

**VICE-CHANCELLOR
elected to
ICSU**

3



**UNAIDS
delegation visits
CAPRISA**

5



**COLUMN
The UKZN
Griot**

12



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SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS RECOGNISE EXCELLENCE

UKZN's commitment to reward excellence in teaching and learning was displayed when 96 students from various disciplines received prestigious bursaries and scholarships recognising their high class academic performance.

WORDS: LUNGA MEMELA PHOTOS: ALBERT HIRASSEN

The presentations were made during the scholarship awards ceremony at UKZN's Graduate School of Business at which the CEO for the Durban Chamber of Commerce, Mr Andrew Layman, was the guest speaker. Ninety-seven top-end scholarships were awarded for the 2011 academic year.

Four new awards were launched this year. Ms Salona Gangaram and Ms Sarisha Ojageer – both first year students studying for Bachelor of Science degrees – were the first recipients of the new Pius Langa Scholarship previously referred to as the Chancellor's scholarship. The scholarship was awarded to students ranked in the top 10 in the province from the Department of Education's National Senior Certificate examination results or in the top 50 in the national IEB matriculation examinations.

Ten top performing African women who enrolled at UKZN as new undergraduate students across various disciplines were the first to receive the Frene Ginwala Prestige Equity Entrant Scholarship named after the former Speaker of Parliament and UKZN's first Chancellor.

Computer whizz, Mr Ross Lagerwall, was deemed to be the best Honours-level student at the University, receiving the new Zac Yacoob Scholarship. The Vincent Maphai Scholarship, also a new scholarship, awarded to the top student enrolled for a Masters degree, went to Ms Anna Zawilska.

The scholarship for the best undergraduate student was won by Faheema Abdoola, an MBChB student at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine, and collected by her proud father. Second was Ms Ingrid Salisbury a BSc, Electronic Engineering student

and third Mr Justin William Wynn, a BSc student from the School of Agricultural Science.

UKZN's Doctoral Research Scholarships are the most prestigious awards at the senior postgraduate level and are funded by the University and presented to the strongest PhD candidate in that area in the entire University. These were received by Mr Michael Okelola – a doctoral candidate of Mathematics on the Pietermaritzburg campus – for his paper titled: Analysis and characterisation of Exotic Options by the Group Analysis Approach, and Mr Marshall Maposa, a doctoral candidate of Education, for his paper, An analysis of the construction of African consciousness in contemporary South African and Zimbabwean textbooks.

Two scholars have already left South Africa to take up their study programmes abroad after they received the prestigious Emma Smith Overseas Scholarship. The scholarship was formerly awarded solely to white female students of Dutch South African or English South African descent, but has now been opened to all female students from eThekweni. 'This year had one of those rare and valuable moments in our Scholarship Committee where we had three candidates so good that we could not separate them and therefore made three awards for the Emma Smith Overseas Scholarships,' announced Professor Trevor Jones who is Chair for UKZN's Scholarship Awards Committee. Ms Sertanya Reddy, Ms Chereese Thakur and Ms Sonja Gammage were the recipients.

'The Archbishop Denis E Hurley Educational Trust has provided resources for a suite of scholarships to be known as the Archbishop Denis E Hurley Awards. These are dedicated to

SIFE-UKZN represents SA



Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) represented South Africa at the 2011 SIFE World Cup held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia earlier this month. The team reached the semi-finals, representing South Africa against Zimbabwe, Singapore and China. SIFE-UKZN has previously represented South Africa at World Cups in France in 2006, Singapore in 2008, and Germany in 2009. Held annually, SIFE's World Cup draws approximately 1500 entrants worldwide. Each programme is assessed on how effectively it has improved the standard of living, quality of life and empowered the beneficiaries of the community in which it is implemented. Teams must also ensure that they have applied business and economic concepts as well as an entrepreneurial approach to their projects. SIFE-UKZN's 25-member team, which comprised presenters, technical operators, project members and the Executive team, reached the top 16 of the competition. The team's project theme focused on: **Capacitating vulnerable groups in order to take responsibility for a better future through personal development on how to succeed and become economically active.**

PHOTO: RAJESH JANTILAL

disadvantaged but academically excellent candidates to read for honours, masters and doctoral degrees, and whose study areas, community involvement, leadership qualities and ethical vision resonate with the life,

spirit and accomplishments of the late Archbishop Denis E. Hurley (who, among his many other activities, was a former Chancellor of the former University of Natal),' said Jones. 'Twelve truly outstanding can-

didates who possessed just these kinds of resonating qualities were awarded the scholarship and what is particularly noteworthy is that more than half of these come from outside South Africa.

Continued on page 4

Spotlight on climate justice in South Africa

The central focus of the 2011 Ruth Edgcombe Memorial Lecture, which each year is dedicated to highlighting issues of environmental significance, was on climate justice.

WORDS AND PHOTO: VICKY CROOKES

The lecture is held in honour of UKZN professor, Ruth Edgcombe, who was a passionate scholar of environmental history contributing to the growing research in this field of study in South Africa.

Hosted by UKZN's School of Environmental Sciences and the Wilderness Action Group, this year's lecture featured renowned environmental activist, Mr Bobby Peek. Director and founding member of groundWork, a non-governmental environmental justice organisation in Pietermaritzburg, Peek spoke on the topic: 'Climate Change and COP17: is climate justice a reality for South Africans?'

groundWork operates at local, national and international levels to advocate for democratic environmental governance and justice. Peek formed the organisation in 1999, prior to which he worked with South Africa's Environmental Justice Networking Forum as National Campaigns Manager. He was also co-founder of the South Durban Community Environmental Alliance, a multi-racial alliance of community people challenging for democratic environmental governance in south Durban. In 1998, Peek received the Goldman Environmental Prize for Africa, the world's largest prize for excellence in protecting the environment.

In light of the 17th United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change gathering, known as COP17, in Durban later in the year, the issue of climate justice is pertinent. A form of environmental justice, climate justice aims to ease, and ultimately to eliminate, the disparate burdens and problems created by climate change.

Central to climate justice is the view that those least responsible for climate change are the ones most affected.

In opening his lecture, Peek said: 'It is critical that we reflect on the history of how we got to this point of climate catastrophe where the world's governments are ineffective and moribund and lack leadership in forging a new tomorrow for humanity and all who rely on the earth as their home.'

According to Peek, despite 16 previous major climate conferences, together with countless other smaller preparatory meetings, the world is no closer to a real climate change solution than it was 17 years ago. He is also firmly of the opinion that climate justice in South Africa is 'wishful thinking'.

He explained it was necessary to look at climate justice through 'its environmental justice lens' which he defines as 'empowered people in relations of solidarity and equity with each other and in non-degrading and positive relationships with their environments'. Ultimately this involves the spirit of *Ubuntu*, but unfortunately 'as South Africans today, we do not live *Ubuntu* and our government does not provide us with a moral compass to promote it. We have to take it upon ourselves to do this. We have to be agents for climate justice,' said Peek.

He presented some of the stark and hard-hitting facts which illustrate how the irreversible effects of climate change are negatively impacting the earth and its people. Rising global temperatures, increases in greenhouse gases, sea-level rise, and extreme weather events would continue to spiral out of control as the government was

'bent on continuing its fossil fuel expansion in the false illusion that this will service the poor' Peek said the facts and figures painted a sad and depressing picture of South Africa: 42 percent of Africa's greenhouse gases were emitted by South Africa; 44 percent of the country's energy was used by 36 companies; South African residents consumed 16 percent of the country's energy; and in 2010, Eskom lost R9.7 billion because it provided cheap electricity to BHP Billiton.

Despite the above-mentioned facts, the government was increasing its energy 'security' by allowing, for example, the exploration of crude oil on the KwaZulu-Natal coast; an increase in coal mining for export and local use; the development of oil refineries and coal to liquid plants; and the building of the world's third-and-fourth-largest coal-fired plants, with loans amounting to R6.25 billion. 'More alarming is the reality that the climate change negotiations are not about saving the climate but rather about furthering the economic agenda of the corporate and political elite,' said Peek.

The only solution to this dire situation was for South Africans to take control and ownership of how energy was produced and to start challenging the "political greenwash" being perpetuated by the country's leadership. Peek explained that the only way to achieve climate justice for the people of South Africa was for the people, and not multinational corporations, to be the centre of energy delivery.

This meant persuading local municipalities to take the initiative and look at local energy development for their needs, calling for better houses so that people did not lose energy due to leaking roofs or poorly constructed homes. It also meant providing communities with access to affordable energy that did not cost seven times more than what big industry was paying and also 'ensuring that industry pays the real price of energy and doesn't continue to get the cheapest electricity in the world at the expense of people'.

In closing, Peek said: 'No matter how difficult it is in South Africa, we have to "keep the coal in the hole." A new energy and climate future is needed and we have to make it happen, for history will judge us harshly if we do not act with our conscience urgently.'



Ms Qhelile Nyathi.

SIFE-UKZN president leads by example

The president of UKZN's Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE), 23-year-old Qhelile Nyathi, is proving to be an inspiration to young women striving to be leaders in various fields.

WORDS AND PHOTO: LUNGA MEMELA

Nyathi's level-headed approach and pursuit of excellence have identified her as an achiever who has the potential to reach great heights in her chosen field. Born and schooled in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, she received her Bachelor of Actuarial Science degree *summa cum laude* from UKZN last year and is now studying towards an Honours Degree in Financial Mathematics.

Nyathi was recently awarded the prestigious Mandela Rhodes scholarship which goes to high academic achievers who possess a genuine commitment to reconciliation and who reflect a spirit of entrepreneurship.

She is deeply passionate about the work done by SIFE and has relished the challenge of leading the UKZN team which embraces SIFE International's slogan of: A Heart for the World. A Head for Business.

'Our mission is to breakdown the walls that exist between business and communities. For me SIFE has been a platform to grow as a business leader and as a human being who cares about what I see happening around me... [having] the courage to make a difference,' she said.

'We achieve this by creating partnerships with Government departments, businesses and NGOs, and tap into their resources and expertise to find solutions to challenges we identify within our communities. The solution then becomes a project where the communities are beneficiaries. We focus on sustainability, so we must ensure that we transfer skills, knowledge and resources to the community to enable them to continue when we exit from the project,' she explained.

Nyathi is the first Honours student to serve SIFE-UKZN as President. 'Both Honours and SIFE are demanding and require sacrifice,' she said.

There has been increased interest by UKZN students in

SIFE. Asked about the membership criteria, Nyathi explained: 'We have a strict recruitment process. Applicants go through screening processes: First, they complete an application form, from which we screen and call short listed applicants to an interview. From the interviews, we screen further to make a final selection. We also host camps at the various university campuses, where we focus on team building and train members on how SIFE operates, for example project planning, implementation and communication.'

Two of SIFE-UKZN's most successful projects are a tunnel farming project which started in Mbumbulu and is now operational in other areas of KwaZulu-Natal as well as in Zimbabwe and the Trees for Life project which has seen 700 trees planted in the Durban South area.

Nyathi said there was a shortage of organisational resources to facilitate the team's growth and to keep reaching out to the community. One of its goals is to expand to the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine but funding is the biggest challenge.

SIFE-UKZN does not have an office to work from or any official transport to support its day-to-day operations. Printing and telephone costs are also a challenge.

The organisation won the 2010/11 SIFE-South Africa National Champions 2010/2011 and recently represented South Africa at the international competition in Malaysia.

'There are so many roles to play because a president is the link between the team and Faculty Advisors, its major sponsors, SIFE SA and the Business Advisor Board,' said Nyathi.

Her advice to young women possibly intimidated by the challenge of leadership roles? 'It's not a competition... find your identity, talents and purpose and don't hold back because it doesn't help anyone, least of all you.'

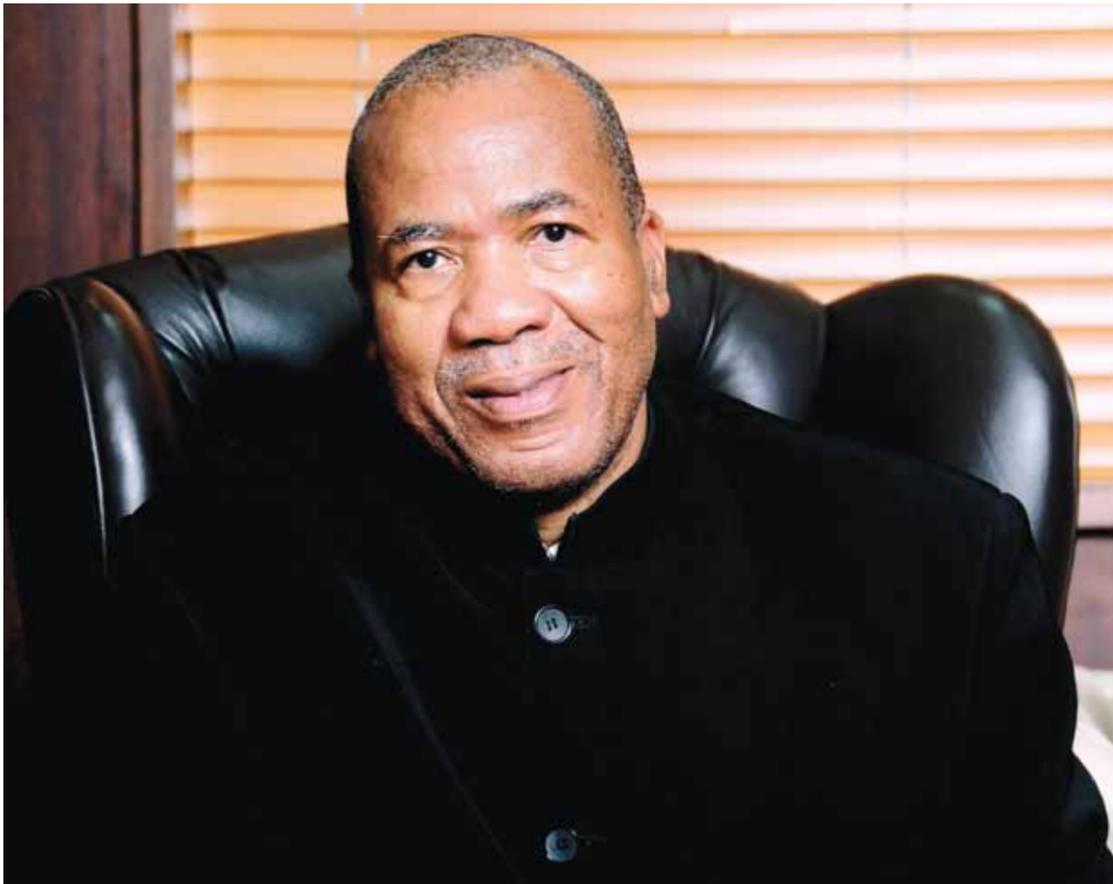


From left: UKZN Senior Lecturer, Dr Mark Dent; Director of groundWork, Mr Bobby Peek; and Chair of the Wilderness Action Group, Mr Ilan Lax.

UKZN Vice-Chancellor elected vice-president of ICSU

Professor Malegapuru Makgoba, Vice-Chancellor of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, is the new vice-president of one of the highest international science bodies in the world, the International Council for Science (ICSU).

WORDS AND PHOTO: LIZ CLARKE



Professor Malegapuru Makgoba.

The prestigious Paris-based ICSU focuses on global research which benefits mankind and sustains the planet.

The appointment is for three years and will require him to attend a minimum of two international ICSU meetings in Paris every year, plan several international interdisciplinary scientific programmes and review current global research.

Following the announcement, Makgoba said it was 'inspiring and humbling' to be recognised on such a global scale by his peers.

'It is difficult to put my feelings and thoughts into words. These are the horizons one dreams of. Having the opportunity to lead and coordinate research issues of a global nature is daunting and a huge responsibility – but at the same time exciting; yes, even mind-blowing,' said Makgoba.

The Council was founded in 1931 to promote international scientific activity with the emphasis on research outcomes to benefit humanity. It is one of the oldest non-governmental organisations in the world.

The planning side of his appointment, he says, will involve global collaboration and co-ordination on 'critical' scientific issues – 'ones that affect the earth's sustainability and humanity as we know it'.

It will also be about setting up interdisciplinary teams tasked with producing 'the best in scientific direction and solutions'.

The review aspect, he explains, will be concerned with ensuring that research being conducted worldwide under the umbrella of the ICSU, is relevant and fits the criteria of benefitting humanity.

'Some programmes may require enhancing. Others, we may decide to either terminate, or direct elsewhere,' he said.

Makgoba's attended his first ICSU meeting recently at which two global scientific projects decided by the General Assembly and falling within his portfolio were outlined.

The first is a ten-year Earth Systems Sustainability Initiative, a multi-factorial process involving climate-change and biodiversity loss.

The goal, explains Makgoba, is to deliver knowledge that will enable societies meet their sustainable development goals in the next decades.

'The main focus of this ongoing research is on the unprecedented human-induced global change and the threat to society and human wellbeing world-wide. Climate change and biodiversity loss are but just two examples.'

International science findings and key policy makers are all part of this dynamic, he says.

'This is urgent stuff. We are talking about the sustainability of earth and its life carrying capacity. If we do nothing we know that time is running out for viable solutions.'

The second project was a new global science venture looking at 'health and wellbeing in the changing environment', ie the complex and multifactorial impact of urban and migratory patterns on human health and wellbeing.

'This process will require the setting up of a number of global interdisciplinary initiatives over the next three years. As a physician this is something close to my heart and resonates with situations that I'm familiar with. My responsibility from a scientific aspect will be to oversee the interdisciplinary planning and bringing all the role players from different nations and different scientific backgrounds into the picture.'

Makgoba says he will continue as vice-chancellor of the UKZN while undertaking his new duties for the international body.

'It will in no way impact upon my work at the university as much of the power structure of the university has been devolved to a 12-man executive committee which ably runs the university's affairs. If anything my three years with ICSU will have beneficial spin-offs for the university.'

In the traditions of science, he says, there is a time for giving back, sharing one's knowledge and experience for the benefit of society and future scientists.

'This is my time. I am so very happy to be doing just that.'



Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Tahir Pillay (left) congratulates Mr Sinaye Ngcapu at the College Research Symposium.

Young scientist's study a first in Africa

Mr Sinaye Ngcapu's groundbreaking study in the field of HIV, antiretroviral (ARV) treatment and gene mutation in Africa was presented at the 5th South African AIDS Conference and the Annual College of Health Sciences Research Symposium at UKZN.

WORDS AND PHOTO: MARYANN FRANCIS

The study titled: *Bayesian Network Analyses of Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors-associated Mutations in the RNase H Region in HIV-1 subtype C infected individuals*, focussed on mutation (changes) in the RNase H region of HIV-1 which occurs in patients treated with a specific class of ARV drugs, the nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs).

Most ARV regimens which are available in resource-poor regions, including South Africa, have the NRTIs in both first and second-line regimens. Therefore, mutations relating to resistance to these ARVs have important public health implications.

'One of the short-comings of ARV therapy is the development of resistance to these drugs, which is usually caused by mutations in the regions of the virus that the drugs target. Currently, very little data exists on the effects of changes in the RNase H region on development of resistance to the NRTIs, particularly for subtype C, the subtype that is dominant in Southern Africa,' Ngcapu said.

He conducted a quantitative study using genetic sequences from 134 individuals participating in the South African Treatment Programme who are on the NRTI regimen as well as 134 participants on drug-naïve sequences. Thirty of these were from KwaZulu-Natal and the other sequences were from a database. Ngcapu found that 130 individuals out of 134 on

the NRTI regimen clustered phylogenetically with HIV-1 subtype C and all 30 of the KZN participants were also classified as HIV-1 subtype C.

Through his study, Ngcapu has shown that mutations in this region can enhance NRTI resistance in patients infected with subtype B, the subtype most common in the US and Europe. 'This information will assist policy-makers to develop treatment guidelines that will ensure that drugs are used effectively, and that the virus is suppressed for long as possible on that regimen,' he said.

Ngcapu, a Masters student in Medical Sciences (Molecular Virology) is supervised by Dr Michelle Gordon from the HIV Pathogenesis Programme (HPP) at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine. Head of the HPP, Professor Thumbi Ndung'u, said: 'Ngcapu's work explores emerging mechanisms of drug resistance in Africa, an important area of research with public health implications as antiretroviral drug roll-out is intensified. Using molecular and statistical methods, he has demonstrated that mutations with the RNase H protein domain of HIV-1 may contribute to drug resistance in HIV-1 subtype C infections. This is the first time this has been demonstrated in an African population.'

Ngcapu's poster presentation was one of the top three in the poster session at the College of Health Sciences Research Symposium last month.

Continued from page 1

Ms Qhelile Nyathi from Westville campus and Ms Lumka Ngcobo from Pietermaritzburg campus were the only students to be awarded the prestigious Mandela Rhodes Scholarship. This award only goes to high academic achievers who possess a genuine commitment to reconciliation and who reflect a spirit of entrepreneurship – that is, who resonate with the legacy of Nelson Mandela and Cecil John Rhodes. UKZN enjoys a particularly warm relationship with the Mandela Rhodes

Foundation, and this is the fourth year that the Mandela Rhodes Scholarship has been awarded to students of UKZN.

‘UKZN is committed to identifying and rewarding academic excellence. This is evident at our graduation ceremonies where members of the audience ululate and shout praises at those who have excelled in their classes. Academic excellence represents the building blocks of our accomplished researchers,’ said Executive Director: Corporate Relations, Ms Nomonde Mbadi.

In his address, Layman said today’s leadership roles, instead of being determined by hard work and merit, were driven by ‘mediocracy’ and unjust reasons which inhibited the country’s development and socio-economic potential. He encouraged teachers and parents to adopt a policy of affirmative action towards the actions of their learners and children.

He said this built up the self confidence required during adolescent years. ‘A deflated ego is not something this country needs

in our young people.’ Layman encouraged parents to praise their children more instead of criticising their every action.

Addressing the scholarship recipients he said: ‘Congratulations! You are the leaders of this country and we need you to head us to a much brighter future.’

Professor Renuka Vithal, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning, noted that between 2009 and 2011 an amount of R1.3 billion was awarded to students in the form of loans, bursaries and scholarships.

In 2011 alone more than 16 000 awards were made. Bursaries and scholarships contributed the largest category with R282 million (53.5 percent) awarded, followed by loans (R245 million). She acknowledged the hard work done by the Scholarship Office and thanked Student Funding at UKZN. Vithal also congratulated the students, ‘Well done! Keep up the good work and I hope we will see you again soon receiving another award.’

The Scholarship Awards were presented by Professor Renuka Vithal.



Best Honours-level (4th year) student at UKZN, Ross Lagerwall was awarded the Zackeria Yacoob Scholarship.



Ms Rachel Morrow, an economics and politics student from Howard College received the 2011 Abe Bailey Travel scholarship.



The scholarship for the best undergraduate was awarded to Faheema Abdoola. The award was accepted by her proud father.



UKZN’s high flyer, Ms Qhelile Nyathi was awarded the prestigious Mandela Rhodes Scholarship.

Frene Ginwala Prestige Equity Entrant Scholarship

UKZN makes special prestige entrant equity awards to top black African undergraduate female entrants in all Disciplines. The Frene Ginwala Prestige Equity Entrant Scholarship is named after the first Chancellor of UKZN who was the former Speaker of Parliament.



UKZN’s high achievers at the Scholarship Awards Ceremony.

TOP TEN AFRICAN WOMEN RECIPIENTS OF THE FRENE GINWALA PRESTIGE EQUITY ENTRANT SCHOLARSHIP

MBALI GODLWANA	MEDICAL SCHOOL	MBCHB6
NOKUBONGA MKHIZE	WESTVILLE	BSC – STREAM M
YENZIWE MNCWANGO	MEDICAL SCHOOL	MBCHB6
NONKULULEKO MSELEKU	MEDICAL SCHOOL	MBCHB6
THANDIWE MTHEMBU	WESTVILLE	BCOM ACCOUNTING
NONJABULO NGCONGO	HOWARD	BSC-CHEMICAL ENG
CANDICE NYEMBEZI	MEDICAL SCHOOL	MBCHB6
ABONGILE NYOKANA	HOWARD	BSC-CIVIL ENGINEERING
SINENHLANHLA SIKHOSANA	WESTVILLE	BSC – STREAM M
ZANELE TEMBE	PMB	BCOM ACCOUNTING



Associate Scientific Director for CAPRISA, Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim engages with UNAIDS Executive Director, Mr Michel Sidibé, (left) during his visit to CAPRISA's eThekweni Clinical Research Site. Looking on is the Director for CAPRISA, Professor Salim Abdool Karim.

UNAIDS delegation visits CAPRISA

Delegates from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) led by Executive Director, Mr Michel Sidibé, visited UKZN's Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) to discuss steps needed to accelerate the response in the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

WORDS AND PHOTO: LUNGA MEMELA

UNAIDS' latest 2010 global AIDS-related data show that:

- More than 34 million (30.9 million – 36.9 million) people were living with HIV at the end of 2010, up from 33.3 million (31.4 million – 35.3 million) in 2009.
- An estimated 6.6 million people in low- and middle-income countries were receiving antiretroviral therapy at the end of 2010, almost a 22-fold increase since 2001.
- About nine million people in low- and middle-income countries who were eligible for antiretroviral treatment were not receiving it as of the end of 2010.
- Between 2001 and 2009, the global annual rate of new HIV infections declined by 25 percent.

Sidibé said the global HIV epidemic had been exacerbated by the increasing number of HIV/AIDS patients being diagnosed with tuberculosis, especially in rural KwaZulu-Natal. 'We will not make a difference in fighting HIV/AIDS if we do not understand what is happening on the ground,' said Sidibé, who promoted a knowledge-based economy. He is concerned that some leaders in the African continent do not understand that research and science are critical for development and the response to the AIDS epidemic. 'We are too often taken hostage by the fact that we need food, we need roads.'

'I found it very interesting to see what is happening here. We do not always need to be in Columbia or in Harvard. We can be in Durban and make a difference in research and scientific progression,' argued Sidibé. This follows CAPRISA's 2010 scientific breakthrough in

the fight against HIV and genital herpes with a vaginal gel that significantly reduces a woman's risk of being infected with these viruses.

The UNAIDS visit interrogated the implementation gap between scientific evidence and producing something that could be used to benefit society. 'The gap between these two takes too long,' said Sidibé, 'and bureaucratic processes need to be quickened to speed up translation of evidence into policies and programmes.'

Although some implementation processes may take about 15 years from invention to programmatic roll-out, CAPRISA is targeting roll out of the microbicide gel to the public in 2014. Participants in the CAPRISA 004 study among the Vulindlela community reported instances of enhanced sexual pleasure for them and their partners as the gel also serves effectively as a lubricant.

The main goal of CAPRISA is to undertake globally relevant and locally responsive research that contributes to understanding HIV pathogenesis, prevention and epidemiology as well as the links between tuberculosis and AIDS care. Continuing from the 004 study, CAPRISA is part of the confirmatory trial, known as VOICE, funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and conducted in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Uganda.

Sidibé said 56 countries had managed to stabilise the epidemic. He said UNAIDS was seeing progress in many parts of the world, including South Africa, 'but the reality is that it is not enough from what we have seen.'

'We still have almost 100 000 new infections in this province every year,' warned Sidibé. He acknowledged there had been progress in controlling transmission from mother-to-child and putting people on treatment, however, new

infections, in-creasing numbers of AIDS orphans, child-headed households and the fact that prevention was not necessarily working remain a concern. Infection in young girls of about 18 years of age was expressed as one of the biggest concerns by Sidibé and UKZN's Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) and Director of CAPRISA, Professor Salim Abdool Karim.

Recalling some of the breakthroughs in the fight against HIV/AIDS, Deputy Director for CAPRISA, Dr Nesri Padayachi, listed the introduction of antiretroviral treatment which turned the disease from being fatal to a chronic disease under society's combination of prevention and treatment; the male condom which provides 98 percent protection if used correctly and all the time; male circumcision which has proven to be 60 percent effective in protecting HIV negative men; and a first for women, results of the groundbreaking safety and effectiveness study of the antiretroviral microbicide gel in CAPRISA's 004 trial study. Padayachi said the biggest breakthrough would be finding a vaccine which prevents HIV infection.

'That is why the work being done by CAPRISA is so important,' explained Sidibé.

The delegates also visited CAPRISA's eThekweni Clinical Research Site in Durban and had discussions at the Doris Duke Medical Research Institute at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine.

Sidibé acknowledged the relentless efforts by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in fighting the pandemic. He suggested the South African government should intervene and have a central mechanism to assist NGOs to work with them towards a common goal.

Reports of the death of religion have been exaggerated, says academic

The expected demise of religion in the face of secularisation in the 1970s has not happened with the world rather becoming more religious.

WORDS AND PHOTO: JANNIE SMIT

This is according to Professor Pratap Kumar who delivered the first G C Oosthuizen Memorial Lecture at UKZN under the topic: Towards a Sociology of Religion in South Africa: Significance of G C Oosthuizen's Research on Africa Instituted Churches (AICs) and New Religious Movements (New Age Movements).

Kumar said the discipline of the Sociology of Religion had been a neglected field within the Humanities in South Africa. As exemplified in his research publications on the AICs and New Religious Movements as well as his founding of the Research Unit for the Study of New Religious Movements and Independent Churches (NERMIC) in 1984, Oosthuizen was a key figure in the founding of the discipline in South Africa.

Kumar drew attention to the fact that the expected demise of religion in the face of secularisation in the 1970s had been misplaced. 'Towards the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century, the world has in fact become more religious. The founding and importation of numerous new religious movements to the African continent over the last two decades is indicative of this trend.'

'By sensing these trends already in the 1980s Oosthuizen's research and founding of the NERMIC was visionary. However, in his generation only a few scholars recognised this and often did their work outside mainstream Social Sciences research,' said Kumar. 'Through his work on the AICs and NRMs, Oosthuizen laid the foundations for the Sociology of Religion in the southern African region.'

Kumar divided his presentation into three parts. Firstly, he explored some of the salient ideas in Oosthuizen's research on AICs and NRMs; secondly, he carefully analysed prevalent theoretical positions on the study of new social movements; and finally, he returned to Oosthuizen and po-

sitioned his ideas and research output on AICs and NRMs within the broader framework of research on social movements.

'What Oosthuizen's work in fact showed, is that the AICs in Africa are not simply another denomination of (western) Christianity. Rather, they represent radically reconstituted world-views that remain connected to the traditions and practices of the forebears.'

Kumar said intellectuals often associated social critique with elaborately articulated verbose texts. 'But social movements such as the AICs and NRMs in Africa offer perhaps an equally powerful social critique of dominant world-views by reconstituting their world views in contradistinction to the dominant theologies. They build their world views by radically re-establishing themselves in the face of new socio-cultural challenges via local cultures. This bottom-up approach is obviously contrary to how elitist and dominant world views tend to operate.'

'Oosthuizen's approach to the AICs and NRMs in Africa was characterised by his intense personal engagement. He represents the subjectivity of a phenomenologist in his methodological approach and his theoretical framework was grounded in a post-modernist worldview of Africa. If we join his vision of the AICs and NRMs, what emerges is a Sociology of Religion with human engagement at its centre.'

In his conclusion, Kumar offered a way forward by laying out the main contours and challenges for the advancement of research in terms of the Sociology of Religion paradigm in order to continue the very significant and pioneering work of Oosthuizen.

'The Social Scientific study of Religion in southern Africa has become a major new area of research output, postgraduate studies and publications. The onus is on our current generation to carry forward the important work initiated by Oosthuizen.'



Professor Jannie Smit, Academic Co-ordinator of Religion (left), with Professor Pratap Kumar.

Teacher education – a national priority

A colloquium on 'the Teacher Education Landscape' hosted by the Faculty of Education provided an opportunity to reflect on the progress made in the education system and to map a trajectory for priorities.

WORDS AND PHOTO: MAKABONGWE KHANYILE

Dean of the Faculty, Professor Michael Samuel, noted: 'We are now more than five years into a merged institution which drew on our different biographical institutional heritages which chose to foreground different understandings of the goals for Faculties of Education.'

'This year saw the introduction of a new policy framework of Minimum Requirements for Teacher Education Qualification and the development of the National Integrated Strategic Policy Framework for Teacher Development and Training. The framework draws together partners across the Department of Basic Education and Training, the National Department of Higher Education and Training, the South African Professional Council for Educators, the ETDP-SETA, the Education Labour Relations Council and the Higher Education sector represented by the HESA Education Deans Forum,' said Samuel.

The colloquium posed a number of questions including: Why is teacher education a national priority?, and Why is it that we [faculties] need to focus our national attention towards the production of teachers, the continuing professional growth of our current teaching force and the need for the activating scholarship amongst the future researchers of the education and training system of the country?

Deputy Dean: Continuing and Mixed Mode Delivery, Professor Volker Wedekind, said: 'We should be aiming to influence policy-makers that equity of human, physical and financial provisioning across all the different districts masks the varied situational requirements in each specific sociological context.'

'This is acknowledged somewhat in the pro-poor policies of the education department, but the scale of specific nuanced kinds of redress required especially in poverty rural contexts is fundamental to reconstruction of the education system. The productivity of the education system cannot be anticipated without paying attention to issues of poverty, income, literacy and access to basic education resources, like qualified teachers, physical infrastructure and material resources,' said Wedekind.

Commenting on the need to review the present BED undergraduate curriculum which aims to address the demand



Professor Michael Samuels.

for teachers, Professor Labby Ramrathan, Deputy Dean: Initial Teacher Education at the Faculty of Education said: 'We need to develop a more elegant delivery of essential elements that will lead to deepening the quality of students' understanding of the content of the disciplines/ subjects they intend to teach. We must create teachers who have deep understandings of the discipline of Education which will be able to withstand any changes to school curriculum policies.'

The Colloquium questioned the ability of the Faculty to respond to 'the many demands of the new policies which warrant an expanded notion of the conception of 'teacher': extending beyond simply "primary and secondary" (GET/ FET) school teachers, to include providing educators (classroom-based teachers, managers and support staff) who will sustain the development of the Adult and Basic Education Sector, the FET College sector, the vocational sector, and the Higher Education system'.

The question asked was should not this task be spread across the 23 higher education institutions involved in teacher education?

The Colloquium also examined the disparate provisioning of the 23 Higher Education Institutions noting that the UKZN Faculty tended to spread itself across all responsibilities in different bands and specialisation areas, whereas other institutions choose selected areas of specialisation.

'The Faculty of Education at UKZN stands amongst these

comparisons as an institution which has seen a phenomenal growth, good graduate output and is now ranked amongst the largest Faculties at both undergraduate and postgraduate offerings,' said Professor Samuel.

However, the Colloquium grappled with these questions: (i) what are the drawbacks of the 'closeness' between teacher production and State employment especially in the context of an institution whose direction could be understood to be 'autonomous and non-instrumentalist research'; and (ii) can the pragmatics of teacher development and the education system be understood independently of each other?

The Faculty noted the major growth in its output through deliberate innovative models of delivery of postgraduate education, including the cohort model of doctoral supervision, linking postgraduate studies to research projects and dedicated, targeted national and international development initiatives. 'We are one of the few Faculties which has met its postgraduate planned enrolment for 2011,' said Samuel.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Humanities, Professor Joseph Ayee, encouraged the leadership of the Faculty of Education to ensure they were clear about their priorities. He also congratulated the Faculty leadership on their achievements over the past few years.

Married to tradition but available to colonialism



Professor Francis Nyamnjoh (left) with Humanities Deputy-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ayee.

We have all heard the expression 'education is the key to success', and many have proven it to be true, but at what expense has colonial education and epistemology affected the value of African traditions, knowledge and culture?

WORDS AND PHOTO: PHUMELELE MAVANENI

University of Cape Town's Professor Francis Nyamnjoh discusses the conflicting and complementary relationship between African knowledge and colonial 'civilisation' through education in his paper, *Potted Plants in Greenhouses: A Critical Reflection on the Resilience of Colonial Education in Africa*.

He calls for Africans to stay married to their traditional knowledge systems and available to being modern and African through education.

Nyamnjoh recently presented his paper at a public lecture in the College of Humanities. His lecture was part of a series of public lectures which profiled the College and allowed academics to engage in interdisciplinary dialogue, and gain knowledge on research being done in Humanities.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College, Professor Joseph Ayee, was pleased to introduce the NRF B2 rated researcher, sociologist and anthropologist from the University of Cape Town to UKZN's audience. 'It is an honour to have such a renowned academic, researcher, and novelist in our presence,' Ayee remarked.

Nyamnjoh began the lecture by describing a PhD as "Permanent Head Damage", someone with a PhD who relates to his or her traditions and society with the detachment and irrelevance of a potted plant in a greenhouse. Comparing himself to someone with a staunch Catholic background, Nyamnjoh presented his paper in the form of a confession to the audience representing the priest with him being the confessor 'I

am considered an elite African scholar, having attained the highest of degrees in the best of institutions, but I have sinned,' he began. 'I have proven myself a dedicated student through my credentials and research, following academic protocol carefully. But today I can be considered a sinner as I also fall in to the category of the reluctant Africans who refuse to give up the winning logic of colonial education. An Education which renders African knowledge systems and traditions primitive and obsolete,' he said.

Nyamnjoh explained that Africans acquired education through a colonial system which was violent to the traditions and knowledge systems of African cultures. He claims that colonial education promoted self-hatred in Africans, and became an invitation to die culturally yet born again to a different culture – that of the colonisers. 'You die to your traditional ways and become a passive academic, claiming to be active through literature and academia, but doing nothing to promote your culture. You lose your creativity and imagination, and have to reproduce the colonial processes of education, and are permanently damaged to your endogenous processes of imagination and creativity,' he said.

He then argues that it is important to bring the traditional and colonial epistemologies into dialogue and educate people through the two. 'There can be an educational system that shows what goes on in the lives of ordinary people, who accept the lives and ways of colonialism, but also see how African traditions are beneficial to everyone.'

UKZN academic a founding member of SAYAS

Professor Jerome Singh, Head of CAPRISA's Bioethics Department at UKZN, and Dr Penny Moore from the AIDS Virus Research Unit at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases of the National Health Laboratory, were recently elected as founding members of the South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS).

WORDS AND PHOTO: CHERYL BAXTER

Professor Singh was also elected as Co-chairperson. SAYAS was officially launched by the Deputy Minister for Science and Technology, Mr Derek Hanekom, at a function in Pretoria recently. Twenty leading young scientists were inaugurated as founder members of the academy. The group was selected from among the best scientific minds in South Africa and represent a diverse range of talent in terms of race, gender and scientific discipline.

SAYAS was born out of the need for young scientists to contribute towards solutions to the important national and global challenges facing society. It will represent the voice of young scientists on national and international issues and give them a platform to influence policy decisions. It is envisaged that SAYAS would become one of the apex advisory structures to government on science and policy matters, along with Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), the SA National Innovation Council and the Council for Higher Education.

SAYAS also aims to contribute towards the development of scientific capacity in South Africa, through mentoring and role-modelling of future scientists, and by fostering opportunities for interdisciplinary collaborations between young scientists.

In particular, it will bridge the gap left between the more senior and well established ASSAf and the younger scientists who represent the future but are not part of ASSAf. SAYAS will also promote science awareness among learners, young scientists and society in general and act as a bridge between young and senior scientists.

At a global level, SAYAS will link up with the Global Young Academy of Sciences to provide opportunities for South African young scientists to interact internationally with other young scientists.

ASSAf has given its blessing to the formation of SAYAS, recognising the importance of establishing a forum for younger scientists and has provided support for turning the concept into a reality. The Department of Science and Technology has also given its approval and will meet with SAYAS in the near future to discuss future opportunities.

SAYAS was taken from concept to launch by a dedicated



Professor Jerome Singh.



Dr Penny Moore.

team of young scientists working with ASSAf in less than a year. At the first General Assembly, the founding members thanked

the working group for their dedication and promised to work hard to make SAYAS a success.



Ms Tarylee Reddy.

Sweet success for brilliant UKZN statistics student

An impressive piece of work won Ms Tarylee Reddy first prize in the 2011 South African Statistics Association (SASA) national Postgraduate Student Paper Competition sponsored by Statistics South Africa.

WORDS AND PHOTO: VICKY CROOKES

Reddy's paper, which was on the research she conducted for her Masters on HIV disease progression, outclassed 14 other papers submitted by Masters and PhD students from around the country.

Her supervisor, Professor Henry Mwambi, was not at all surprised she won the top award commenting she was one of the best students he had encountered. 'She portrays a lot of excellent skills in doing her research... she has an amazing capacity to work independently and is very focused,' he said.

Head of UKZN's School of Statistics, Professor Delia North, was over the moon about Reddy's success: 'I think this is a fantastic result for the School and the student, but in particular for the supervisor who has a long list of *cum laude* MSc students in the last two years,' she said.

Mwambi, an unassuming and dedicated lecturer and researcher, credits his success first and foremost to the quality of students he has been 'blessed' with. He devotes a lot of time and effort to his students and their work and does not like to dictate to them.

He explained he gives them a lot of independence and allows them to come up with their own suggestions. 'I like students to be challenged and encourage them to introduce originality into their work,' said Mwambi. Reddy commented on Mwambi's insightful guidance throughout her research.

A few years back Reddy received third prize in the Honours competition and her win this year adds to the already impressive record of prizes won by UKZN Statistics students. Over the past five consecutive years, the School of Statistics boasts five winners of this annual competition in either the Honours or Postgraduate competitions: testimony to the high quality of statistics students emanating from the School.

Currently employed as a

biostatistician at the Medical Research Council (MRC) in Durban, Reddy graduated with her Masters degree in April. She received a bursary from the South African Centre for Excellence in Epidemiological Modeling and Analysis (SACEMA) and is most grateful for their support.

According to Reddy, although HIV is prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa, little research has been conducted on the rate of HIV progression and the contributing factors. In her research, she used multistate models to analyse her data which she obtained from the HIV Pathogenesis Programme (HPP) based at the University's Medical School.

A key finding, which is consistent with previous research, is that the rate of decline in CD4 count decreases at lower levels. Reddy said: 'It was also noted that patients enrolling with a CD4 count less than 350 had a far lower chance of immune recovery and a substantially higher chance of immune deterioration compared to patients with a higher CD4 count. These findings reaffirm the need to initiate therapy at early stages of the virus which could lead to the development of new treatment strategies and save more lives.'

Reddy is indebted to the HPP and Professor Thumbi N'dungu – holder of the research chair in Systems Biology of HIV and AIDS – who offered her the use of an advanced dataset from the Sinikithemba study which was conducted on HIV positive individuals in Durban. Since this was the first time multistate models have been used in South Africa to track HIV progression, Reddy did not have the advantage of being able to communicate with other statisticians working in the same area.

However, she believes that her experience of working at CAPRISA and the MRC, under the mentorship of experienced biostatisticians, has stood her in good stead and groomed her into the applied statistician she is today.

Champion of human rights honoured

The legacy of late Professor Tony Mathews lives on in the pages of a book: *Law, Order and Liberty: Essays in Honour of Tony Mathews*, launched by UKZN's Faculty of Law School earlier this month.

WORDS AND PHOTO: HAZEL LANGA

Fine scholar and champion of human rights, Professor Mathews contributed tremendously to the university. During his long academic career he wrote on subjects including Criminal Law, Constitutional Law and Property Law.

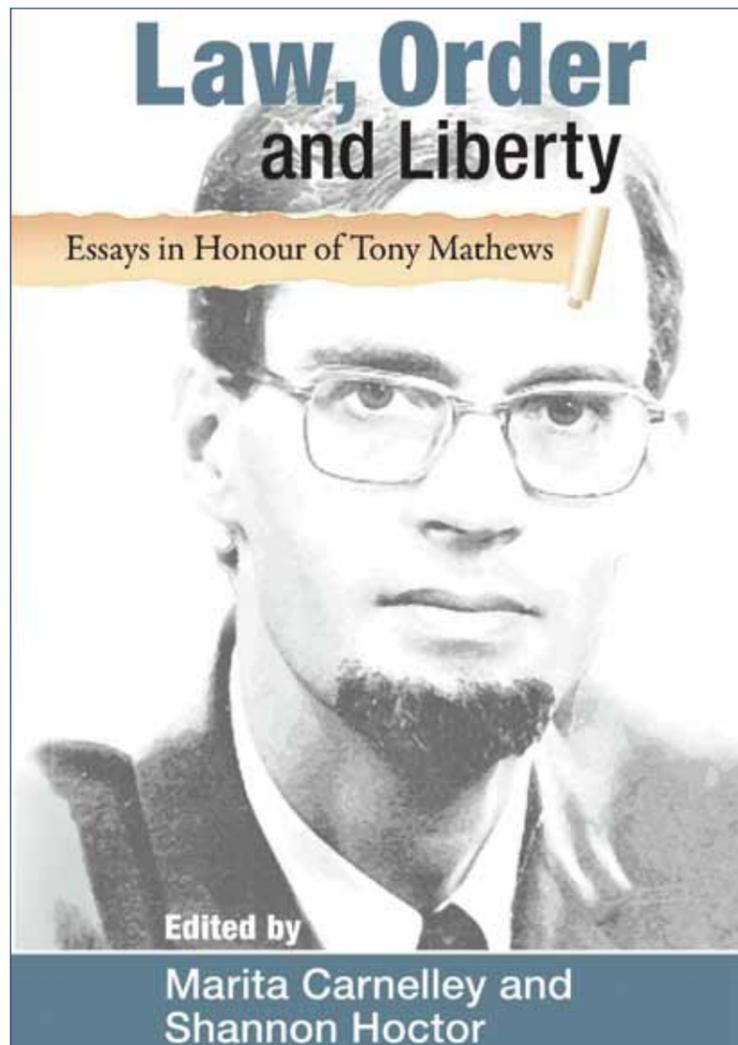
Mathews was a founding member of the *South African Journal on Human Rights* and established the Centre for Criminal Justice (CCJ) in 1989 together with Professor John Milton. The Centre was formed in response to the failure of the system to deal effectively with the political violence in the greater Pietermaritzburg area.

UKZN Law academics Professor Marita Carnelley and Professor Shannon Hoctor are the editors of the book published by UKZN Press which contains contributions from a number of authors including local and international law academics and members of the legal profession: Professor George Devenish, Professor John Dugard, Professor Cora Hoexter, Professor Michael Kidd, Professor David McQuoid-Mason, Professor Pamela Schwikkard, Professor Avrom Sherr, Professor Hugh Corder, Professor Marinus Wiechers, Professor Jan Froestad, Professor Catherine Mathews; Mr Justice Plasket and Mr Justice Davis; Dr Ann Skelton; Ms Winnie Kubayi; and Mr Clifford Shearing.

The editors describe the book as follows in their preface: 'Tony Mathews' principled and powerful critique of the apartheid laws that negated human rights and eviscerated the legitimacy of the South African legal system remains as a monument to both his moral courage and his legal brilliance. His compelling defence of the rule of law and his unremitting championing of the cause of human rights inspired a generation of law students and practitioners in the darkest days of apartheid.'

Speaking at the launch, Hoctor related how Mathew's teachings, lectures and writings resonate today. 'I was very impressed by the calibre of people influenced by him and the essays they wrote based on his principles. They have taken his writings and linked them to current debates and contemporary issues that are still relevant. It is important to remember him because his work helped to provide the context and framing of the constitution. 'The debates he raised back then are still ongoing in our democracy and still need to be addressed,' explained Hoctor.

For Carnelley, it was about remembering what Mathews



represented and honouring his memory. 'The aim of the book is to look back in history and see where we come from so that we can see when those problems might reappear again. Tony had courageous scholarship and a great intellect coupled with true passion, and we all ought to aspire to that. If he were here today he would be distraught at the possible threats to the rule of law,' said Carnelley.

Guest speaker Professor Cora Hoexter, who teaches in the School of Law at the University of Witwatersrand and Johannesburg, took as her topic the ascendancy of the rule of law.

'It is an appropriate topic because Tony Mathews spent much of his working life exploring the content of the rule of law and its possibilities, including the ways in which it could be made to counter oppressive legislative and executive action and strengthen the response of the courts. Although he did not live to see South Africa's constitutional democracy, his work on the rule of law and related aspects of constitutionalism truly made him one of the architects of South Africa's democracy.

'That is a point made by Marinus Wiechers in his personal tribute to Tony Mathews in this book, as well as by several other contributors. Tony Mathews criticised what he knew to be wrong and stood up for what he knew to be right. We are called

upon to do the same, and we can do no better than to take him as our example,' said Hoexter.

The CCJ continues to serve the community today and adhere to the teachings of Mathews. The Centre is committed to the furthering of human rights through the law, directing its skills in the area of criminal and social justice towards the understanding and the solution of local community problems, focusing on challenges within the justice system.

The Centre's Director and contributor to the book, Ms Winnie Kubayi, was taught by Mathews but never imagined she would be walking in the footsteps of that giant.

'It is an honour to follow in his footsteps. He lectured me in Property Law, but at that time I did not know that he would bequeath me his legacy. That is why 21 years on the Centre is still going strong. The Centre not only benefits the Faculty of Law but the community and rural areas as well,' said Kubayi.

'We have 15 centres which are run by paralegals where people can vindicate their rights and hold public figures accountable. Tony was very passionate about training people and sharing skills. He created a network where people would be trained and could go back to the community and share what they had learnt. As a leader, I am trying to carry on what he started,' said Kubayi.



Dr Koleka Mlisana.

New head of Medical Microbiology Department

Dr Koleka Mlisana, an internationally renowned medical microbiologist, has been appointed Head of the Department of Medical Microbiology at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine.

WORDS AND PHOTO: MARYANN FRANCIS

Mlisana, Site Project Director of the CAPRISA 004 tenofovir gel trial, was previously Head of the Vaccine and Pathogenesis Programme at CAPRISA which is a partner in the international HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN). As principle investigator of the HIV Vaccine Trial 503, Mlisana is committed to training the next generation of young scientists in Africa.

She currently serves on the National Advisory Group on Immunisation and has held key positions in several organisations such as an International Advisory Board member of the University of Rochester Centre for AIDS Research (2008-2009); Board member of the South African Medical Research Council (2007-2010); Co-chair of the AIDS Vaccine 2008 Conference (International) held in Cape Town; national representative Principal Investigator for HIV Vaccine trial PAVE 100 (2007); Co-chair of the Basic and Clinical Sciences track for the 3rd South African Durban AIDS Conference (2007); Member of the Women's Global Health Scholars' Program – a University of California San Francisco-run programme sponsored by Fogarty International Center; and Office of Women's Health at the National Institutes of Health (2006-2007).

Mlisana was an abstract reviewer for the XVI International AIDS Society (IAS) Conference (2006 – 2009); abstract reviewer for the South African AIDS Conference, 'Dira Sengwe' (2005,

2010); co-ordinator of the HIV track of the International Chemotherapy Congress Scientific Committee in Durban (2003) and a member of the Organising and Scientific Committees of the 5th Joint Congress of the Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Infectious Diseases Societies of Southern Africa in May 1995.

At a welcome reception for Mlisana hosted by the Dean of the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine, Professor Umesh Lalloo; Director of CAPRISA, Professor Salim Abdool Karim, said, 'Anyone who knows Koleka would realise that she is a true humanitarian. Koleka joined CAPRISA as a young scientist and contributed to its growth through her research strengths and management skills. Her expertise in the field as well as her humble nature is what we're going to miss at CAPRISA.'

Mlisana has received several grants valued at more than US\$15 million (R120 million) together with collaborating partners from CAPRISA. An esteemed academic in the field of pathology, she has published 48 papers in peer-reviewed journals.

Lalloo said the Medical School was honoured to have Mlisana as its new Head of Medical Microbiology. 'She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with her. Our Medical School will benefit tremendously from her leadership. I have no doubt that Mlisana will exceed all expectations we have of her and am proud to have her join our management team,' he added.

UKZN'S K-RITH announces key research appointments

The KwaZulu-Natal Research Institute for Tuberculosis and HIV (K-RITH) has launched a second round of scientific recruitment for its ground-breaking research.

WORDS AND PHOTO: SUPPLIED

K-RITH at UKZN seeks to conduct outstanding basic science and human biology research in TB and HIV and to translate those scientific findings into new tools to control the diseases.

'This is a rare opportunity for exceptional and committed scientists; individuals who seek to use the tools of basic science to address one of the world's most pressing health challenges: the dual epidemic of TB and HIV,' said Professor William R Bishai, a noted TB scientist who became K-RITH's first permanent Director last year.

Bishai announced two important developments concerning K-RITH's ongoing expansion: Dr Alexander Pym, a physician and scientist at the South African Medical Research Council in Durban, will join the K-RITH faculty as an associate investigator, and veteran scientist Professor Jacques Grosset will be a visiting scientist at K-RITH where he will continue his

studies of TB drugs and drug combinations both in animal models and humans.

Trained first as a physician in England, Pym arrived in KwaZulu-Natal in the early 1990s to direct the tuberculosis control program for a district hospital, just as the dual epidemic of HIV and TB emerged as a significant problem. After completing his medical training in London, Pym earned a PhD at the Institut Pasteur in Paris and returned to South Africa in 2006.

Pym is particularly interested in improving treatment for TB and HIV through evaluation of new drugs and finding more effective ways to use existing ones. He notes that patients with both infections can take up to seven drugs a day, experience difficult side effects, and face real difficulty sticking with the complex treatment regimes.

'Being part of a state-of-the-art scientific institute equipped with cutting-edge technology enables someone like me to really study the human biology and its

relation to TB and HIV,' says Pym. 'There's no real parallel to K-RITH anywhere in the world.'

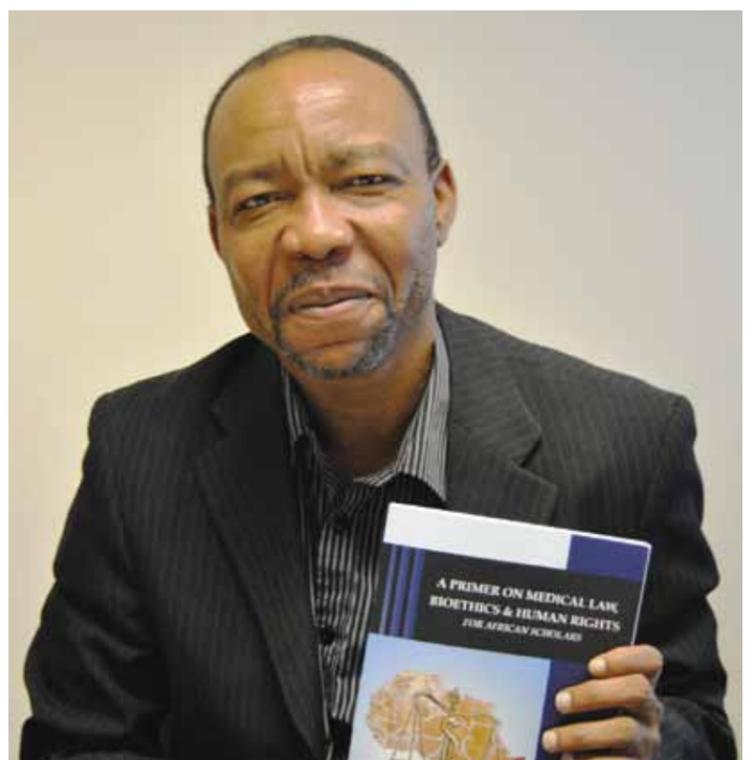
Grosset began his medical training in the 1950s, but a first-hand experience with TB changed both his life and career plans, redirecting him out of the operating room and into the laboratory. For more than four decades as a professor in Algiers and then in Paris, Grosset participated in the development of a range of drug regimes for TB and related mycobacterial diseases. He became a visiting professor at the Centre for Tuberculosis Research at Hopkins in 2002 and began an active collaboration with Bishai, among others.

At K-RITH, Grosset will help mentor a new generation of researchers based on his long experience in the laboratory and in clinical medicine. He believes that laboratory investigation and basic science will be key to finding the answers to better TB treatments. 'That is the platform where workable solutions will be found,' said Grosset.

K-RITH is based at UKZN's Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine and will move into state-of-the-art facilities late next year. The laboratory building, now under construction, will contain about 600 square meters of biosafety level-3 laboratory space to enable the safe handling of HIV and the bacteria that cause TB, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and drug-resistant *M. tuberculosis*. It will be linked to the Doris Duke Medical Research Institute, which houses the Centre for the AIDS Program of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) and the HIV Pathogenesis Program (HPP).

Under Bishai's leadership, the K-RITH research program is already well underway. Earlier this year, he announced the recruitment of Adrie J C Steyn, a South African born TB microbiologist on the faculty of the University of Alabama (UAB) at Birmingham.

Steyn, who will retain his faculty position at UAB, studies how the tuberculosis bacterium keeps itself alive in its host's cells. Most people infected with TB don't develop symptoms, a condition known as latent tuberculosis. In most people, latent tuberculosis never turns into active disease, and Steyn is interested in how the bacteria fend off attacks by the host's immune system, particularly how the bacteria escapes being destroyed.



Professor Sylvester Chima.

New book from Medical School's Sylvester Chima

Professor Sylvester Chima, Head of the Programme of Bio and Research Ethics and Medical Law at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine, has published his third book in the field of medical law and bioethics with the aim of educating both health care practitioners and students in this area of study which is relatively new in Africa.

WORDS AND PHOTO: MARYANN FRANCIS

Titled: *A Primer on Medical Law, Bioethics and Human Rights: For African Scholars*, the book draws on African case studies and South African law to illustrate the dynamics of the field. A key feature of the book that sets it apart from others available in the field is that it is specific to the African context.

The book's 21 chapters focus on subjects ranging from confidentiality, ethical and legal issues in the management of infectious diseases and epidemics, to children's rights, euthanasia, and criminal negligence.

'Physicians, scholars and the general population in Africa are not fully aware of their rights as both patients and medical practitioners as compared to the population in the developed countries,' said Professor Chima.

'For example, in Western countries, the population is very aware of patients' and consumer rights; unfortunately this has given rise to the increased number of law suits each year. In order to reduce the number and cost of medical malpractice law suits, medical training institutions in the developed countries of Europe and the United States of America have introduced ethics and medical law as a compulsory subject for all aspiring healthcare practitioners.

'What we need in Africa is more textbooks such as this one written in the African context. We also need to train more bioethics

specialists to strengthen the discipline and in turn contribute to advocating for respect of the human rights of all patients and research participants in Africa,' he said.

Born in Nigeria, he qualified there as a medical doctor practising in that country before going to Howard University in the United States where he graduated as a pathologist. Chima spent more than 20 years of his academic career in the United States, the United Kingdom and the Caribbean promoting ethical scientific research.

In 2006, Chima qualified with a Masters Degree in Law from Northumbria University, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (England).

He has worked around the globe in various prominent institutions including Yale-New Haven Hospital in Connecticut, the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda and Mount Sinai in New York; St Christopher's College of Medicine in Luton in the United Kingdom, St Mathew's University School of Medicine in Grand Cayman in the Cayman Islands and the International American University College of Medicine in St Lucia in the West Indies.

The textbook is available from Medibooks and Adams Bookshops as well as Kalahari.com and books4naija.com. Professor Chima can be contacted on 031-2601556 or chimasc@hotmail.com



Professor Jacques Grosset.



Dr Alexander Pym.

Abafundi abenza unyaka wokugcina bathole ithuba lokuhlangana nabaqashi babo

Abafundi abenza unyaka wokugcina kwiBachelor of Education (BEEd) kanye nabafundela iPostgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) bathole ithuba eliyinqayizivele lokuxhumana nabaqashi babo emcimbini waminyaka yonke obubanjwe okwesihlanu kulonyaka esikhungweni sase-Edgewood, iMeet Your Employer Day.



Abafundi base-Edgewood bajabulele ukuhlangana naboMnyango wezeMfundo nokwelulekwa ngeqhaza lothisha.

Lomcimbi ubuhanjelwe abaqashi bezikhungo ezahlukahlukene, abanye bephuma phesheya, yize uMnyango wezeMfundo kwisifundazwe saKwaZulu-Natal usuzwakalise isikhalo ngokushoda kothisha abaqeqeshwe enyuvesi kulesifundazwe.

Abaqashi baphendule imibuzo yabafundi mayelana namathuba emisebenzi, ngokufesa, amaholo kanye nezinye izinzuzo.

USolwazi Professor Labby Ramrathan oyi-Acting Deputy Dean esikhungweni uthi: 'UMnyango usebenzise lelithuba ukukhuthaza abafundi ukuba bakukhuthalele ukufundisa emiphakathini lapho isidingo sabothisha abaqeqeshiwe sisikhulu

kakhulu. Iningi labafundi bethu banemifundaze exhumene noMnyango, enemibandela yokuthi mhla bephumelela ezifundweni zabo bangenqabi ukuyofundisa kulezizigceme.'

UMnu Mayaba Nhlumayo owenza unyaka wokugcina uthi: 'Ngiyalithokozela lelithuba esililethelwe yisikhungo ngoba iningi lethu belingazi ngezinzuzo ezihambisana nobuthisha ngaphandle komholo wazinyangazonke.'

ISouth African Council for Educators (SACE) ekuyiyona

ehola ubuthisha eNingizimu Afrika ibiwuhambele nayo lomcimbi. Indima yayo ukuqhakambisa ubuthisha, ikhuthaze intuthuko kothisha bonke abafundisa kwizikole zikahulumeni okumele babe ngamalunga kwiSACE.

UNkk Nomasonto Masuku ongumfundi wePGCE uthi uzizwa kangcono njengoba esethole incazelo ngokubaluleka namathuba othisha.

See Page 11 for the English translation of this article.

Professor Bongani Mayosi shares his wisdom



Dr Koleka Mlisana, HOD: Medical Microbiology (left) with Professor Bongani Mayosi at the Research Symposium.

Professor Mayosi's presentation gave delegates insight on how to increase their publication output and grow new scientists. 'The great Steve Biko was famous for these words: "Black man you're on your own", so to all clinicians and scientists, I encourage you to grab the opportunities available to you at this great institution,' he said.

WORDS AND PHOTO: MARYANN FRANCIS

Ten Commandments of Clinical Medicine was the title of physician and cardiologist Professor Bongani Mayosi's guest lecture at the College of Health Sciences Research Symposium.

Mayosi gave three reasons for his belief that UKZN's Medical School is one of the greatest institutions in the world: the school was the only medical training facility that produced large numbers of black doctors under the apartheid regime; it was the intellectual home of the anti-apartheid student movement and the birth-place of the Black Consciousness Movement, and was the premier institution for research on HIV and AIDS and tuberculosis in South Africa, Africa and globally. 'Having a rich history of great achievements and being both the epicentre and leader in world-class research, this Medical School and its surrounding communities is where you need to look to find your research opportunities.'

According to Mayosi, the Ten Commandments for achieving success in publishing are the following: choose a research problem that optimises one's chances of success; anticipate the results before doing the first study; look for an under-occupied niche that has potential; attend talks and read papers outside your own field of study or area of interest; and build on a theme.

In addition, a scientist should find a balance between low-risk

and high-risk projects but always include a high-risk, high interest project in their portfolio; be prepared to pursue a project to any depth necessary - if a project requires expertise outside of one's own area, a scientist should find a collaborator or seek training in this field; and differentiate oneself from one's mentor and move towards independence.

Mayosi reiterated that a scientist should never assume that outstanding clinical research was easier than outstanding basic research as clinical research required far greater scientific rigor. The last message to the audience was to remain focused.

Mayosi is Professor of Medicine and Head of the Department of Medicine at Groote Schuur Hospital and the University of Cape Town. His research interests include genetics of cardiovascular traits, treatment of tuberculosis pericarditis, and prevention of rheumatic fever.

He is the President of the College of Physicians of South Africa, Chairman of the National Health Research Committee, Vice-President of the Pan African Society of Cardiology (PASCAR) and Chairman of the Rheumatic Fever Council of the World Heart Federation. In November 2009, President Jacob Zuma bestowed upon him South Africa's highest honour, the Order of Mapungubwe in Silver, for excellent achievements in medical science.

BGM Zombies snatch best dressed prize at faculty fun run

UKZN's Faculty of Science and Agriculture put on their running shoes en masse recently to take part in the Faculty Fun Run.

WORDS AND PHOTO: SALLY FROST

Lured by the many prizes on offer – including Fastest Man, Fastest Lady, Best Dressed Team, Best School Representation, Best Team Spirit and Last Team Home - staff and students entered into the swing of things and dressed up to the nines.

On show were a frightening pack of BGM Zombies, the comforting nurses and doctors of the Faculty Office, the proudly South African Microscopy Unit, a motley display of Super-Heroes from Biological and Conservation Sciences, some Animal and Poultry Science Cowboys, a rash of Physics geniuses, and a super-enthusiastic, super-bright party of Chemists!

The slightly drizzly setting of Ukulinga Farm outside Pietermaritzburg did not dampen the Faculty's spirits and with the promise of a good cook-up breakfast to urge them on, participants set off on a five kilometer walk/run shortly before 10am.

While first-man home, Brent Chiazzari, and first woman home, June Watson, vanished with speed into the mist, the majority of competitors settled



Dressed as Zombies, the School of Biochemistry, Genetics and Microbiology received the trophy for Best Dressed Team.

down to a lazy stroll through the university's picturesque research pastures and up Ukulinga's rather rigorous mountain. The aroma of sizzling bacon in the morning breeze ensured that even the most exhausted straggler made it home in good time.

'Surgeon-in-Chief' and Dean of the Faculty, Professor Deo Jaganyi, thanked everyone for their enthusiastic participation and handed out the prizes.

While BGM Zombies took the Best Dressed Trophy, Team Spirit went to the Chemists, and Physics walked off with the Best School Representation. It was left to Biological and Conservation Sciences to proudly claim their prize for Last Team Home.

As a regular event on the Faculty's calendar for many years, it is hoped that 2012 will see the Fun Run continue under a new College structure.

Black consciousness is empowering and enabling - Boesak

Black consciousness is essentially a critical consciousness which is liberating, empowering and engaging – ultimately standing for a meaningful life and a reconciled nationhood.

WORDS AND PHOTO: J SMIT

This was the thrust of the 2011 Steve Biko lecture delivered at UKZN's Howard College campus by internationally renowned anti-apartheid activist and theologian, Dr Allan Boesak. The lecture was titled: Steve Biko and the Significance of Black Consciousness Today.

Reflecting on Black Consciousness as a critical consciousness, Boesak said it was not sufficient to merely criticise white power structures. 'Black people have to see clearly what we have become, what has made us so, and especially how we are complicit in our own condition. Black Consciousness begins with learning the maturity of self-criticism and putting an end to the "crime of our complicity"', said Boesak.

'It is a critical, self-critical and system-critical consciousness through which we seek to transform not only our minds but also create the systems and structures that make meaningful life possible. As such, it is also both a Liberating and Empowering Consciousness.'

He said Black Consciousness was liberating in that it freed black people at every level and in every sphere with a 'singularity of purpose'. One of its strongest weapons was its non-racialism, its assertion of dignity and positive self-definition on people as black; and its 'solidarity of the oppressed'.

'It liberates from a racialising paradigm to a humanising

paradigm, our blackness and the dignity therein. From this follows that Black Consciousness is also empowering. A truly critical and liberating consciousness makes possible the "total involvement of the masses in the struggle essentially theirs". No other person, no matter how well-meaning, can be our voice or replace our bodies in this struggle. It is our struggle, our freedom, our future at stake,' said Boesak

'This means risks and consequences, most powerfully represented in the life and death of Biko himself as well as thousands of others, Soweto 1976 and what followed later into the eighties.

'When one accepts Black Consciousness as empowering and enabling, it becomes axiomatic that one also accepts it as an engaging consciousness. Black Consciousness begins with a personal engagement, a personal choice rooted in the discovery of the dignity and the demands of one's own black personhood. It begins with the choice of knowing who I am and not meekly accepting what the system of a racist construct wants, or more appropriately, needs me to be.'

This had to do with identity, but it was an identity not defined by ethnicity, race or class, but by the infinite worth of 'my humanbeingness'. Once this discovery was made and the decision taken, a person could

become involved in the struggle for justice, which is the struggle for the redemption of the humanity of all. Black Consciousness placed the need for individual fulfillment within the context of the need of justice for all.

Reflecting on his 1976 book, *Farewell to Innocence*, Boesak said if South Africans wanted to experience meaningful lives and live and experience a reconciled nationhood, they all had to transcend what he called a 'pseudo-innocence'.

'This innocence blinds, paralyses and cunningly uses all means at its disposal to cover up and rationalise guilt and wrongdoing. It is an innocence which effectively blocks off all awareness and all sense of responsibility.

The enduring gift of Black Consciousness is that it rescued us from this innocent consciousness.

'Following Steve Biko, it is a "mental attitude" beyond exclusionary, intolerant racialism, and following Cornel West, it is a "political and ethical construct that embraces values of service, love and care, discipline and excellence". There is nothing biological about it. Black Consciousness can deliver on our hopes and aspirations of equality, justice and human dignity central to a new reconciled nationhood while we name and eradicate the poverty, misery, disillusionment, anger, and the loss of trust and hope.'



(Back, from left) Corporate Relations Division's Mr Lunga Memela and Mrs Brigitte Read; Mr Alan Dunn, Editor, Daily News. and (front) Ms Miriam Rahiman, Retail Advertising Sales Manager, Independent Newspapers; Mr Brian Porter, Joint General Manager, Independent Newspapers; and UKZN's Mr Len Mzimela.

UKZN gets Your Choice first place award

UKZN has been voted No 1 in the category "Best College/University" by readers of the *Daily News* in the 2011 Your Choice competition.

WORDS: LUNGA MEMELA

This is the eighth consecutive time UKZN has won the award. 'It's a humbling validation by the people of KwaZulu-Natal, a place we call home because we are proudly South African and confidently KZN,' said Mr Len Mzimela, Director for University

Relations and Marketing Support.

Your Choice is an annual survey which determines which businesses in Durban keep their customers happy. The competition is based on readers' votes for the best business / service in the city, based on their experiences.

Final year students meet prospective employers

Bachelor of Education (BEd) final year students and Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) students met their prospective employers at the fifth annual Meet Your Employer Day on the Edgewood campus recently.

WORDS AND PHOTO: PHUMELELE MAVANENI

This event used to include all potential employers, as well as international recruiting agents, but the recent need for teachers in the region has seen it restricted to representatives from the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Department of Education (DoE).

Students engaged with DoE officials on employment opportunities, application procedures, salaries and benefits.

Acting Deputy Dean, Professor Labby Ramrathan said: 'The DoE used this opportunity to motivate students to take up teaching posts in areas urgently needing appropriately qualified teachers. In addition, a large number of our students are funded by the Department of Education through service-linked bursaries. Placement of final year students in terms of the service-linked contractual obligations was explained and

discussed in depth to bring clarity of process of deployment to schools.'

Fourth year BEd student, Mr Mayaba Nhlumayo commented: 'I am glad that the Faculty provided this opportunity because most of us did not know about all the benefits teachers receive and our initial salary amount.'

The South African Council for Educators (SACE) - a statutory body that regulates the teaching profession - was also present at the event. Its role is to enhance the status of the teaching profession and to promote the development of educators. All teachers employed in state schools are required to be registered with the SACE.

PGCE student, Mrs Nomasonto Masuku said she now had a better understanding of the areas where teachers were most needed and where students on DoE bursaries might be placed.



Dr Allan Boesak.

The UKZN Griot

Internationals are vital for UKZN's good health



Remember the dark days of apartheid when terms like 'international hotel', or more idiotically, 'international toilet', were vogue?

WORDS: KEYAN G TOMASELLI

'International' in the apartheid lexicon meant multiracial. That is, anyone could use 'international' facilities and not get arrested. Weird times, those. After apartheid 'international' came to be associated with *makwerekere*, who were chased and sometimes killed by those who were previously granted access to the international toilets and hotels.

What does 'international' mean for UKZN? Historically, Durban is an international city: it's an Indian city in Africa, a Zulu city in India, and possibly a European city Africanised. So, why is UKZN so reluctant to internationalise? Anyone with – or without – an ID can use the toilets and the *makwerekere* were actively recruited in the 1990s by an efficient International Relations office.

Glocalization is the new buzz word. Being local means that UKZN needs to go global. UKZN is now operating in an internationally competitive market. Inter-cultural citizenship of both academics and students is the basis of the new international academic enterprise. UKZN is very parochial. UKZN students are very parochial. KZN is very parochial. South Africa remains very parochial even after the World Cup. How else would one

account for the xenophobia that periodically breaks into violence?

If UKZN is indeed the premier university for African scholarship as it claims, then we must understand that Africa is not just KZN, South Africa or even Africa. The African Diaspora is everywhere and that's the identity that we need to embrace. But more, our institutional and employment policies must reflect an international remit. It is internationalisation at every level that vests excellence in the world's top universities because the top universities attract the best students and scholars from everywhere.

Anti-social behaviour in the residences dissuades some international students from coming to Durban. But what attracts students who do want to study here? Having discussed this with my own African graduate students over the past 20 years, they explain that:

- "South Africa is a Europe next door for SADC countries", with regard to access to top quality technology, libraries etc.
- "UKZN is a First World University in a Third World Environment". That is, UKZN promises quality education that deals with the African issues they need to know about with regard to their jobs in their home countries.

- With the opening up of SA since 1994, international candidates find South African universities cheaper and, as good as, even better than, UK or US universities.

What benefits do international students bring to UKZN?

- International students bring wider understandings of their respective conditions to South Africans who tend to be ignorant of Africa: they don't know whether Burundi is a country or a province of the DRC; whether white people live in Malawi, or whether ATMs are found in Zimbabwe. An African American Fulbrighter observed that South Africans need to understand that blacks and Africans live across the world, not just in KZN!
- African students bring a wider knowledge of their countries to bear on their essays, theses and course work at UKZN, keeping lecturers abreast of current developments across the continent.
- Graduate students return home and often establish similar programmes in their own universities. They then draw on UKZN staff as external examiners, collaborate with them on pan-African research projects, and send on their own students to do graduate work at UKZN.
- International students are more politically mature than are South Africans, having gone through the euphoria of libera-

tion decades before. They bring a political stability to class discussions, and a maturity of purpose to their studies.

International students work much more consistently; tend to work much harder, longer hours, than do local students; internationals show high initiative, take responsibility for their own learning, and use the Library; write much better than do SA students (no matter their home language); and most importantly, they are self-motivated. They become the teachers. They add significant value to the classroom.

Internationalisation is a curriculum issue. There's no point in US students coming to UKZN if they are going to be taught American cinema, or UK students being taught British cultural studies unless these subjects are critically re-contextualised and engaged in terms of African, and comparative frames of reference.

International collaboration is best driven by academics themselves. Not every collaboration requires a memorandum of understanding (MOU) but every MOU requires due collaboration. UKZN International Relations is the facilitator, the co-operating academics are the drivers, and the benefit is institutional.

Every academic is a potential ambassador for International Relations. Universities bring out the red carpets even for the poor orphans of the academy, the academics, who are doing official business on behalf of the

institution. Go figure ...

The International Relations office is part of UKZN's PR, recruitment campaigns and research activities.

Synergy is the operative process. International Relations is not just another administrative venture gobbling up scarce resources. It was originally constituted as an income-generator, as the global recruitment arm of the University, developing a growth sector within research and education.

Questions always to be borne in mind are: What is the wider benefit that can be derived from any inter-personal relationship? How can these be amortised across the University as a whole? International Relations business plans should indicate how return on investment will occur over specific periods.

An international university needs more than international hotels and toilets. It needs international students and staff, international visitors and international research collaborations.

Keyan G Tomaselli is Director, The Centre for Communication, Media and Society. He is astonished at how well he is treated by host universities when he wears his administration hat in comparison to the neglect experienced when an academic hat is worn. He now knows where the money is.

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

Sudoku

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

The new Msinsi reserve sign

Not everyone knows that the University has its very own Nature Reserve at Howard College Campus. Declared as a nature reserve by the University Council in 1993, this open air classroom is situated near the cricket fields (Gate 10) and is also open to the public. An area of natural grassland and forest, it is an important link in the Durban Metropolitan Open Space System (DMOSS). The UKZN Environmental Committee is delighted to announce that a new sign has been erected there recently.



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