INSULIN

Breakthrough by UKZN Scientists

Scientists at UKZN have discovered a new method to administer insulin into the bloodstream via a skin patch. The research, presented at the Society for Endocrinology BES meeting in Manchester UK, suggests that this technique could have potential future applications in the management of diabetes.

Mr Mark Tufts and Professor Cephas Musabayane in the Physiology Laboratory.

Honorary Degrees

Recognise Outstanding Contributions

UKZN conferred honorary degrees on seven distinguished individuals at this year’s graduation ceremonies.

Words: Indu Moodley

The honorary degrees recognise outstanding contributions in the humanitarian, business, political, community and academic sectors.

Renowned orator and activist Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson Sr received the Doctor of Literature for distinguished achievements in the advancement of social justice; Founder of the Gift of the Givers Foundation, Dr Imtiaz Ismail Sooliman was awarded the Doctor of Social Science for distinguished service to humanity; Director for Africa at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) Dr Ousmane Badiane was the recipient of the Doctor of Science in Agriculture for distinguished contributions to agriculture in Africa; foremost researcher and genealogist of colonial Natal, Ms Shelagh O’Byrne Spencer was awarded the Doctor of Literature for distinguished services in the advancement of South African historiography; gifted mathematician and inspirational teacher the late Professor Thamsanqa Wilkinson Kambule post-humously received the Doctor of Education for distinguished contributions to the advancement of mathematics education; Social Welfare activist Dr Bayragi Thaventhran Naidoo received the Doctor of Social Science for distinguished contributions to social welfare; and founder and leader of Ladysmith Black Mountain, Mr Bhekizizwe Joseph Shabalala received the Doctor of Music for distinguished contributions to the advancement of South African music.

The research team, led by Professor Cephas Musabayane, have developed a patch made out of pectin hydrogel, which is placed on the skin to deliver insulin into the bloodstream. The patch was tested on diabetic male rats, with four groups of rats being given different amounts of insulin.

At each time point during the glucose tolerance test, blood glucose levels were significantly lower in the high insulin dose group compared to the groups that received lower insulin doses. After four hours, blood insulin levels were highest in the group that had the most concentrated patch. These data indicate that insulin was transported from the skin patch into the blood in a dose-dependent manner, with patches containing more insulin leading to a higher insulin concentration in the blood.

The research shows that this pectin hydrogel insulin patch has the potential to deliver insulin across the skin and into the bloodstream. Trials of this patch for use on humans or to treat diabetes are, however, still a long way off. More work is now needed to establish exactly how the insulin is transported through the skin and how this process can be optimised to provide longer term benefit in lowering blood glucose levels.
What Graduates are saying about UKZN

Eighty four percent of graduates who took part in a five-year survey said that they were satisfied with the overall quality of the qualifications offered by UKZN.

Words: Neeshia Maharaj

Five years of graduate opinions on the quality of education at UKZN were unveiled at a University Teaching and Learning Office (UTLO) Seminar on the Westville campus on March 5. The Seminar analysed surveys conducted by Ms Allison Walker from UKZN’s Quality Promotion and Assurance Unit (QPA) from 2005 to 2009.

During this period, 39 892 students graduated. The sample comprised 43.3 percent of these graduates; a sizeable sample.

More than 80 percent of the graduates interviewed were of the view that their generic skills including problem-solving, analytical skills, communication skills and ability to work in teams improved due to their education at UKZN, while they were slightly less satisfied with the computer skills they had developed during their studies.

On the negative side graduates who completed undergraduate degrees were less satisfied with teaching at UKZN than postgraduate students. According to Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning, Professor Renuka Vithal this may be because academic programmes at postgraduate level were more specialised; postgraduate classes were generally smaller than undergraduate ones; and postgraduate students were more likely to be taught by senior academics and researchers.

“It was pleasing to note that more than 80 percent of our graduates who were surveyed stated that they were full time employees; felt their studies prepared them well for work and were employed in the area of their qualifications”, added Professor Vithal.

Mr Dhevan Pillay provided tips on beating the electricity price hikes.

Saving Energy
The Focus of Public Lecture

Energy efficiency and strategic consumption were the buzzwords at a public lecture presented by Eskom’s Strategic Key Customer Manager, Mr Dhevan Pillay on the Westville campus on March 9.

Words and Photo: Lunga Memela

South Africa is one of the world’s least energy efficient nations. We use approximately 40 percent of Africa’s electricity, and are the 11th biggest emitter of greenhouse gasses in the world. South Africa’s reserve margin is extremely low and the reliability of our electricity supply is under threat.

Mr Pillay, who obtained his Master of Science degree at UKZN said that the way to reduce your Eskom bill is to change your mindset, ensure the operational efficiency and maintenance of your appliances and change to energy efficient technology.

“Managing your budget is serious business,” said Mr Pillay. “But it is a ‘no brainer’ to resist being an energy efficient ambassador today. We are not (wasting) to take you out of your comfort zones but ... it’s the simple things that you and I can do (that) make a difference,” he said.

The presentation illustrated that continuous hikes in the price of electricity and water have a ripple effect on other costs like fuel and transport. The benefits of energy efficiency include cost reduction and environmental protection.

Mr Oscar Borchards and Ms Pravina Pillay of Transnet Port Terminals who attended the lecture described it as very enlightening.

In his closing remarks, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Professor Nelson Njumba, thanked Mr Pillay for his “useful tips and for making energy efficiency look so easy.”

Edgewood Students Reach Out to Schools

“Working together we can create a society that is literate, uplifted and striving towards excellence in the global community”. This is the pledge of the Rotaract Club at UZKN’s Faculty of Education. The Club held a charter ceremony on March 19 on the Edgewood campus.

Words and Photo: Lunga Memela

Under the patronage of the Rotaract Club, Edgewood Students Reach Out to Schools is a literacy project in the Pinetown area. The project was launched at a charter ceremony held at the Faculty of Education on March 19.

Mr Paul Poobolan, Rotaract District Co-ordinator; Mr Edwin Piefel, former President; Rotary Pinetown; Ms Sihembile Zendi, CEO CDA; Professor Michael Samuel, Dean: Faculty of Education; Ms Anele Ndlovu, Rotaract President; Ms Margaret Keogh, Rotaract Co-ordinator; Pinetown; and Mr Peter Reddy, School of Language, Literacies and Media Education.

Edgewood Students Reach Out to Schools is a Rotaract-spon- sored service club for young men and women. Rotaract President, Ms Anele Ndlovu, said the first Rotaract project would target three schools in the Nazareth area.

There was a focus on getting Grade 12 learners ready for university and their adult lives. A literacy project will be conducted in primary schools with Grade 3 pupils encouraging the culture of reading in both English and isiZulu. A TUPP (Taking University to the People Project) is also in the pipeline.

“Here we will be going to different schools giving grade 11s and 12s information about UKZN,” explained Ms Ndlovu.

The club personifies what the Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor Michael Samuel, calls the “hidden curriculum in the Faculty of Education.” Noting that today’s schools have become sites for earning rather than learning, Professor Samuel drew attention to three fundamental Cs – competence, commitment and care – that characterise the hidden curriculum of the education profession. “These are the milestones of quality teaching that will bring quality learning,” he said.

Above: Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Teaching and Learning, Professor Renuka Vithal. Below: Ms Allison Walker from UKZN’s Quality Promotion and Assurance Unit.
**R10.8 Million Boost For UKZN Maths & Science Programme**

UKZN’s Northern Cape Maths and Science Educator Development Programme – a joint initiative of the University, BHP Billiton, and the Northern Cape Department of Education – has received a R10.8 million grant over five years from BHP Billiton.

**WORDS:** LUNGA MEMELA AND INDIUMATHIE MOODLEY  **PHOTO:** SALLY GILES

The Programme is designed to develop deeper competence and confidence in content knowledge for delivery of the new Further Education and Training (FET) mathematics and physical science curriculum at Grade 12 level. Twenty five teachers, mainly from rural areas, will study part-time towards a Bachelor of Science Degree with Mathematics and Science Education as electives.

Speaking at the launch of the Programme on the Westville campus on March 30, the Chairperson of BHP Billiton South Africa, Dr Xolani Mkhwanazi noted that was not a corporate social investment, but a business strategy. “Our business agenda is to ensure we play a developmental role in communities,” he added.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Malegapuru Makgoba noted that the Programme will strengthen “a cadre of ‘master teachers’ in the schooling system whose successive generations of learners are expected to not only perform well in these critical subjects but also to choose and successfully take up Mathematics, Science and Technology-related further studies and careers in the future.”

His Worship the Deputy Mayor of eThekwini Municipality, Councillor Logie Naidoo, noted that the Programme would help address the shortage of skilled staff in municipal areas. “As we look at the new structures, the King Shaka Airport, the soccer stadium, we remember that it’s all the scientists, engineers and mathematicians that are behind it,” he said.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning at UKZN, Professor Renuka Vithal, advised teachers that it would not be easy completing a BSc. degree as well as imparting the knowledge to pupils. Teacher, Ms Mathapelo Lekokolwane, added that the degree was very demanding and that it required considerable sacrifice.

**UKZN Convocation AGM**

A hundred alumni and guests attended the UKZN Convocation 2009/10 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and 2010 Convocation Awards ceremony on the Howard College campus on March 16.

**WORDS:** LUNGA MEMELA  PHOTO: ALBERT HIRASEN

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Professor Aaronette White, a visiting academic from the University of California, Santa Cruz shared her views on the possibilities of African American men becoming feminists at a UKZN Research Office Lecture on March 24.

**WORDS & PHOTO:** NEESHA MAHARAJ

**Can Men really be Feminists?**

Professor Aaronette White, a visiting academic from the University of California, Santa Cruz shared her views on the possibilities of African American men becoming feminists at a UKZN Research Office Lecture on March 24.

**WORDS & PHOTO:** NEESHA MAHARAJ

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**WORDS & PHOTO:** NEESHA MAHARAJ
Festy Nora Pledge did not allow societal norms to get in the way of her determination to make it in a man’s world.

Nora was born on 16 December 1916. Having always loved animals, she hoped to study at Onderstepoort outside Pretoria to become a Vet. Sadly, her father passed away just after she matriculated from Epworth High School, and she felt she could not leave her mother at that particular time.

Nora takes up the story: “I decided I must look for something else to do with my life. Unfortunately, in those days there wasn’t much option as far as university education in Durban was concerned. Howard College – a branch of the Natal University in Pietermaritzburg – was still very small and only offered studies leading up to a BSc Engineering, which was completely male-dominated, and BCom. As I’d always done well in Maths, I decided this would be my best choice.”

Nora enrolled at Howard College in 1934. She recalls that at that time there were just ten women students – three in third year, four in second year and three in first year. They were completely outnumbered by the large number of men who had enrolled for the BCom degree.

“Teaching was not really my forte,” says Nora, “although I have always enjoyed working with children and 13 great grandchildren, my pride and joy.”

Nora’s mother worried about her safety, and it was thus that she became a trailblazer of a different kind, learning to drive and getting her licence at the tender age of 17. Now she could drive up from Umbilo, picking up fellow students along the way.

While university today is a hive of social activities, there was not much social life at Howard College in the early days. Nora recalls a few dances in the hall, but most socializing took place off campus. By this time, the Hindu family had moved to Princess Alice Avenue nearer the campus. By this time, the Hind family had moved to Princess Alice Avenue nearer the campus. Here Nora and friends would gather at her home. Pranks were a normal part of the young people’s lives: one night one of Nora’s friends challenged her to a race along Umbilo Road after they had attended evening lectures at the Technical College in town. “I didn’t realize that if I went over 70 my car developed a serious speed wobble, and I ended up on the railway line,” she laughs. “John (the friend) had to confess to my mother that he had challenged me to a race!”

When Nora graduated with her BCom in 1936, she was one of only four students at Howard College to do so, and the only woman. She decided to do a Higher Education Diploma (HED) and moved to the Pieternartizburg campus to do the work I was trained for and have a feeling of accomplishment. I am very glad I did it. Being able to do the work I was trained for made me feel fulfilled.”

Until recently she was often seen at Alumni Affairs events: “I took it on as my challenge. I didn’t know a soul there. To go somewhere where you don’t know anyone is a real challenge. It is so kind of Alumni Affairs to arrange events for us and I feel we should support them, through I am getting a bit old for it now.”

Her family continues to give back to the University, in the form of an annual donation from the Hindu Family Trust.

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Nora cherishes her family – four children, nine grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren, with another on the way. A united and closely knit family, they keep in touch from all over the world and are clearly devoted to the matriarch who has set them such a sterling example.
Women Scientists
Get up-to-date on Latest Research Tools

Scientists and Clinicians embarking on health science research at UKZN were informed of the most effective biostatistical research tools during a Women in Leadership and Leverage (WILL) Workshop on March 31.

Thoko Mnisi, Fumane Khanare and Jon Prosser (Leeds), Martin Viorges (left to right) Rob Pattman (UKZN), Digital Futures Network in Action: Randomized Controlled Trials in the Practice (Pragmatic Randomized Controlled Trials in HealthCare) website which provides open-access tools, training and mentoring to researchers in developing countries. The second part of the presentation guided researchers through Biostats consultative timelines; prerequisites for calculation of power and sample size; and best practice for comparative studies and survey of cluster groups.

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Co-Chairperson of WILL, Dr Sengizele Sibeko (second from the right) and Professor Carl Lombard (first left), a Biostatistician at the Medical Research Council with workshop participants of a recent WILL workshop.

WILL workshops are geared towards equipping women researchers with skills to assertively take the lead in science research. This is achieved through peer support and a series of sessions by inspirational role models within the science disciplines.

An important point Professor Lombard raised was the need for both researchers and statisticians to be on the same wavelength as far as statistical requirements of a research study are concerned. It was important for the statistician to understand the purpose behind a research study and this could only be achieved through effective communication between both researchers and statisticians. Professor Lombard said in his years as a statistician he discovered that many researchers, especially those new to research were intimidated when making initial contact with statisticians.

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Co-Chairperson of WILL and a Research Gynaecologist also trained in Epidemiology and based at CAPRISA, Dr Sengizele Sibeko said protocol development in research had been chosen as a topic for discussion because clinical researchers were often unprepared when they approached biostatisticians for advice on developing research protocols.

This is achieved through peer support and a series of sessions by inspirational role models within the science disciplines.

The Digital Futures project involving Professors Eun Park and Claudia Mitchell, McGill University.

The Symposium was part of a larger collaborative project involving the Social Uses of Digital Data project led by Professor Nadyene de Lange, and the Digital Futures project involving Professors Eun Park and Claudia Mitchell, McGill University.

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UKZN Rewards
Matric Top Achievers

Academics and parents gave a standing ovation to 167 top achievers from the Matric class of 2009 who are currently students at UKZN.

WORDS AND PHOTO: LUNGA MEMELE

The students received certificates and scholarships at a special ceremony on the Westville campus on March 16.

In her welcoming address, Executive Director: Corporate Relations, Ms Nomonde Mbadi congratulated the students and affirmed the key role played by parents in supporting their children in their studies.

“To the students I would like to say, you have earned these awards, congratulations; and we hope to see you graduate ... among the top ten matric pupils in KwaZulu-Natal. “I really appreciate the blessing and kindness extended by the University,” he said.

Executive Dean of Students, Ms Mochaki Masipa noted that in order to retain their scholarships, the students will need to continue to excel in their studies.

“You are the future around which we should build a new South Africa,” Vice-Chancellor, Professor Malegapuru Makgoba, told the students. The annual ceremony is hosted by the Vice-Chancellor.

Professor Makgoba also raised concerns about students who failed to keep up the standard of excellence achieved at school when they come to university.

Electrical Engineering student, Mr Ashish Moshilall was one of the top ten matric pupils in KwaZulu-Natal. “I really appreciate the blessing and kindness extended by the University,” he said.

Mr Luyanda Ndlouvu was also among the top ten. “Coming from a previously disadvantaged schooling background, we are very proud of Luyanda’s academic performance, especially for getting 100 percent for Accounting,” his parents said. Luyanda is registered at a BCom Accounting Degree.

One hundred and sixty three students each received a UKZN Merit Scholarship to the value of R25 000. One hundred and sixty three students each received a UKZN Merit Scholarship to the value of R15 000 and four (who were among the top ten matriculants in KwaZulu-Natal) received a Merit Scholarship to the value of R30 000. The sum value of scholarships is R2 565 000.

Double Accolades
Professor Abul Fadl Mohsin Ebrahim of UKZN’s School of Religion and Theology, who has been writing in the field of Bioethics for the past two decades, was appointed a member of the International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) Ethics Committee at the beginning of 2010 for a three-year period.

Additional members of the Committee are: Professor Bernard Dickens (from Canada, Chairman), Dr Françoise Shenfield (from the UK, Co-Chair), Dr Jacques Miliez (from France, immediate past Chair), Dr Ching-

Professor Abul Fadl Mohsin Ebrahim.

Professor Ebrahim has also been rated by the National Research Foundation (NRF) and placed in the C category at level C3.

Launch of new books: Dr Kathleen Pithouse (centre), Lecturer at the School of Education and Development; with co-editors of the books, Professors Relebohile Moletsane (right) and Claudia Mitchell (left).

New Books
From the Faculty of Education

Academic, Dr Kathleen Pithouse and a number of other staff and postgraduate students at UKZN’s Faculty of Education have made an invaluable contribution to two new books.

Making Connections: Self Study and Social Action and Teaching and HIV & AIDS were launched by the Centre for Visual Methodologies for Social Change based at the Faculty’s School of Language, Literacies, Media, and Drama Education, on March 17.

A senior lecturer at the School of Education and Development, Dr Pithouse is the lead editor of Making Connections: Self Study and Social Action. The book is based on her research on the social relevance of self-study. Dr Pithouse co-edited the book with her colleagues, Professor Claudia Mitchell and Professor Relebohile Moletsane.

Self-study, an emerging research genre in the education discipline, has not been widely explored in South Africa in other disciplines within the arts, humanities and social sciences. Dr Pithouse said collaborating with academics across disciplines at universities in South Africa and abroad added diverse expertise to the book.

She said she was particularly proud of her postgraduate students, Ms Lungile Masinga, Ms Angelina Kunene and Ms Mathabalo Khai who wrote a chapter.

Teaching and HIV & AIDS, which Dr Pithouse co-edited with Professor Claudia Mitchell, a Professor in Education at McGill University in Canada and an Honorary Professor at UKZN’s Faculty of Education, discusses the role of teachers in addressing HIV and AIDS at schools. In addition to co-editing the book, Dr Pithouse contributed towards writing the introductory chapter and another titled: Living and Lifelong Learning.

Dr Pithouse whose own career in education began as a school teacher said there could never be enough written literature to guide teachers in dealing with the HIV and AIDS pandemic at school level.
UKZN ACCOUNTING
Graduates Excel

Three UKZN Accounting graduates finished in the top ten of the Public Practice Examinations (PPE) set by the Independent Regulatory Board of Auditors (IRBA).

Mr Akash Dowra
Mr Jacques van Ravesteyn
Ms Saadiya Adam

UKZN ACCOUNTING
Graduates Excel

Renovated Chemistry Lab promotes research

The School of Mathematics, Science and Technology Education on the Edgewood campus has renovated its chemistry laboratory after many years of using old desktops. Head of School Dr Nadaraj Govender said that two years ago the school budgeted for the project. The project was started last year and was completed this March at a total cost of R500 000.

Newly appointed Chemistry lecturer Ms Deshi Moodley is thrilled with the updated laboratory. Her PhD research focuses on how students integrate indigenous knowledge with Chemistry and the laboratory will support this work.

Student enrollments over the past five years in Chemistry Education have increased from 10 to 40 students.

Mr Akash Dowra and Ms Saadiya Adam from Durban and Touche finished in sixth and seventh places respectively, while Mr Jacques van Ravesteyn from PricewaterhouseCoopers took ninth position. All three students were awarded honours for achieving a pass mark of 75 percent and over.

According to the IRBA out of 2 798 candidates who wrote the 2009 PPE, 2 320 passed, resulting in a record pass rate of 83%. Of the 1 849 candidates who wrote for the first time, 1 596 passed, representing a first time pass rate of 86%.

The PPE is the final test of professional competence in order to qualify as a Registered Auditor and Chartered Accountant. It takes the form of a written assessment consisting of two scenarios reflecting the public practice environment.

UKZN’s School of Accounting which is accredited by the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) is pleased with the exceptional performance of its three graduates. Students received a solid academic foundation in the form of teaching and learning and practical experience which is acquired from accounting firms.

“I found the UKZN lectures and tutorials were challenging and that I appreciated that the work put in at an undergraduate and postgraduate level allowed better understanding of auditing concepts and theory,” said Ms Adam.

Delighted with his achievement Mr Dowra said: “This is a great achievement for me. It took many years of hard work and dedication, and I am glad it paid off. Professionally, this has opened up many doors, and I am astounded at the opportunities the CASA designation offers.”

This is not the first time Mr van Ravesteyn has made the University and the School of Accounting proud. In 2008 he was one of the four UKZN students who finished in the top ten of the SAICA Part 1 Qualifying Examination.

Professor Nicholas Wood, Head of the School of Accounting commented: “We congratulate all our former students who passed the PPE, and especially the three who were placed in the top ten and wish them all every success in their careers.”

The Emergency Medicine Update 2010, a skills training course for doctors and nurses, run by the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine’s Department of Family Medicine has received a cash injection of R120 000 and sponsorship of a suction apparatus from the Discovery Fund.

Of the 1 849 candidates who wrote the first time, 1 596 passed, representing a first time pass rate of 83%. The course, which was introduced in 1994, is a free course aimed at enhancing the skills of doctors and nurses to cope with a series of medical emergencies, including basic and advanced life support skills. The course content includes lectures, practical skills training and an examination.

With South Africa hosting the Fifa 2010 Soccer World Cup in June, this year’s course is tailor-made to respond to the medical needs of thousands of locals and tourists who are expected to descends on the province in June and July.

Dr Andrew Ross, a Consultant for the Department of Family Medicine, said that nominating nurses and doctors would be trained to cope with surgical and medical emergencies that would present themselves in KwaZulu-Natal during and beyond the World Cup.

“The University would like to thank both the Discovery Fund and the KZN Department of Health for their contributions to this fine initiative,” he added.

Equipping Medical Personnel For The Fifa 2010 World Cup

The course aims to enhance the skills of doctors and nurses to cope with medical emergencies.

UKZN ACCOUNTING
Graduates Excel

Renovated Chemistry Lab promotes research

The course, which was introduced in 1994, is a free course aimed at enhancing the skills of doctors and nurses to cope with medical emergencies.
Mr. Zwide Mlungisi, director of the Metro!” TIA came to mind one morning in late March when I and my passenger were negotiating the gyrations that greets anyone trying to enter Howard College via Mazisi Kunene Avenue at peak periods. Cars are double and triple parked, facing every which way; loud unhitched voices are off-eying students in the middle of the turning bay; sometimes driving the wrong side; parents, wanting to see their children off – the 50 metre walk from the turnout point, block both entrances and exits; huge buses, service vehicles, pedestrians, and mobile no parking signs placed on red lines impede flow. Noise, pollution and confusion greet esteemed students if the University before they have even entered it. This entrance, however, is a microcosm of the chaotic rudeness that typifies many Durban roads.

Getting through the last 50 metres of my morning commute takes me into blood pressure-raising territory. This ailment will surely bankrupt our various medical schemes which charge up to 50% of your income. How many working and studying hours are lost annually just trying to pass the gate? I once worked as an urban geographer in the Johannesburg Town Planning Division. So on my arrival at Natal University (N.U.) in the mid-1980s I devised a solution to the germs. I remember writing resolutions, letters and proposals and sending these to the Director of Administration, RMS, and anybody who had a postbox (emails were then still a glint in the Pentagon’s eye). He was too busy restructuring the institution to find the time to restructure the entrance. Recently, a DVC took his temper trying to get to a pressing engagement while taking a detour over the kerb.

I keep hearing the term, ubuntu; indeed I engage it with my cultural studies. But I don’t see it in operation on this campus. Is it rhetoric without substance? Ubuntu would start at the kerbstone – ensuring safety of one and all entering the campus; shelters would protect students from the elements as they patiently wait for their pick-ups. Ubuntu planning would ensure safe movement of vehicles and reduce the blood pressure of those driving them.

So I think the time has now come to reorder the two acronyms: TIA becomes “Intelligent Transport Arrangements” (ITA) and ICD can be applied to “do it competently” (DIC). In the old days of TIA and ICD the University administration was overburdened, and the student population small. The entrance to HC did not then mimic the utter chaos of a downtown taxi rank. (Come to think of it, such ranks are usually quite ordered, even if the bulletins are sometimes flying.) When the cops do visit they simply ticket cars parked on the islands. Directing the traffic is not on their agenda. The symptoms, not the cause are the concern. I applaud those guards who gently try to persuade illegally parked drivers to move on. These drivers disrespect the guards and ignore them.

But, hope is on the horizon. We have a new head of Corporate Relations, or whatever they are calling themselves now. If the mess that greets our esteemed visitors from Joe Public to Bill Gates can be substituted with a safe, clutter-free and functioning drop-off and collection arrangement, then Corporate Affairs’ job is made easier. Not to mention the endlessly harassed guards. Transformation is about positive image and good behaviour also.

What I learned from the story teller/imbongi Mazisi Kunene, who served on the Centre for Communication, Media and Society (CCMS) Advisory Committee, is that ubuntu starts with small actions. Like respect for the individual within the framework of the community. Consideration, sharing and being one-through-another are key attributes often forgotten as the term is made meaningless through opportunistic self-serving politicalisation. The ridiculous muddle that each of us has to negotiate just trying to enter (or exit) Howard College disrespectful to students and the community (the institution).

Representation starts with the grassroots issues – the SRC should be addressing safety, consideration and efficiency for students if the University and municipality won’t. Small interventions at individual levels contribute to the bigger institutional picture. We must all play our parts somehow.

Like Shakespeare’s Jacques, I hope to continue with my part next time round.

KEYAN TOMASELLI is Director of the Proto Centre for Communication, Media and Society.

THE UKZNDBA TEAM
Nonomnde Mbidzi – Executive Director; Smita Maharaj – Director; Communications; Deanne Collins – Publications Manager; Neeha Maharaj – Journalist; Lunga Memela – Journalist; Rod MacLeod – Layout & Design. Produced by Corporate Relations. Tel: 031 260 1245/8668/2895 www.ukzn.ac.za

The UKZN Griot

Of Entrances and Exits

If you are reading this, then I must have survived my first column.

Second life?

WORDS: KEYAN TOMASELLI

“TIA!” This acronym popularised by the feature film, Blood Diamond, stands for “This is Africa”. It’s a term of exasperation for a continent in which nothing ever seems to get done properly.

National Water Week Celebrated at Edgewood

On Thursday 18 March, in celebration of National Water Week, Edgewood campus hosted a performance by the community theatre group, which was organised by Preshine Govender, the Education Officer for the Education Division of eThekwini Water and Sanitation.

Participants and organisers of the Edgewood water awareness celebration.

Sudoku

THE UKZNDBA TEAM

Participants and organisers of the Edgewood water awareness celebration.