



UKZN DABA

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UKZN'S OUTSTANDING Researchers Honoured

The UKZN Annual Research Dinner on December 1 recognised the contribution made by academics in advancing the research status of UKZN and also saw the launch of the *UKZN Research Report 2008/2009* and *UKZN Research Voices*, a new publication from the Research Office.

WORDS: NEESHA MAHARAJ PHOTOS: ALBERT HIRASEN

In his keynote address, the Vice-President of the National Research Foundation (NRF) and UKZN alumnus Dr Gansen Pillay focused on what he termed the "ugly and bad" challenges facing South African Higher Education Institutions, and the "good and new" developments in research. Dr Pillay cited the AIDS pandemic and the misconceptions of transformation as the 'ugly', alluding to the millions of lives the disease continues to claim in Africa, and the adverse effects of a narrow view of transformation. He said Higher Education needed to make decisions in responding to these issues.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Professor Nelson Ijumba launched the *Annual Research Report 2008/2009*. He congratulated all categories of researchers who featured in the *Research Report* owing to success in their research areas. UKZN's research output increased by 13 percent over the past two years, while the proportion of research active staff increased from 69 to 75 percent. Professor Ijumba said that the increased research capacity among African women must be applauded, largely due to the work done by the Women in Research Academy, an initiative of the Research Office.

Launching *UKZN Research Voices* University Dean of Research, Professor Cheryl Potgieter explained that the publication aims to make the University's research output accessible to a diverse range of readers, and to promote the new UKZN Research Focus Areas. The new Focus Areas are: HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis



(left to right) Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Professor Nelson Ijumba; Mrs Louise van Staden; and Professor Johannes van Staden, recipient of the DVC Research Award for the Top Published Researcher for 2008.

(TB) and Health Promotion; Biotechnology; Water, Environment and Biodiversity; Social, Development and Economic Studies; Agriculture and Food Security; Energy and Technology for Sustainable Development; Gender, Race and Identity Studies; Indigenous African Knowledge Systems; and Maritime Studies. Each edition of *UKZN Research Voices* will feature a chosen focus area. For the inaugural edition, the focus area was HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and Health Promotion. Professor Potgieter added that the launch of the first edition on World AIDS Day was no coincidence.

UKZN's researchers in the categories of South African Research Chairs, University Fellows, and NRF A-Rated

Researchers were acknowledged. Two new awards – the DVC Research Award for the Top Published Researcher, and the Dean of Research Award for the Top Published Woman Researcher at UKZN – were presented to Professor Johannes van Staden (School of Biological and Conservation Sciences: Top Published Researcher 2008), Professor Steven Johnson (School of Biological and Conservation Sciences: Top Published Researcher 2009) Professor Colleen Downs (School of Biological and Conservation Sciences: Top Published Women Researcher 2008) and Dr Sarojini Nadar (School of Religion and Theology: Top Published Woman Researcher 2009).



Professor Steven Johnson, Top Published Researcher for 2009, who was unable to attend the Research Dinner.



University Dean of Research, Professor Cheryl Potgieter, with the Top Woman Published Researcher for 2008, Professor Colleen Downs (left) and Dr Sarojini Nadar (right), the Top Woman Published Researcher for 2009.

Bekukhangiswa ezobunjiniyela ezihamba phambili

Ubuchule nobungcweti bekuhamba phambili ngesikhathi abafundi baseNyuvesi yaKwaZulu-Natali abayikhulu nambili abenza unyaka wokugcina ezifundweni zobunjiniyela kwezogesi nezamakhompuyutha bebhkhangisa ngomsebenzi wabo esikhungweni sase Howard College.

UMBHALI & ISITHOMBE: VICKY CROOKES

Kulomkhangiso wamashumi amathathu nane bekubhekwa kuwo ukuthi abafundi bazokwazi yini ukumela umsebenzi wokuba ama-Design Engineers, kubhekwa futhi nokuthi abafundi balusebenzisile yini lonke ulwazi abalitholile kulemyaka emine besesikhungweni. Abawinile bebhkethwa amajaji angaphakathi nawangaphandle bese kukhishwa imiklomelo eyahlukahlukeni. Ekugcineni kosuku kube nomcimbi wokumemezela abaziwinele lemiklomelo.

Kulonyaka linyukile izinga labantu besifazane abathole imiklomelo ebalwa kwehamba phambili. UNkosazana (Nksz) Anna Zawilska uthole umklomelo wokuba umfundi ohamba phambili nomuklomelo wokuqhamuka nesu elisha kwa-Electronic Engineering. Lemiklomelo ixhaswe abakwa Reutech Communications nabakwa Altron Group. Ucwangingo lukaNksz Zawilska olwubizwa ngokuthi "Human-Computer Interaction" lubheka izindlela ezintsha zokuthi umuntu akwazi ukusebenzisana nekhompuyutha yakhe. Lokhu kusho ukuthi umuntu uzokwazi ukusebenzisa ikhompuyutha ngokukhomba nokunyakazisa izandla engayithintanga. Lomfundi uchazwe njengo wokuqala kulesi sikhungo nakulomkhakha we-Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering ohlakaniphe ngalendlela nokwazile ukuphasa izifundo zakhe eziningi ngo 100%.

Abanye abawinile bekungu Nksz Reevara Balmahoon yena naye ube umfundi ohamba phambili kwa-Computer Engineering nozitholele umklomelo oxhaswe abakwa Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) wesikhangisi sakhe esivelele kunabanye. Ezinye zezikhangisi bekukhona imoto ekwazi ukupaka ungayenzanga lutho olutheni, uhlelo olusha lokushintsha ulwimi lwesingisi luye kolwesiZulu kanye nomshini okwazi ukubona ukuthi umuntu ungubani ngokusebenzisa iso lakhe. Bekukhona nokunye okuningi okuhamba phambili obekukhangiswa.

Abanye abawinile bekungu uMnu Robert Jeremy othole umklomelo we-Most Innovative Design Project ka Computer Engineering; uMnu Duncan Frost othole umklomelo we Best Final Year Electronic Engineering Design Project; uMnu Yu-Ting Huang ozitholele umklomelo wokuba umfundi ohamba phambili ka Power Systems nokuba umfundi ohamba phambili ka Electrical Engineering; uMnu Abdul Qadir Amra yena owenze Control Systems Project chamba phambili; no Mnu Nkululeko Mazibuko beno Mnu Velosin Govender abathole indawo yokuqala neyesibili ku Best Electrical Engineering Fourth Year Design Project.

For the English version of this article, see page 3.



Professor Nceba Gqaleni lights candles in memory of those who have passed on and in support of those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

UKZN Commemorates World AIDS Day

In commemoration of World AIDS Day on December 1, UKZN hosted simultaneous public lectures at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine, and the Westville and Howard College campuses on November 29 and on the Edgewood campus on December 1.

WORDS: NEESHA MAHARAJ PHOTO: ALBERT HIRASEN

On the Westville campus, Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim, Associate Scientific Director at the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) provided an update of advances made in HIV prevention in 2010 during a lecture titled: *What's new in HIV Prevention?* She outlined a series of scientific studies, including the CAPRISA 004 Study, initiated in 2007 which aimed at developing an effective microbicide for women who were at risk of being infected with HIV. The study produced ground breaking results.

Professor Abdool Karim recognised the importance of global solidarity in the fight against HIV and AIDS, and the role of the scientific community, advocacy groups, government leadership and collaboration among stakeholders for making a difference. She raised concern over the continued increase in HIV infections in KwaZulu-Natal and stressed the importance of individuals knowing their HIV status so as to seek the necessary treatment if one is HIV positive, or protect themselves against the possibility of HIV infection in future, if uninfected.

At the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine the Director of the HIV Pathogenesis Programme, Professor Thumbi

Ndung'u discussed strides made towards a vaccine for HIV in his lecture: *At a Crossroad in HIV Vaccine Research: Challenges and Emerging Opportunities.*

Almost 30 years without a cure for HIV may seem a long time; but Professor Ndung'u explained that a vaccine to combat polio was made 47 years after the virus was discovered. "HIV is unique because it is very diverse and there are no cases of natural cure once somebody is infected. Therefore, it will require much more innovation and research to develop a vaccine against HIV."

On the Howard College campus, Professor Nceba Gqaleni, the South African Research Chair for Indigenous Health Care Systems and the Head of the Traditional Medicine Programme at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine presented a cultural perspective on the fight against HIV and AIDS in his lecture on Traditional Medicine and HIV/AIDS.

His presentation touched on the significance of the Bio-medical and Traditional Healing Collaboration on HIV and AIDS, a partnership between UKZN, the eThekweni Municipality, the Provincial Department of Health and the Traditional Health Practitioners of KwaZulu-Natal.

"Prevention remains our best weapon in the fight against HIV and AIDS. It is the area we all need to take personal and collective responsibility for. I am sure we can and we will," Professor Gqaleni added.

On the Edgewood campus Professor Alan Whiteside, the Founder and Director of the Health Economics and HIV/AIDS Research Division (HEARD) emphasised HIV prevention in his lecture, *Safe SEX, No Sex Month: Could it Work? An Innovation Response for Preventing HIV Transmission.*

He proposed a campaign in South Africa that promoted safe sex or abstinence among all sexually active people for a month. Professor Whiteside believes his idea is a unique behavioural intervention where a population-wide safe sex/no sex effort for a set period of time could make a significant contribution to global prevention efforts.

"If everyone in a population abstained from high-risk sex for a given period of time, in theory the viral loads of all recent seroconverters should pass through the acute infection period. When risk behaviour resumed there would be almost no individuals in the high-viraemic phase thereby reducing infectivity and HIV incidence



Abesifazane abaphume phambili, kwesikunxele uNksz Reevara Balmahoon beno Nksz Anna Zawilska bawuthokozele kakhulu lomcimbi wokukhangisa ngocwangingo labo bebonakala lana beme noMphathi wezomkhakha wezemfundo zobunjiniyela uNjingalwazi Fambirai Takawira

Albert Luthuli Memorial Lecture Delivered by President Jacob Zuma

South African President Mr Jacob Zuma delivered the Albert Luthuli Memorial Lecture 2010 at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli Convention Centre in Durban on November 24.

WORDS: NEESHA MAHARAJ PHOTO: RAJESH JANTILAL

UKZN in partnership with the Department of Arts and Culture and the Chief Albert Luthuli Foundation hosted the Lecture in commemoration of the political stalwart who was renowned for his commitment to the fight against apartheid. This was the fourth time the University has hosted the Lecture, which is an initiative of the National Legacy Project that seeks to promote the ideals of anti-apartheid heroes who'd played a pivotal role in eradicating the discriminatory apartheid regime. This year's Lecture was especially significant as it not only celebrated the achievements of Chief Albert John Mvumbi Luthuli but marked the 50th anniversary of his bestowal with a Nobel Peace Prize, making him the first African to receive the prestigious award.

Hundreds of guests, among them UKZN academics, political leaders, the diplomatic corps, prominent members of the judiciary, national and provincial government officials and students converged to hear President Zuma present the Lecture on the theme, *Service to Mankind*. In the run up to President Zuma's talk guests viewed the Luthuli Museum Exhibition which presented a pictorial history of Chief Luthuli, were welcomed by UKZN academic, Professor Nceba Gqaleni; and addressed by the Minister of Arts and Culture, Mr Paul Mashatile and

the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal and UKZN Chancellor, Dr Zweli Mkhize.

"Compatriots, of significance this year, 2010 is also the fact that we are now marking 50 years of the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Chief Luthuli on the December 10, 1961. He received the award with great humility and dedicated it to oppressed South Africans, Africans and other down trodden masses... That historical award was one of the most significant milestones in the history of our country and continent. It was no small achievement for a nation that was still in conflict. It confirmed that Chief Luthuli was the right leader (for the African National Congress) at the right time."

President Zuma added that Chief Luthuli's receiving the Nobel Peace Prize had added much needed energy and renewed the focus on the international campaign against apartheid. Chief Luthuli was the first South African to have called on the international community to impose sanctions against the apartheid regime

"What was it about Chief Luthuli that made him stand out as a leader and statesman? Luthuli did not believe in words without facts, in action without results. He was an active agent of change. We learnt that at his first teaching post in Blaauwbosch he emphasised the importance

of intellectual development. He would not let children suffer what oppressors had designed for them," said President Zuma.

In a message appearing in a commemorative Lecture brochure, UKZN Vice-Chancellor, Professor Malegapuru Makgoba described, Chief Luthuli as a "remarkable individual" and "iconic figure" who believed that every individual had the right to freedom. "At this juncture in our history it is imperative that institutions of higher learning promote Luthuli's ideals which should form part of the holistic learning process. The new generation of leaders should embody his virtues and a deep sense of community that is fundamental to the success of nations," said Professor Makgoba.

UKZN Chancellor and Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Dr Zweli Mkhize said that UKZN should be commended for its role in initiating a series of lectures over the years in honour of Chief Luthuli life's work.

The Minister of Arts and Culture, Mr Paul Mashatile said his Ministry's support of the Albert Luthuli Memorial Lecture 2010 was in line with its goal to honour the life of an icon and ensure that his vision and values were passed on from one generation to another.

The Lecture was followed by a press conference and gala dinner.



UKZN's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Malegapuru Makgoba (right) welcomes South African President, Mr Jacob Zuma (left). Looking on are the Minister of Arts and Culture, Mr Paul Mashatile (2nd from the left) and Dr Zweli Mkhize, UKZN Chancellor and the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal.

UKZN's 'Centenary Walk'

WORDS & PHOTO: LUNGA MEMELA

As part of the Centenary celebrations, a row of trees was planted on the main Pietermaritzburg campus on December 3, to create what will be known as 'Centenary Walk'. Dr Peter Green, the Councillor for Scottsville and a former lecturer at UKZN was one of the stakeholders who planted a tree.



Showcasing Engineering at its best

Ingenuity and innovation were the order of the day when 102 of UKZN's fourth-year electrical, electronic and computer engineering students displayed their final-year design projects at the School's 34th Open Day on November 24 on the Howard College campus.

WORDS: VICKY CROOKES

The culmination of five solid weeks of intense design, the students' projects are a test of their ability to survive as design engineers and form the pinnacle of their design activities during their four-year engineering degree. The projects are judged, according to strict criteria, by a panel of internal and external examiners, and prize winners in each category are determined. The prizes, which are all sponsored by industry, are presented to the winners by industry representatives at a special awards ceremony at the end of the Open Day.

Several high-achieving women featured amongst the top prize winners including Ms Anna Zawilka, who received the Reutech Communications Prize for the Most Innovative Design Implementation in Electronic Engineering and the Altron Group Prize for being the Best Final Year Student; and Ms Reevana Balmahoon, who won two CSIR-sponsored prizes in Computer Engineering for being the best student and for having the best design project.

Ms Zawilka's project focused on the field of research known as "Human-Computer Interaction" that involves finding improved and more natural ways of interacting with a computer. She dealt specifically with direction and gesture hand monitoring which is based on the premise that instead of using a mouse or a touch screen to interact with a computer, you can do things by pointing and moving your hands. Boasting a current average of 94 percent and achieving 100 percent for eight of her courses in her degree programme, Ms Zawilka has been described as "undoubtedly the brightest student the School of Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering has ever had." She attributes her success

to hard work, persistence, time management and discipline. She said: "The resources are here for you to excel; managing everything is the challenge."

An Eye Motion Tracker by Ms Balmahoon showed how it is possible to track the direction in which a person is looking, and thereby allow this person to track and move a cursor around a projected computer screen merely by eye movement. Also possessing an impressive academic record, Ms Balmahoon plans to continue studying and will register next year for a Masters degree in the area of communication and security.

Other innovative projects on display included a system that allows a vehicle to perform parallel parking without direct human interaction, a graphical user interface and database for a Zulu-English translator, a system that can identify a person by photographing their iris, an electronic toll collection system, an automated fingerprint-based examination attendance register and an autonomous digital sphygmomanometer which is a device that is used to measure the systolic and diastolic blood pressure of a human being.

The complement of major prize winners included: Mr Robert Jermy, Most Innovative Design Project in Computer Engineering; Mr Duncan Frost, Best Final Year Electronic Engineering Design Project; Mr Yu-Ting Huang, Best Final Year Student in Power Systems and Best Final Year Student in Electrical Engineering; Mr Abdul Qadir Amra, Best Control Systems Project; and Mr Nkululeko Mazibuko and Mr Velosin Govender who placed first and second for the Best Electrical Engineering Fourth Year Design Project.

2010 in retrospect

As 2010 drew to a close, UKZN DABA asked the Deans of UKZN's Faculties to identify the highs and lows of the past year, and the challenges that lie ahead.

WORDS: LUNGA MEMELA AND SITHEMBILE SHABANGU PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

Faculty of Education

In 2009 the University Senate's *Analysis of Research Productivity at UKZN* named the Faculty of Education as 'the Most Improved Faculty in Research Output'.

Dean of the Faculty, Professor Michael Samuel was proud to announce that 21 PhD students graduated from their Faculty in the April 2010 graduations. "Almost 48% of all permanent staff have a PhD (almost 10% higher than the university average), and 26% are registered for a PhD," he said. He also said that the Faculty has now "the largest doctoral programme in education in the country".

The launch and appointment of Professor Relebohile Moletsane as the John Langalibalele Dube Chair in Rural Education in September was also a significant milestone for the Faculty. Professor Samuel was appointed as a member of Commonwealth Advisory Council on Teacher Mobility, Recruitment and Migration; Advisory Endorsement Committee for Continuing Professional Teacher development

in the South Africa Council for Educators.

"Teacher education has been earmarked nationally as a priority growth area," said Professor Samuel. Apart from the increasing international linkages, individual and collaborative projects are "growing" in the Faculty, and a host of books and journal output from staff (authored, co-authored and edited) are contributing towards the University's strategic goal of African-Led Globalisation.

There has also been an increase from 45 percent in 2004 to 72 percent in 2010 of African student enrolment to the Bachelor of Education degree. R40.78 million was allocated for the Fundza Lushaka Bursary for 2010, awarding 802 students nationally for initial teacher education in the priority areas of Mathematics, Sciences, Technology Education, Early Childhood Education, and Language Education.

A large-scale research project was undertaken by the School of Education and Development staff on behalf of the Treasury to review the state of Education in KwaZulu-Natal. New modes

of delivery of the Faculty's undergraduate programmes were developed in collaboration with Limpopo and Mpumalanga Provinces.

The Faculty is challenged annually by overwhelming numbers of applicants for both tuition and residence facilities. It is part of the Faculty's strategic goals to address these challenges one by one, receiving much appreciated support from the Department of Higher Education and Training.

"An anthology of reflections has been compiled on the establishment and development of the Edgewood campus as an institution in its changing trajectory of involvement in the development of teachers as part of the Centenary Celebrations of 100 years of academia in KwaZulu-Natal," said Professor Samuel. The project was co-ordinated by Professor Johan Wassermann and Ms Angela Bryne.

The Faculty now looks forward to the re-curriculation of all teacher education programmes; the finalisation of the conversion of the Student Dining Hall into a lecture theatre complex; the establishment of new office space for academic and support staff;

and engagement on the scale and scope of operations and the modes of delivery for the different Faculty sectors.

Faculty of Engineering

In reviewing the year 2010, including achievements of 2009 reported in 2010, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Professor Fambirai Takawira said that some of the highlights for the Faculty include "a pleasing improvement in the overall pass rates and graduation rate."

He added that the Faculty had an Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) accreditation visit for the undergraduate programmes in Electrical Electronic Computer and Chemical Engineering. He said that he was delighted that all four programmes passed the visit with flying colours.

Some of the achievements in the Faculty included the winning of the 2009 national South African Institute of Electrical Engineers prize for the best final year project by an Electronic Engineering student, Mr Yashren Reddi. Mr Chun-Tsung Feng from Mechanical Engineering

won the Engineering Council of South Africa Medal as the best graduating engineering student from UKZN in 2009.

On the social front, the Faculty had an excellent year with their inter-programme and inter-school soccer matches. "There was also good collaboration between the Faculty and the Student Engineering Council. The national organisation, GirlEng was very active in promoting engineering as a career for women."

"We hosted a very successful Engineering Winter School, attended by approximately 200 learners from schools in the province," added Professor Takawira.

In terms of research in the Faculty, Professor Deresh Ramjugernath, SA Research Chair in Fluorine Process Engineering and Separation Technology, won the Eskom sponsored National Science and Technology Forum (NTSF) award for research capacity development in thermodynamics. Professor Takawira said: "In 2010 we established the following prestigious professorial chairs: The Umgeni Chair in Water



Professor Michael Samuel.



From left: Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning, Professor Renuka Vithal (back); Dean of Education, Professor Michael Samuel; Vice-Chancellor, Professor Malegapuru Makgoba and the MEC for Education in Kwazulu-Natal, Mr Senzo Mchunu at the opening ceremony.



Top women prize winners, Ms Reevana Balmahoon (left) and Ms Anna Zawilka, give Open Day "the thumbs up" as they pose with the Dean of Engineering, Professor Fambirai Takawira.



Professor Fambirai Takawira.

Resources Management, a collaboration with Umgeni Water and the eThekweni Chair in Urban Infrastructure, a collaboration with the eThekweni Municipality. This year also witnessed the launch of the Integrated Renewable Energy Application Project, a partnership between Civil Engineering and Karebo Power Projects.”

Professor Takawira said that amongst the challenges faced with the Faculty of Engineering in 2010, there were serious budget constraints that limited the flexibility and growth of the Faculty, and difficulties in attracting academic staff, especially at senior levels. He added that a difficult decision was made to stop admissions into the Property Development Programme from 2011 as a result of chronic under-staffing – this is despite good demand from prospective students and from industry for graduates from the programme.

He added though that in 2011, the Faculty will need to expend effort in planning for the proposed elimination of faculties and merging of schools into mega-schools. “The challenges of budgetary constraints and scarcity of qualified academic staff will remain with us. We also have an ECSA accreditation visit to Mechanical Engineering for which preparations are well underway,” he added.

At undergraduate level, the Faculty will continue to foster good staff-student relations and provide an excellent learning environment to improve success rates. The UNITE programme

which provides an alternative access route for students from disadvantaged backgrounds will run a new curriculum aimed at introducing more first year content from 2011.

At postgraduate level, the Faculty will endeavour to attract more of our top students to stay for postgraduate degrees and to grow post-doctoral student numbers. “We will continue to encourage increased quality and quantity of our research outputs,” he said.

Faculty of Health Sciences

Substantial investment in infrastructure via the Department of Education’s Infrastructure and Efficiency and Clinical Training Grants resulted in the telehealth platform in the School of Nursing, state-of-the-art skills laboratories in Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy and the new Dean’s Suite and Faculty Administration Office.

The Faculty’s Research productivity hit an all-time high and research into teaching and learning gained momentum. Several staff securing substantial grants, notably the £100 000 Mobilizing Regional Capacity Initiative (MRCI) grant from the Association of African Universities obtained by the Dean of the Faculty, Professor Sabiha Essack to undertake research on *Access, Retention and Success in African Higher Education*.

The Faculty faced the perennial challenge of over-subscription to its programmes, turning eligible candidates away

because of an undefined clinical teaching and training platform and inadequate infrastructural resources that preclude an increase in student numbers.

“The Faculty is working with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health on the King Edward VIII Hospital, a flagship project of the National Department of Health, creating an academic hospital which will be the primary student placement site for all healthcare professionals,” said Professor Essack.

“Academics from the two Faculties in the College of Health Sciences came together to form the inaugural multi-disciplinary research collaborative with representatives from the province’s Departments of Health, Education and Social Development, resulting in the proposed ‘Developmental Disabilities Research Unit,’” she said.

The Faculty welcomes the allocation of the Health Professionals Training and Development Grant to Universities in 2011 which will allow the definition of a new and expanded clinical training platform with an emphasis on rurality and primary healthcare.

“We are committed to engagement with the recommendations emanating from the review of the College Model to optimise teaching, learning, research, scholarship and community engagement at the University,” said Professor Essack.

Faculty of Humanities, Development, and Social Sciences (HDSS)

In terms of research productivity and postgraduate stu-

dents, three Schools in the Faculty were placed in the top five overall in the University in 2010: the Schools of Development Studies (2nd), Anthropology, Gender and Historical Studies (3rd), and Religion and Theology (4th). The Faculty produced 43 doctoral students, and a large number of Masters and Honours students.

Three members of staff were ranked among the ten best researchers in the University and a number of other staff also excelled in research. Three professors from the Faculty presented Inaugural Lectures and an impressive number of books were penned by the Faculty’s academics.

Three Distinguished Teachers’ Awards were awarded to academics in the Faculty. “The fact that this constituted the highest number of teaching awards ever awarded to a single Faculty in any given year, bears testimony to the high teaching standards in the HDSS,” said Dean of the Faculty, Professor Nhlanhla Mkhize.

“Cognizant of the need to improve postgraduate output in general, the Faculty... conducted seven workshops on the supervision of candidates for higher degrees. These workshops were attended by both staff and students,” he added.

Professor Mkhize also singled out the Faculty’s African Centre for Childhood (ACC) certificate programme – a distance learning programme with in-country support which is now offered to 10 countries in the southern African community; offering a UKZN-accredited certificate to caregivers in communities,

in order to professionalise and strengthen service delivery to children, families and communities affected by HIV and AIDS.

The Faculty was challenged by a lengthy registration process due to the large intake of students. Professor Mkhize is hopeful that there will be a smooth online registration process in 2011.

Professor Mkhize added that he looks forward to the implementation of the University’s Bilingualism Policy, and the development of a major and an interdisciplinary postgraduate programme in African Indigenous Knowledge Systems. He extended his gratitude to his colleagues who coped with the fact that the Faculty started 2010 with a transitional leadership and without a Faculty Manager. Most of the Faculty leadership were appointed in an acting capacity, including leadership at the School level.

Faculty of Law

The year 2010 had special significance for the Faculty of Law, as the teaching of law in the province began in 1910.

Dean of the Faculty, Professor Managay Reddi said: “To mark the centenary of Higher Education in the province, Law centenary celebrations were hosted throughout the year and involved a number of high-profile public lectures and alumni events, culminating in a Book Launch and Tree Planting Ceremony in October.”

The Faculty of Law boasts a number of outstanding



Professor Sabiha Essack.



Students and Staff from the Discipline of Optometry commemorate World Sight Day on the Westville campus.



Professor Bill Guest, Dr Julie Parle and Professor Suleman Dangor were among the presenters at the Peter Brown Memorial Seminar sponsored by the College of Humanities.



Professor Nhlanhla Mkhize.

achievements by staff and students. Law students participated in Moot Competitions at a number of levels. Professor Reddi said that the Faculty was proud of its two final year students who were awarded three prestigious scholarships between them: Ms Chereese Thakur and Ms Toni Palmer.

In an effort to attract the best students into the Faculty of Law, a high profile Law Scholarship Programme was presented by Professor Reddi and the Deputy Dean of Law, Professor Shannon Hocter, to the high school community at the end of July.

Five members of staff in the Faculty of Law featured in the University's Top 30 Researchers for 2009. During 2010, the Faculty implemented a number of initiatives to strengthen and improve its research output.

Initiatives such as the Mentoring and Research Incentive Programmes (MARIP) continued and they were used by the Faculty to motivate established researchers to mentor emerging researchers in order to produce recognised publications.

The Faculty has appointed a Research Facilitator and Editor to assist academics with the conversion of research articles into publishable articles.

Professor Reddi said that there were a number of other initiatives to increase PhDs among staff. The Faculty of Law is proud of their two academics, Professor Ed Couzens and Dr Portia Ndlovu, who were awarded PhDs during the April 2010 graduation ceremonies.

Currently 15 law academics are registered for doctoral degrees and it is anticipated that at least seven of these staff members will complete their degrees by the end of 2011.

The *South African Journal of Criminal Justice* (SACJ) which was founded in Pietermaritzburg in 1988 and moved to the University of Cape Town with Professor Jonathan Burchell has returned to the University's Faculty of Law under the editorship of Professor Hocter.

In an effort to increase postgraduate intake the Faculty of Law has introduced innovative, new cutting-edge Masters Modules as part of its current LLM Programmes. These Masters Modules are: Gambling Law, Politics of Law and Sports Law, and are available in 2011.

Professor Reddi added that the University has invested over R8.5m on the upgrading of teaching and learning facilities and resources on the Howard College and Pietermaritzburg campuses.

Based on the successes it achieved this year, the Faculty plans to consolidate and improve its position as a leading Law Faculty nationally.

Faculty of Management Studies

2010 was a productive year for the Faculty of Management Studies in terms of research, international conferences, the Centenary celebrations and a number of other achievements by staff and students.

Dean of the Faculty, Professor Lesley Stainbank said the Faculty has implemented a number of initiatives to promote a research ethos. Four staff members were conferred with PhDs during the April Graduation Ceremonies. Currently 20 staff members are registered for doctoral degrees and 47 for a Masters degree.

Workshops presented by visiting academics in 2010 included *Getting Published* by Professor Richard Wilson; and *Making Your Academic Research Rigorous and Relevant*, presented by Professor Dan Remenyi. A number of writing workshops were held for Masters students.

An Academic Research Co-ordinator has been appointed by the Faculty to strengthen and improve research output. The Co-ordinator will also be responsible for the conversion of masters and doctoral thesis into publishable research articles.

Highlights included the hosting of three international conferences, where academic staff members attended and presented papers.

The Technology, Entertainment and Design (TED) and UKZN Conference was hosted by the School of Information Systems and Technology, and the second NETRIS seminar was hosted by the School of Economics and Finance. The Graduate School of Business hosted the 12th Annual multi-disciplinary conference on World Wide Web Applications.

Professor Stainbank said: "In celebration of the centenary of Higher Education in KwaZulu-Natal, the Faculty of Management Studies hosted an

Alumni Reunion Dinner where the Chairperson of the Business Leadership South Africa and Co-Chairperson of the Millennium Labour Council, Dr Bobby Godsell, delivered a thought provoking keynote address which was titled: *South Africa's Road to Becoming a Developed Country*.

"The event reunited, for the first time since the merger, Management Studies graduates of the former University of Durban-Westville and the University of Natal as well as Management Studies graduates from UKZN," she added. Three public lectures were also hosted as part of the Centenary celebrations.

The Graduate School of Business (GSB) won the FNB KZN Top Business Portfolio Award in the Social and Community Service category in recognition of their contribution to community outreach.

"The Faculty of Management Studies acknowledged and rewarded top performing students throughout the year. A number of events were hosted in celebration of academic excellence which saw students from various academic levels recognised for good academic performance. Students from the Pietermaritzburg and Westville campuses from first year level up to Doctoral level were honoured with certificates and cash prizes," added Professor Stainbank.

The School of Management will offer four new Postgraduate Diplomas in Finance, Banking and Investment Management; Marketing; Management; and Human Resources Management

on the Westville campus in 2011. The new postgraduate programmes are aimed at helping individuals in the private and public sector sharpen their business acumen.

The Faculty of Management Studies successfully launched two Local Economic Development (LED) Programmes in April 2010. The Postgraduate Diploma and Masters Programmes are offered to existing LED practitioners.

The University has invested R10 million in the refurbishment of the Westville campus J block 2nd level and in the creation of new space for the Leadership Centre at Westville. Management Studies students now have access to world-class teaching and learning facilities.

In 2011 the Faculty will host the 2nd Business Management Conference at the Graduate School of Business from September 28-30; and the 23rd Southern Africa Institute for Management Scientists Conference.

Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine (NRMSM)

The NRMSM which was established in 1950, marked its 60th Anniversary with a week of celebrations including a Research Symposium, a Clinical Conference, the Steve Biko Commemorative Lecture, a Cultural Day and a Gala Dinner.

Under the leadership of its Dean, Professor Willem Sturm, the NRMSM is proud of its achievements in research in 2010.

On April 8, UKZN formalised research collaboration with



Professor Managay Reddi.



Students in the 2010 Moot Court Final, (left to right) Mr Kamiel Rajah (runner-up), Mr Clinton Slogrove, Ms Tamryn Viljoen (winner) and Mr Rhee Molefe.



Dr Betty Mubangizi, Professor John Mubangizi, Professor Lesley Stainbank, Dr Bobby Godsell and Dr Gillian Godsell at the Faculty of Management Studies Alumni Reunion Dinner.



Professor Lesley Stainbank.

the signing of three Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the Oslo University Hospital (Norway), the University of Agder (Norway) and the Sorlandet Hospital in Norway. Further MOUs will be signed in 2011 with the University of Copenhagen (Denmark), the University of Antwerp (Belgium) and the University of Leiden (Netherlands).

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation through the University of Copenhagen provided \$2.3 million in funding for a project entitled, *Prevention and Improved Diagnosis of Female Genital Schistosomiasis in Ugu District, KwaZulu-Natal*. The two main partners in this project are the Oslo University Hospital and UKZN. It is envisaged that this project will have far-reaching, positive consequences for the fight against genital disease and HIV.

On May 26, UKZN and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) announced the appointment of Professor William Bishai as the first permanent Director of the KwaZulu-Natal Research Institute for Tuberculosis and HIV (K-RITH). The HHMI has committed R218 million for the construction of this research facility and a further US\$40 million for research capacity development over a 10 year period.

UKZN's Enhancing Care Initiative Unit successfully applied for the Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI) grant and was awarded \$10 million over the next five years for medical training and training in the management of HIV and TB.

Collaboration was forged between the Medical School and Columbia University in New York following last year's provincial report which recorded 122 000 cases of Tuberculosis in KwaZulu-Natal – the epicentre of the disease in South Africa. The NRMSM's Professor Umesh Laloo has over the years, been involved in the training of health care workers and the general public in HIV and TB management.

One of the most recent highlights was the official opening of the Anaesthetics Smart Centre – the first of its kind in Africa. The Smart Centre is a collaboration between the Department of Anaesthetics at the Medical School and the Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital.

Staff and students paid tribute to Professor Sturm at a function on December 3. Professor Umesh Laloo will take up the Deanship in January 2011.

Faculty of Science and Agriculture

The Faculty of Science and Agriculture remains the leading Faculty at UKZN in terms of PhD graduates.

Dean of the Faculty Professor Deogratius Jaganyi said that the Faculty continued to be a force to be reckoned with in 2010. One of the highlights was the partnership between the Centre for Quantum Technology at the University and eThekweni Municipality, who joined hands to provide unprecedented communication security for Durban's FIFA World

Cup 2010 operations.

The Vice-Chancellor's Research Award for 2009, the Top Published Researcher for 2008 and 2009 and the Top Woman Published Researcher for 2008 were all awarded to the Faculty. Total productivity units as determined by the Research Office grew by 10% between 2008 and 2009.

The Faculty has made substantial investments in expensive research equipment and facilities. The two Liquid Nitrogen plants for the Westville and Pietermaritzburg campuses were completed and commissioned at a cost of R7 million. Two state-of-the-art, high-resolution transmission electron microscopes (HR-TEM) for each of the microscopy facilities have been ordered at a cost of R9.2 million. In addition the NRF in collaboration with the Research Office awarded the Faculty a total sum of R7.4 million towards the purchase of a Field Emission Gun Scanning Electron Microscope. This investment should see the facilities at both centres equipped for the next 15 years. The Faculty also invested R2.8 million to fund 20 postdoctoral students in addition to the ones supported by the Research Office, i.e. two in each School.

Computer Science, together with the School of Literary Studies was awarded an Erasmus Mundus mobility grant, a SAPIENT programme for 1,58 million euros, for UKZN postgraduate students and staff to undertake visits to six leading European institutions. Only three

awards out of 83 applications were successful.

In 2010 a total of R11 million was invested in state-of-the-art equipment for teaching and research. This will make the Schools in the Faculty more competitive nationally and internationally. The Faculty also invested in the training of its access staff.

Students scooped a number of accolades too numerous to mention. A number of staff members in the Faculty were appointed to professional bodies. In 2010 two staff members were named Fellows of the University; and a member of the Faculty received a Distinguished Teachers' Award. The Faculty's Emeritus Professors did it proud, receiving a number of prestigious awards.

In 2010 the Faculty exceeded the agreed Department of Higher Education and Training (DoHET) target of 5 495 by registering a total of 5 557 students. This means that the Faculty is three years ahead of their enrolment plan.

"The huge numbers of undergraduate students posed a challenge to all of us, but as usual the Faculty staff stood the test of time. As a Faculty we introduced for the first time the repeat teaching of MATHS 130 and CHEM 110 in both semesters as part of our strategy of meeting our enrolment target. This initiative has seen over 280 first year students who would not have completed the modules, complete and remain in the Faculty. The Faculty was able to raise over R11

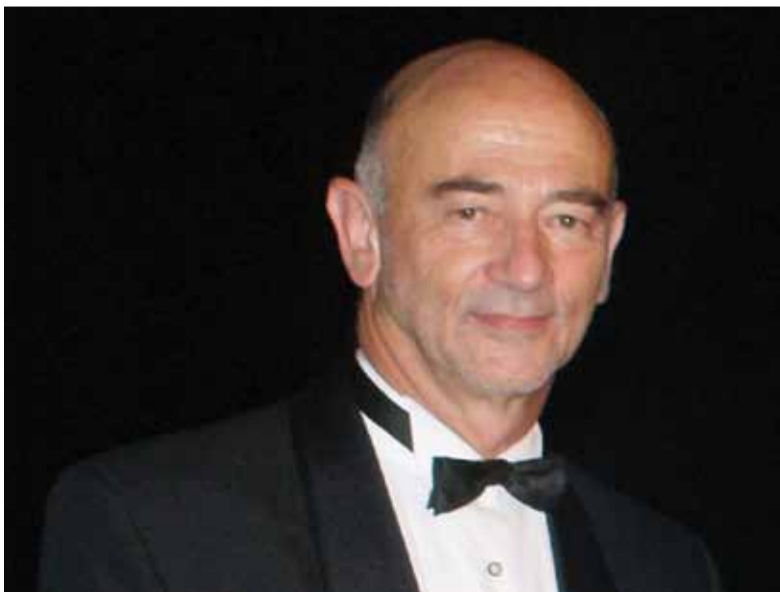
million to fund our disadvantaged students in the Centre for Science Access," said Professor Jaganyi.

The Faculty officially opened the new premises for the School of Biochemistry, Genetics and Microbiology on the Westville campus, bringing to an end the consolidation of schools due to the merger process and the creation of the Science Park on the Westville campus.

To strengthen the operations of its teaching and research support units, the Faculty reviewed its Central Academic Workshop, Electronic Workshop and Mechanical Instrument Workshop and implemented the recommendations. This is also true for the two microscopy facilities.

The Faculty held a number of activities as part of the centenary celebrations. The School of Chemistry in Pietermaritzburg hosted a very successful Centenary Celebration for its 100th birthday.

There are a number of plans in the Faculty for 2011. Plans are underway to introduce the Discipline of Genetics on the Westville Campus. The Faculty is currently investing approximately R10 million in renovation and equipping the laboratory in preparation. The biggest project is fund raising and constructing a R100 million African Institute of Sustainable Rural Livelihoods building in Pietermaritzburg. Funds permitting the Faculty plans to recruit a number of research professors and more postgraduate doctrates to advance its research agenda.



Professor Willem Sturm.



(L-R): Visiting the museum at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine shortly after the Steve Biko Lecture are Mr Thulani Ngwenya, Medical Students Representative Council President; Ms Obenewa Amponsah, Director of the Steve Biko Foundation; Mr Nkosinathi Biko, son of the late Steve Biko; Dr Ben Ngubane, Chair of the SABC Board and Professor Willem Sturm, Dean of the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine.



Aerial view of Agriculture Building, Pietermaritzburg.



Professor Deogratius Jaganyi.

The UKZN Griot Of Responses and Respondents



This is my last column of the year, so like the international TV news services, an endless replay of the year's coverage would seem to offer a sensible closure.

WORDS: KEYAN TOMASELLI

My column has been greatly appreciated by many at UKZN. I know this because some write me long philosophical responses debating issues I have raised. Others collar me in the corridors and at parties, and furtively congratulate my courage, usually tinged with dire warnings about my job security. Well, I still have my job, though I am now getting other offers also. Some I have refused. Corporate Relations has since had many offers by budding columnists that they did refuse. Hey man, writing a column takes experience and training. Thinking about what to write becomes an abiding obsession as deadlines and my editor loom. This is a tough job. Keeping one's readers is even tougher. I'm not a media professor for nothing. And, now columnists are one of the targets of the proposed media tribunal also.

UKZN refugees and readers elsewhere are less furtive in their responses. One, responding to my comments on the Byzantine UKZN leave system, wrote:

"Here (University X) we have pink, green and orange leave forms (so we are still in a paper world – after reading your column, perhaps this is a blessing in disguise) – each for a different type of leave. There doesn't seem to be a specific limit on Special Leave, if properly motivated. On the other hand, a difficulty arises when one wants to work in one's home office rather than on campus. When I'm writing I do it better in my own space. But there is no "form" for that – in both senses of the word, unfortunately. Very much a 9 to 5 (in fact, 8 to 4) Mon to Fri culture. Maybe this is even worse in my department because it is influenced by Science Faculty culture. I try to write on Sundays, but it's not really enough time."

At a recent meeting at a Free State university an international science and humanities panel was evicted from the admin block because the entrance was locked at 4.30pm. So we all retired to the pub to discuss the future and liquidity of the Humanities.

Remember that film and TV series, *9 to 5*, where a bunch of gorgeous secretaries never seem to do any work, gossiping all day? When I first arrived at Natal University in 1985 secretaries would take two

hour tea breaks. At Wits where I started my academic career, Fridays were trading days as cut price pre-packed groceries substituted for spaza shops. Every Wits department had its grocery hawker, usually of senior rank. Everybody was shopping for a good deal and little work got done.

Corporatisation and spreadsheet management changed all that. Some departments however still have time to take tea once or twice a day, keeping up the appearance of academic collegiality. If every tea room was turned into an office or seminar room the space problem would disappear. Each building should then be allocated a single, welcoming, collegiate, shared and serviced space, for all. At the moment the tea rooms are protected by disciplines as was East Germany by the Berlin Wall.

The mess at the HC front gate continues unabated, as does the excessive noise – screamers seem to predominate at the MTB coffee shop (during term). The PMB folks have similar problems what with rallies on the grass but otherwise life there seems to be more tranquil, certainly of a 9-5 nature. A dean once got locked into the Admin block there when working late. At HC, I often arrive at 6am to try to get some work done before staff, students and e-mails interrupt my productivity. I am never the first to arrive, there are always a few students trickling their way onto campus from the drop-off zone before sunrise. Edgewood remains marooned amid an industrial area and Westville continues to squat on a ridge surrounded by an empty moat once used as a barrier by the military.

Corporate Relations continues to improve. Not only did I get a birthday card from my alma mater, Wits, but from the UKZN Vice-Chancellor also, personally signed. The new director of Corporate Relations has revealed herself in a photograph only once in *UKZNDABA*, unlike the multiple appearances of her predecessor. PR is now about the institution, not personalities.

To wrap up, let me revisit what is meant by *griot* with due acknowledgement to Wikipedia. A **griot** (English pronunciation: /'gri.ɔs/, French pronunciation: [gʁi.o], with a silent t) or **jeli** (*djeli* or *djéli* in French spelling)

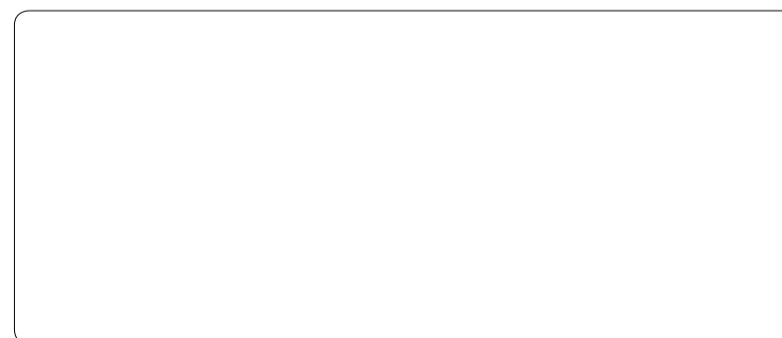
is a West African poet, praise singer, and wandering musician, considered a repository of oral tradition. As such, they are sometimes also called bards, and here in KZN *imbongis*. According to Paul Oliver in his book *Savannah Syncopators*, "Though [the *griot*] has to know many traditional songs without error, he must also have the ability to extemporize on current events, chance incidents and the passing scene. His wit can be devastating and his knowledge

of local history formidable." That's me! Although griots are popularly known as 'praise singers', griots may also use their vocal expertise for gossip, satire, or political comment. By calling myself a *griot* (to which no-one has objected) I give myself the necessary license to write what I write.

Keyan G Tomaselli is Director of the Centre for Communication, Media and Society. He has been known to perform on occasion in public and to gossip with theoretical intent.

Sudoku

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



THE UKZNDABA TEAM

Nomonde Mbadi – Executive Director; Smita Maharaj – Director: Communications; Deanne Collins – Publications Manager; Neesha Maharaj – Journalist; Lunga Memela – Journalist; Sithembile Shabangu – Journalist; Vidhya Singh – Layout & Design.

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