hundreds of trees and plants of the southern African region is encyclopaedic. Profound observational understanding of the world of birds has taken public form in a multiplicity of books, articles, presentations, speeches and work with civil society organisations. His personal notes, field notes, travel journals, and an accumulation of records constitute an immensely valuable source of primary information for present and future scholars, not only of ornithology but also of climatic and environmental change.

Over the years, Chittenden has also become an acclaimed



Mr Hugh Nicolson Chittenden.



Mrs Virginia Thudiso Gcabashe.



Ms Yvonne Chaka Chaka Mhinga.



Professor Mahmood Mamdani.



Mr Lawrence Anthony.



Mrs Zuleikha Mayat.

PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

photographer of birds with considerable technical expertise.

Chittenden is currently Chairman of the John Voelcker Bird Book Fund, an organisation formed in 1935, whose principal accomplishment has been the publishing of the many editions of the highly respected *Roberts Birds of South Africa*.

Mrs Virginia Thudiso Gcabashe – DSocSc (honoris causa)

Mrs Virginia Thudiso Gcabashe has distinguished herself through her contributions to youth development and the

development of society at large in the fields of religion, poverty alleviation and community health. Gcabashe's mention in the Oxford University Press and World Council of Churches archives provides a source of inspiration for the role played by a woman of humble beginnings. Her appointment as a Commissioner in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was befitting a woman of her experience and compassion.

As President of the Youth Wing of the YWCA – known as Y-Teens – she was extensively involved with the holistic

development of young women aimed at helping them grow into responsible citizens. She took a stand against the government of the day using the Bible, especially passages where the courage of women was highlighted, to fight apartheid. Gcabashe was a council member of the Diakonia Council of Churches from its inception and Vice-President of the South African Council of Churches leading a delegation to the Vatican to discuss the injustices of apartheid.

She was also a member of the World Council of Churches from 1983 to 1997, serving two

terms because of the immense contribution she made. She was a member of the Executive Committee and became chair of the Secretarial Committee. Gcabashe's steely determination to further youth development and human rights during the apartheid era is an inspiration that has earned her national and global recognition and respect.

Ms Yvonne Chaka Chaka Mhinga – DMus (honoris causa)

Known as the Princess of Africa, Ms Yvonne Chaka Chaka Mhinga is an icon in the South African and African music and show business industry. Her voice transcends cultural, language and racial divides being instantly recognisable to so many who are always ready to jump up and jive to her distinctive sound. Mhinga's popularity and level of accomplishment have already ensured her legacy as one of the greatest stars to illuminate the African continent.

More importantly, she is recognised for her outstanding humanitarian work in Africa and other parts of the world, helping to raise awareness of issues affecting women including malaria, maternal and child health, HIV, empowerment, education and poverty. During 2009, Mhinga travelled on humanitarian missions to Namibia, Zambia, Vietnam, USA, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Liberia, Rwanda, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, France, UK, Kenya, showing her *Motherland Tour* documentary. *Her Motherland Tour: A Journey of African Women* which premiered all over the world in 2010, raises awareness of how women are addressing their most pressing daily issues.

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SIFE-UKZN students represent Africa in the USA

There was joy and excitement for five members of UKZN's Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE-UKZN) team when they heard they had been chosen to represent Africa on a business trip to the United States from 3-11 February.

SITHEMBILE SHABANGU

Team members were Mr Tinashe Gwatidzo, Ms Slindile Ncube, Ms Qhelile Nyathi, Ms Andisiwe Gqiba and Mr Joel Boafo.

They visited several cities including New York, Washington DC, Springfield Missouri and Bentonville in Arkansas to present projects which they undertook in 2011.

In each of the cities apart from Springfield, the SIFE South Africa team made presentations similar to those they did at the SIFE World Cup last year. The audience comprised various high profile executives including representatives of SIFE worldwide, Walmart International and the US State Department.

With the recent acquisition of Massmart by Walmart and Walmart's strong interest in pursuing business within the African region, SIFE headquarters through its long standing relationship with Walmart had been keen to develop the partnership further for the benefit of SIFE African countries.

In view of this, SIFE headquarters invited SIFE South Africa to the US on the business trip with a view to marketing the



SIFE-UKZN team members, from left: Ms Andisiwe Gqiba, Ms Qhelile Nyathi, Mr Joel Boafo, Ms Slindile Ncube and Mr Tinashe Gwatidzo.

PHOTO: SITHEMBILE SHABANGU

SIFE Africa program to Walmart business leaders in the hope it would motivate them to sponsor SIFE Africa countries.

SIFE South Africa was chosen for the trip as this country has the largest Walmart store in the region. The students experienced the culture of the United States and visited many important business and historic sites.

SIFE is a 36-year-old registered entity and an international non-profit organisation comprising thousands of college and uni-

versity students and faculty advisors from around the world.

The organisation creates global partnerships between business and Higher Education that prepare university students to make meaningful contributions towards a better world as entrepreneurs and business leaders by challenging them to address real world and economic issues in their communities. SIFE is now operating in more than 1 600 university campuses in 38 countries and territories.

ISIHLAKANI SOMFUNDI SIBEKE ITHEMBA LASO E-UKZN

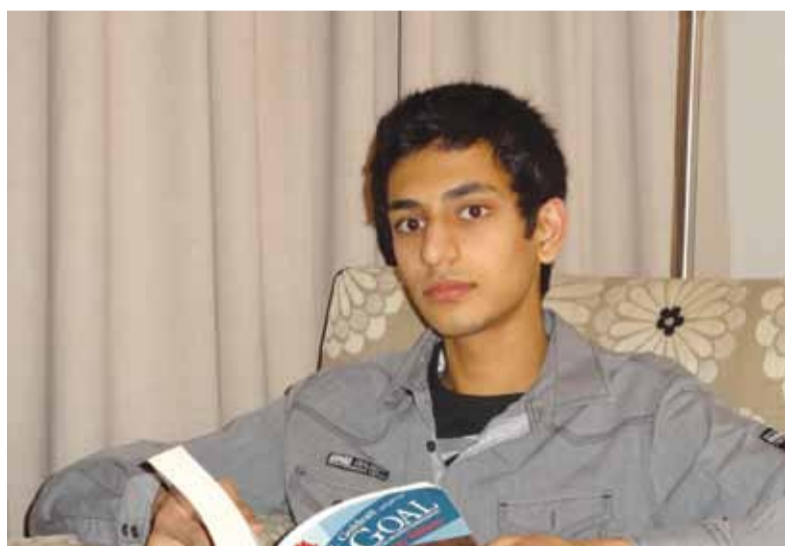
UMnu Muhammad Ismail omenyezelwe uMnyango Wezemfundo njengomunye wabafundi ophumelele ngamalengiso kumatikuletsheni wa-2011 eNingizimu Afrika uqinisekile ukuthi i-UKZN izomunika konke akudingayo ukuze abe iChartered Accountant nomhlaziyi wezezimali.

U-Ismail uzokwenza izifundo zeBachelor of Commerce ku-Accounting eKolishi leLaw ne Management.

'Ngikulangazelele konke engizokunikezwa i-UKZN njengoba ingenye yamanyuvesi ahamba phambili futhi ngifuna ukungenela izinto eziningi ezenzeka esikhungweni saseMgungundlovu.

I-UKZN ikunikeza konke okudingayo ukuze uphumelele ungumuntu,' kusho u-Ismail.

Ugogo ka-Ismail, uNkk Kulsam Ismail umuchaze ngengesipho esibalulekile. 'Umndeni wethu ujabule kakhulu ngempumelelo kaMuhammad nokuthi uzobe efunda enyuvesi chamba phambili futhi eseduze kwasekhaya.



Mr Muhammad Ismail.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

'Abangani bakhe bamuthanda kakhulu. Wenza nomsebenzi wokusiza abantu emphakathini. Esikoleni abekusona bengize ngimuthethise ngokusiza abantu abaningi kakhulu ngoba ngithi ngeke akwazi ukumelana nakho konke, kodwa wakwazi,' kuchaza ugogo.

U-Ismail ofuna ukufunda phesheya mhla eqeda, unomfundaze

wakwaPriceWaterHouseCoopers ngokuphumelela kahle kanye nethuba lokusebenza khona uma eseqedile.

Ngaphandle kwezifundo zakhe, u-Ismail ufuna ukufunda iKoran alazi ngekhandha, afunde ulimi lwe-Arabic, aphinde avule nebhizinisi lezindawo zokuvakasha.

See Page 7 for the English translation of this article.

Special fund planned for disabled students

The Deputy Minister of the Department for Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities (DWCPD), Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu, recently met the UKZN's Disability Unit to tell them about government's plan to provide a special fund for all disabled students in Higher Education.

SITHEMBILE SHABANGU

The R77 million fund will be available to all Higher Education Institutions in South Africa and each student will be able to access the grant to meet their needs, including assistive devices and accommodation.

The universities are required to submit a proposal which tables their needs so that they fully provide the support needed by their students. Challenges that were raised by the disability office were architectural barriers, inadequate human resources in supporting the students, student specific needs and software requirements.

At the end of 2011, 373 disabled students were registered at UKZN. Concerns raised by

the minister included the societal barriers faced by disabled students in choosing the careers they wanted and ending up opting for courses they did not want. Deputy Minister Bogopane-Zulu said the purpose of the fund was to make sure disabled students were able to choose where they wanted to study and were able to access the necessary support. She added that the aim was to break down those barriers preventing students studying what they wanted to.

The aim of the partnership with the universities is to educate society and create disability advocates. The minister's office will meet UKZN later this month to finalise the way forward.



Deputy Minister Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu (seated left) with the Executive Director of Corporate Relations, Ms Nomonde Mbadi (seated right) and staff from UKZN's Disability Unit.

PHOTO: SITHEMBILE SHABANGU

Excellence Scholarships awarded to nine top matric students

Hard work paid off for nine top matriculants registered for their first year at the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science when they were each awarded an Excellence Scholarship for their matric results.

SITHEMBILE SHABANGU

Kaashif Sayed, Rivalin Govender, Andrew Clarke, Chane Venter, Amy Hoad, Gemma Gerber, Kaitlin Leigh Holgate, Sashlin Reddy and Rizqa Noormahomed each received R10 000 towards their first year of study.

Reddy who is studying towards a Bsc in Computer Science said he was privileged to have been awarded the scholarship as it would bring relief to his parents as well. Reddy has a cricket sports scholarship and has represented the KZN cricket team.

As the award was non-

contractual, it did not prevent some from holding other bursaries and scholarships concurrently. The only obligation is the recipients must study towards a degree in science or agriculture at UKZN in 2012.

Public Relations Officer for the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science, Mr Ashay Nathoo, said: 'My colleagues and I look forward to welcoming this exciting crop of fresh talent to UKZN, and we hope that they thoroughly enjoy studying for their degree of choice in science or agriculture.'

Parents' Day draws big crowds

Parents and guardians of the 9 000 first year students attending UKZN in 2012 were out in force at Parents' Day held on all the campuses recently.

SITHEMBILE SHABANGU, PHUMELELE MAVANENI, LUNGA MEMELA

For Ms Elsie Gumede, who travelled from Tongaat by train, being at the College of Law and Management's Parents' Day on the Westville campus was a life changing experience.

Her son, Mr Wonderboy Gumede, registered for a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting

degree making him the first in the family to undertake tertiary education.

Ms Gumede, an unemployed single parent of three, is among many women in the country solely dependent on government grants for financial support.

In addresses by members of the Executive Management

and the Deans and Heads of Schools, parents were given information regarding UKZN's reorganisation as well as what was on the cards at the University for their children. Parents were agreed to support their children so that they performed better while students were advised to focus on their studies and be mature in

their attitude.

Warmly received by Deans from UKZN's College of Health Sciences (CHS) and Student Service offices, proud parents heard about the six-year journey their sons and daughters would embark on in the MBChB Programme in pursuit of Bachelor of Medicine

and Bachelor of Surgery degrees.

Professor Fanie Botha, Director for College Professional Services, said entrance to UKZN was highly competitive and the MBChB Programme had a proud legacy of attracting high performing and gifted learners.



PHOTOS: SITHEMBILE SHABANGU

UKZN anaesthetist receives CMSA's Phyllis Knocker/Bradlow Award

Dr Reitze Rodseth, an enthusiastic lecturer and specialist in the Department of Anaesthetics at UKZN, received the Phyllis Knocker/Bradlow Award from the Senate of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa (CMSA).

LUNGA MEMELA

This prize is awarded to a person who has not only gained exceptional symbols in CMSA's final fellowship examination, but whose professional career has shown and continues to show promise of a substantial contribution to basic or to clinical research, to community health, or to the advancement of any scientific or humanitarian aspect of medical or dental practice in South Africa.

Rodseth was awarded R45 000 in funding from CMSA towards his proposed study of 5 000 patients to evaluate the ability of postoperative NT-proBNP to predict cardiac complications in patients undergoing non-cardiac surgery.



Dr Reitze Rodseth.

'Recently, small studies have suggested that an increase in the NT-proBNP levels early after

surgery will identify patients who will have a life threatening heart complication.'

Rodseth's study will be conducted as a prospective international multicentre study, where 5 000 patients who have undergone surgery and who spend the night in the hospital after their surgery will be followed.

'This study aims to establish the relationship between post-operative NT-proBNP elevations and major heart complications such as death or a heart attack at 30 days after surgery,' he explained.

It is expected that the study will take two years to recruit all the patients and an additional year to complete the follow-up.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Former UKZN Sife president wins Rhodes Scholarship

Former SIFE President at UKZN, Ms Qhelile Nyathi, has been awarded the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship which will allow her to study towards a Masters degree at the University of Oxford in England for two years.

PHUMELELE MAVANENI

Nyathi will study two Masters programmes – African Studies and Financial Economics – as she believes the programs will facilitate in her development as a relevant actuarial scientist with a good understanding of African finances and economics within investment banking.

African Studies is an interdisciplinary module that covers history, economics and politics of African states while Financial Economics is affiliated to the actuarial profession and falls under the SAID Business School at Oxford where she will receive exemptions from an actuarial sciences board.

Furthermore, during the two years she will complete eight of the 15 tests that qualify her as an actuary after the completion of her Masters degree. She will gain exemption from a further four actuarial exams.

Nyathi applied for the Scholarship through the Zimbabwe Constituency where she went through a rigorous two-day interview process. 'The scholarship looked for individuals who are excelling academically and have a broad outlook on life and understand



Ms Qhelile Nyathi.

PHOTO: PHUMELELE MAVANENI

what's happening on the local and international fronts be it politics, economics, agriculture or socially inclined events.

'I also had to defend the opinions and decisions I have made in life as the interviews continuously probed about focuses outside our academics,' she said.

Nyathi believes one of the reasons she was selected is because of her involvement in SIFE UKZN. 'They were very interested in the work I did in SIFE as well as the expertise and experience I gained through it,' she said.

UKZN debating union ranked in world's top 100

The UKZN Howard College Debating Union (HCDU) has moved up 20 places in the World University Debate Rankings and is now placed second highest among the South African universities behind the University of Cape Town.

SITHEMBILE SHABANGU

The HCDU is presently ranked 80th out of more than 500 teams worldwide.

These results are based on the performance of teams and individual speakers who attend major national, regional and international competitions.

Former President of the HCDU and current Director of External Competitions, Mr Kameel Premhid, said they were pleased with the ranking as they had achieved it without ever attending a World Championship competition.

The biggest competition the HCDU has attended is the Pan African Championships in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, last year. The Union did very well with all its teams making it through to the knockout stages of the competition with one UKZN team ultimately reaching the finals.

The UKZN team finished second overall and won the first, second and 10th best speaker spots.



Premhid says despite fundraising drives, financial constraints have always prevented the union from attending the world championships but this year he has high hopes of them going to the event in Germany.

'With greater financial and administrative support, the HCDU could very easily become the top ranking South African and African Debating Union. We are hopeful the university community will rally behind us and provide us with financial and administrative support.'

UKZN Mandela Rhodes Scholar following family tradition

'Family tradition' convinced Mandela Rhodes Scholar John Flanagan of Zimbabwe that UKZN was the place of learning for him to complete his Masters Degree in Agriculture.

SITHEMBILE SHABANGU

Flanagan said he was following in the footsteps of members of his family in attending the University as his father, sister, two uncles and two cousins had all studied there.

His father, cousins and uncles completed BSc degrees while his sister studied Psychology.

'So I guess apart from being a good university, UKZN is in the family,' said Flanagan.

The Mandela Rhodes scholarship is awarded partly on academic performance but to a greater extent on character, including leadership abilities, a love for people, reconciliation, entrepreneurship and education. The idea is to invest in people who will invest in other people and nations in the future.

Flanagan will examine the economic effects of legalising the sale of rhino horn during his Masters studies at UKZN this year.



Mr John Flanagan.

Flanagan won a Gift of the Givers scholarship for his BSc studies, graduating *cum laude*.

Talking about his experiences on the Pietermaritzburg campus, he said: 'It's been great – thanks to an excellent church family at NCF and amazing friends on campus.'

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

UKZN scientist gets significant research grant

UKZN academic Professor Thumbi Ndung'u is among 28 biomedical scientists from around the world who will receive significant funding from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) in the United States to further their research.

SMITA MAHARAJ



Professor Thumbi Ndung'u.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

The HHMI has committed US\$20-million for its inaugural International Early Career Scientist (IECS) awards.

The 28 scientists chosen from 760 applicants represent a wide range of disciplines, from neuroscience to virology to plant science. All the awardees trained in the United States as graduate students or postdoctoral fellows and have published important research. 'These are the people who, 10 years from now, we expect will be the scientific leaders in their countries,' said HHMI President Robert Tjian.

Ndung'u – who will receive about US\$650 000 over a five-year period beginning in February this year – leads a multidisciplinary team of researchers working in the fields of HIV and TB pathogenesis and vaccine development and has a special interest in capacity building for biomedical research in Africa, especially the training of globally competitive African scientists.

His research interests are host-virus interactions, antiviral immune responses and biomedical interventions applicable to resource-limited settings. He has a special interest in the development of biomedical interventions that can be used in resource-limited settings to stop the spread of HIV and AIDS.

He is the Director of the HIV

Pathogenesis Programme (HPP) at the Doris Duke Medical Research Institute at UKZN and holds the South African Research Chair in Systems Biology of HIV/AIDS at the University.

Ndung'u, his team and their collaborators are currently studying how certain individuals are able to resist HIV-1 infection despite evidence of persistent exposure and how certain HIV-1 infected people are able to achieve relative control of HIV-1 replication. The knowledge gained from studies of people able to resist or control HIV-1 may eventually be used to develop novel vaccines or therapies against HIV and AIDS.

Ndung'u graduated with a degree in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Nairobi in Kenya and obtained a PhD in Biological Sciences in Public Health (Virology) from Harvard University.

He then pursued postdoctoral studies in Virology at Harvard's Medical School and received the Edgar Haber Award at Harvard University for outstanding doctoral thesis research. In 2007 he was awarded the prestigious Vice-Chancellor's Research Award at UKZN for exceptional research and research-related scholarly activities.

Ndung'u's and his research group have made recent discoveries on innate and adaptive

immune mechanisms of HIV control during acute and chronic infection. His group has identified an intracellular protein that blocks HIV replication and he has also shown that in certain individuals the immune system may 'cripple' the virus and make it less pathogenic. These findings may be used to design novel vaccines against the virus.

Ndung'u's previous significant research accomplishments include the development of the first full-length infectious clone of HIV-1 from Africa, an important reagent for detailed genetic studies of this strain. This genetic tool allows for various studies on drug sensitivity and vaccine design to be conducted. He is also associated with the generation of a subtype C simian human immunodeficiency virus (SHIV), a genetic chimera between HIV and SIV viruses that allows the use of rhesus monkey models to conduct HIV vaccine tests.

He has published more than 80 scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals in the fields of virology and immunology. He was co-Chair of Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise's Young and Early Career Investigators Committee and played a key role in the formulation of the Enterprise's 2010 scientific strategic plan.

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On 29 November 2010, Mhinga was honoured with a special award from Roll Back Malaria and the United Nation's Goodwill Ambassador for her significant contribution and long standing commitment to empowering women and children in their fight to free Africa of diseases such as HIV and malaria.

Professor Mahmood Mamdani – DLitt (*honoris causa*)

Professor Mahmood Mamdani is a world renowned scholar in politics, history and culture as well as an accomplished author and political commentator. His intellectual work and scholarship focuses on the African continent and he has greatly influenced thinking and writing about Africa, generating knowledge and understanding in the study of African and international politics, colonialism and post-colonialism, and the politics of knowledge production.

He has received numerous awards and recognitions, including being listed as one of the 'Top 20 Public Intellectuals' by Foreign Policy (United States) and Prospect (United Kingdom) magazine in 2008. He received his PhD from Harvard University in 1974 and specialises in the study of African history and politics. His works explore the intersection between politics and culture, a comparative study of colonialism since 1452, the history of civil war and genocide in Africa, the Cold War and the War on Terror, and the history and theory of human rights.

Mamdani's most distinguished contribution is in reclaiming Africa's contribution to the global knowledge project and in knowledge generation in and of Africa. His accomplishments are evidenced in his considerable scholarly works and his enormous commitment and dedication to this task.

Mr Lawrence Anthony – DSc (*honoris causa*)

Highly respected and renowned international conservationist, environmentalist, explorer and best-selling author, Mr Lawrence Anthony's distinguished contributions to conservation and the environment are recognised at the highest levels globally. Anthony is probably best known for his bold conservation initiatives which include the rescue of the Baghdad Zoo in Iraq at the height of the United

States invasion in 2003 and expeditions into the jungle in Southern Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in an attempt to save the Northern White Rhino from extinction.

In the midst of sandstorms, gunfire and warfare, Anthony flew into Iraq in April of 2003 and drove alone through 500 miles of desert to Baghdad to rescue animals at the zoo. By the time he arrived, there were only 35 left out of an original 650 to 700.

Eventually with international aid the zoo reopened and Anthony formed the first SPCA in Iraq. His initiative was recognised by both the US and Iraqi governments and he received the US 3rd Infantry Division Regimental Medal for bravery in his work.

Anthony founded the Earth Organisation, an independent international conservation and environmental organisation which aims to protect the environment and enhance the survival potential of all life forms. His principle conservation and environmental focus has been the meaningful involvement of remote rural African communities in the benefits of conservation.

Mrs Zuleikha Mayat – DSocSc (*honoris causa*)

Journalist, author, culinary expert, philanthropist, cultural and religious leader and poet Mrs Zuleikha Mayat is a remarkable role model who has made a rich and varied contribution to South African society. Her pioneering and bold contributions in addressing gender issues and raising highly sensitive cultural and religious practices regarding the role of women in religion was debated through the multi-racial Women's Cultural Group she established.

For the past six decades Mayat has been a courageous and pioneering woman playing a role in the transformation of South African society politically and in the field of education, and in challenging social, religious and economic boundaries restricting women. Mayat is well known in many parts of the world and is a respected figure in the local community. She has played an important part in the transformation of South African society politically and in the field of education, and in challenging social, religious and economic boundaries which have restricted women.

Inspiring lecture from Nobel Prize winner

Staff, students and members of the public who attended a special public lecture at UKZN's Medical Campus on 2 February were left inspired after an insightful presentation from Professor Peter Agre, the 2003 Nobel Prize winner in Chemistry.

LUNGA MEMELA

Agre is being hosted at UKZN by the KwaZulu-Natal Research Institute for Tuberculosis and HIV (K-RITH).

He received global recognition after he discovered aquaporins – a family of water channel proteins found throughout nature and responsible for numerous physiological processes in humans and implicated in multiple clinical disorders.

Agre shared the 2003 Nobel Prize in Chemistry with Professor Roderick MacKinnon, a professor of Molecular Neurobiology and Biophysics at Rockefeller University in the United States, for

discoveries concerning channels in cell membranes.

'The nature of science is just amazing,' said UKZN's Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Malegapuru Makgoba, while extending a warm welcome to Agre. Makgoba said hard work and dedication led to cutting edge science.

During the lecture, Agre reflected on his scientific upbringing and recognised science as an international career which built ground-breaking partnerships and friendships globally. He also highlighted Norwegian explorer, scientist, diplomat, humanitarian and

Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Fridtjof Nansen, as his role model and expressed that 'a career in science or a career in medicine leads one to a place where doors will open'.

Audience members also gained insight into his vision on science and human rights and were fascinated to learn about some of his 'science diplomacy visits' around the world.

Agre sees aquaporins research making groundbreaking discoveries in the near future. He said it was important to stimulate young scientists' interest in scientific research as 'science is the future'.



PHOTO: LUNGA MEMELA

Professor Malegapuru Makgoba, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of UKZN, congratulates Professor Peter Agre after the public lecture.



Ms Santhana Pillay (far right) leads first entry Humanities students on a tour of the Howard College campus.

PHOTO: PHUMELELE MAVANENI

SRC and Mentorship Office deliver successful orientation

The Student Representative Council (SRC) and the Mentorship Office have played an important role in ensuring that first year entry students – as well as other students – receive all the help they need during the beginning of the academic year.

PHUMELELE MAVANENI

The institutions are working together to successfully drive Orientation on all campuses and will continue to ensure an effortless transition for first entry students into tertiary education.

Orientation, which took place on the five campuses, began with an insightful introduction to the University for the new students with talks by representatives from each school. During the College

of Humanities orientation at the Howard College campus, discussions included registration and financial aid information along with reports from student support. The Writing Place made use of the opportunity to highlight how their services can assist the new students in learning and adjusting to the required academic style of writing.

For some students, the highlight of the different presentations was the play the

Library performed to educate them about their services and how necessary and accessible the facility is. Students were also told more about the University and given handbooks specific to their college. These handbooks contain useful information students require for success in their studies.

A popular highlight on the day was the campus tour where the Orientation Team was deployed.

New post graduate diploma in child protection

The Child Protection Working Group (CPWG), a cluster in the Inter Agency Standing Committee of the United Nations, is collaborating with UKZN in the establishment of a post-graduate diploma dealing with child protection in emergency situations.

GQWESA NYIKANA

The diploma is considered the first of its kind. The pilot project will be developed in partnership with the University of Indonesia and Columbia University in the USA. This follows a process in which the CPWG approached more than 500 universities worldwide and undertook a rigorous examination of proposals submitted before selecting UKZN as the lead institution.

The proposal for this was developed by UKZN's Dean and Head of Department: Built Environment and Development Studies, Professor Thokozani Xaba, who is also the Director of the African Centre for Childhood.

Xaba and the Executive Director of the UKZN Foundation, Mr Bruno Van Dyk, hosted the delegates at an initial planning workshop in Durban. Delegates include Professor Mike Wessells of the University of Columbia and the University of Indonesia and Ms Katie Bisaro and Mrs Amanda Malville

of Save the Children and the CPWG.

These organisations and Higher Educational Institutions have extensive expertise in providing emergency relief to children. As this programme will be delivered internationally through distance learning, Ms Fiona Bulman of the African Centre for Childhood will support the development of the distance materials and systems.

'The primary purpose for these partnerships is to ensure UKZN produces an educational accredited qualification that serves to develop aid workers with the necessary skills which will ultimately benefit the children most affected by horrific disasters,' said Xaba.

Save the Children is one of the leading independent organisations which provide children affected by natural disasters and conflict with food, medical care and education. It also assists in strengthening and re-building communities world-wide.



Professor Mike Wessells, Mrs Amanda Malville, Professor Thokozani Xaba and Ms Katie Bisaro.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Health scientist acknowledged for 100th ISI-recognised publication



Professor Sabiha Essack, Dean of the School of Health Sciences, congratulates Dr Thavendran Govender after he delivered a public lecture on the advantages of multidisciplinary collaboration on research projects.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

LUNGA MEMELA

Dr Thavendran Govender, a Senior Lecturer in Pharmaceutical Sciences at UKZN's School of Health Sciences, has received numerous messages of congratulations for publishing his 100th Institute for Scientific Information (ISI)-recognised publication.

This is an impressive accomplishment for the 35-year-old who continues to position UKZN among the top Institutions of Higher Education in the country with competitive global rankings. His 100th paper was titled: 'Pentacycloundecane-diol based HIV-1 protease inhibitors: biological screening, 2D-NMR and molecular simulations studies.'

'Thavendran has all the trademarks of a true scholar – qualifications, research productivity with impact factors, postgraduate students, competitive research grants and teaching,' said Professor Malegapuru Makgoba, UKZN's Vice-Chancellor and Principal.

An alumnus of UKZN, Govender rejoined the Institution in 2007 after pursuing post-doctoral studies at Uppsala University in Sweden. He has since published a remarkable 88 papers, attracted over R33 million funding and graduated 11 MSc and PhD candidates at UKZN.

He juggles his research career with being a father of two and having a passion for boxing and soccer.

'As a researcher you need to believe you are going to make a difference in the world,' says Govender.

Govender has published extensively in the fields of TB, HIV and Asymmetric Catalysis. He believes publishing in international papers and journals is the 'red measure' of the quality of an academic's training.

'I have always wanted to teach. In the world of academia you have freedom with your research.' This has allowed him to flourish as a researcher and continue to inspire and motivate students who come into higher learning from different walks of life.

Questioned about the considerable amount of funding he has managed to attract into UKZN's College of Health Sciences, Govender said most of it had been in the form of infrastructural development and about 10 percent had been for consumer bills and running costs. 'We use our productivity money to help support undergraduate students to go into postgraduate studies.

'As a supervisor I don't just train students. I go out and find them jobs as well. Our industry partners know how tough I am on my students and trust the

quality of their degrees under our supervision.'

Several employers commend students who graduate from Govender. 'They always want more and more quality students,' he reported, also stating that he enjoys watching their skills grow as they journey through postgraduate programmes in UKZN's pharmaceutical sciences.

People who have graduated through Govender include Dr Maya Makhathi, Dr Grant Boyle, who is now employed by iThemba Pharmaceuticals, Dr Tricia Naicker of Aarhus University in Denmark and Dr Byron Peters of Uppsala University, Sweden.

'I would like to see South Africa contribute to a cure for a major disease. American and European pharmaceutical sciences have been strongly inclined to diseases which impact their counties. It would be great to see those companies invest in research in South Africa.'

One of his short-term goals is to be at the forefront of TB research by the end of the year.

He challenged academic staff at UKZN to pursue the Institution's goal for pre-eminence in research, to conduct collaborative research and to thrive on quality research. 'Collaboration is everything. Do not expect to know everything.'

Academic whizz kid puts faith in UKZN

PHUMELELE MAVANENI

Mr Muhammad Ismail, acknowledged by the Department of Education as one of the brightest matriculants in the country, is confident UKZN will bring out the very best in him in his quest to become a chartered accountant and a financial analyst.

Ismail is studying towards a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting in the College of Law and Management. 'I am looking forward to everything UKZN offers as an outstanding university and want to be involved in lots of activities on the Pietermaritzburg campus. UKZN provides the ideal environment to nurture the success inherent in every individual,' he said.

Ismail's grandmother, Mrs Kulsam Ismail, describes him as a very special gift. 'Our family is very thrilled about Muhammad's success and are happy that he will be at UKZN where he will be close to home and studying at a top institution.

'He is really special and

a favourite among his peers. He was involved in a lot of voluntary work in and around his school and community so much so that I sometimes scolded him about helping too many people as I was worried he would not cope with the pressures, but he did,' she said.

Ismail not only plans to be a chartered accountant, but wants to progress to a financial analyst and study abroad after his internship at PriceWaterhouseCoopers, the company which awarded him a bursary and work experience because of his outstanding matric results.

Outside of academic activities, Ismail wants to memorise the Koran, learn Arabic and eventually open a travel agency. He also has a keen interest in Islamic finances and wants to create a convenient system for provident and pension funds at banks that deal in Islamic finances.

See Page 2 for the isiZulu translation of this article.

UKZN project cited in US report on bioethical issues

A UKZN collaborative project to improve the rights and protection of people who volunteer to participate in scientific research has been mentioned favourably in a recent United States Presidential Commission report on bioethical issues.

DOUG WASSENAAR

The report, presented to US President Barack Obama in December last year, is titled: 'Moral Science: Protecting participants in human subjects research' and contains a thorough review of US regulations and standards to assess their adequacy to protect human participants in research.

The report mentions efforts by agencies independent of the US as making 'notable' efforts to improve human participant protection in studies conducted outside the US. One of the projects mentioned is a collaboration between the Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED) and the UKZN School of Psychology on the Pietermaritzburg campus, funded by a competitive grant from the European Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP). The part-

nership is locating and mapping all Research Ethics Committees in Africa on an interactive web-based platform through Health Research Web.

The full text of the citation, which is on Pg 49 of the Presidential Commission's report, reads:

'Other notable efforts to enhance accountability and access to information about human subjects research are also underway. For example, "Health Research Web", initiated by the Council on Health Research for Development, an international non-governmental organisation whose primary objective is to strengthen research for health and innovation, compiles information on studies taking place around the world, as well as information about IRBs and research ethics committees, countries' governance policies, and other useful data.'

The UKZN Griot Of Retailing and Hospitality



Only at a university would prime real estate be made into a car park.

KEYAN G TOMASELLI

“We don’t want to corporatise!” This was the puzzling response by Facilities Management (FM) to my suggestion shortly after the establishment of the MTB coffee shop many years ago. The shop was so successful that this initiative, I suggested, needed to be franchised all over HC. Crowds would be redistributed, noise levels muted, and the whole campus served equitably.

The FM retort was from an already corporatised division, so it took me momentarily off-guard.

On inquiry, I was told that a management committee made up of academics was anti-corporatisation, and I learned when advising the PR division, that the banks and shops below the EG Malherbe Library were considered something of an aberration. Remember, in those days Natal University was anti-capitalist, and clearly, this position made it worryingly anti-humanist also. Offering services to staff and students to make the campus more welcome, hospitable and engaging, was seen to be counter-revolutionary. No wonder HC staff and students can’t wait to get off campus after their last lecture.

So, as is my wont, I wrote a proposal, this time to the

Foundation. I started: “Only at NU would prime real estate with a view to kill for be allocated to a car park”. This is the area that overlooks the bay and harbour (over the Snedden theatre), which bewildered tourists would negotiate to get to a viewpoint cluttered with unsightly parked vehicles. My proposal: turn this lot into an income-generating business hub, pub and grub that would subsidise the institution as a whole. Of course, the claim by the City Council on much of this area is an inhibiting factor, but unlike Johannesburg which donated Yale Road to Wits, the Durban council insists on retaining ownership of the road and adjacent grassy area, and then it competes with the University in issuing licences for food vendors. This is the Durban spaza shop mentality at work.

The retail offerings would include a much larger space for Adams Books, a classy coffee shop, where all and sundry could get a decent meal and bottomless coffee, an alumni shop, a professional gym, a lookout point to trap tourists and relieve them of their hard-earned cash, a link to the currently physically isolated Snedden, which would better integrate it into the life and soul of the campus. The architect’s

impression in my mind includes a small hotel and viewing deck, even craft sellers and formally regulated hawkers of various kinds. Imagine a campus that actually has a decent social life, where collegiality can be restored, where the social integrity of an educational collective can develop.

The Foundation’s response: how would such a venture be financed? A second submission listed the benefits of private-public partnerships. Business would fund the complex, NU would provide the land and licence; management would be outsourced, jobs would be created, and the University would benefit financially. The Schools of Architecture and Civil Engineering could have done the designs, supervised implementation and provided their students real world professional experience.

OK, so where would staff now park, I was asked? My suggestion was that a basement be built under the complex, and multi-story parking be built at the corner of Ridge and Queen Elizabeth roads. A properly designed and managed taxi and bus rank, entrance and exit areas, would solve the *gemors* at the entrance to HC. The downer would be that users of the parking garage would

need to pay for its use to cover the cost of its construction.

Well, as is this campus’s habit, nothing happened. Cars continue to occupy prime real estate, pedestrians continue to dodge cars, buses, trucks and taxis, and – other than lectures and meetings – there is little to keep us on campus at any time. We all have to leave to have supper.

In the meantime, the under-utilised, partially empty Steve Biko Student’s Union deteriorates. When I first arrived in 1985 there was a thriving canteen in its basement, now a derelict, wasted and alienated space, not even serving students. The University has been incapable of managing the noise, smoking screaming and screeching at the MTB coffee shop. The solution: shut it down! The response: students and academics insisted that it continue to facilitate one of the few sites of collegiality, but that the area be better managed.

Why corporatise? A good question. Seems that corporatisation was not understood by NU in its positive sense, but the process is now taken on in the practice of surveillance software such as KPAs and other forms of forms which simply instrumentalise life and work rather than enabling creativity. As one of my corre-

spondents from another institution puts it, there was no acceptable proof that his staff had done anything much in 2010-11, their KPA system not having been able to accommodate the words “aim” or “objective” when we should have said “Performance Indicator” and/or “Target Milestone”. So we’re all heading for the bureaucratic trenches to reformat all our expectations so that 2011-12 at least *looks* (to the auditors) a little more productive!”

Maybe the postmodernists are correct after all – we live in simulacrum constructed for us by software programmers who have absolutely no idea of what they are measuring, or why. But our performance will be thus assessed anyway. As another correspondent asked, “will universities ever re-capture the essence of what made them beacons of possibility?”

Keyan G Tomaselli is Director of The Centre for Communication, Media and Society. He was once an urban geographer with a research interest in shopping centre location and consumer attraction. Now, he avoids these preening places like the plague.

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

Sudoku

	6	3						7
	1			7	8	9	4	3
7	8	9			5	1	6	2
9		1	7	5			8	
6		2		8	3	7	9	4
3			4	9			2	
5	2		8					9
8			2		7	4	1	5
1		4	5		9	2		8

New UKZN Tagline: ‘Inspiring Greatness’

The Corporate Relations Division ran UKZN’s Tagline Competition last year and is pleased to announce that the search for the tagline is over. As from February 13 UKZN’s official tagline is: UKZN-Inspiring Greatness.

PHUMELELE MAVANENI



UKZN Tagline competition winner and an Honours Drama and Media student, Mr Kline Smith, has not only won an Apple Macbook Air laptop for his submission, but has shaped UKZN’s history as the first student to create a tagline for the university. The words ‘Inspiring Greatness’, are now embedded in the brand of this great Institution.

PHOTO : THANDIWE MADIKAZI

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