

AFRICA  
Centre honours  
King

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GETTING  
into the  
Glass House

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COLUMN  
The UKZN  
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## K-RITH: Building Research Capacity

The KwaZulu-Natal Research Institute for Tuberculosis and HIV (K-RITH) marked a significant milestone on July 12 with a festive groundbreaking at the site of its new laboratory building at UKZN's Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine.

WORDS: LUNGA MEMELA PHOTO: RAJESH JANTILAL

A three-day scientific symposium which focused on the scientific challenges posed by Tuberculosis (TB) and HIV also drew distinguished researchers and leaders from South Africa and around the world.

A poetic welcome by world-renowned South African storyteller, Ms Geina Mhlophe and entertaining musical performances by Durban's Native Blues added to the excitement of the ceremony. Research by K-RITH scientists is already underway in laboratories at the Medical School and the K-RITH building itself is expected to open in the latter half of 2012.

K-RITH aims to use basic science research to help those afflicted by the epidemic of TB and HIV in South Africa and around the world. K-RITH was founded in 2009 as a partnership between UKZN and the US-based Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) to conduct outstanding basic science research on TB and HIV, translate the scientific findings into new tools to control TB and HIV, and expand the educational opportunities for future scientists in the region.

'The Groundbreaking Ceremony is an important milestone in the development of K-RITH. It is a signal that by October next year the Institute will be completed and ready for occupation, opening a new chapter in cutting-edge research,' said Professor Malegapuru Makgoba, UKZN's Vice-Chancellor. 'This is really exciting for UKZN, for science and for the scientific community. K-RITH will be a unique centre for excellence,' he added.

Speakers at the event included Dr Sibongile Zungu who represented the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Dr Zweli Mkhize, and representatives

from the founding organisations – Makgoba from UKZN and Kurt L Schmoke Esq, Chairman of the HHMI Trustees and Dean of the Howard University School of Law – who shared their excitement at the progress K-RITH has made to date.

'What a difference a year makes,' said K-RITH Director, Professor William Bishai, as he stood next to the construction scaffolding that enclosed the first four floors of the eight-floor laboratory building. Bishai, a world-renowned TB scientist from the Johns Hopkins University, was announced as K-RITH's founding director in May 2010 and moved to Durban with his family in July 2011.

'We are here because the scientific challenges of TB and HIV also represent major human problems that touch the lives of people in KwaZulu-Natal,' he said.

In 2005, researchers in South Africa came face to face with one of their deadliest fears – the emergence of a virulent strain of drug-resistant Tuberculosis that quickly killed nearly every person it infected.

More alarming still, the outbreak surfaced in KwaZulu-Natal, an epicentre of the AIDS pandemic that had hospitals filled with people whose immune systems were already decimated by HIV. As the shocking news made headlines worldwide, Tugela Ferry, South Africa, became ground zero for the lethal convergence of HIV and a new killer, extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB).

'It is fair to say that the world is on a brink of the greatest period of biological discovery in human history,' said Mkhize who is also UKZN's Chancellor, in his prepared remarks. 'Enriching the fabric of society with improved healthcare is,



A momentous occasion for UKZN Vice-Chancellor, Professor Malegapuru Makgoba; Dr Sibongile Zungu, HOD KwaZulu-Natal Health; Dean Kurt L Schmoke Esq, Chairman of the Trustees of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) in the US; Dr Ben Ngubane, Chair of the SABC Board and Professor William Bishai, Director of the KwaZulu-Natal Research Institute for Tuberculosis and HIV (K-RITH) at the groundbreaking ceremony.

therefore, an integral part of the mission of this world renowned institution.'

Bishai acknowledged the substantial support and long-term commitment from the HHMI and noted that many of the world's leading scientists have devoted their efforts to K-RITH's programme, 'making our scientific programme as compelling and competitive as can be'.

Schmoke said he was honoured to represent the HHMI and to have a firsthand opportunity to see K-RITH and the Medical School. During this, his first visit to Durban, Schmoke met with Makgoba and also toured the McCord Hospital.

'With this facility, Africa is well positioned to ride this next wave of technology and to capitalise on our knowledge, skills and assets to secure a prominent lead in biotechnology – the third great technology revolution in

modern history,' said Mkhize.

Dr Ben Ngubane who is the Chairperson of the SABC Board said he was very proud that his *alma mater* 'will enable us to establish cures and unique methodologies to get us where we want to be'.

The scientific symposium brought together South African dignitaries and eminent local and international researchers to examine the scientific problems K-RITH will tackle. It featured talks by top researchers from Africa, Europe, India, Japan and the United States.

'As you know, Sub-Saharan Africa continues to account for the majority of people living with HIV and TB in the world. In 2008, around 78 percent of estimated HIV-positive TB cases were in this region, of which around one quarter was living in South Africa,' said Mkhize. 'On behalf of provincial government, I would like to congratulate each

and every one of you on a job well done,' he added.

Symposium delegates attended a dinner after the sod turning ceremony with keynote addresses by Harvard University's Professor Barry Bloom and the Office of the National Minister of Science and Technology, Minister Naledi Pandor. Pandor encouraged the participation of young scientists in the K-RITH programme.

'This partnership will build research capacity but it also unites scientists from two completely different continents in the fight against the devastating illnesses of TB and HIV. So from the people of Africa, we salute you for bringing hope to this continent and for partnering with the University of KwaZulu-Natal,' said Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Health Sciences at UKZN, Professor Tahir Pillay.

## ABAFUNDI ABAVAKASHILE BAKHUTHAZWE IMIKHAKHA YOCWANINGO LWEZEMPILO E-UKZN

Iqembu labafundi elivela e-African Leadership Academy (ALA), okuyisikole saphesheya kwezilwandle esisiza ukukhulisa sisekele abaholi abancane bakusasa abavela e-Afrika yonkana nasemhlabeni wonke abazimisele ekubeni ingxenyekuthuthukiseni i-Afrika, aliwuvalanga umlomo emva kokuchitha izinsuku ezintathu eHIV Pathogenesis Programme (HPP) eNyuvesi yaKwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). IHPP izinze eDoris Duke Medical Research Institute (DDMRI) eseNelson R Mandela School of Medicine.

Igumbi locwaningo lakwaHPP elakhiwe endaweni engango 600m<sup>2</sup> lugxile kucwaningo ngesandulela ngculazi nesifo sofuba, nendawo yokugcina izibonakaliso zocwaningo oselwenziwe.

USolwazi oqondene nocwaningo lwesifo sengculazi nesandulela ngculazi nothanda ukuthuthukisa abacwaningi abancane, uSolwazi Thumbi Ndung'u uthe loluhambo beluhlelelwe luzokwazisa abafundi ngezesayensi, ezempilo nezinto ezithinta imiphakathi ngesifo sengculazi nesandulela ngculazi

ezenziwa iHPP. nophinde abe nguMqondisi weHPP uthe: 'Besifuna ukubazisa ngocwaningo oluvelele olwenziwa iHPP, iCentre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) nabanye esisebenza nabo eThekwini.'

Abafundi bakujabulele ukuvakashela emtholampilo wesandulela ngculazi eVulindlela Clinic engaphansi kweCAPRISA okusanda kwenziwa kuyo ucwaningo oluvelele lwe- "Tenofovir Gel Microbicide" ngonyaka ophelile (2010). Lapha bathole ulwazi oluningi nokubenze bafisa ukungenelela ekusizeni imiphakathi mhla beqala ukusebenza.

'Bekukhuthaza ukuchitha usuku egumbini locwaningo lweHPP siphinde sibe yindlenye yocwaningo,' kusho uNksz Rose Mbaye we-ALA ovela eSenegal. 'Ukuvakashela emtholampilo kusivule kakhulu amehlo kunalokhu esikufunda ekilasini, kusinikeza nemibono yabantu makuziwa ezindabeni zengculazi nesandulela ngculazi,' kusho uMbaye.

Umphathi wezesayensi e-ALA UMnu David Scudder

uthe kuyajabulisa ukukhombisa abafundi izinto eziphathelene nesandulela ngculazi kwezesayensi nasemiphakathini. 'Iyona indlela engcono ekukhuthazeni abafundi ukuba bathathe izifundo zesayensi,' kusho uScudder.

UNDung'u ukhulume ngokubaluleka kokuba nothando ngemisebenzi yocwaningo lwezempilo njengenyekuzindlela zokusiza ekuthuthukiseni izinga lomnotho nemiphakathi yonkana. 'Nisethubeni elihle kabi ekucobeleleni ngolwazi nibe ngabaholi endloleni ethathwa intuthuko e-Africa, futhi lamathuba ningawayeki.' Ukhuthaze abafundi ekubhekeni emkhakheni ekhona eMedical School eUKZN.

UMnu Mr Yehou Michel Dany Gnopo ongumfundi we-ALA ovela e-Ivory Coast uthe ubone kunezinto eziningi eziphathelene nesifo sesandulela ezisadinga ukulungiswa njengokushoda kwemishanguzo nokungafundiseki kwemiphakathi ngayo nokuthi isetshenziswa kanjani.

See Page 4 for the English translation of this article



Salisbury Island classmates who studied Pharmacy during the '60s and '70s at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion.

## Salisbury Island Reunion brings back memories

A jubilant group of alumni gathered at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Banquet of the University College for Indians, Salisbury Island on June 25.

WORDS & PHOTO: SITHEMBILE SHABANGU

Classmates, colleagues and friends met, some for the first time after 50 years to remember the good and tough times they had in their endeavour to get an education within the confines of apartheid South Africa.

The University College for Indians opened its doors in 1961 with 39 students. The first student to be registered, Dr Vinaychandra Bhagattjee, said that being on the Island was a learning experience and that the bad times they experienced had encouraged people to achieve. He added that being at the Reunion made him feel real happiness again, and he got to see some people he has not seen in a long time. 'Not one student was a loser on the Island,' he added.

The College was part of the plan of "Grand Apartheid" espoused by the ruling Nationalist Government which relentlessly pushed its policy of racial segregation. After 10 years of turbulent existence the College closed down and it was re-incarnated as the University of Durban-Westville in 1972.

The purpose of the Reunion, held at Sibaya, north of Durban, was not only to celebrate the reuniting of old friends but also to remember the lives of people who have since passed on and to reflect on the trials and tribulation that students endured on the Island.

In a book *Reflections*, produced for the Reunion, the Chairperson of the Salisbury Island Committee 2011, Ms Jenny Maharaj, says: 'The divergent and enriched contradictions of the Island as an institution, brought about a strange spirit of unity and connection that permeated the campus and spoke out vociferously when it had to be confrontational.

'The campus cafeteria served as the "parliament" and "nerve centre" for resistance ... It was in the cafeteria and in the corridors of the hostels that all the secret planning took place, sometimes under the guise of fun, laughter and frolic,' she added.

Each table at the Reunion Banquet was given a theme that corresponded to the experiences people had on the Island. Many made lifetime friends and some even found their spouses on the Island. The men remembered the punishment they would be given or be sent home if they were not wearing a tie, and women remembered being forced to wear raincoats if they were pregnant.

Independent Newspapers Editor, Mr Dennis Pather said that during those times it was inculcated in students that they were Indian. He added that they survived all of the intentions of the apartheid government to Indianise them.

One of the students on the Island, Dr Betty Govinden from the Faculty of Education at UKZN said: 'In a strange way, I am what I am today because of, and in spite of, Salisbury Island. Learning and unlearning I continue to this day, to build and break on the yesterdays I travelled on the Island.'

The night ended with dancing, meeting friends and lots of picture taking so that the memories are never lost. Maharaj also thanked the national and regional Reunion Committees for their 'tireless contributions to the Reunion' and Corporate Relations' Alumni Relations Office for helping them with key logistical issues.

On the next day, a trip on the ferry out to the Island was organised for those that were part of the Reunion and their families.



Abafundi besegumbini locwaningo iHPP.

## Teacher mentors trained by UKZN

UKZN, in partnership with the ETDP-SETA and the Department of Education held a certification ceremony for 425 high school subject advisors at the Edgewood campus on July 1.

WORDS: LUNGA MEMELA

The subject advisers completed a short course on Mentor Training offered by UKZN's Faculty of Education. 'This development of subject advisers as mentors to teachers within KwaZulu-Natal will filter through the rank and file of the school system,' said Acting Deputy Dean: Initial Teacher Education in the Faculty, Professor Labby Ramrathan.

ETDP-SETA—the Education, Training and Development Practices Sector Education and Training Authority – partnered with the University and DoE to establish the course, which provided subject advisers with theoretical insights into mentoring through engagement with recent literature. The course

also empowered participants to translate these theoretical insights into programmes of action to mentor teachers.

'This has been very useful. The course was a lot of hard work within a short space of time,' said Advisor for uMgungundlovu District, Mrs Linda Ngcongco.

The course was offered in block sessions of five days to three cohorts of subject advisers from participating districts. Five centres were used as delivery sites.

Participants appreciated working in small classes, being given clear requirements for assessments, having supportive facilitators who used innovative techniques, receiving a detailed programme and working towards outcomes on a daily basis.

Deputy Dean for Continuing Education and Mixed Mode Delivery in the Faculty of Education, Professor Volker Wedekind and DoE representative, Mr Mandla Msweli raised concern about the recently released Annual National Assessment results which reflected very poor reading and numeracy outcomes among school-going youth.

Wedekind noted that the quality of interaction between the teacher and the learner in the classroom is of essence. He stressed the importance of building a mentorship approach within the education system. 'Today's ceremony is a marker for a new start and achieving these ambitious goals,' he said.

# History Conference focuses on southern Africa

The Historical Studies Programme on the Howard College campus hosted the Southern African Historical Society (SAHS)'s 23rd Biennial Conference from June 27-29.

WORDS & PHOTO: LUNGA MEMELA

**W**ith more than 230 delegates from across the world and 180 papers presented this was the largest SAHS conference ever,' said SAHS President, and UKZN History Professor, Julie Parle.

The conference theme "The Past and its Possibilities: Perspectives of Southern Africa" attracted papers and panels on a wide variety of themes – including histories of health and the environment, biography, the military, and economic history. The papers drew on studies conducted in Botswana, Zimbabwe, Angola, Mozambique, and South Africa.

History enthusiasts along with fellow social scientists and an impressive number of postgraduate students enjoyed two stimulating keynote addresses: the first by internationally renowned scholar of imperialism and trans-national studies as well as of archives and gender, Guggenheim Fellow, Professor Antoinette Burton; and the second by award winning author, newspaper columnist and PhD candidate, Mr Jacob Dlamini who both set the tone for provocative topical discussions, debate and exploring possibilities for southern African in relation to the global picture.

Speaking at the plenary opening session of the conference, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research at UKZN, Professor Nelson Ijumba said it is important to cultivate a culture of intellectuality so that people

should not be biased but objective. 'It is essential that professional academic historians and colleagues working in allied fields (archival and museum services; as well as teachers, librarians, and those working in the heritage sector, for instance), practice scholarly rigour and integrity, which are critical, in both senses of the word, to a healthy democracy, added Parle.

The three panel discussions on Gender and Feminism and the African Social Sciences; Ancestral Stories; and the State of the Archive were well-conceptualised and were approached with analytical and explorative rigour, leaving no stone unturned in line with this year's conference theme.

'Historians are not the keepers of "truth", but it is their duty to point out manipulations and distortions of the past. This is no less true today than it was 10, 50 or 100 years ago. Historians of the future will continue to play such a role,' explained Parle. The numerous biographical papers presented at the conference were also a highlight, especially among young scholars.

'Back in 2009, the EXCO of the SAHS decided to make the encouragement and support of upcoming scholars its priority and set about this by making the conference as accessible and affordable as possible for young academics. Not only did they present world class papers, their enthusiasm – and especially in the case of UKZN students, back-of-stage support – without

doubt ensured the conference's success,' said Parle.

Given the passing on of the presidency of the SAHS to Professor Ackson Kanduza of the University of Botswana, 'the organisation is now truly regional, which is exciting and important for the Society,' said Parle. The 24<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference will be held at the University of Gaborone in 2013. 'We hope that the momentum in the profession is maintained and that that conference will draw as many if not even larger numbers of delegates,' Parle added.

Kanduza congratulated Parle, and the History Department's Dr Thembeisa Waetjen, on an exhilarating conference and invited delegates to the 2013 conference well in advance. 'In a political climate where media and academic freedoms are being challenged by proposals for media tribunals and information bills, historians must once again become advocates for the open flow of information,' said Waetjen.

Performances by renowned poet, Gcina Mhlope and The Fanatics Jazz/Pop Trio were an additional artistic treat at the conference.

'The conference has been truly outstanding in terms of the quality of the papers and discussions that were held,' said some of the attendees. Parle saluted everybody who was involved in what she said were 'three very packed, very thrilling days'.



Professor Marie-Louise Newell greets His Majesty, King Goodwill Zwelithini.

## Africa Centre honours King Goodwill Zwelithini

UKZN's Africa Centre for Health and Population Studies, which is based at Mtubatuba in northern KwaZulu-Natal, honoured His Majesty, King Goodwill Zwelithini as its first Patron on July 8.

WORDS & PHOTO: LUNGA MEMELA

**A**frica Centre Director, Professor Marie-Louise Newell, bestowed the honour on His Majesty and took the opportunity to brief him on the Centre's planned Youth Programme. The King's has a passion for community upliftment, with a special focus on youth and health/life-orientated issues.

'His unwavering support for the Annual Reed Dance, a ceremony for the young maidens which celebrates their virginity and abstinence emphasises the King's dedication to mentoring the youth in their daily lifestyles. The Annual First Fruit Ceremony which is held in December is the male version of the reed dance which celebrates the nation coming together for a prayer for the incoming year. His Majesty revived the circumcision project three years ago and has been a driving force in ensuring its success,' noted a media statement from the Centre.

In his acceptance speech, the King stressed that: 'It is important that each and every one of us should become champions of HIV and AIDS... The young ones must ... start to be told how important it is to behave themselves!'

Quoting the HIV testing campaign slogan "I am responsible, we are responsible, South Africa is taking responsibility", His Majesty raised concerns about South Africa's

ability to achieve some of the Millennium Goals by 2014. He said that poverty, unemployment and universal treatment for HIV/AIDS are only some of the goals at risk but 'I encourage this approach [the campaign slogan] to improve the social fabric of our country.'

One of the Centre's ongoing community-based clinical practices is male circumcision which is encouraged by His Majesty. 'Not a single boy has died from our clinical male circumcision since its inception. By encouraging male circumcision I was announcing cleanliness to our young boys and to do away with unprotected sex in the process. I was also not saying they should then go out and rape,' he said.

The King raised his concern about HIV positive patients who are not open about their status and hide behind other diseases such as Tuberculosis. He encouraged a culture of honesty coupled with acceptance as all South Africans are either infected or affected by HIV.

'We hope that as the Centre's patron, the King will champion our work, especially our work with young people and the prevention of HIV infection in this age group, recognising that the youth are the future of the Zulu Nation,' said Newell.

As a token of appreciation, His Majesty was presented with a small statue and a cow.



Seen at the Conference were Professor Leslie Witz from the University of the Western Cape's History Department; keynote presenters, Mr Jacob Dlamini and Professor Antoinette Burton; and Dr Sifiso Ndlovu from the South African Democracy Education Trust.

# International Students visit HPP

WORDS: LUNGA MEMELA

A group of students from the African Leadership Academy (ALA), an international high school which develops and supports young leaders from across Africa and around the world who desire to play a role in Africa's transformation, were left enthused after spending three days at UKZN's HIV Pathogenesis Programme (HPP). The HPP is situated in the Doris Duke Medical Research Institute (DDMRI) at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine.

The HPP Laboratory covers approximately 600m<sup>2</sup> of space and serves as both a facility for exploratory pathogenesis and translational research into HIV and TB, as well as a sample repository for all HPP study samples.

Associate Professor in HIV/AIDS Research and Director of the HPP who is passionate about 'developing young researchers', Professor Thumbi Ndung'u said the visit was arranged to expose the students to scientific, medical and social issues related to HIV/

AIDS by the HPP. 'In particular, we wanted to provide them with exposure to some cutting-edge research taking place at the HIV Pathogenesis Programme, CAPRISA and other partners in Durban,' he said.

The students enjoyed visits to local HIV clinics and to the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA)'s Vulindlela Clinic, which was the research site for the groundbreaking Tenofovir gel microbicide study in 2010. Here, they gained insight into the study and said that they were inspired to actively engage in community relations once they enter the professional world.

'It was equally inspiring to spend a day in the HPP Lab and be hands-on,' reported ALA's Ms Rose Mbaye who hails from Senegal. 'The clinic visit was very different from class work and gives a human aspect to the issues of HIV/AIDS,' she added.

ALA's Head of Science, Mr David Scudder said it was exciting to expose the students to a

combination of the scientific and social aspects of the HIV. 'This is the best possible way to inspire students to pursue professions in science,' he added.

Ndung'u stressed the importance of being passionate about health research professions as one way to make a positive contribution to Africa's socio-economic development and to society at large. 'You ... have an amazing opportunity to contribute to knowledge and to be key players in the direction that this continent takes and should take advantage of it.' He encouraged the students to consider the range of study opportunities available at the Medical School.

ALA student, Mr Yehou Michel Dany Gnopo who hails from the Ivory Coast said he identified a lot of HIV-related issues that still need to be addressed in the country, such as the lack of medical treatment and inadequate education on treatment and its usage.

*This is an English translation of the article in isiZulu on Page 2.*

# UKZN collaborates with municipality on urban policymaking

UKZN's Dr Rosemary Awuorh-Hayangah was one of the panellists at the Inaugural Built Environment Seminar hosted by UKZN and the eThekweni Municipality's Municipal Institute of Learning (MILE) on June 22.

WORDS & PHOTO: PHUMELELE MAVANENI



Back (l-r): UKZN Head of School of Community Development and Social Work, Professor Thokozani Xaba with Mr Brooks from the Office of the Premier, and Professor Turok from HSRC; Front Row (l-r): Dr Awuorh Hayangah with Ms Soobs Moonsammy, the eThekweni Municipality Head of Department Planning and Management.

Awuorh-Hayangah is the Acting Head of the School of Architecture, Planning and Housing and senior lecturer in Urban and Regional Planning in the School. MILE is in partnership with UKZN for knowledge sharing and collaboration which will build partnerships between academics and practicing professionals within the eThekweni Municipality.

The aim of the seminar was to reflect on the various discussions and debates on fostering urban integration under the theme "Reshaping Cities". Central to this theme are perspectives drawn from academia as well as local government practitioners.

Professor Ivan Turok, Deputy Executive Director of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), was the main speaker for the day. He presented a paper on "Reshaping Cities. What more can be done?"

The spatial form of South African cities is more fragmented, and the population distribution more imbalanced than other countries. The 2011 *State of the Cities Report* notes that Government has acknowledged that little or no progress has been made in transforming the geographic patterns inherited from the apartheid regime and to promote urban integration. President Jacob Zuma noted in his Freedom Day speech on April 27 that, 'Many still live in areas once designated for Black people, away from economic opportunities and civic services'. Turok pointed out that South Africa does not have a set urban agenda to counter the effects of apartheid on population fragmentation and segregation. He added that the former regional inequalities have translated into urban inequalities with Bantustans turning into

townships, and suburbs into urban areas.

'Our cities have the lowest population densities, but are highly uneven. Townships are concentrated and can be isolated from the places of economic activity. A third of wages of people living in townships are used up by transport to economically active areas, further increasing poverty,' Turok said. He added that government policy has been following a "spatially blind approach" and needs to now steer and direct infrastructure and investment to areas of need and to make provision for successful development. If businesses build their firms and factories in or near townships, where the bulk of their workforce come from, they would be more productive and make more profit.

Awuorh-Hayangah spoke of need for academia to introduce evidence research-based policy to meet the goals of spatial integration. 'There needs to be more research on land and redistribution. We (academia) can create theories, and modelling techniques for government to put into place,' she said. She posed a question to the audience: 'As more of the poor enter into urban places in the next 30 years, how would we welcome them without placing them in the periphery, and further reproduce dislocations and inequalities?'

Mr Frikkie Brooks, Head of the Secretariat to the KZN Provincial Planning Commission in the Office of the Premier, concurred with Awuorh-Hayangah and added that an accurate understanding of the fragmentation and structuring of populations and where they are situated is not apparent in South Africa.

# "Be a Scientist for a Week" attracts top learners

A group of approximately 60 high school learners spent a week on UKZN's Pietermaritzburg and Westville campuses finding out if they have what it takes to be a scientist.

WORDS & PHOTO: VICKY CROOKES

The learners were all participating in the Faculty of Science and Agriculture's "Be a Scientist for a Week" Programme.

Designed to provide learners with a hands-on experience of science, the Programme was attended by top Grade 11 and 12 maths and science learners from a selection of the University's key feeder schools. They were all selected for their academic prowess and because of their desire to broaden their perspective and find out what really happens beyond the classroom.

Nine of the Faculty's Schools hosted the learners for three hours at a time, exposing them to the nuances of their disciplines via experiments, laboratory work, data collection, programming and other practical challenges. The learners also spent time at the Electron Microscope Unit and received career guidance and advice from Schools Liaison and Student Counseling.

When questioned about giving up some of their holiday time to attend the "Be a Scientist for a Week" programme, the learners said it was a small sacrifice to make for what could change or direct their future. One learner described the experience



as being able to 'go to your future and check it out'. Another budding scientist said at school they often hear about different science disciplines and areas of work but don't really know what they entail. This Programme helps to 'put something behind the words', she said.

The Programme catered for all interests ranging from maths and computer science to bioresources engineering, genetics and environmental sciences.

Programming robots in computer science was a popular choice and time spent learning about genetics was an eye-opening experience. A visit to Ukulinga, the University's research and training farm,

made many learners realise that there is a lot more to agriculture than just farming.

Overall co-ordinator of the "Be a Scientist for a Week" programme, Dean's Assistant for Recruitment, Dr Naven Chetty, said it is important for learners to be exposed to the different science disciplines and career options. This was the first year that the event has been held on both the Pietermaritzburg and Westville campuses; last year a pilot programme was run on the Pietermaritzburg campus. Chetty hopes to make this an annual event with a view to increasing the number of participants next year.



From left: Ms Liandra Bertolli, Ms Anel Geer and Ms Kate Strachan out in the field conducting research as part of their Masters of Science degrees.

# Young scientists thrive in the outdoors

In today's techno-age, when all sorts of activities can be accomplished sitting at a desk and at the touch of a button, it's refreshing to find young people who will do anything to be outdoors, getting their hands dirty.

WORDS: VICKY CROOKES PHOTO: SUPPLIED

**T**his is the mind-set of three Masters students studying Environmental Science on UKZN's Pietermaritzburg campus.

Ms Anel Geer, Ms Kate Strachan and Ms Liandra Bertolli all thrive on being outside where they can interact with nature and the environment. It's therefore no surprise that their Masters' research involves a considerable amount of field work in some of South Africa's most spectacular and pristine areas. It is also not surprising that their research topics focus on preserving and improving the environment for the future generation.

Geer and Strachan are conducting research in the broad area of Palaeoecology, which is defined as, 'The study of the interactions of organisms with one another and with the physical environment in the geologic past.' When questioned about the significance of their work in the grand scheme of things, Geer explained that the key to understanding the future is knowing what happened in the past. The acceleration of climate change obliges one to ask, "Why is all this change happening?" Both researchers feel strongly that if we don't know what to expect, we cannot even begin to tell what may happen in the years to come.

Funded by the Palaeontological Scientific Trust (PAST) and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) Grasslands Programme, Geer is investigating the vegetation history to identify environmental change in the Karkloof area,

located in the Natal Midlands. This highly responsive ecosystem, comprising indigenous forest and Natal mistbelt grasslands, provides an ideal location for palaeoenvironmental studies.

Geer has extracted a sedimentary core from the Dartmoor Vlei which will be analysed for pollen, charcoal and stable light isotopes. By analysing the pollen from the core, Geer will be able to detect changes in the composition of the vegetation. Charcoal analysis will provide insight into past fire history. Radiocarbon dating, which was conducted in Miami, Florida, has established that the core is 12 000 years old and will therefore provide insight into environmental changes for this period.

Strachan's research involves reconstructing sea-level change using salt marsh single-celled organisms called *foraminifera*, from the Kariega Estuary in the Eastern Cape. '*Foraminifera* live in all marine environments and their shells remain in the sediment as a fossil once the organism has died,' said Strachan. The vertical distribution of foraminiferal species across salt marshes is controlled by flooding frequency and the salinity of the water, and as a result, elevation in relation to tidal heights. Therefore, *foraminifera* are useful indicators for reconstructing sea-level changes from coastal sediments. Very little research has been conducted in South Africa using these organisms as sea-level indicators, so Strachan's work will be breaking new ground.

Employing an extensive programme of coring along a tran-

sect in the salt marsh, Strachan will analyse the live and fossilised *foraminifera* found at different elevations in order to reconstruct past sea-level change in the area during the late Holocene period (the last 10 000 years).

Bertolli, who migrated from the biological sciences (in which she completed her Honours), is working on water quality. She is looking at diatoms, which are unicellular algae encased in silica. They are highly sensitive to environmental changes which make them an effective tool for monitoring past and present environmental conditions, as well as water quality.

Bertolli will analyse and compare diatoms from two different areas: a pristine wetland in Cathedral Peak and impacted wetlands in Underberg which are sites of dairy farms, frequented by humans and cattle. According to Bertolli, 'These species are accurate indicators of poor or good water quality.' They will enable her to devise a water-quality index, which hopefully can be adapted for use in other areas of the country.

All working under the expert eye of their supervisor, Professor Trevor Hill, the three students cannot seem to get enough of field work. They claim that this is the 'fun part' and that the lab work, although interesting at first, quickly loses its attraction. They credit their co-supervisor, Environmental Sciences Lecturer, Dr Jemma Finch, as having sparked their interest in this type of research.

# Law Professor co-authors two books

Senior Research Associate and Acting Director of the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies at UKZN, Professor David McQuoid-Mason, has co-authored two medical books this year.

WORDS: PHUMELELE MAVANENI PHOTO: SUPPLIED

**T**he first book *Ethics, Human Rights and Health Law: Principles and Practice*, co-authored with Professor Ames Dhai, was published in January. Dhai is the Director of the Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics at the University of the Witwatersrand. McQuoid-Mason is an external examiner for two Master's programmes at the Centre and he teaches and provides practicals for one of its Masters courses. Dhai was McQuoid-Mason's Law and Medical Practice student in early 2000 at the former University of Natal and obtained a distinction for her research paper.

The book provides healthcare and legal practitioners with the theory and practical application necessary to understand and apply bioethics, human rights and health law to their present and future work. The main challenges practitioners face relate to ethical and human rights aspects of patient confidentiality and informed consent, particularly regarding children, termination of pregnancy, end of life decisions and HIV/AIDS and the law. Doctors and other health care professionals need guidance regarding ethical issues and the law. The book is designed to give them some principles and practical solutions to assist them in dealing with the issues that they confront in day-to-day practice.

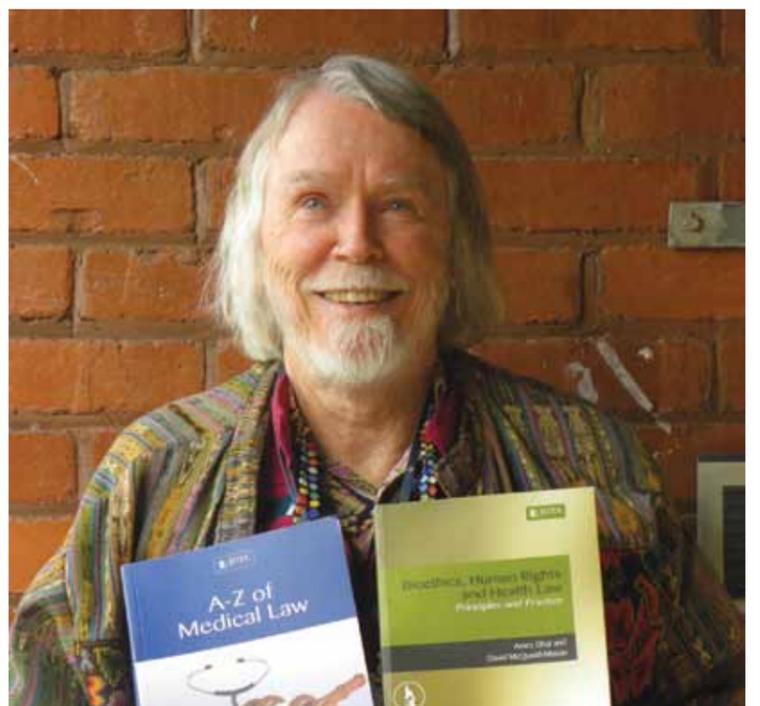
The book was reviewed in the *South African Medical Journal* where the reviewer stated: 'My recommendation would be that all practitioners hold this excellent book in their personal libraries for easy reference whenever faced, as we all are

from time to time, with an ethical dilemma.'

The second book *A-Z of Medical Law* is co-authored with Dr Mahomed Dada and was published at the end of May. Dada is the former Head of the Department of Forensic Medicine at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine. He has collaborated with McQuoid-Mason on five books and manuals on different aspects of forensic and health law. McQuoid-Mason notes 'I first collaborated with Dada in medico-legal journal articles and books when he was Head of Forensic Medicine at the Medical School ... People should look out for the second edition of the popular *A-Z of Nursing Law* in August 2011'.

The *A-Z of Medical Law* is designed to help medical practitioners handle legal issues they face in daily practice, and covers topics from abandonment of patients to Zulu law. The book is also a useful resource for lawyers and undergraduate and post-graduate medical and law students. Each of the 650 topics in the book includes a definition, the applicable law, implications for doctors, cautions and other relevant law. 'We chose the topics by considering the types of questions that have arisen at Continuing Professional Development seminars that I have conducted for doctors as well as by considering the types of topics to be found in standard medical law texts' said McQuoid-Mason.

The books are available at Juta & Co. Ltd. and other academic book stores.



Professor David McQuoid-Mason.

# Commemorating Women's Month

Women's Month is an opportunity to commemorate the immense contribution made by women to our democratic South Africa. As UKZN, it is also an opportunity to highlight the richness of the research that seeks to address the problems women still face and to outline some of the challenges women academics are confronted with.

WORDS: PHUMELELE MAVANENI & GQWESA NYIKANA

UKZN's Women in Research Academy, initiated by the University Dean of Research, Professor Cheryl Potgieter, aims to empower women academics to develop their research potential. One of the research mentors for the academy is Dr Betty C Mubangizi, a Senior Lecturer, in the School of Public Administration and Development Management and Assistant to the Dean of Research.

Mubangizi joined the University in 2001. A late entrant into academia without a PhD, she felt isolated and unfamiliar in the research environment of the University. 'Back then, there were no programmes to support specific target groups of academics or those with specific needs. Thankfully, there are now several initiatives in the University which offer support to novice researchers and women in particular', she said.

Mubangizi notes that women's inability to publish is not only related to a lack of skills but to issues of self-assurance and the micro-politics within academia. Having a mentor helps one navigate through such barriers. Novice researchers need a support system of established researchers and a supportive institutional environment that recognises and rewards them – the current dispensation at UKZN has made great strides in this regard and it's up to women to take advantage of these opportunities.

Of women academics, Mubangizi says, 'Our tendency to bring the "motherly" instinct into our work environment probably slows us down in our pursuit for excellence. We tend to be more empathetic towards students than our male counterparts probably are. Our role as female academics takes on such dimensions as mother and mentor and this necessitates spending many hours counselling and supporting students (and colleagues!) in aspects of their lives that are peripheral to the academic process.'

Mubangizi now has a Doctorate, has 15 SAPSE-accredited publications to her name and has made several presentations at local and international conferences. In addition she frequently publishes in local media on matters of academic and public interest.

## Women and health

Chief Specialist in Obstetric Outreach and Senior Lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (O+G) at the Nelson R Mandela



Dr Betty C Mubangizi .

PHOTO: PHUMELELE MAVANENI



Dr Motshedisi Sebitloane.

PHOTO: PHUMELELE MAVANENI



Mrs Rozena Maart .

PHOTO: SUPPLIED



Mrs Munirah Osman-Hyder.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

School of Medicine, Dr Motshedisi Sebitloane describes her research as "women-centred". She singles out Cervical Cancer in older women, and HIV infection, and deaths related to child birth in the reproductive age group as major health factors affecting women. The Department seeks not only to conduct research on these issues, but also taps into women's knowledge and perspectives on medical interventions and procedures. 'This assists us to ... improve our care,' she said.

Sebitloane stresses women's right to life: 'Many of the actions women take jeopardise their health and eventually their life. We as health workers need to safeguard patients' rights to have access to quality care, and ensure their right to freedom from medical torture.' She advises women not to compromise their health and protect themselves from HIV and unplanned pregnancies, which she calls 'the greatest plagues of this generation'.

## Regaining women power

Young woman are most vulnerable to the HIV pandemic as they are the most easily and rapidly infected group in South Africa. Research shows that women find it difficult to negotiate for consistent condom usage with their long-term partners, and this

makes them more vulnerable to HIV infection.

Miss Philisiwe Nhlango, a Masters student at the Centre for Communication, Media and Society is focusing her research on female students living in University residences. Nhlango is passionate about young women taking a stand. 'They know about the facts of the virus and infection, but they can't keep to the rules of prevention. A woman needs to be selfish about her body and health, she must request for, and provide protection for herself', she said.

Researchers at UKZN's Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) have achieved an important 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 CAPRISA 004 trial of tenofovir gel was found to be 39 percent effective in reducing a woman's risk of becoming infected with HIV during sex and 51 percent effective in preventing genital herpes infections in the women participating in the trial. Should other studies of tenofovir gel confirm these results, widespread use of the gel, at this level of protection, could prevent over half a million new HIV infections in South Africa alone over the next decade.

## Women's rights

'The 1994 elections were filled with promises ... a promise for better education, a promise for better housing ... equality for all ... The sad reality is that these promises have not been kept for the vast majority and a large percentage of these people are women,' said Lecturer in the Faculty of Law, Mrs Munira Osman-Hyder

'It is for these women that, I continue to be involved in community outreach programmes, forums, conferences and workshops that focus on educating people to treat women with respect and the dignity they deserve,' she added.

Osman-Hyder is an executive member of the Association of Muslim Accountants and Lawyers and is also one of the co-founders of the Coalition of Muslim Women (MWC) which is working closely with the SA Justice Ministry in the consultation process of the Muslim Marriages Bill (MMB).

'This Bill is a legislative framework for the recognition and regulation of Muslim marriages to deal with gender inequality and women's rights within marriages ... This legislation will not be forced on any member of the Islamic community,' she said.

The Bill has raised heated debate within the Muslim community.

## Gender inequality

South African feminist and award-winning author, Mrs Rozena Maart is an Associate Professor in the Gender Studies Department on the Howard College campus. She is passionate about addressing gender inequalities.

'I believe that all people are concerned about equal rights and want this achieved in their lives, but people should not criticise the process to achieve this goal if they are not participating in it. We need to understand that all women address gender inequality in different ways. It's an everyday phenomenon and all women feel its effects,' said Maart.

Some of the postgraduate research in the department focuses on; women in development; the image of women in the media; the media and the portrayal of athlete, Caster Simenye; and disabled women in intimate partner relationships, amongst others.

Gender Studies is embarking on a campus-based project that focuses on violence and homophobia called "Campus Safety Project". The Project will reach out to Residence Assistants, Risk Management Services, Counselling and Support Service Officers, and students.

# Getting into the Glass House

On the eve of Women's Month, Deanne Collins asked University Dean of Research, Professor Cheryl Potgieter to share her views on the barriers facing women in Higher Education.

**Q. Much has been written on the “triple burden” South African women labour under. How does this affect access to Higher Education and the position of women academics?**

**A.** In relation to the triple burden which has also recently been questioned I often make the link between the personal, the political and the professional in relation to women academics. Essentially how you navigate and challenge the divide between the personal and the professional is a “political” act. In South Africa, the majority of undergraduate students are women and they also have higher success rates than men. However, there is a “leaky pipeline” at Honours, Masters and PhD levels, where the number of women dwindles.

This is not only due to financial constraints. At this stage of their lives women are expected to do what society expects – marry, reproduce, and look after the kids and the household – so they often do not continue with advanced postgraduate studies. At the same stage of their lives men are settling into jobs, moving up the career ladder, and often studying further all with the support of a wife or partner. Once children are grown women return to Higher Education or those who have been academics but have struggled to complete PhDs or publish during their 20s and 30s are very productive during their 40s. This is the gendered context which one has to take into account when one writes policies. For example, do not have 35 as a cut off age for funding for a PhD if the intention is to increase the number of women who have doctoral degrees. Obviously these issues are both raced and classed.

How do we break this cycle? In universities gender-friendly policies are a starting point. Then budgets to support women need to possibly be ring fenced. There also needs to be commitment from the most senior level of university management and I also believe in a particular portfolio or champion to drive the change. Women are most definitely not only victims – the issue of agency is important – we need to challenge the institutional and personal structures responsible for this set-up.

Women need a space like the Women in Research Academy which I am driving where they are supported to be good scholars and intellectuals and most importantly where they are exposed to the theoretical underpinnings which are contributing to them



**Professor Cheryl Potgieter.**

“not achieving”. In recent years I find myself turning often to the thinking of obviously feminist scholars but also the work of Frantz Fanon and Steve Biko as somehow in all our interventions we have often not addressed issues of liberating the mind.

**Q. How well-represented are women at different levels in Higher Education in South Africa (eg as lecturers, professors, in executive management positions)?**

**A.** The higher up you go, the fewer women, particularly Black women you find. Ten to 12 years ago, there were possibly more women Deputy Vice-Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors than there are today. Women move from lecturer to senior lecturer. However it is difficult to move from senior lecturer to associate professor and even more challenging to move to full professor. Women need to talk and strategise about these issues. I, for example, when at the University of Pretoria waited a number of years before I applied for the position of full professor as I wanted to ensure that I met more than the minimum requirements for full professor. I know how committees operate and in that

space I was conscious of the fact that I was not only a woman but a black woman. Change is evident in the form of increasing financial support for change initiatives from bodies like the National Research Foundation (NRF) and individual institutions, but the pace of change is not as rapid as we would like.

Where are all the missing women? And just as importantly, do those women who are at the top represent the interests of women, or have they simply learnt to engage with a masculinist system? I often struggle with the notion if one can be a feminist in senior management positions in institutions. Or do we merely become femocrats?

**Q. Does a “glass ceiling” exist in Higher Education Institutions?**

**A.** I think the glass ceiling is opaque! It's not that one can't move it, but when, for example, we talk about merit and standards, what do we mean? Often women are excluded at the interview level. I have heard comments on committees, not necessarily here at UKZN where statements are made like: “yes she has published and has a PhD but if we appoint her to this position

she will have to be the head of department as well. Is she ready for this? Has she got management and administrative interests or experience? Let's ask her to apply for the post which does not have such huge administrative responsibilities”. Often women are not even getting into the glass house let alone being able to break the glass ceiling. Often women are not intentionally excluded but the argument for suitability of appointment, for example is voiced from a patriarchal paradigm or world view. This does not mean that I do not believe in hard work, focus and commitment. Anybody who works with me know that I will never compromise on the latter and I do expect excellence.

**Q. What measures are needed to overcome the barriers to women's empowerment at Higher Education Institutions?**

**A.** The first thing that is needed is commitment at the highest level. Ring fenced funding should be provided to support women academics. No institution is homogeneous. While one department may be supportive, another may be a nightmare! A focused capacity development programme which is regularly evaluated; talent and potential spotting; a doctoral programme which incorporates leadership development; clear career trajectories. I also think that we need to have the discussion on different paths in academia. Should all good scholars become Deans and DVCs which is often the case? Or how do we merge the two?

**Q. In your opinion, should women at Higher Education Institutions form their own organisation to represent their interests? If so, what form could such an organisation take?**

**A.** I think that women at different institutions should make the decision. However, experience has shown that often women have reported very good experiences in terms of their careers as a result of women only organisations. However, these organisations should work closely with general initiatives. I have also been part of women's studies groups which have not necessarily excluded men.

**Q. Do you feel that South African universities are doing enough to promote research to address gender inequality in society at large**

**and to lobby for change? Could you outline specific areas of research that are needed?**

**A.** “Enough” is a difficult term to engage with! Research must have a purpose. As women, we need to identify the main societal challenges and how these affect our research. Take, for example, climate change. Women from across the disciplines at UKZN can contribute towards shaping both the African and global agenda on climate change.

While we need to increase the number of women in science, engineering and technology, we must avoid a technicist approach where we increase numbers but are producing academics who are not necessarily critical thinkers. As women we are often asked: “so what are you doing in relation to communities?” We cannot be everything to everybody. As academics our primary role is to teach and research and for the research and teaching to impact on communities. However, I do support engagement with communities and I think we could focus on a couple of key community projects. I would for example like the Women in Research Academy to partner with schools in one or two areas in KwaZulu-Natal and support and mentor female scholars who hopefully will register as university scholars.

**Q. Professor Potgieter, any concluding thoughts?**

**A.** I do believe that we have much to be comfortable and proud of in terms of women and Higher Education. Obviously, starting with our policy framework which is always the necessary starting point. I am often reminded of the words of Professor Salim Badat the Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University in his Inaugural Address when he stated that in Higher Education we ‘face enormous challenges of pursuing economic growth and social equity and doing this within a democratic framework in a manner which is environmentally sustainable is a huge challenge.’ In addition he points out that this will all have to be done simultaneously. This is no different from the agenda we have spoken about as women's participation in Higher Education is part of the broader agenda. We often will be forced to “think outside of the box” and engage with bold and imaginative strategies and policies which will bring us a bit closer to our overall goals.

# The UKZN Griot Of Posties and Toasties



As sociology student at Wits in the late 1960s the only theories to which we were exposed were functionalism and normative theory. According to this paradigm the world was a stable place.

WORDS: KEYAN G TOMASELLI

**M**arxism assumed a different kind of positivist normativity. Since the advent of the Information Age we now know that nothing is stable. The global economy, bedeviled by recurring cycles and crises, has been stretched to its limits by the sheer greed of top bankers everywhere. The fall of the Soviet Union in 1989, and then apartheid, was just an indicator of things to come: 2011 in North Africa and the Middle East totally puncture the idea of political homeostasis.

For academics these are exciting times, the intellectual challenges exponential. For bankers, well, the plundering continues. For me, I often feel that the world is coming apart. I read the newspapers. The confirmation is there for all to see: climate change, earthquakes, tsunamis, revolutions, nuclear melt-downs, oil spills, piracy, crime, political stupidity and, according to my British colleagues, the very death of the university. Maybe, like most media students, I'll just stop reading the papers or watching TV.

What's UKZN response to these crises? Yet more restructuring while *simultaneously* demanding from its now utterly exhausted and bewildered academics a new battery of per-

formance indicators to prescribe outputs to validate promotion. Hey man, we can *either* restructure or do research. It's difficult to deliver both simultaneously. What will that irritating female voice on our telephone system tell those on hold when our productivity units decline because we are mucking about in the bureaucratic trenches instead of polishing our KPAs?

We all know that the current structure was always unworkable. That's what happens when restructuring is based on political rather than educational foundations. Guess we had no choice given the mess that faced the planners after 1994. So now we've been told to fix it again. Humanities staffers spent an afternoon at a largely disused station hotel discussing School reconfigurations. Some quick gambling, a rush of blood, some speed dating, some adulterous disciplinary affairs, some spurned partners, and *viola*, a new set of disciplinary families found themselves cohabiting uneasily. The quick-fix was found between lunch and tea. This was very different to 2004 when the long-negotiated merger resulted in problems that had now come home to roost. Come to think of it, ever since I've been at UKZN, we have been in a cycle of perpetual restructuring. No wonder we are

all so dizzy. The posties forget that the anti-posties are the ones who are still in control.

The Humanities and Social Sciences are always the bugbear in these kinds of negotiations. This is because we study ideology. We nitpick over detail and turn detail into PhDs. PhDs bring in the SAPSE bucks and the SAPSE bucks create their own micro-economies based on who is producing the most publications and graduates. Like bankers, we lose sight of the broader scheme of things while we selfishly nurture our personal cost centres.

Whereto from here? Maybe it won't matter if the Mayan calendar, Nostradamus, and Hollywood's blockbuster, *2012*, are correct. They all predict, as is confirmed by The History Channel, that the world will end in 2012. Maybe this will be the ultimate relief? Academics can take a break. Man oh man, do we need one.

Will the managers notice that the end is approaching? Will KPAs survive the cataclysm to come? What will the new alien colonisers make of modernity's bizarre worship of spreadsheets? The residues of modernity will disappear much sooner than the premodern Mayan and Egyptian structures of old. This was the main message of The History Channel's *Life After People* series.

With information now being virtual, and degradable steel and concrete used for building, the aliens will find only the hard messages left in rock engravings carved by our ancestors.

Now to my point. In April I spent ten days with students and colleagues documenting engravings carved a thousand years ago in a remote poort in the Northern Cape. The downpours and wind trammled us by night, and the sun toasted us by day. Roads were washed away. At night we desperately clung onto our tents on the edge of the rapidly rising Orange River. During the day we worked with members of the #Khomani who shared with us their interpretations of the engravings while they entered GPS co-ordinates. Few think that the descendants of the First People have opinions on such art. Paradigms are fought out between scholars. The Gods were speaking to us, insisted the #Khomani, both *via* the engravings and the weather and in our interactions.

They despaired at the professional researchers slaving away under the relentless sun, when it was better to sit under a shady tree or rock at mid-day. We explained that research auditors require evidence of output; they were coming from Pretoria on our last day to check that the site

existed, that we were working at it, and that our budget and leave requirements would not stretch to extra days on site while we waited for the sun to cool. Here was very sensible indigenous knowledge at work which we all elevate to something special in these postie post-apartheid times, but which is depreciated by an instrumentalist system of budgeting that cannot afford it and monitoring mechanisms that cannot accommodate it. Maybe we do need to go back to basics? Why can't we just work when it feels right?

Ironically, what we were doing is post-modern media archaeology. The text is not studied for its own sake, but additionally from the interpretations stemming from readings by our #Khomani interlocutors and wider team. What I have learned from our studies of indigeneity is that nothing is normative, nothing can be taken for granted, and that science is always up for grabs. Now, that's indigenous knowledge at work.

*Keyan G Tomaselli is Director of The Centre for Communication, Media and Society. He admits to being a History Channel fan.*

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

## Sudoku

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

## Short Story Day at CALS

The Centre for African Literary Studies (CALS) on the Pietermaritzburg campus celebrated Short Story Day on June 21 by inviting staff and students to a vibrant display of literature at the centre. Short Story Day celebrates the most succinct form of fiction on the shortest day of the year in the southern hemisphere. 'This day is celebrated annually in South Africa and is intended to re-ignite a passion in the region for this overlooked genre, and in so doing, stimulate new and existing southern African writing and publishing,' said CALS' Mrs Ashnee Peters – *Lunga Memela*.



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